

SOMMET CLIMATE CHANCE EUROPE

07-08 mars 2022

#SCCE2022



Circular Economy and Waste Management: Establishing a new paradigm

Description :

The impact of food and material production accounts for 33-45% of the European carbon footprint. The implementation of circular approaches, whether upstream or downstream of a product's life cycle, therefore, has considerable potential to mitigate the climate impact of several sectors (food, construction, textiles, electrical equipment, plastics, etc.). Moreover, the strengthening of the circular economy is also an issue of international solidarity: while the export of waste outside the EU has increased with the pandemic, the European Commission proposed in November to tighten the rules so that less-equipped countries do not have to bear the burden of managing European waste. Thus, this workshop will focus on building proposals for the European Green Deal to establish a new paradigm on the circular economy and waste management in Europe.

Chair: Cillian Lohan, Vice-President at the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), representative of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (ECESP)

Moderator: Françoise Bonnet, Secretary General of ACR+

Speakers:

- Tania Martha-Thomas, Research Officer at the Climate Chance Observatory
- Roland Marion, Director – Circular Economy and Waste Directorate, Ademe
- Jean-Christophe Gavallet, President of France Nature Environnement Pays de la Loire
- Pierre-Yves Burlot, Sustainable Development Director, Séché Environnement
- Mathieu Leporini, European Centre of Excellence on Sustainability, CERDI (CNRS-UCA)
- Mathieu Rama, Senior Policy Officer, RREUSE

Summary of discussions:

- The speakers first agreed on the need to adopt a "systemic" approach to the circular economy, connecting social, environmental, economic and climate issues. For Matthieu Leporini, this means moving away from a siloed reading of waste management to a paradigm that takes into account the interconnections between resource management, technology and cultural factors. Roland Marion presented two guidelines developed by Ademe for local authorities to promote a systemic environmental assessment, to link the circular economy to CO2 emissions and waste impacts. Françoise Bonnet also presented ACR+'s "More Circularity, Less Carbon" project, aimed at developing a carbon indicator to measure the impacts of circular economy and waste strategies, with an example of a concrete exercise carried out with the Pays de la Loire region. Finally, Pierre-Yves Burlot presented Séché Environnement's

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recently published climate plan, which makes the link between waste management and carbon.

- A second axis of the workshop revolved around the creation of "territorial clusters" for waste management, a multi-stakeholder ecosystem model integrating the socio-economic and environmental constraints of the territory to optimize waste management and reuse. Mathieu Rama insisted on the added value brought by social enterprises in these clusters. Pierre-Yves Burlot argued that the localisation of energy generated by incineration systems can reduce the external energy dependence of territories on fossil fuels. Jean-Christophe Gavallet recalled that there is no circular loop without energy or material loss, and that carbon indicators are necessary in this perspective. Matthieu Leporini cited the example of CITRA in Finland, which values local, traditional and indigenous knowledge for the circular economy.
- The third and final area of discussion focused on the prospects for sobriety and waste prevention. Roland Marion made the link with Ademe's Transition 2050 scenarios. Mathieu Rama recalled the lack of prevention objectives in EU legislation, and stressed the importance of eco-design criteria as an intermediary path between prevention and recycling to extend the life of products. Jean-Christophe Gavallet called for a "material export tax".

THEMATIC DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

N°	Topic	European policy	Proposal
1	Indicators	Strategic principle for the EU circular economy policy	Massify the systemic and holistic approach of the circular economy, by introducing new indicators that go beyond the mandatory reporting expressed only in terms of volumes of waste produced, collected, treated or recycled. Examples: introduce carbon, material footprint or resource stock maintenance indicators.
2	Local actors	Regional policies, European Structural and Investment Funds	Strengthen territorial strategies in favour of ecological transition by pushing for the formation of territorial clusters for waste/resource management to push for industrial symbiosis, promote sustainable consumption behaviours among citizens... in a multi-actor approach.
3	Sobriety, prevention of waste	Directive (EU) 2018/851 of the European Parliament	Work on sobriety to strengthen waste prevention. Promote prevention through a quantified target for the reduction of residual household waste (RWH), the incorporation of recycled materials, etc. E.g.: weight of residual household waste/inhabitant/year

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		and the Council of the European Union of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste	Local authorities must move from waste policies to circular economy policies. They can federate stakeholders (businesses, public services and citizen representatives) through concrete circular cooperation initiatives to co-construct territorial projects and control environmental impacts.
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