

# Zero Waste Live!

16 February 2021 - 11.00a.m. CET



## HOW TO SOLVE THE WASTE TRADE CRISIS?



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**EuRIC**

**EUROPEAN RECYCLING INDUSTRIES'  
CONFEDERATION** AISBL



**How to solve the waste  
trade crisis?**

*Zero Waste Europe*

Webinar, 16 February 2021

**Emmanuel KATRAKIS**  
Secretary General

# EURIC AT A GLANCE

The European Recycling Industries' Confederation brings together recycling federations from 20 EU and EFTA Member States and represents:

6,000+ companies including small and medium-sized enterprises

300,000 local jobs

Millions of tons of waste recycling every year (metals, paper, plastics, glass, tyres, batteries, etc.)

An annual turnover of about €95 billion

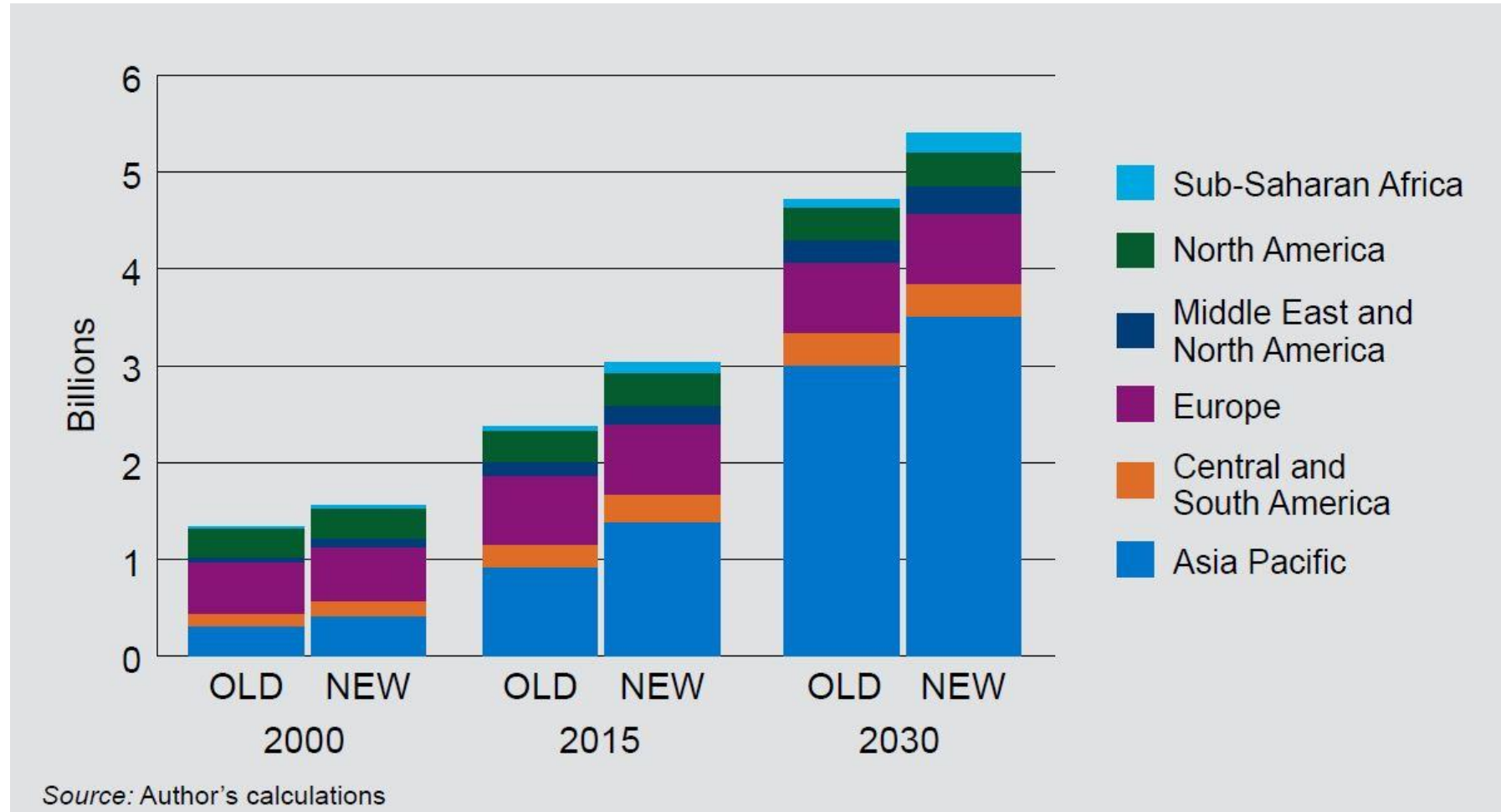






# Moving towards a circular economy

is...



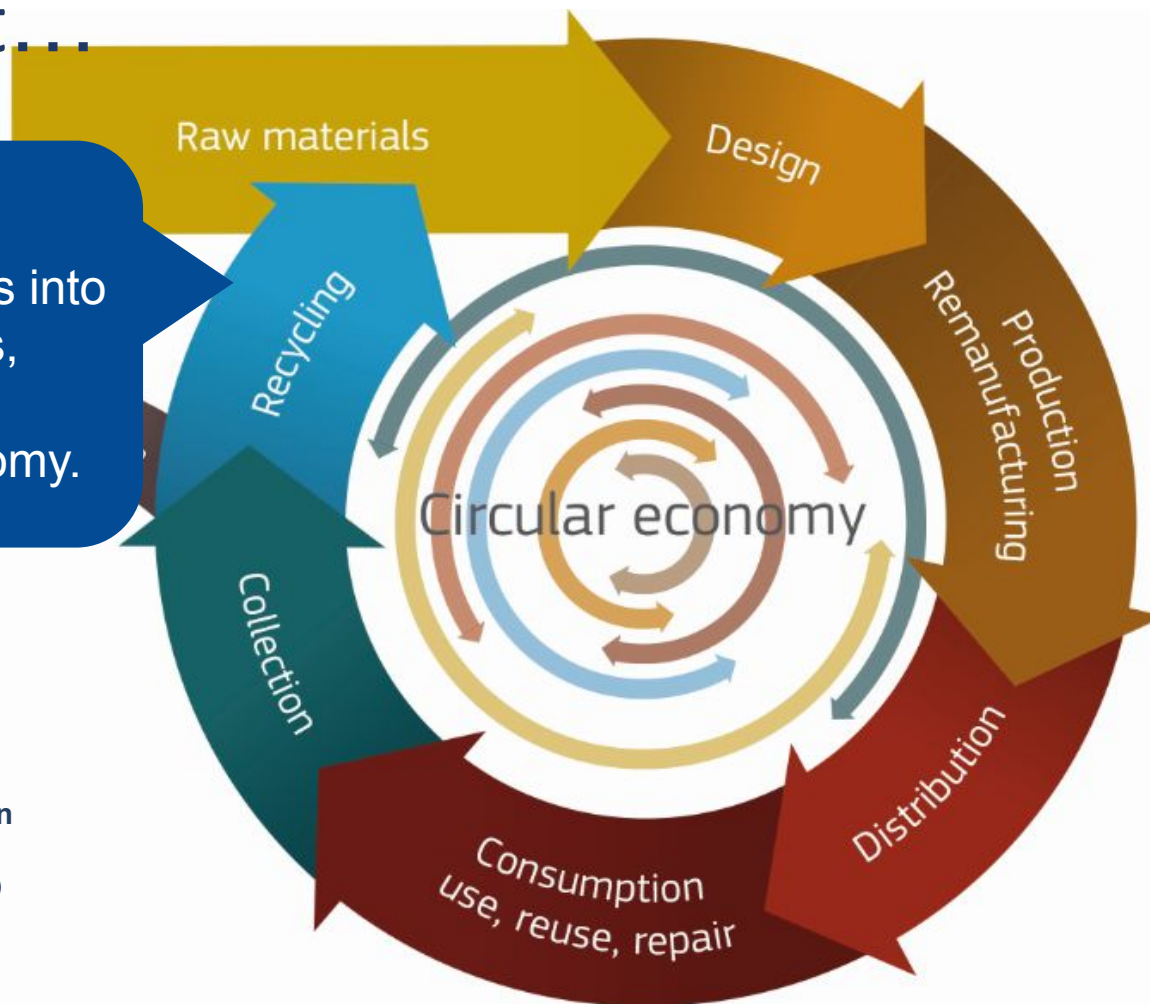
## The size of the global middle class, 2000, 2015, and 2030

