

Towards a circular society and industry: How can the EU further close the loop?



16 November 2020, 13:00 – 15:00 CET
Online event

Hosted by MEP Maria Spyraki

Co-chair of the European Parliament Intergroup on 'Climate Change, Biodiversity & Sustainable Development'

Circularity is a crucial component of the EU's proposed European Green Deal, in particular it aims to mitigate climate change and tackle CO2 emissions, and to stimulate the demand for circular products and solutions.

The event will be an opportunity for the European Parliament Intergroup on "*Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development*" to discuss with EU industry, policy-makers and civil society about the opportunities in terms of jobs, growth and positive environmental impacts stemming from strategic and circular value chains in Europe. With the adoption of the new Circular Economy Action Plan by the European Commission, the debate will focus on the proposal for a sustainable products' strategy and design for circularity, limiting scrap exports outside Europe and fostering collaboration along value chains. The case study of aluminium, a frontrunner in terms of circularity and low-carbon innovation, will be showcased with its strategy to achieve full circularity by 2030.

The event will bring together EU policymakers, civil society and public financial institutions to discuss:

- How to foster collaboration along value chains and circular business to protect Europe's resource sovereignty while delivering on the EU's strong climate ambitions?
- What are the main barriers and enablers for developing circular solutions while satisfying the increased demand of strategic materials for the climate neutral transition?
- Sustainability and affordability: are consumers and local authorities ready for behavioural change and invest to make our societies more sustainable?
- Are the existing tools (PEF, eco-design) sufficient to make a shift in putting circular products and solutions on the market?

DRAFT AGENDA

- 13:00 - 13:10** Opening remarks by **MEP Maria Spyra**
- 13:10 - 13:25** Keynote address by **Emmanuelle Maire**, Head of Unit, Sustainable Production, Products and Consumption, DG ENV, European Commission
- 13:25 - 13:35** **Catherine Athènes**, Vice-Chair of Sustainability Committee, European Aluminium, Vice President Group Sustainability and Public Affairs Europe at Constellium
- 13:35 - 13:45** **Jonas Byström**, Lead Engineer, Urban Development Division, Projects Directorate, European Investment Bank, Luxembourg
- 13:45 - 13:55** **Philippe Mengal**, Executive Director of the Bio-based Joint Undertaking (BBI JU)
- 13:55 - 14:05** **Tjisse Stelstra**, Rapporteur of the European Committee of the Regions for the opinion on the Circular Economy Action Plan, CoR
- 14:05 - 14:15** **Ulrich Leberle**, Raw Materials Director, CEPI
- 14:15 - 14:25** **Davide Sabbadin**, Climate and Circular Economy Policy Officer, European Environmental Bureau
- 14:25 - 14:40** **Reactions by MEPs:**
- **MEP Jan Huitema**
 - **MEP Delara Burkhardt**
 - **MEP Radan Kanev**
- 14:40 - 14:55** **Q&As discussion with the audience**
- 14:55 - 15:00** Closing remarks by **MEP Maria Spyra**