

Waste Shipment Regulation jeopardises a European circular economy for recycling

9 September 2022

What are the risks?



- ! Less materials collected for recycling undermining progress on **European recycling** targets
- ! More raw materials extracted instead of recycled resulting in **unnecessary CO2 emissions** and environmental damage
- ! Competitiveness losses resulting in investment cutbacks and company closures, especially **SMEs**
 - o Almost **80% of metal recyclers** expect a decrease in turnover of at least 20%
 - o More than **70% of paper recyclers** expect a decrease in turnover
- ! Significant loss of green & local EU jobs during a period of worsening economic crisis
 - More than 50% of metal recyclers and 1/3 of paper recyclers expect employment losses

What works?



Establishing **electronic procedures** and easing fast-track shipments for materials recovery in EU

What should change?



- ! Safeguard **free**, **fair and sustainable trade** of raw materials from recycling to:
 - o Level the playing field with polluting extracted raw materials
 - o Enable recycling companies to create value & re-invest in the EU
- ! Focus restrictions on exports outside the EU of "problematic" waste such as mixed plastic or unprocessed tyres, batteries, ELVs or e-waste (WEEE)

What else can EU do?



- + Mandatory recycled content targets
- + Boosting **recyclability** with the Sustainable Product's Initiative (SPI)
- Distinguish between waste & raw materials from recycling by enforcing existing end-ofwaste criteria and developing new criteria where absent
- + Carbon credits that promote recycling



About EuRIC, the European recycling industry

- We represent more than **5,500 European recycling companies**, mainly SMEs
- We sustain **350,000 direct green jobs** in Europe
- We contribute **95 billion** € in turnover annually