

#EUCircularTalks

Towards a circular European
infrastructure

Hosted by



Rijkswaterstaat
Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management

European
Circular Economy
Stakeholder Platform



May 11th, 2021

Welcome! The webinar will start soon...

Meanwhile, a few guidelines for a smooth session:

- *When joining, enter your first name + surname + organisation*
- *The event will be recorded and later shared on various social media platforms*
- *During the event, keep your microphone muted and your camera off*
- *Use the chat for all questions you may have, as well as, to share information and links with other participants*

Freek van Eijk

Director Holland Circular Hotspot

Welcome by the moderator !



AGENDA

Timing	Session
15.00 – 15.10	Welcome and opening remarks <i>Freek van Eijk</i> , director Holland Circular Hotspot <i>Baiba Miltoviča</i> , president of the EESC Section for Transport, Energy, Infrastructure and the Information Society (European Economic and Social Committee)
15.10 – 15.35	Presentations Towards a circular European infrastructure - <i>Jessica Leffers</i> , Rijkswaterstaat The Benelux as potential test bed for cross-border circular infrastructure - <i>Jan Molema</i> , director Benelux Union
15.40 – 16.00	Break-out rooms 1. Material passports & reuse for building and infrastructure 2. Integrating circular infrastructure into purchasing strategies 3. The new CEN commission on circular construction 4. Local government levers to promote circular infrastructure 5. From waste to resource for circular infrastructure 6. Circular design & innovative approaches to collaboration for infrastructure replacement and renovation projects
16.00 – 16.20	Summary and discussion
16.20 – 16.30	Closing remarks and next steps <i>Anna Lupi</i> , policy officer European Commission <i>Philippe Moseley</i> , policy officer European Commission

Baiba Miltoviča

President of the Section for Transport,
Energy, Infrastructure and the Information
Society
European Economic and Social Committee

Introduction to ECESP and the new
Circular Economy Action Plan



What is the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (ECESP)?

- European stakeholder-led platform **supported by both EESC and EC**
- Stimulus to civil society, public authorities and private organisations to **exchange good practices across countries and sectors** – through meetings, an annual conference, via the website and through social media
- A **"network of networks"**: Coordination Group of 24 members to strengthen and expand national platforms
- **Virtual one-stop shop** with a library of knowledge and a forum for interaction

How can stakeholders get involved?

Good practices:

- [Search](#) for existing good practices
- [Submit](#) your good practice directly

Policy dialogue:

- Reach out to CG members directly
- [Contact](#) the ECESP Secretariat (EESC)
- Attend the annual conference
- [Join](#) the conversation on the forum

Sharing Knowledge:

- [Search](#) for published reports
- [Browse](#) adopted strategies
- [Share](#) your knowledge directly

The screenshot shows the homepage of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform. The header features the hashtag #CEstakeholderEU and the platform's name, along with a subtitle: 'A joint initiative by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee'. A navigation bar includes links for Home, Good Practices, Strategies, Knowledge, Policy & Commitments, Dialogue, Contribute!, News & Events, and About. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Welcome to our discussion platform' with registration and login options; 'New thoughts, new pathways, new solutions? Let's discuss!' with a prompt for interactive conversations; 'Choose a section' with a grid of topics like 'Providing knowledge', 'Exchanging Good Practices', 'Sectoral discussions', 'Market challenges', 'Talking Strategies', 'The Circular Cafe', 'Fostering Dialogue', 'Events and get-togethers', 'Cross-sectoral challenges', 'Workers and Consumers on board', and 'European policies'; and 'Recently active topics' and 'Recently active users' on the right side. The 'Recently active topics' section highlights 'New research - reaching a 98% rate in bioplastics recyclability' and 'Industrial symbiosis in Slovakia'. The 'Recently active users' section lists users like Sven04, SimonaKadlekorva, Joanita, HelmutGrund, and HaraldFriedl.

