

CIRCULAR ECONOMY



European
Commission



European Economic and Social Committee

Stakeholder Conference 20-21 February 2018

#EUIndustryDay #CircularEconomy #InvestEU #CEstakeholderEU

Delivering on the Circular Economy, What's Next?

Programme Day 1

20 February 2018

European Commission, Charlemagne building
Rue de la Loi, 170 – 1040 Bruxelles

Day 1 will be webstreamed from the event website.

Moderator: **Jacki Davis**

08.00 **REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE**

09.00 **WELCOME ADDRESSES** – GASP room

[webstreaming]

Delivering on the Circular Economy, Challenges and Opportunities
Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the European Commission

Georges Dassis, President of the European Economic and Social Committee

An Industrial Ambition for the Circular Economy
Elżbieta Bieńkowska, Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

09.30 **PLENARY SESSION 1** – GASP room

[webstreaming]

What's Next After the EU Strategy for Plastics?

The EU Strategy for Plastics will lay down the foundations of a new plastics economy, where plastics are reused and recycled and their leakage in the environment, in particular oceans, is tackled. Panellists will share concrete actions and good practices that will make these ambitious objectives a reality.

Alexandre Dangis, Managing Director, European Plastics Converters

Mette Skovgaard, Senior Adviser, City of Copenhagen, Eurocities

Luc Bas, European Regional Director, IUCN

Aloy Guitton, Directeur RSE Auchan Retail, Auchan (tbc)

Nico Rietveld, Commercial Director Bar-le-Duc, United Soft Drinks

10.30 **COFFEE BREAK**

11.00 **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss in detail and share their views on major deliverables and work streams of the EU Circular Economy Action Plan.

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BREAKOUT SESSION 1 Chemicals-Products-Waste Interface: Achieving Non-Toxic Materials Flows

Gasp Room

[webstreaming]

In a Communication and Staff Working Document, published in January 2018, the Commission assesses how EU rules on waste, products and chemicals operate together relate to each other. In order to improve the uptake of recycled materials, we need to promote non-toxic material flows, address the presence of chemicals of concern in products and waste, limit burdens for recyclers and facilitate the traceability and risk management of chemicals in the recycling process. The Commission's assessment found a number of barriers to a full circular economy and aims to open a broad discussion with all stakeholders on how to best address these issues.

Chair: **Kęstutis Sadauskas**, Director, Circular Economy and Green Growth, DG Environment, European Commission

Theresa Kjell, Senior Policy and Business Advisor, ChemSec

Paolo Falcioni, Director General, European Committee of Domestic Equipment Manufacturers

Michaël Mansuy, Policy Officer, Veolia

Harald Kasamas, Senior Officer, Austrian Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism

BREAKOUT SESSION 2 Circular Solutions for the Low-Carbon Transition

MANS room

[webstreaming]

This session will discuss possible ways forward for an integrated approach for low carbon and circular economy aspects as highlighted in the Renewed Industrial Policy Strategy adopted in September 2017. It will look at the whole industrial value chain from extraction, use of secondary raw materials, innovative industrial processes and new ways of reusing and recycling of end-of-life low carbon products (e.g. batteries, wind farms or solar panels). It will stress the role of circular economy solutions to ease the transition towards a low carbon economy and EU innovative, feasible and affordable solutions for domestic market and exports of circular economy solutions to ease the energy transition.

Chair: **Saïd El Khadraoui**, European Political Strategy Centre, European Commission

Harald Friedl, CEO, Circle Economy

Olivier François, Market Development Officer, Galloo Recycling, Chairman of FEDEREC's International Affairs Committee, European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC)

Eleanor Drabik, Researcher, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)

Rob van der Meer, Director Public Affairs, HeidelbergCement

Jean-Philippe Hermine, Vice-President, Strategic Environmental Planning, Renault SAS

BREAKOUT SESSION 3 How to Ensure that the Bioeconomy Contributes to the Circular Economy

JENK room

[webstreaming]

Later this year the European Commission will update the European Bioeconomy Strategy. The revised strategy is likely to have a stronger focus on the circularity of the bioeconomy. This session will provide an opportunity for stakeholder organisations to express what they expect the revised Bioeconomy Strategy to do to make the bioeconomy more circular. Stakeholder organisations will also be asked to explain how they see their own role in this transition.

