



European
Commission

Closing the Loop the Circular Economy Action Plan 2015-2019

Wissenschaftsplattform Nachhaltigkeit
Workshop der AG Konsum
13.-14. Juni, Berlin



Dr. Hugo Maria Schally
European Commission
DG Environment

Planetary Boundaries- a safe operating space for humanity

4 out of 9 crossed:

- climate change
- loss of biosphere integrity
- land-system change
- altered biogeochemical cycles

The limitations of the linear economy?

- - *lost value of materials and products*
- - *scarcity of resources*
- - *volatile prices of resources*
- - *waste generated*
- - *unstable supply of raw materials*
- - *environmental degradation & climate change*

Potential of the transition to circularity

- ✓ Protecting resources
- ✓ Tackling climate change
- ✓ Reducing our environmental footprint

...while...

- ✓ cutting the use of natural resources up to 28%
- ✓ cutting GHG emissions
- ✓ increasing economic activity

Therefore from a Linear Economy...

NATURAL
RESOURCES

TAKE

MAKE

DISPOSE

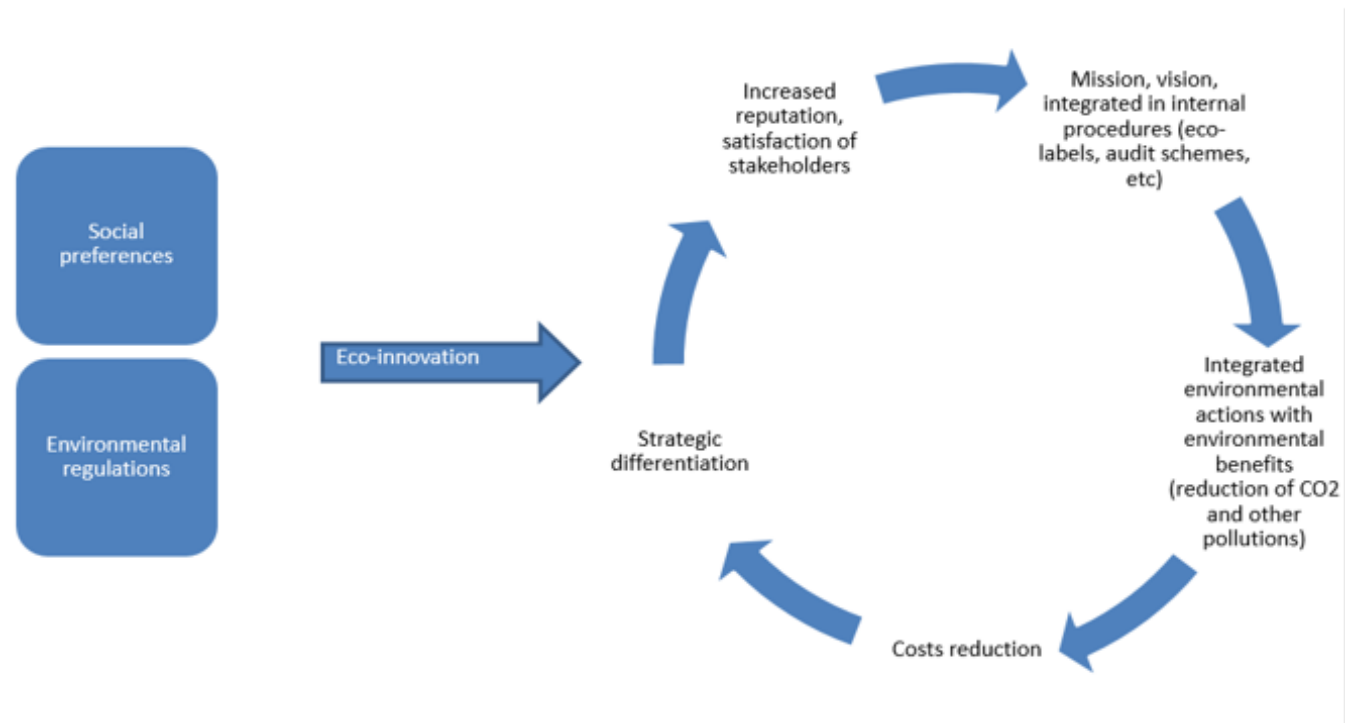
#Picture removed

WASTE
WASTE
WASTE

Our vision (#Picture Circular Economy)