Members of the Coordination Group



The new Circular Economy Action Plan (INT/895):

- sets out a series of new initiatives covering the entire cycle of product design and lifespan
- focuses on sectors that use the most resources and where the potential for circularity is high, such as the construction sector
- aims to develop a comprehensive strategy for a sustainable built environment in buildings and construction

A Renovation Wave for Europe (TEN/723):

- homes and other buildings across the EU account for 40% of total energy consumption
- a threefold "win-win-win" strategy for the climate, for the recovery thanks to the local jobs created, and tackling energy poverty in favour of sustainable housing for all
- provided through a clear, stable and tailored legal and financial framework

Jessica Reis Leffers

Circular economy advisor
Rijkswaterstaat - Dutch Ministry of
Infrastructure and Water Management

Circular economy in the built
environment:

*Towards a circular European
infrastructure*





Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management

Circular economy in the built environment

Towards a circular European infrastructure

Jessica Reis Leffers

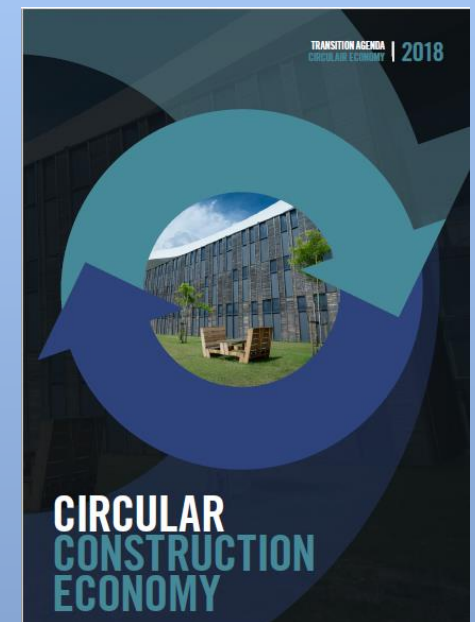
Rijkswaterstaat

Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water
Management

Circular Economy in the Netherlands 2016

Ambitions:

- By 2050: 100% circular economy
- By 2030: 50% reduction in use of primary raw materials
- Raw materials agreement: 400 organisations endorsed these goals
- International cooperation is essential for the transition
- Transition Agendas for 5 priority chains:
 - Biomass and Food
 - Plastics
 - Manufacturing industry
 - **Construction (buildings & infrastructure)**
 - Consumer goods





Why is infrastructure important for the circular construction economy?

Environmental impact:

- Building materials consumption: 40%, of which 20% is used in the infra
- Very large volumes with substantial environmental impact

Future gap in supply-demand:

- Growing demand for materials put pressure on their supply in the future

Buildings & Infrastructure interdependency:

- Material flows: 97% of C&D waste is recycled, but 90% thereof is used in infra and only 3% in buildings
- Industry: material supply

Infrastructure specific features:

- Very long life spans & planning processes
- Mainly public dominated, huge procurement volumes

Important sector-wide focus points

- Circular design for construction works (high-quality reuse & recycling, value retention, flexibility/adaptability in the future)
- Public tenders & Procurement (100% circular in 2030)
- Circular use of materials (Green Deals, supply chain collaborations)
- Material passports/Digital logbooks & Circular data strategy (Platform CB'23)
- CE indicators, Standardization and Measurement methods (Platform CB'23 and international participation in CEN TC350 and ISO)



How to unlock the infrastructure potential? (1)



Non-paper: Dutch vision on the new CEAP & Entry points for infrastructure

1. *Integrate the infrastructure sector within the Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment;*
2. *Extend the scope of digital logbooks for buildings to infrastructure linked to CE-marking and product passports under the European Data Strategy and European Green Deal data space;*
3. *Stimulate the use of Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) of life cycle assessments of construction works based on existing CEN standards through the revision of the CPR*
4. *Include design of infrastructure works in the forthcoming extension of the Eco-design Directive, under the Sustainable Product Policy Framework to avoid sub-optimization;*
5. *Extend circular economy principles for buildings design to infra works, based on lifecycle approaches, and promote life cycle assessment in public procurement and the EU sustainable finance framework*
6. *Incorporate circular design principles in the Renovation Wave and extend the program with infrastructure*
7. *Extend the scope of building protocols through calls for circular infrastructure projects within European research funds.*

How to unlock the infrastructure potential? (2)

- Cooperation through supply chains and across Europe
- Cooperation in the field of:
 - i. Secondary and renewable raw materials
 - ii. Legislation, regulations and common market
 - iii. Knowledge and innovation development
 - iv. International tendering and sustainable finance conditions





Call for EU collaboration & joint action for Circular Infra

- MOMENTUM:
 - Covid-19 aftermath
 - EU Green Recovery Funds
- Let's build new coalitions for change!

