



European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform

Coordinator Group (CG)

18 and 19 October JDE63

Meeting Minutes

Participants

Alexandre Affre (BusinessEurope)
Leon De Graaf (BusinessEurope)
Begoña De Benito (replacing Esther Colino) (ECOEMBES)
Anna Lisa Boni (replacing Dorthe Nielsen) (Eurocities)
Lieve Cloots (OVAM)
Laura Cutaia (ENEA)
Brendan Edgerton (World Business Council for Sustainable Development)
Harald Friedl (Circle Economy)
Ladeja Godina Košir (Circular Change)
Maja Johannessen (Ellen MacArthur Foundation)
Michael Kuhndt (Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP))
Joanna Kulczycka (Waste Management and Recycling Cluster)
Elena Simina Lakatos (Institute for Research in Circular Economy and Environment “Ernest Lupan”)
Marline Weber (replacing François-Michel Lambert) (National Institute for Circular Economy)
Michal Len (RREUSE)
Jana Zurkova (RREUSE)
Philippe Micheaux Naudet (ACR+)
Oana Neagu (Copa Cogeca)
Mathieu Rama (RREUSE)
Christoph Scharff (CEC4Europe)
Jean-Pierre Schweitzer (EEB)
Arthur Ten Wolde (Ecopreneur.eu)
Laurent Zibell (industriAll European trade union)

Excused

Kari Harlevi (SITRA)
Walter Stahel (Product-Life Institute)
Vanya Veras (Municipal Waste Europe)
Valérie Plainemaison (FEAD)

18 October 2:30pm – 6:30pm

Welcome Address

- Welcome address and speech by the EESC President Luca Jahier.
- Mr. Cillian Lohan (EESC member) thanked the EESC President and welcomed the CG members and other attendees.
- Mr. Hugo Schally (European Commission (EC) DG ENV) thanked the EESC President for the encouraging words that showed the importance of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform, a joint initiative between the EESC and the EC.

Introduction by EESC and the EC

- A proposal was put forward that the Chair of the CG be appointed from among the CG members on a rotational basis.
- The agenda was adopted: a) achievements to date, b) how to build on them to complete the current activities of the Workplan and how to integrate new partnerships, c) a presentation of the interactive section of the website, and d) preparation of the 2nd day of the 2019 annual conference.
- It was highlighted that the CG needed to continue working in a focused way and that the transition towards a circular economy is considered a long-term project, as reflected in the Multiannual financial framework (MFF).

ECESP Annual Activity Report 2017 – 2018 and Coordination Group Members' Key Initiatives

- The draft Annual Activity Report (AAR) was presented, including a video of Day 1 and Day 2 of the 2018 annual conference and a video of the 3rd Circular Change Conference in Slovenia, in addition to a set of questions on the future of the CG and the Platform which CG members were invited to answer. Similarly, for inclusion in the AAR, CG members were asked how they saw their organisation delivering on the objectives of the CG, for example, their role as ambassadors, activities in the Workplan, etc. The relevant feedback would be important material, based on which further activities could be developed and worked on.
- The interactive forum was briefly presented, including screenshots.
- It was reported that two studies had been commissioned to support the CG Workplan: *Circular Economy Roadmaps* and *Identifying the Impact of the Circular Economy on the Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) Industry*. CG members were informed that they would be consulted for input during the drafting, and that the calls for tender had just been launched.

- It was announced that the 2019 Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference would take place on 6-7 March, and agreed that CG members would send feedback and proposals to the Secretariat by 15 November 2018.
- The CG members presented some of their respective contributions to the Workplan and shared their comments and suggestions. They expressed a general sense of satisfaction with the development of the Platform over the last months, with a specific focus on cross-pollination among CG members, and proposed possible options to raise its visibility and widen its audience. There was acknowledgement of the need to analyse efforts to link activities, identify any missed opportunities, to further involve stakeholders in existing activities, and also the need to raise awareness of the platform amongst those who did not yet know about it. The members discussed the added value of the CG, with suggestions that this added value was the bottom-up approach of CG member organisations, or the alignment of different activities and sectors.
- It was suggested that the CG should examine the possibility of creating synergies with other EU platforms, such as the Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Sustainable Development or the Food Waste and Food Losses Platform, and also explore this at national level, with a view to bringing these platforms to the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform.