Source: Brookings, [The Unprecedented Expansion of the Middle Class](#), 2017 update

...a must, which is resource efficient...

By re-introducing recycled materials into production chains, recyclers enable the circular economy.

Circular economy  
Chart - 2014  
European Commission  
Communication  
(COM/2014/0398 final)

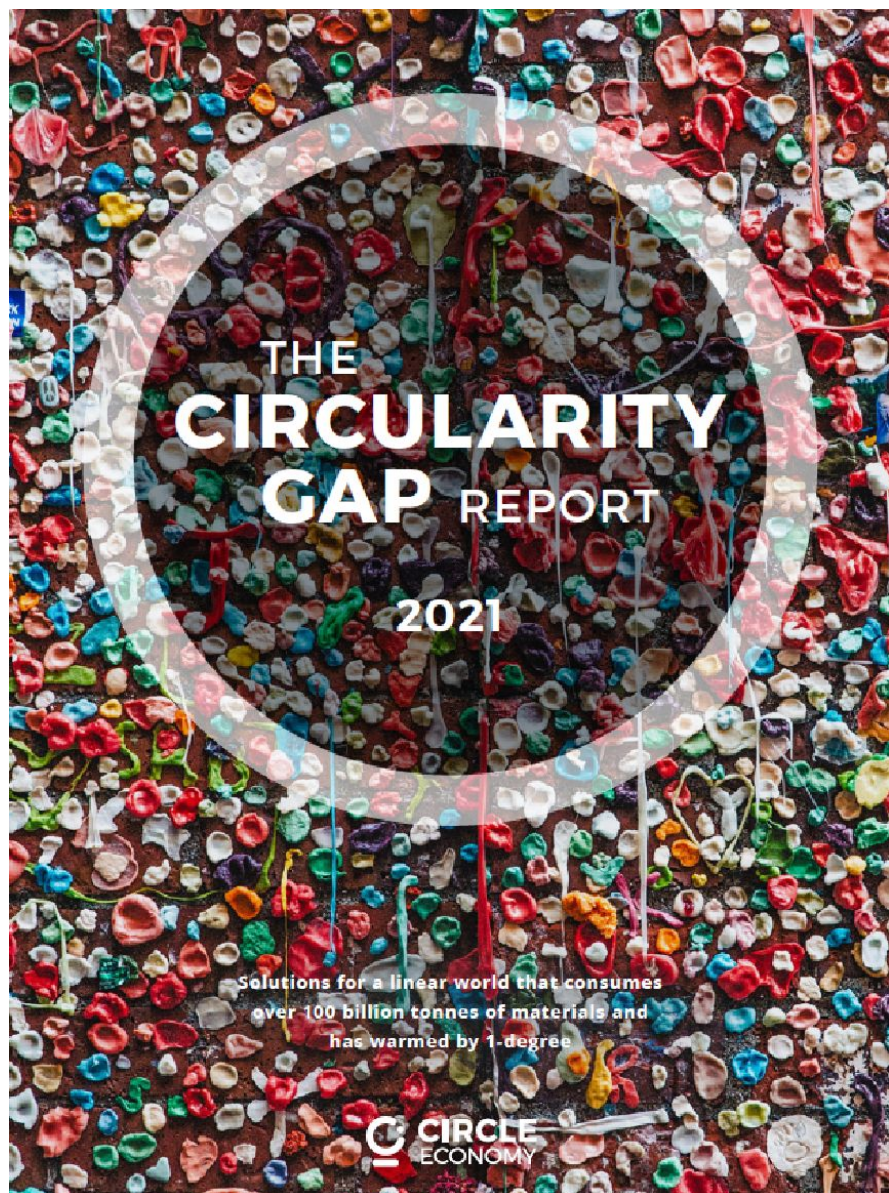


## CO<sub>2</sub> BENEFITS OF PLASTICS RECYCLING



...and also climate efficient





However, circularity in our 8.6% world is trending down, not up. Whilst the *Circularity Gap Report 2020* revealed that the global economy was only 8.6% circular, just two years earlier it was 9.1%—things have got worse. So, although we only need to almost double circularity to close the Emissions Gap by 2032, the globe remains shackled by outdated ‘take-make-waste’ practices. Humanity has now also breached two major milestones: the world is consuming 100 billion tonnes (Gt) of materials and it is 1-degree warmer. Due to data unavailability, the Circularity Metric was not updated for this year, yet all indicators point to the reality that the globe remains engulfed by the linear economy