More information at:

[Rijkswaterstaat's vision on construction in CEAP : non-paper : towards a climate neutral and circular European infrastructure - Publicatiedatabank IenW \(minienm.nl\)](#)

www.government.nl/topics/circular-economy

www.rijkswaterstaat.nl/en



Thank you !

Jessica Reis Leffers

jessica.reisleffers@rws.nl

Rijkswaterstaat

**Ministry of Infrastructure and
Water Management**

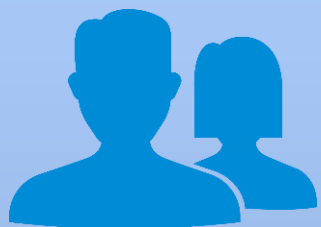
Jan Molema

Director at the General Secretariat
of the Benelux Union

The Benelux as a potential test bed
for cross-border circular
infrastructure



BENELUX



Population

28.5 million

6%

of the EU population

Surface area

74,654 km²

2%

of the EU surface
area

GDP

€36,000/inhabitant

8%

of the EU economy

Benelux Union Treaty

Internal market and
economy

Sustainable
development

Justice and home affairs

Cross border cooperation

Pioneer in Europe

Article 350 TFEU

The provisions of the Treaties shall not preclude the existence or completion of regional unions between Belgium and Luxembourg, or between Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, to the extent that the objectives of these regional unions are not attained by application of the Treaties.

Agreements

Decisions

Recommendations

Directives

Within the European Union,
Benelux is responsible for:
78% of the inland shipping

24% of the airfreight

21% of the maritime transport

6,9 of the road transport

6% of the rail transport



Our shared challenges and ambitions

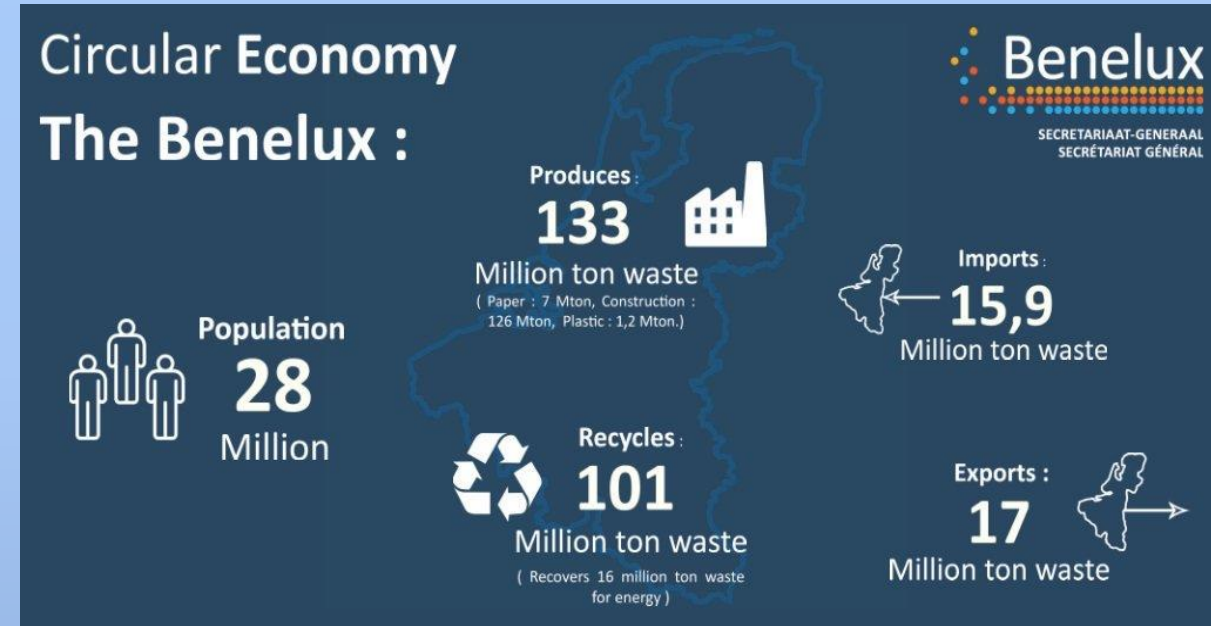
- Susceptibility to climate change effects – adaptation and mitigation
- Material intensive economy-import dependency
- Dense and mature networks for transport, energy and data - ageing assets
- EU's recovery post Covid-19 crisis
- EU Green Deal: ambition to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 & 55% CO2 reduction in 2030 in first European Climate Law
- New Circular Economy Action Plan: brings in about 35 legislative initiatives



