
Press release

Good governance and fair competition in the waste market are essential elements for the transition towards a circular economy

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European Recycling Platform (ERP) makes recommendations for regulatory waste management framework

As discussions on the European circular economy package pick up speed, European Recycling Platform (ERP), a company of the Landbell Group, calls upon the European Parliament and the Member States to concentrate on enforcing EU waste Law in line with EU competition Law. With her recently published reports on the Commission's proposal for recast waste directives, the rapporteur in the environment committee Simona Bonafè (S&D) raises the level of ambition of the Commission proposal by combining mandatory targets and economic incentives.

ERP takes this opportunity to stress that waste and competition legislations must be regarded as interdependent components. Only with an integrated approach we will be able to manage a transformation to a circular economy that leverages full benefits for both the consumer and the environment. Especially when designing new requirements for extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes, an open and dynamic and at the same time reasonably governed market environment is crucial. In a current [policy guidance](#) the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) emphasizes the need to integrate competition policy and the design of EPR policies. According to the report, EPR schemes with multiple competing producer responsibility organizations (PROs) have helped reduce the public cost of waste management while at the same time increasing recycling rates.

"As the first pan-European PRO to implement the EU regulations on waste of electric and electrical equipment (WEEE), our high-quality recycling services have been encouraging the implementation of both national and EU compliance for more than 10 years now", says Umberto Raiteri, ERP President and CEO. "However, in some EU member states inconsistent legal enforcement and lack of compliance has led to unnecessarily high prices for consumers as well as poor ecological performance. The current review of EU waste legislation is a great opportunity to define clear operating conditions and responsibilities in a competitive environment that allow PROs to deliver high-quality service in a level playing field."

In order to increase the volume of product waste collected and recycled, impede free-riding and prevent individual interests overriding EU environmental principles, ERP recommends to implement a set of clearly defined and harmonised rules and responsibilities for each stakeholder in waste management, accompanied by a single national independent governance authority supervising the whole process while ensuring at the same time fair access to and free movement of waste both within each member state and across the EU.

More information on ERP's suggestions for the improvement of waste management and the transition to a circular economy can be found in our [position paper](#) at www.erp-recycling.org

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About ERP

The European Recycling Platform was founded in 2002 in response to the introduction of the European Union's Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive. ERP's mission is to ensure cost effective implementation of the directive, for the benefit of the participating companies and their customers. As of June 2014, the Landbell Group, an independent recycling and resource specialist, based in Germany, has become a shareholder of ERP SAS.

ERP is the first WEEE compliance scheme authorised to operate in Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the UK thus passing on the advantages of multinational recycling operations to the consumer. ERP has proved to be the most competitive solution for companies in the countries where operates now offering WEEE, Batteries, Packaging and PV panel compliance services and know-how.

For more information on ERP, please visit www.erp-recycling.org or contact press@erp-recycling.org

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