and its unsustainable practices, processes and behaviours. However, when the covid-19 pandemic swept the world in 2020, we saw empty skies and roads, as entire populations were placed under national lockdown. Temporary as the resulting drop in annual global emissions may be, it has shown us what is possible: from governments to citizens, we are now armed with the knowledge that transformational change is doable.



RECYCLING: BRIDGING CIRCULARECONOMY & CLIMATEPOLICY

European Recycling Industries' Confederation · Europäischer Bund der Recyclingindustrien · Confédération Européenne des Industries du Recyclage

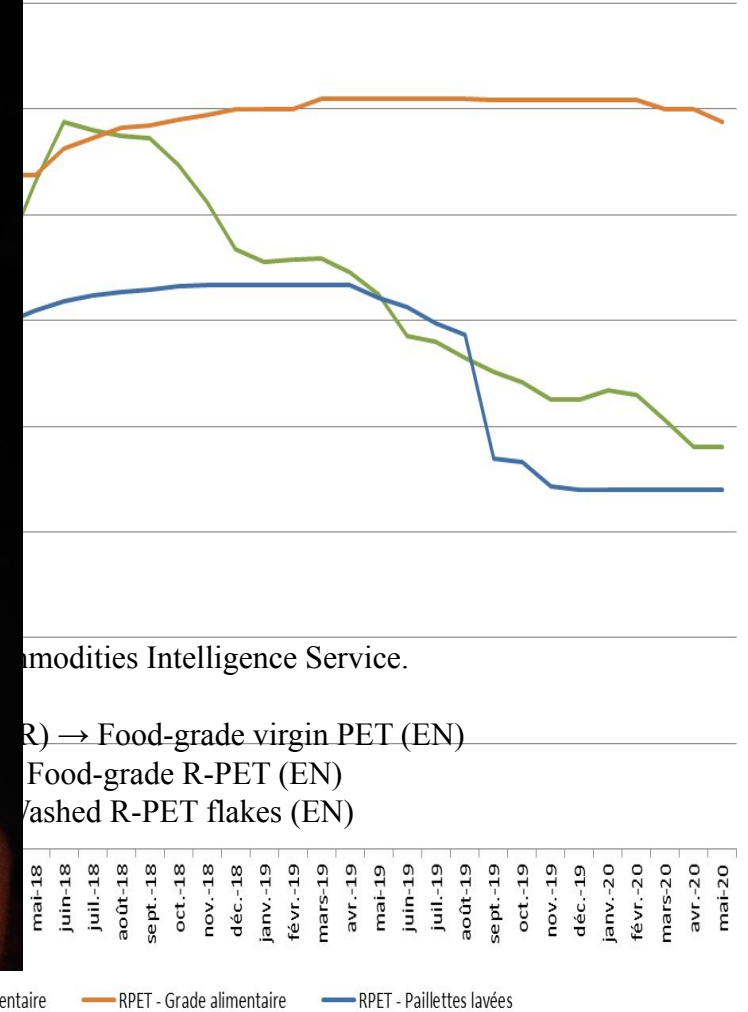


# Ingredients for a successful circular recipe

- **Product design** to take into account the entire lifecycle, from design to end-of-life stage content;
- **Reward circular design** through environmental benefits, such as tax-based incentives and resource efficiency awards, to differentiate the field with linear value chains.
- **Well-functioning** recycling infrastructure and value chains (e.g. sorting, recycling, shipment policy / standards) and EoW criteria to ease recycling.