The EU and SCP: Examples

« Virtuous circle of SCP »



→ **Empowering citizens**, e.g. through better information, pushes also **enterprises to integrate sustainable practices**, obtaining a benefit for them (reputation, reduced costs), for environment (less pollution) and for citizens (health and well-being).

1 action plan 4 + 1 key areas 5 priority sectors 54 actions

Actions	Timetable
Production	
Emphasis on circular economy aspects in future product requirements under the Eco-design directive	2016 onwards
Eco-design work plan 2015-2017 and request to European standardisation organisations to develop standards on material efficiency for setting future Eco-design requirements on durability, reparability and recyclability of products	December 2015
Proposal for an implementing regulation on televisions and displays	End 2015 or beginning 2016
Examine options and actions for a more coherent policy framework of the different strands of work of EU product policy in their contribution to the circular economy	2016
Include guidance on circular economy into Best Available Techniques reference documents (BREFs) for several industrial sectors	2016 onwards
Guidance and promotion of best practices in the mining waste management plans	2016
Establishing an open, pan-European network of technological infrastructures for SMEs to integrate advanced manufacturing technologies into their production processes	2015/now
Examine how to improve the efficiency and uptake of the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and the pilot programme on environmental technology verification (ETV)	2017
Develop an improved knowledge base and support to SMEs for the substitution of hazardous substances of very high concern	2016

Consumption	
Better enforcement of existing guarantees on tangible products, accompanied by a reflection on improvements (upcoming Commission proposal for online sales of goods, and Fitness Check of consumer legislation)	2015-2017
Action on false green claims, including updated guidance on unfair commercial practices	2016
Analysis of the possibility to propose horizontal requirements on repair information provision in the context of Eco-design	2016
REFIT of Ecolabel, to be followed by actions to enhance its effectiveness	2016
Assessment of the possibility of an independent testing programme on planned obsolescence	2016
Subject to evaluation of the current ongoing pilots, explore the possible uses of the Product Environmental Footprint to measure and communicate environmental information	2016 onwards
Action on Green Public Procurement: enhanced integration of circular economy requirements, support to higher uptake including through training schemes, reinforcing its use in Commission procurement and EU funds	2016 onwards

Waste management	
Revised legislative proposal on waste	
Improved cooperation with Member States for better implementation of EU waste legislation, and combat illicit shipment of end of life vehicles	2015 onwards
Stepping up enforcement of revised Waste Shipment regulation	2016 onwards
Promotion of industry-led voluntary certification of treatment facilities for key waste recycle streams	2018 onwards
Initiative on waste to energy in the framework of the Energy Union	2016
Identification and dissemination of good practices in waste collection systems	2016 onwards

Market for secondary raw materials	
Development of quality standards for secondary raw materials (in particular for plastics)	2016 onwards
Proposal for a revised REACHs regulation	Early 2016
Proposed legislation setting minimum requirements for reused water for irrigation and groundwater recharge	2017
Promotion of safe and cost-effective water reuse, including guidance on the integration of water reuse in water planning and management, inclusion of best practices in relevant BREFs, and support to innovation (through the European Innovation Partnership and Horizon 2020) and investments	2016-2017

Analysis and policy options to address the interface between chemicals, products and waste legislation, including how to reduce the presence and improve the tracking of chemicals of concern in products	2017
Measures to facilitate waste shipment across the EU, including electronic data exchange (and possibly other measures)	2016 onwards
Further development of the EU raw materials information system	2016 onwards