BENELUX commitment to CE

Since 2015 the transition to CE and cooperation within the value chains have been addressed:

- Recommendation on end of waste criteria of used paper in 2015.
 - Directive of the Benelux Council in 2016 formally establishing the Benelux cooperation on CE and waste management.
 - Benelux study on the Repairability criteria for energy related products in 2018.
 - Circular Benelux Conference in 2019 where the Benelux recycle federations presented a common position paper.
 - First online webinar “Benelux builds circular” in 2020.
- ✓ Common Benelux Work Program 2021-2024: circularity is one of the spearheads.



Importance of the construction sector

Construction					
In the EU represents	50% of all extracted materials	50% of total energy consumption based on LCA	1/3 of waste generation	1/3 of water consumption	More than 1/3 of CO2 emissions (BE: 18,3%, 2017)
Ageing infrastructure		Long term investments and long lasting projects	Also means :lots to gain! e.g. in BE: 80% of the buildings is energy inefficient.		
In the Benelux		Approximately 126 million tons of construction waste annually		Financial worth of 72 billion (2018)	
Benelux Recommendation Construction and demolition waste 2017		Stimulating reuse, recycling and other ways to use the waste	Promote the image, knowledge and acceptance of the use	Possible working areas: public procurement, separate collection, enforcement, data gathering, ...	



BENELUX international collaboration

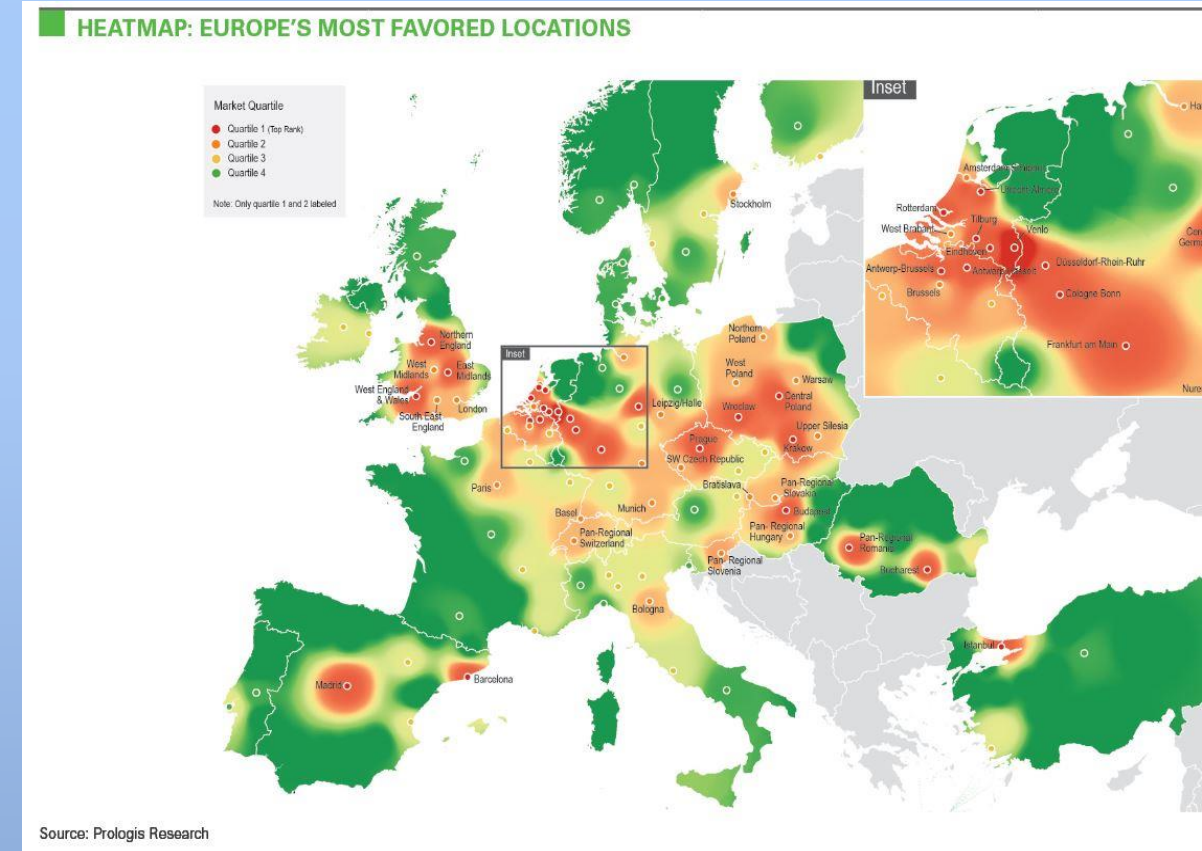
- Implementation of EU regulations in interaction with the European Commission
- Exchange of knowledge about policies and innovations
- Cooperation in the supply chains
- Create scale and a Benelux market to guarantee stock and supply of materials
- Impact of Covid-19, green recovery
- Identification of areas where national projects can be embedded in regional collaboration
- Pilots in a regional context: test their viability in a safe environment