PET, Europe, €/t (source : ICIS)



commodities Intelligence Service.

R) → Food-grade virgin PET (EN)

Food-grade R-PET (EN)

Washed R-PET flakes (EN)

# No well-functioning EU market for secondary raw materials

No harmonization of the status for secondary raw materials in Europe incl. for recovered paper despite a harmonized quality standard (EN 643)

What should be filled in on the Annex VII ?

What type of truck ?

Status of recovered paper ?

The Netherlands : **waste**

NRW : End of waste

Hessen : **waste**

Bavaria : End of waste

Transport inside Europe is complex and expensive.

**IMPEL End of Waste decisions database**





# What drives international trade of waste & secondary raw materials

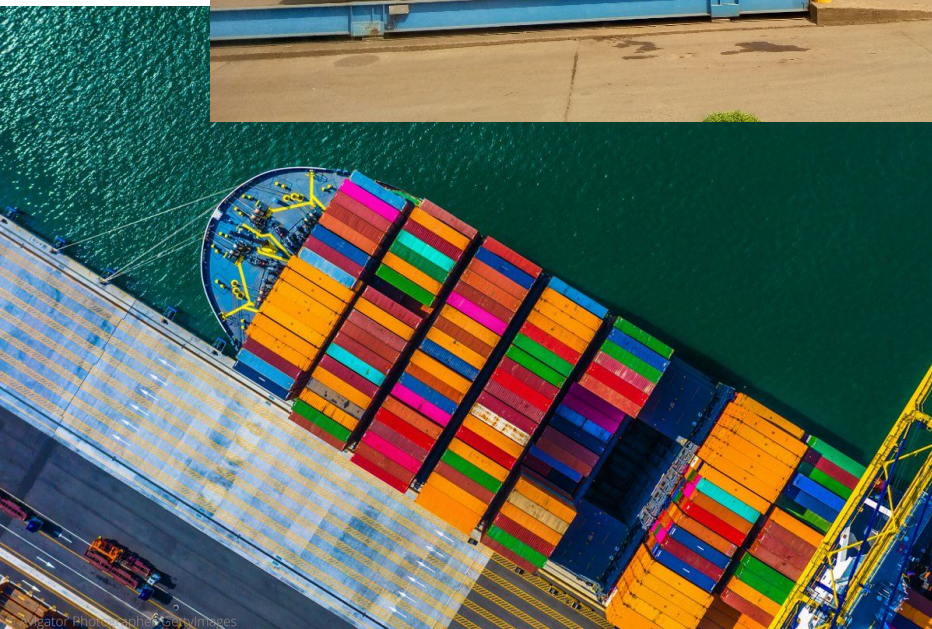
- ❑ **Local / global imbalances** between supply & demand = global market
- ❑ **Massive differences** inherent to materials' properties, value & end-markets
- ❑ **Poor enforcement / Illegal shipments**
- ❑ **Intrinsically linear economy**



**The European Green Deal (COM/2019/640 final)**

*Only 12% of the materials [the EU's industry] uses come from recycling.*

# What it takes to fix the problems



- **Design, pricing externalities, smart rules for circular value chains** (in Europe & globally)
- **Target-oriented revision of the WSR**
  - ❖ Simplify intra-EU shipments for recovery purposes
  - ❖ Take onboard global dimension of SRM markets
  - ❖ Strengthen enforcement of WSR
- **Enhancing environmentally sound management of waste globally, be it for plastics or e-waste** (Basel Convention/ OECD)





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Thank you for  
your attention!