



Press Release

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Despite a challenging international context, European paper recycling resilient in 2017

In view of its commitment to achieving a 74% paper recycling rate across Europe by 2020, the European Paper Recycling Council (EPRC) today confirmed its latest recycling figure of 72.3% in its 2017 [monitoring report](#).

“In the background of a challenging international context, the increased European paper recycling rate from 72% in 2016 to 72.3% in 2017 is a significant step forward for paper recycling in Europe. The value chain also achieved higher collection, a sign that we remain committed to the objectives set out in our [Declaration](#)” says Lisa Kretschmann, Chairperson of the EPRC.

More specifically, the Chinese waste import restrictions have had an impact on markets, and Chinese imports of European paper for recycling have started to decline. This decline is gradually being balanced by a stronger use of paper for recycling in Europe, and other countries, due to investments in additional paper recycling capacities. The Chinese waste import restrictions also shed light on the importance of ensuring the quality of the collected paper for recycling. Improving separate paper collection is one of the priorities of the EPRC, exemplified by, for instance, the [ImpactPapeRec](#) project.

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Note to editor:

The European Paper Recycling Council (EPRC) was set up as an industry self-initiative in November 2000 to monitor progress towards meeting the paper recycling targets set out in the 2000 European Declaration on Paper Recycling. Since then the commitments in the Declaration are renewed every five years. In 2017 the EPRC committed itself to meeting and maintaining both a voluntary recycling rate target of 74% in the EU27 plus Switzerland and Norway by 2020 as well as qualitative targets in areas such as waste prevention, ecodesign and research and development. In 2018, Members of the EPRC are ACE, CEPI, CITPA, EMFA, ETS, FEPE, INGEDE and INTERGRAF. Supporters are Afera, EuPIA, FINAT, FEICA and RadTECH Europe. The environment (DG Environment) and industry (DG Grow) departments of the European Commission are permanent observers to the EPRC.