



Recycling Europe's assessment of the latest European aluminium scrap trade measures

Isabelle Radovan, Policy Advisor

17 June 2026

Phone

+32 489 094 602

Website

recyclingeurope.org

Address

Boulevard Auguste Reyers 70, 1030, Brussels,
Belgium

Recycling Europe at a glance



80 members



24 EU and EFTA
countries



400,000
Green and local jobs



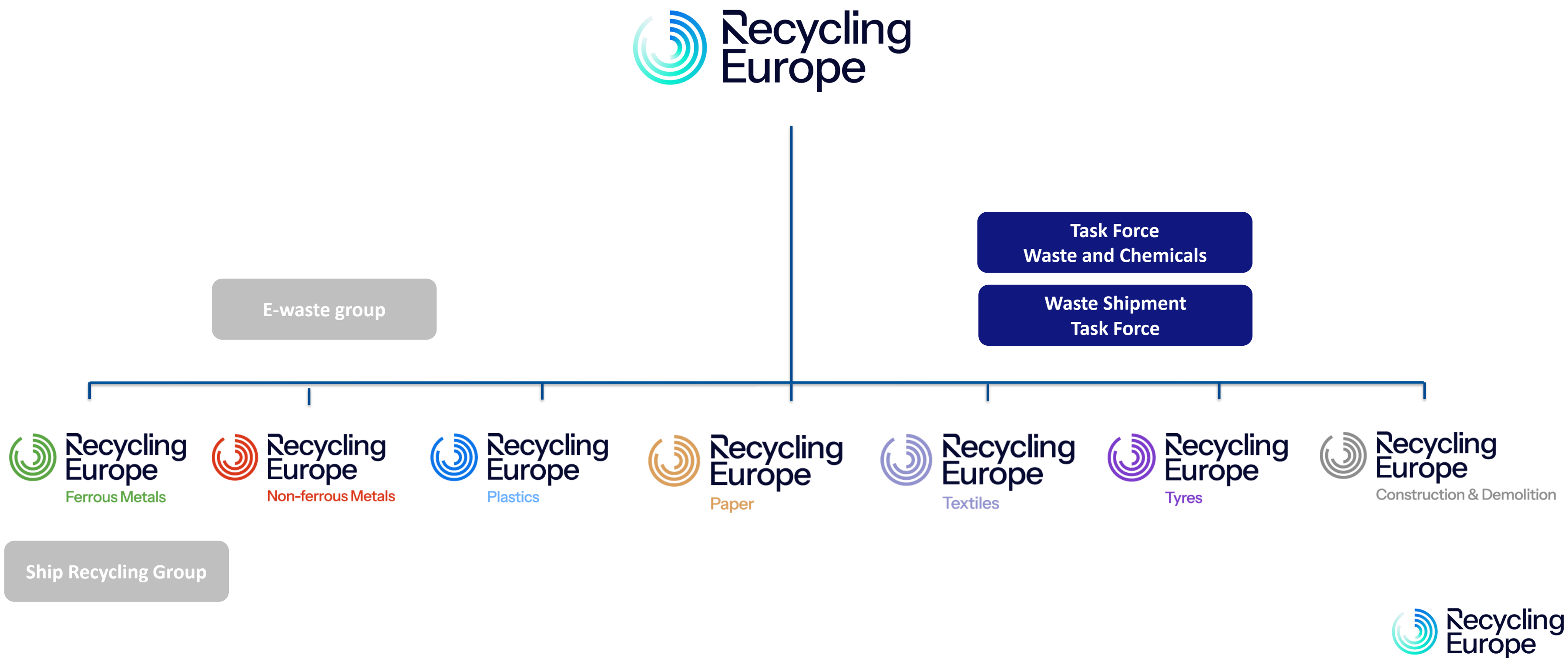
5500+
companies



95 billion euros turnover



Recycling Europe branches



Streams covered



PLASTICS



PAPER



TEXTILES



CONSTRUCTION
& DEMOLITION
WASTE



Non-ferrous
METALS



Ferrous
METALS



TYRES



ELECTRICAL &
ELECTRONICAL
WASTE



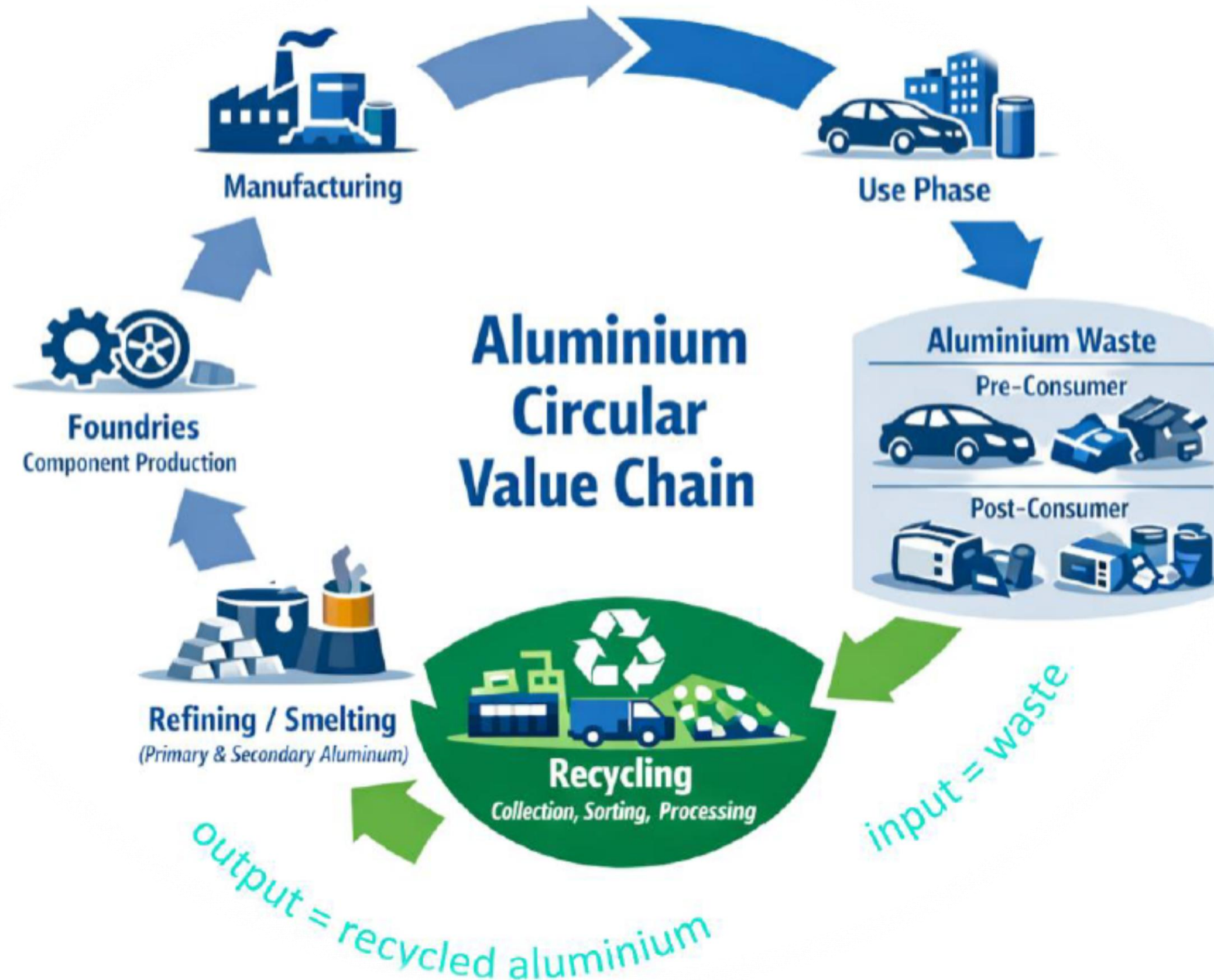
SHIPS



END-OF-LIFE
Vehicles

The European aluminium recycling value chain

The Aluminium recycling value chain



Recycling steps:

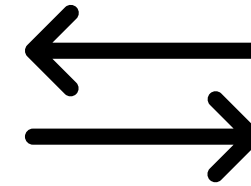
Recyclers collect (buy) waste containing aluminium, process it in the recycling plants (through different technologies) and sell the recycled aluminium to primary and secondary refineries.

Facts about aluminium recycling in Europe



Environmental & climate benefits

- By using recycled aluminium, **CO2 emissions can be reduced by 92%** compared to primary aluminium.
- Recycling aluminium saves **95% of the energy** needed for primary production.
- One tonne of recycled aluminium saves up to **8 tonnes of bauxite, 14,000 kWh of energy**, and **7.6 cubic meters of landfill**.



Trade figures

- **6.2 million tonnes of recycled aluminium** are **produced** and processed each year by EU recyclers.
- **1.2 million tonnes are exported**, meaning 80% of aluminium recycled in Europe stays within the continent.
- Balancing import and export figures give us a **net export rate of just 10%** of all recycled aluminium.

Trade measures on recycled aluminium

Trade measures on recycled metals

Timeline

Steel and Metals Action Plan (published March 2025): includes provision to consider a trade measure to ensure the sufficient availability of 'scrap' in the EU.

RESourceEU (published December 2025): states that by Q2 2026, the Commission will propose **targeted measures for aluminum scrap** and possibly copper scrap.

December 2025: Publication of **Call for evidence** and **targeted questionnaire**.

Q2 (tbc): **Commission proposal**, will follow the ordinary legislative procedure.