BENELUX: Platform for cross border infra cooperation

Benelux offers unique opportunities and legal frameworks for:

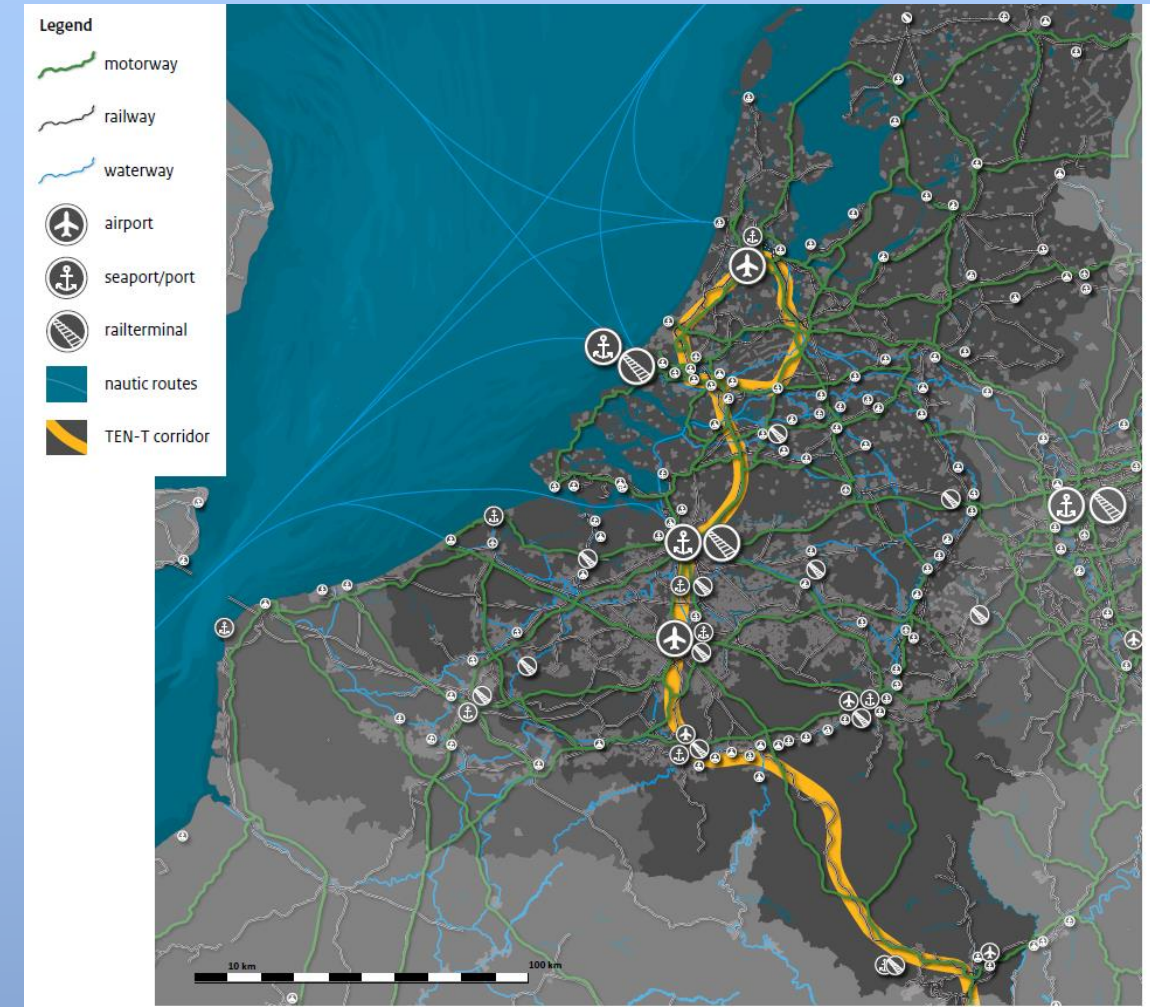
- Circular innovations and solutions
 - Testing and validating ideas
 - Developing and expanding knowledge creation
 - Stimulating the transition towards a climate neutral, circular European infrastructure
- ✓ Benelux area = a **living lab** for a sustainable internal market policy
- ✓ Benelux = a **fast track** for upcoming EU measures
- ✓ Benelux = a common implementation **platform**



