

# EuRIC Brochure on Mechanical Tyre Recycling highlighting its contribution towards circular economy and climate neutrality

## Mechanical Tyre Recycling Fact Sheet



\*A branch of EuRIC AISBL

EuRIC Brochure presents key facts about end-of-life (ELT) mechanical tyre recycling, which is a major enabler of circularity and climate mitigation for the entire tyre value chain.

The Brochure describes the current state of play of ELT management with recommendations to overcome key challenges faced by the European mechanical tyre recycling industry be them embedded in legislation, market failures or eco-design. It features key numbers outlining the economic importance of the ELT recycling sector as well as its benefits for the environment and society.

*State of the art mechanical tyre recycling entirely supports the European Green Deal and the new Circular Economy Action Plan stressed Poul Steen Rasmussen, President of EuRIC's Mechanical Tyre recycling (MTR) Branch and Group CEO Genan. The processing of ELT tyres into rubber is not only the most resource-efficient option; it also the most climate-efficient one since for each tonne of ELT recycled -for example as infill for artificial turf pitches- the climate is spared 700 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>, he added.*

Currently, out of the approx. 3 million tonnes (Mt) of tyres reaching end-of-life stage annually in Europe, there are more than 1 Mt of tyres down-cycled annually in energy recovery, while less than 50% (approx. 1.5 Mt) are mechanically recycled into rubber, steel and textile fibers. Increasing material recovery is essential as natural rubber is a critical raw material in Europe<sup>1</sup>.

A landfill ban for ELT is far from sufficient to boost tyres circularity. The EU needs to consider further measures to closing the loop of the Circular Economy of tyres, in particular:

- **Incentives rewarding ELT recycling benefits and recycled content targets to drive the demand for recycled materials from tyres**, especially rubber, be it in new tyres, asphalts, moulded products and construction materials.
- **EU-wide end-of-waste criteria for ELT which are essential** to alleviate obstacles impacting circular uses of materials derived from ELT recycling into a variety of applications benefiting society, the environment and industrial symbiosis. While national end-of-waste criteria as the recently adopted by Italy<sup>2</sup> are strongly supported, harmonization at EU level is key for a well-functioning of internal market for secondary raw materials.
- **Sustainable design of tyres to boost their recyclability and minimum thresholds of recycled content** to stimulate the demand. Product design requirements shall go hand in hand with a better enforcement at European borders of imported new tyres which must comply with European standards to level the playing and protect the environment.

You can download EuRIC Brochure on Mechanical Tyre Recycling via: <https://www.euric-aisbl.eu/position-papers/item/461-euric-brochure-on-mechanical-tyre-recycling-highlighting-its-contribution-towards-circular-economy-and-climate-neutrality>



EuRIC is the Confederation representing the interests of the European recycling industries at EU level. EuRIC, through its various Branches covering the vast majority of waste streams, brings together National Recycling / Resource Management Federations and Companies in lieu from more than 23 European countries active locally and globally.

EuRIC represents across Europe over:

- § 5,500+ companies generating an aggregated annual turnover of about 95 billion €, including large companies and SMEs, involved in the recycling and trade of various resource streams;
- § 300,000 local jobs which cannot be outsourced to non-EU countries;
- § Million tons of waste recycled per year (metals, paper, glass, plastics, WEEE, ELVs, tyres, textiles and beyond).

By turning wastes into resources, recycling is the link which reintroduces recycled materials into the value chains again and again. Recyclers play a key role in bridging resource efficiency, climate change policy and industrial transition.

<sup>1</sup> European Commission (2020). [Critical Raw Materials Resilience: Charting a Path towards greater Security and Sustainability](#).

<sup>2</sup> Regolamento recante disciplina della cessazione della qualifica di rifiuto della gomma vulcanizzata derivante da pneumatici fuori uso, ai sensi dell'articolo 184-ter del decreto legislativo 3 aprile 2006, n. 152. (20G00094) ([GU Serie Generale n.182 del 21-07-2020](#))