Potential format of the trade measure

Measures proposed in the public consultation

- A **uniform export duty** for all types of aluminium scrap classified under subheading CN 7602 00
- A **differentiated export duty** for scrap products classified under subheading CN 760200
- A **duty-free, first come, first served tariff-rate quota (TRQ)** for exported scrap, together with an out-of-quota duty

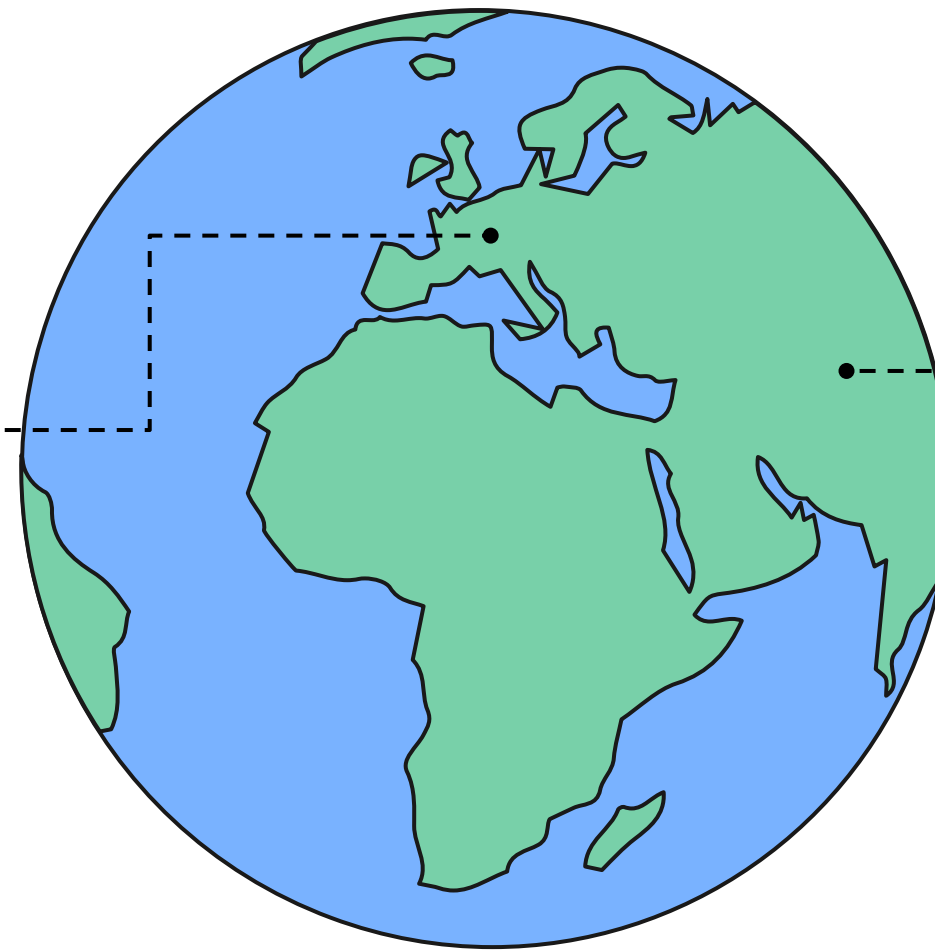
The recyclers' perspective on trade measures

EU Recycling Industry Competitiveness



EU Single Market

Remove trade barriers between MS with harmonized criteria (EU-wide end-of-waste criteria & shipments)



Access to international markets

Free and fair trade of recycled materials

Coherent policies between exports and demand

Introducing trade restrictions is not the right way forward

Exports of waste & recycled materials already limited by entry into force of revised Waste Shipment Regulation

Lack of granular data on trade flows

→ no clear picture of potential consequences

**No proof of export surge
→ no proportionality of the measure**

Lack of EU demand for certain grades of recycled aluminium

Consequences of export restrictions

Business model recycling

Recyclers BUY waste containing aluminium from different sectors (automotive, construction, packaging) and transform it into recycled materials.

**Export restrictions
create oversupply in
the internal market.**



**Domestic prices fall
below world market
levels, putting the
economic viability of
recyclers at risk.**



**Collection activities
& investments in
recycling capacity
slow down.**



**Recyclers slow
down/halt the
processing of
metallic waste.**



**Less availability of
recycled aluminium in
the EU.**

Solutions for the whole aluminium value chain



Reduce energy prices (cross-cutting issue)



Introduce legislative guarantees and incentives for the uptake of recycled aluminium by manufacturers



Guarantee the use of recycled aluminium via Green Public Procurement (GPP), and a green VAT for circular products



Secure long-term contracts between recyclers and EU aluminium smelters to guarantee stability



Protect the EU aluminium industry via CBAM



Untap the potential of Made in EU preference with incentives to use more recycled materials

Thank you for your attention!



Phone

+32 485 97 08 71

Email

info@recyclingeurope.org

Website

www.recyclingeurope.org

Address

Boulevard Auguste Reyers
70, 1030 Brussels, Belgium