BENELUX: Test bed for collaboration on road maintenance

Collaborative Demonstration and Validation Track:

- Motorway corridor that runs from the Randstad to Antwerp, Brussels, Namur, Arlon and Luxembourg
- Large scale innovation testbed for road management
 - Maintenance and Renovation
 - Smart Mobility
 - Climate Neutrality and Circularity
 - Data and Information Provision
- Harmonization and standardization of approaches for common challenges and tasks
 - E.g. maintenance and renovation of critical structure
 - E.g. winter services
 - E.g. longer, heavier vehicles (LHVs)
 - E.g. asset management frameworks
 - E.g. digital twinning





Thank you !

Jan Molema

**Director Internal Market and Economy
General Secretariat of the Benelux Union**



1. Material passports & reuse for building and infrastructure



Pablo van den Bosch
Director Madaster



Dominik Campanella
Co-Founder Concular & restado

2. Integrating circular infrastructure into purchasing strategies



Julia Goigoux
Institut national de l'économie circulaire

3. The new CEN commission on circular construction



Evert Schut
Senior expert circular economy
Rijkswaterstaat

4. Local government levers to promote circular infrastructure



Kaitlyn Dietz
Circular Economy & Sustainable Construction
ICLEI Europe

5. From waste to resource for circular infrastructure



Geert Cuperus
Secretary General
Fédération Internationale du Recyclage

6. Circular design & innovative approaches for infra replacement and renovation projects



Evelien Ploos Van Amstel
Circular economy advisor
Rijkswaterstaat



WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A MAJOR PROJECT

We are reconstructing
the road here.

Joop Groen

Program manager CHAPLIN

Appeal for collaboration



1. Material passports & reuse for building and infrastructure



Pablo van den Bosch
Director Madaster



Dominik Campanella
Co-Founder Concular & restado

2. Integrating circular infrastructure into purchasing strategies



Julia Goigoux
Institut national de l'économie circulaire

3. The new CEN commission on circular construction



Evert Schut
Senior expert circular economy
Rijkswaterstaat

4. Local government levers to promote circular infrastructure



Kaitlyn Dietz
Circular Economy & Sustainable Construction
ICLEI Europe

5. From waste to resource for circular infrastructure



Geert Cuperus
Secretary General
Fédération Internationale du Recyclage

6. Circular design & innovative approaches for infra replacement and renovation projects



Evelien Ploos Van Amstel
Circular economy advisor
Rijkswaterstaat

Next Steps - insights into the CE infra planning

European Commission - Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Anna Lupi

Policy Officer - Single Market for Public Administration,
Public Procurement Strategy



Philippe Moseley

Policy Officer - Sustainable Industrial Policy and Construction





#EUCircularTalks

Towards a circular European
infrastructure

Continue the talk

Conclusions

#EU-CircularTalks continues! Join us on [LinkedIn](#).