Moderator: **John Bell**, Director, Bioeconomy, DG RTD, European Commission

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Keynote speaker: **Janez Potočnik**, Co-Chair, International Resource Panel

Pekka Pesonen, Secretary-General, COPA-COGECA

Ilaria Nardello, Executive Director, European Marine Biological Resources Centre (EMBRC)

Johanna Dupont, Director, Industrial Biotechnology, EuropaBio

Rob Hamer, Vice-President R&D Discover Foods/Director Unilever R&D Vlaardingen, FOOD NEXUS network

Lauri Hetemäki, Assistant Director, European Forest Institute

12.30 LUNCH BREAK

13.30 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

BREAKOUT SESSION 4 Towards an EU Product Policy Framework Contributing to the Circular Economy

GASP room

[webstreaming]

The Circular Economy Action Plan states that the Commission will examine options and actions for a more coherent policy framework of the different strands of work of its product policy in their contribution to the circular economy. These different strands range from legislation laying down minimum requirements for market access to voluntary measures aimed at providing a market advantage for circular products. They have impacts in different phases of the product life cycle, from design to end-of-life. In this session, stakeholders will share how they perceive the product policy framework. Is there a sufficient steer towards circular economy? Are the strands of work mutually supportive? How could the contribution of the policy framework be improved?

Chair: **Kęstutis Sadauskas**, Director, Circular Economy and Green Growth, DG Environment, European Commission

Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director, European Environment Agency

Martin Charter, Director, The Centre for Sustainable Design

Carsten Wachholz, Senior Policy Officer, Product Policy and Resource Conservation, European Environmental Bureau

BREAKOUT SESSION 5 SMEs in the Circular Economy [including Official Launch of the European Resource Efficiency Knowledge Centre]

JENK room

[webstreaming]

How can SMEs benefit from the shift to a circular economy? What are the services that can help SMEs best? How can SME intermediaries improve their services?

SME experts and participants will discuss these issues in the framework of the official launch of the European Resource Efficiency Knowledge Centre.

Chair: **Ulla Engelmann**, Head of Unit, Clusters, Social Economy and Entrepreneurship, DG GROW, European Commission

Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, DG Environment, European Commission

Antti Peltomäki, Deputy Director-General, DG GROW, European Commission

Agis Evrygenis, Managing Director, Technopolis Group

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Krzysztof Maruszewski, Director, Knowledge Management, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Arthur ten Wolde, Circular Economy Expert, Ecopreneur.eu

Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary-General, EUROCHAMBRES

Véronique Willems, Secretary-General, UEAPME

Iain Gulland, Chief Executive, Zero Waste Scotland

Montse Guerrero, Vice-Chair of the Thematic Group Circular Economy, Enterprise Europe Network

BREAKOUT SESSION 6 Sustainable Construction – Progressing Towards a More Circular Economy

MANS room

[webstreaming]

The session will address policy development in the field of sustainable construction and the initiatives developed by the European Commission in collaboration with stakeholders. The session will start with a focus on the three actions achieved as planned in the Circular Economy Action Plan, the Guidelines for pre-demolition and renovation waste audits, the Construction & Demolition Waste Management Protocol and the Framework to sustainable building performance reporting, called Level(s). The session will touch on the responsibility of Member States and the sector itself and consider which lessons could be learnt from national initiatives, from inside the EU or outside. The issue of how to create favourable economic environment for new business models within the Circular Economy will also be addressed, with reference to current European Commission's consideration to foster investments and innovation in C&D Waste recycling infrastructure and new approaches in designing and engineering building including "Design for deconstruction", adaptability, reversibility and durability.

Chair: **Gwenole Cozigou**, Director, Industrial Transformation and Advanced Value Chains, DG GROW, European Commission

Meg Scheppers, Policy Advisor, Public Waste Agency of Flanders (OVAM)

James Drinkwater, Regional Director, Europe Network, World Green Building Council

Mickael Thiery, Head of the Unit 'Partnership and territorial actions', Directorate for Housing, Urban Development and Landscape, French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition

Floske Kusse, Stakeholder Engagement, ING Sustainability

15.00 **COFFEE BREAK**

15.30 **KEYNOTE SPEECH – GASP room**

[webstreaming]

The Transition towards a Circular Economy, a Joint Endeavour

Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

15.45 **PLENARY SESSION 2 – GASP room**

[webstreaming]

Achieving the Transition: Voluntary Commitments, Transformative Action

Delivering on the circular economy is a joint endeavour and transformative action needs to take place on the ground. Organisations in charge of encouraging these actions will share their knowledge and experiences on the challenges and opportunities that committing to a circular economy can bring.

Lieze Cloots, Head international policy at the Public Waste Agency of Flanders (OVAM), Circular Procurement Green Deal

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Virginia Janssens, Managing Director, European Organization for Packaging and the Environment (EUROPEN)

Mauro Scalia, Manager of Sustainable Businesses, European Apparel and Textile Confederation (EURATEX)

Karl-H. Foerster, Executive Director, PlasticsEurope

16.45 **KEYNOTE SPEECH** – GASP room [webstreaming]
Beyond the Circular Economy Action Plan

Jyrki Katainen, Vice-President of the European Commission for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness

17.00 **PLENARY SESSION 2** – GASP room [webstreaming]
Perspectives Ahead, Global Engagement

The EU Circular Economy Action Plan has put Europe on the right track for a swift transition towards circularity. The panel will expand the debate to the global dimension of the circular economy.

