

# European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform



[circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform](http://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform)  
#CEStakeholderEU

## European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform Coordination Group (CG) 22 November 2017 Meeting Minutes

### Welcome address

Mr **Cillian LOHAN (EESC)** welcomed the members of the CG, and after a brief introduction of the meeting gave the floor to Mr Kestutis SADAUSKAS.

Mr **Kestutis SADAUSKAS (DG ENV)** presented briefly the project to the participants, stressing that the role of CG members is multiple:

- to be ECESP ambassadors on all levels;
- to contribute to identifying barriers to the transition to CE;
- to take responsibility for moving ECESP forwards.

Mr **Goncalo LOBO XAVIER (EESC)** welcomed the guests, and said that Mr SADAUSKAS already summarised the introductory statement he had prepared. He then reiterated that the responsibility for moving forward the ECESP is on the CG members, and stressed the crucial role of the CG members as ECESP's ambassadors. He also highlighted the important role of the EESC in the ECESP, particularly of the three members representing the EESC, who with their different backgrounds contribute to the richness of the ECESP's approach. He concluded that the CG members, as experts in their respective areas, are expected to pursue activities that will improve the lives of EU citizens.

### Introduction of the Chair of the first meeting and adoption of the agenda and of the Rules of Procedure

Mr **Cillian LOHAN** turned the attention of the guests to the clear objectives of the CG:

- to advance CE on the ground;
- to strengthen the CE networks (good practices);
- to identify the social and economic barriers to the transition to CE.

Mr LOHAN's intervention was followed by a presentation of the results of the questionnaire followed, giving answers to the following questions:

- What role does your organization play in the circular economy?
- What do you expect this Platform to achieve?
- How will you contribute?



*(The analysis of the ECESP questionnaire is available in an electronic form.)*

### **Getting to know each other – Introduction of CG Members**

The CG members were invited to take the floor to present themselves and their organisations. *(the presentations are available in an electronic form).*

### **Contribution of the CG to making the Platform effective**

Mr **Peter Schmidt**, EESC introduced this session, explaining that the platform has been online for a couple of weeks and is thereby open to around 200 stakeholders that had expressed the interest in being a part of CG. The platform should reach out to production and consumption areas.

Ms **Sophie Birmann**, EESC, presented the ECESP – the online platform, which was launched on 10 November 2017. She presented the structure of the website:

- good practices (with currently approx.50 good practices across sectors which will be further added and can already be uploaded by the stakeholders themselves via an online form)
- strategies (to be updated)
- knowledge (to be updated)
- policy and commitments (to be added later as there are some legal issues involved)
- dialogue (contacts) (to be added later as there are some legal issues involved)

### **How to encourage the exchange of good practices, to foster policy dialogue and to provide knowledge about the circular economy among stakeholders?**

During an interactive session built around three working groups, participants contributed their ideas to the three overall aims of the Platform:

- exchange of good practices
- provide knowledge and
- foster dialogue.

### **Exchange of good practices**

The main suggestions can be summarized as follows:

- *organise the best practices* through: mapping, linking them between the different sectors, as well as filling in the lacking knowledge;
- *gather and promote the best practices*: importance to connect to the already established networks and use them as privileged communication channels.



- *evaluate the best practices*: analyse the best practices with a view to identify what is missing; selecting them according to the key areas of the Circular Economy Action Plan: follow up from production, consumption, waste management and secondary raw materials; evaluate the impacts of the best practices.

### **Complementary remarks by the CG members**

While acknowledging that sharing best practices is a very powerful tool the Platform could use, participants agreed that what is already in place within other programmes (Horizon 2020, EuropeAid projects etc.) could be checked, and, if relevant, replicated by the Platform. Also, an overview of the ongoing events in the field of the circular economy, as well as a joint calendar could be set up. This would allow for planning events among the members of the Platform, or inviting someone from the Platform to speak during certain conferences: a pop-up form could be provided on the Platform's website.

### **Fostering dialogue**

Among the main suggestions identified:

- *organise the work of the CG in subgroups*  
The CG could function in subgroups, according to predetermined criteria. These criteria could either match the aims of the Platform, or certain identified challenges in the transition to the circular economy, or the three types of circular economy flows: materials, products or business models.
- *create a mailing list or share an application*, a tool, allowing to present and reach out to each other and connect the different fields of activity;
- *have the possibility to reach out to the national hubs* to work together when organising topic-specific conferences;
- *communicate with the other members of the CG on topic-specific issues*; build communities;

### **Complementary remarks by the CG members:**

- A proposal for the CG to envisage drafting a plan mapping the activities ahead, from now up to 2050, having in mind the entirety of elements which could impact the circular economy: the current consumption trends, the technological evolutions, citizens' expectations, also is being put forward.
- In order to act as contact points for the national hubs, it is paramount to understand the type of information the members of the CG have to share

### **Providing knowledge**

The main ideas from this session fall into several categories:

# European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform



[circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform](http://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform)  
#CEStakeholderEU

- *clarify the type of knowledge the CG members would produce*, given that the Platform, as a 'network of networks', should rely on the content which already exists at the level of the national networks:
  - o create a 'knowledge map': select a limited number of sectors and identify the knowledge gaps;
  - o launch a survey to analyse how the circular economy is being perceived by the businesses and local authorities;
  - o produce a report on the lack of competitiveness of the circular value chains versus the linear ones;
- *make sure to upload the existing content*
- *communicate the existing content through existing campaigns organised by other organisations*
- *considerable interest for indicators*: how to measure the impact of this Platform and the transition as a whole.

