

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

## End-of-Life Vehicles proposal: A step forward for Europe's raw materials supply

Brussels, 13 July 2023: "Today's End-of-Life Vehicles proposal is an important milestone that will help to close the loop for strategic metals in the automotive sector. With Europe's raw materials vulnerabilities firmly in the spotlight, it's crucial we recycle everything that's already available to us", said Kamila Slupek, Sustainability Director of Eurometaux (Europe's metals association), after the European Commission published its proposal for revising the End-of-Life Vehicles Directive.

"Too much of the metal in Europe's vehicles is still being lost through untracked exports or improper recycling practices. We welcome that the European Commission is acting to change this situation. The new proposals for clamping down on unlawful exports and dismantling vehicles before shredding have the potential to really increase the volumes of metals that reach our recyclers".

Europe's automotive sector is already a major industrial user of base metals like aluminium, copper, zinc, and lead, and specialised metals like platinum group metals. The shift to electric vehicles and fuel cells is creating major new demand for these and a range of other metals, from battery materials like lithium, nickel, or cobalt, to rare earths in permanent magnets. It's important that the EU's policy framework is equipped to maximise recovery of all these strategic raw materials when they are available to recycle.

But today, one third of Europe's vehicles are unaccounted for at their end-of-life, and significant improvements are possible to their collection and sorting infrastructure.

Today's End-of-Life Vehicles proposal will also need to work coherently with all the other pieces of waste legislation updated recently for raw materials – from batteries to shipments – as well as the EU's wider chemicals policy.

Kamila Slupek concluded here: "The European Commission should be congratulated for all the efforts they have taken in the last four years to future proof our waste legislation for the energy and digital transition. We welcome the steps forward for Europe on batteries, waste shipments, and now end-of-life vehicles. Let's continue working to ensure everything fits together coherently, giving our state-of-the-art recyclers the best chance of keeping their global leadership."

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**About Eurometaux:** Eurometaux is a trade association representing the collective European non-ferrous metals industry, including miners, smelters, refiners, fabricators and recyclers.

