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## GEIR Update:

### A greener Parliament – good news for waste oils recycling!



The 9th legislature of the European Parliament (EP) just started this July, after all EU citizens were called to polling stations end of May to choose their representatives (MEPs). But what do the elections results entail for the waste oil regeneration sector?

The raising awareness about environmental and climate change issues among civil society these past months translated in the highest number of Green politicians ever elected in the EP, jumping from 52 for the period 2014-2019 to 74! Their newly gained influence should not be underestimated, even more as another political group also placing environmental concerns on top of their priorities considerably grew. The Liberals, recently renamed "Renew Europe", became the third political party in the EP and annihilated the grip on the institution the old traditional parties (Centre-right and Center-left) used to have.

The new balance of power already translated in the EP committees' chairmanship – the Greens claiming two important and technical committees which focus on transport (TRAN) and internal market and consumer affairs (IMCO). More importantly, the committee on environment (ENVI) not only became the biggest committee by gaining seven more seats but will in addition be presided by a liberal MEP who is the former Director General of World Wildlife Fund France – a well-known green activist! All pointers clearly indicate the increased importance of environmental matters in the Parliament.

Since this new legislature will likely examine a future proposal on waste oils regeneration targets, this greening trend certainly bodes well regarding the Parliament's future support. An important question mark nevertheless remains – what will be the new Commission's stance on these matters? Indeed, the newly appointed Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will set up her team during the upcoming weeks. Will her future Environment Commissioner provide the right impetus for additional recycling targets? We at GEIR certainly hope so.

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