Workplan of the Coordination Group: Next steps, Building New Partnerships

Four presentations were made:

- ENEA (Laura Cutaia) on the Italian Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform,
 - Circular Change (Ladeja Godina Košir) on Circular Change's workplan,
 - Ecopreneur (Arthur ten Wolde) on the Circular Fashion Policy Lab and the working group run together with WBCSD on circular metrics, and
 - CEC4Europe (Christoph Scharff) on the analysis of contributions to the Circular Economy Industry Platform and the circular economy conference in Vienna on 20 September.
- The CG members commented on their current projects and discussed suggestions for future steps. There was an emphasis on the need to bring to the platform regional good practices and case studies.
 - CG members were encouraged to use the group to scale up their actions in order to achieve greater impact. Other suggestions included a reflection on the improvement of circularity indicators, metrics and measurements, and the definition of priorities where CG members could act collectively. Members were reminded to be aware that the addition of extra activities to the Workplan would entail an expansion of the CG's scope.
 - The deadline for new contributions to the Workplan was set for 15 November 2018.

Presentation of the Platform's New Interactive Features

The ECESP Secretariat presented the newly introduced interactive features of the ECESP website and the CG members were encouraged to take the lead in registering and actively contributing by opening conversation threads, suggesting new categories and spreading the word about the forum. Some CG members raised the issue of duplication of efforts in relation for existing. However, a space for interactive exchanges was generally perceived as a positive development and CG members proposed to organise a sit-down session to discuss key topics and general orientation.

19 October 9:00am – 12.30pm

Coordination Group's Contribution to Website Content and Interactive Forum

- The website as a whole was discussed, as well as the possibility of tweeting good practices and forum activity. However, it was also noted that the amount of content was still at an early stage. The CG members discussed the purpose and content of the website, including the interactive forum, key messages for promotion of the platform, and the need to identify the target audience and their priorities and challenges.
- It was also noted that target audiences might differ depending on the Member States, and that CG members were well-positioned as experts to assist with their identification. Additionally, it was suggested that certain audiences, such as SMEs, could benefit from the creation of a specific category on the forum to address their particular needs.
- CG members' attention was drawn to the availability of a CG group banner for promotion of the platform.
- It was confirmed that content for the website did not have to be brand new, and could be existing material. It was reiterated that the website should be a portal to other resources. It was suggested that for 2019, four topics could be chosen as a focus for the website and the activities of the CG

CG Chair

- CG members were presented with two options for the selection of a Chair: a longer procedure to take place during the following weeks, or a fast-track procedure to be completed by the end of the meeting. Ladeja Godina Košir (LGK) was proposed as a possible candidate for Chair.
- LGK stressed that she was presenting herself, but anybody could apply. She stated that she was a “change-maker”, so to expect changes if she were to be selected. She also emphasised that the identification of a Chair did not exclude others from participating.

- The CG Members present (17 out of 24) expressed no objection to LGK being selected as Chair.
- CG members agreed to the fast-track procedure, with a cooling-off period for reservations or alternative nominations to be expressed to the Secretariat by 15 November.
- LGK was asked to provide a short introduction and to identify a small support group which could also include future Chairs and thus guarantee continuity.

Coordination Group Contribution to the Second Day of the 2019 Annual Conference

The CG members suggested topics for the forthcoming Annual Conference, notably including:

- circular procurement,
- energy transition,
- circular and smart villages,
- metrics and indicators,
- social dimension of circularity,
- how to link the circular economy with SDGs,
- Circular Economy and Creative Industries
- cities and waste management,
- stakeholder involvement in policy implementation,
- upskilling and skill transfers,
- promotion of the forum,
- eco-design (and related standards),
- gaps and barriers for the circular economy,
- industrial symbiosis,
- bioeconomy, social, blue and sharing economies,
- support for SMEs,
- exchange of good practices,
- eco-modulation of fees within Extended Producer Responsibility schemes,
- plastics and e-waste.

It was agreed that CG members would send their ideas for Day 2 of the Conference to the Secretariat by 15 November 2018.