Sectorial action	
Plastics	
Strategy on plastics in the circular economy	2017
Specific action to reduce marine litter implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals	2015 onwards

Food waste	
Development of a common methodology and indicators to measure food waste	2016
Stakeholders platform to examine how to achieve SDGs goals on food waste, share best practice and evaluate progress	2016
Clarify relevant EU legislation related to waste, food and feed in order to facilitate food donation and utilisation of former foodstuffs for animal feed	2016
Explore options for more effective use and understanding of date marking on food	2017

Critical raw materials	
Report on critical raw materials and the circular economy	2017
Improve exchange of information between manufacturers and recyclers on electronic products	2016 onwards
European standards for material-efficient recycling of electronic waste, waste batteries and other relevant complex end-of-life products	2016 onwards
Sharing of best practice for the recovery of critical raw materials from mining waste and landfills	2017

Construction and demolition	
Pre-demolition assessment guidelines for the construction sector	2017
Voluntary industry-wide recycling protocol for construction and demolition waste	2016
Core indicators for the assessment of the lifecycle environmental performance of a building, and incentives for their use	2017 onwards

Biomass and bio-based materials	
Guidance and dissemination of best practice on the cascading use of biomass and support to innovation in this domain through Horizon 2020	2016-2019
Ensuring coherence and synergies with the circular economy when examining the sustainability of bioeconomy under the Energy Union	2016
Assessment of the contribution of the 2012 Bio-economy Strategy to the circular economy and possible review	2016

Innovation and investments	
Initiative "Industry 2020 and the circular economy" under Horizon 2020	October 2015
Pilot project for "innovation deals" to address possible regulatory obstacles for innovators	2016
Targeted outreach to encourage applications for funding under EFSI, and support the development of projects and investment platforms relevant to the circular economy	2016 onwards
Targeted outreach and communication activities to assist Member States and regions for the uptake of Cohesion Policy funds for the circular economy	2016 onwards
Support to Member States and regions to strengthen innovation for the circular economy through smart specialisation	2016 onwards
Assessment of the possibility of launching a platform together with the EIB and national banks to support the financing of the circular economy	2016
Engagement with stakeholders in the implementation of this action plan through existing fora in key sectors	2016 onwards
Support to a range of stakeholders through actions on public-private partnerships, cooperation platforms, support to voluntary business approaches, and exchanges of best practices	2015 onwards

Monitoring	
Development of a monitoring framework for the circular economy	2017



Milestones actions

Circular Design & Production Processes

Eco-Design Working Plan
Sustainable Products in a
Circular Economy



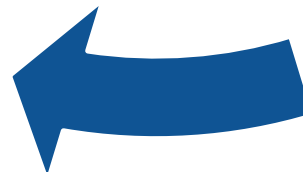
Empowering Consumers

Product Environmental
Footprint
Consumers REFIT



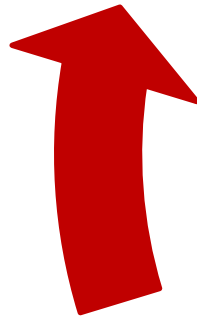
Turning Waste into Resources

Revised Waste Legislation



Closing Loops of Recovered Materials

Interface WPC
Fertilisers



2018 Circular Economy Package



A EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR PLASTICS IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



**Improve
the economics
and quality
of plastics
recycling**



**Curb plastic
waste and
littering**



**Drive
investments
and innovation
towards circular
solutions**



**Harness
global
action**

INTERFACE BETWEEN CHEMICALS, PRODUCTS AND WASTE LEGISLATION

Barriers for a full circular economy

Challenges



Insufficient **information**



- **Defining and tracking** substances of concern



Presence of **substances of concern**



- **Level playing field between:** secondary and primary material
EU-produced and imported articles