## **Complementary remarks by the CG members:**

- It is highly important to map the knowledge already existing in other (international) organisations before starting to produce more reports.
- The dialogue should not be limited to CG members, but it should be extended to the members of the organisations represented. In this optics, the manner in which the national networks can link up the Platform's website is key.

## **Next steps**

The next annual conference of the circular economy is set to take place on the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> of February next year. The first day, hosted by the European Commission, will be focused on updating stakeholders on the Circular Economy Action Plan and on discussing its main deliverables, while the second day, hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee, will be focused on the Platform as such. To be noted that the circular economy conference will take place during the same week as the Industry Days event organised by DG GROW. Therefore, consistency between programmes, key speakers and messages will have to be ensured between these events.

Mr. **Bernd DITTMANN** stressed that the second day of the conference should be used to give the project an identity and urged the participants to take ownership of the project.

Ms **Paola MIGLIORINI** explained that a good indication of success would be to manage this second day in such a manner so as to be able to exchange on best practices, to establish dialogue and to provide knowledge among stakeholders, and maybe envisage a "communication toolkit".

## **The main ideas expressed by the members of the CG on the next year second day conference:**



- the need to structure it around a limited number of concrete topics or sectors of activity, where the Platform can have a real added value;
- several possibilities as to the format: organise it as an 'open space' or in a 'world cafe' style, to obtain direct feedback from the participants; 'deep-dive thinking' approach for one chosen topic complemented with an ensuing networking session;
- the need to move away from plenary discussions and have a 'call for action' around selected themes, aligned with the legislative agenda of the EU institutions as well;
- clarification of the expectations of the CG members, the Commission's as well as of the outside stakeholders is needed. A list of actions and a calendar should be envisaged.
- a call for volunteers should be organized before winter holidays, giving the possibility to all CG members to take ownership of the different specific topics.

After an exchange of views, members have volunteered to contribute to the 3 working groups:  
The provisional list of volunteers will be circulated by the Secretariat to all the CG members shortly.

Ms **Paola MIGLIORINI** explained that the second day of the conference should bring together the contribution of the three working groups, set up around the three aims of the Platform: exchange of best practices, knowledge building and foster dialogue. A specific working group on the organisation of the conference could be set up, keeping however in mind that it should bring together the contributions of the other three.

#### **Point of Information**

Ms **Maria RINCON LLEVANA** presents the next year edition of the European Green Week, which will take place by the end of May, and will focus on "sustainable cities for a greener future". One of the main themes of the European Green Week will be the 'circular economy'. DG ENVI will organise one session within this strand, focused on "circular cities, or public authorities for the circular economy". In this context, the members of the CG are asked to volunteer, on behalf of the Platform, for the organisation of the above-mentioned session. An explanatory document will be sent to all the CG members, as requested.

**Presentation by Ms Fulvia Rafaelli of the new piece of legislation on the Plastics Strategy** (*presentation available in an electronic form*).

#### **Concluding remarks**

The chair, Mr. **Cillian LOHAN**, reminded that the next meeting of the CG is envisaged after Easter 2018, so as all the suggestions may be put together and processed and introduced the last speaker, M. Gwenole

# European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform



[circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform](https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform)  
#CEStakeholderEU

COZIGOU, Director for Industrial Transformation and Advanced Value Chains, Directorate-General Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission.

While reaffirming the joint efforts deployed by the colleagues in the Commission and the EESC to organise this meeting, Mr. **Gwenole COZIGOU** emphasised that the real work was only starting now. It should be accompanied by the full commitment of stakeholders on the ground, whose engagement is key.

As it is meant to be a 'network of networks', which should stimulate interaction and mutual learning, a crossroads where ideas, contacts, expertise and good examples are shared, Ms. **COZIGOU** stressed that the Platform should be a one-stop-shop for stakeholders willing to improve their resource efficiency and their practices. It will not produce content itself, but, it will rely instead on what the members of the Coordinating Group and the other stakeholders have to bring. Its objective is to mobilise trade unions, businesses, local governments, civil society organisations, academia, in order to have upscale and accelerated transitions. In this context, the role of the CG is to actively take part and make use of the instruments offered: the platform itself with all the networking opportunities it brings; the website and the annual conference. Mr. **COZIGOU** concluded by reasserting the importance of maintaining the engagement of all stakeholders, without whom the transition cannot happen on the ground.