Sirpa Pietikäinen, Member of the European Parliament

Antonia Gawel, Head of the Circular Economy Initiative, World Economic Forum

Elisa Tonda, Head, Consumption and Production Unit, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, UN Environment

Eva Mittermayr, Advisor, Austria's Permanent Representation to the European Union

18.00 **GETTING READY FOR DAY 2**

The European Economic and Social Committee will present introduce Day 2.

Cillian Lohan, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee

18.10 **END OF DAY 1**

Interpretation from and into EN, FR and DE during the plenary sessions. Breakout sessions in EN only.

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Programme Day 2

21 February 2018

European Economic and Social Committee
Jacques Delors Building, 99, Rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels

We want your input and expertise! The second day of the conference will take the form of interactive conversations to "network the networks". It will bring civil society stakeholders together to debate subjects at the top of their agenda while contributing to defining the narrative of the Circular Economy (how it is understood at Member State and EU level, the impact of the transition on jobs, consumers and enterprises, etc.). Participatory "circles" will allow attendees to promote and disseminate good practices via knowledge sharing and dialogue.

Moderator: **Jacki Davis**

08.30 **REGISTRATION AND COFFEE**

09.00 **OPENING #START THE CONVERSATION**

Linking back to the conclusions and key messages of Day 1, the Deputy Director-General of the DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, **Antti Peltomäki**, and the President of the EESC Section for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment, **Brendan Burns**, will open the morning by highlighting how the exchange of expertise, information and best practices happening on the ground and triggering the uptake of circular models is a key factor to ensure an effective transition. Civil society's involvement and engagement is crucial in this context.

Participatory circles – session 1 (09.45)

Participants will be invited to join one-hour parallel conversations to discuss specific topics related to the circular economy. Designed with a participatory format, the purpose of these circles will be to provide knowledge and identify barriers to the circular economy transition (#Knowledge&Barriers), foster policy dialogue and develop proposals on what should change (#Dialogue) as well as promote the exchange of good practices and learning experiences (#Practices). The participatory circles will be led by members of the Platform's Coordination Group.

- **#Knowledge&Barriers**
parallel circles on: roadmap to ICT-enabled circular economy led by **Michael Kuhndt** (Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production), reparability and serviceability ratings of appliances led by **Carsten Wachholz** (European Environment Bureau) and circular bioeconomy – the regenerative story led by Jocelyn Bleriot (Ellen MacArthur Foundation)
- **#Dialogue**
parallel circles on: product design for long-life products, industrialized maintenance and repair led by **Laurent Zibell** (industriAll), low carbon / low waste and the circular economy led by Andrea Brown (World Business Council for Sustainable Development) and **Vanya Veras**,

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Municipal Waste Europe and the real potential of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) led by **Esther Colino Caro** (Ecoembes)

- **#Practices**
parallel circles on: circular approaches in the agri-food and forestry sector led by **Oana Neagu** (COPA and COGECA) and risk and reward of circularity in SMEs led by **Alyssa Jade McDonald-Baertl** (Ecopreneur)

Participatory circles – session 2 (11.00)

- **#Knowledge&Barriers**
parallel circles on: the circular economy and the international level led by **Andrea Brown** (World Business Council for Sustainable Development) and **Stephane Ardit** (European Environment Bureau), the social dimension of circular economy led by **Laurent Zibell** (industriAll) and overcoming cultural challenges in the circular transition led by **Michael Kuhndt** (Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production)
- **#Dialogue**
parallel circles on: bottom-up initiatives - creating a problem-solving community for circular economy business challenges led by **Alexandre Affre** (Business Europe) and **Harald Friedl** (Circle Economy), green financing led by **Alyssa Jade McDonald-Baertl** (Ecopreneur) and remanufacturing led by **Walter Stahel** (the Product-Life Institute)
- **#Practices**
parallel circles on: the Urban Agenda – Circular economy partnership led by **Håkon Jentoft** (Eurocities) and **Lieze Cloots** (the Public Waste Agency of Flanders) and how circular is the SME community over Europe led by **Alyssa Jade McDonald-Baertl** (Ecopreneur)

12.15 CLOSING #CALL TO ACTION

After a wrap-up of the participatory circles discussions, **Robert Madelin**, Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Oxford, will inspire the audience with a forward-looking perspective on how innovative digital solutions could be used to boost sharing, cross-fertilising and taking up of circular economy solutions. The President of the EESC Section for Internal Market, **Martin Siecker**, will conclude the morning giving new perspectives on stakeholders' further engagement in the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform.

13.00 LUNCH AND NETWORKING

During lunch, participants will have opportunities for networking and for visiting good practice stands on the circular economy.

Interpretation from EN, FR and DE into EN and FR.