Difficulties in applying **End of Waste criteria**



- **Design for circularity**
- Improving **certainty** in implementation



Uncertain application of EU waste **classification** methodologies



- **Approximating** the rules
- Better **classification**



The Communication identified possible options to overcome the barriers

Objective: opening discussion with MS and stakeholders

Ingredients of success



Systemic approach along entire value chains – full life cycle

In some cases, material-wide approach: plastics strategy

Single Use Plastic Items Directive & Circular Plastics Alliance

Strong Stakeholder Engagement

EU Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform

EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste

Circular Economy Finance Support Platform

**European
Circular Economy
Stakeholder Platform**



Final package on Circular Economy

adopted 4 March 2019

- **Report on the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan**
- **Staff working document with details and references for the 54 actions that were listed in the action plan**
- SWD on Sustainable Products in a Circular Economy
- SWD on the Assessment of the voluntary pledges under Annex III of the Strategy on Plastics
- Summary Report of the Public Consultation on the main issues identified in the Commission's Communication on the interface between chemical, product and waste legislation
- Report on Horizon 2020 R&I projects supporting the transition to a Circular Economy
- Publication with Insights from research and innovation to inform policy and funding decisions
- Report on Improving access to finance for circular economy project
- Guidance and promotion of best practices in the mining waste management plans



Report on the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan

COM(2019) 190 on 4 March 2019

- Illustrates the **results** of the implementation
- Includes **latest data** from the Monitoring Framework
- Presents key **milestones actions** delivered
- Sketches out **open challenges**

Open challenges

Follow up to the CEAP actions

- Circular products and services
- Empowering circular consumers
- Implementation of legislation
- Develop markets for secondary raw materials

Pursuing together other systemic transformations

- Using biological resources in a circular way, respecting the ecological boundaries and contributing to halting biodiversity loss
- Exploiting the synergies with a climate neutral economy
- Integrating digital transformations (while recognizing other impacts)
- Reinforcing social and territorial cohesion and balanced distribution of jobs
- Fostering circular and sustainable finances

Circularity in other sectors

- IT, electronics, mobility, built environment, furniture, textile, food and drinks

Circular Economy goes global – Why ?

- The EU needs and relies on **sustainable global value chains** (many EU multinational companies have supply chains that begin in the developing countries).
- The EU will therefore not be able to make the transition to a circular economy in isolation.
- In a more connected world, **the EU needs to reach out and engage with others** (e.g. global agenda, SDGs).



How : Bilateral - Circular Economy Missions

- 2016: Chile, China.
- 2017: Iran (mini), Colombia, South Africa.
- 2018: India, Japan, Indonesia.
- 2019:
 - Mexico (24-25 April).
 - Singapore/Malaysia (5-12 June).
 - Africa (Ghana, Senegal, Kenya, Ethiopia).

+

Policy focus: circular economy, resource efficiency and sustainable use of natural resources

- **Waste management (plastics, marine litter, construction, e-waste, solid and domestic waste),**
- **Air pollution,**
- **Urban,**
- **Water,**
- **Chemicals,**
- **Natural capital accounting / biodiversity,**
- **Green public procurement,**
- **Sustainable finance,**
- **Etc.**

How : Plurilateral - G7/G20

- **Since 2015 – Circular Economy in G7**
- **How to get CE on the agenda**
- **Link to specific initiatives such**
 - Resource efficiency
 - Marine Litter
 - Plastics



How : Multilateral - United Nations

United Nations Environment Assembly :

2019 – Ministerial Declaration

**Resolution on “ Innovative
Pathways towards Sustainable
Consumption and Production ”**

+



#CEstakeholderEU

European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform

A joint initiative by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee



Home

Good Practices

Strategies

Knowledge

Policy & Commitments

Dialogue

Contribute!

News & Events

About

representatives of networks of businesses, civil society and local, regional and national public authorities



Submit your own good practices, knowledge, strategies and voluntary commitments!

Link to website: <http://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/>



Learn more about the circular economy

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm