

Preliminary agenda

Day 2, 21 February 2018 European Economic and Social Committee Jacques Delors building (99 Rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels)

We want your input and expertise! The second day of the conference will take the form of interactive conversations to "**network the networks**". It will bring civil society stakeholders together to debate subjects at the top of their agenda while contributing to defining the narrative of the Circular Economy (how it is understood at Member State and EU level, the impact of the transition on jobs, consumers and enterprises, etc.). **Participatory "circles"** will allow attendees to promote and disseminate good practices via knowledge sharing and dialogue.

08.30 **Registration and coffee**

09.00 **Opening #Start the conversation**

Linking back to the conclusions and key messages of Day 1, the President of the EESC Section for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment, Brendan Burns, will open the morning by highlighting how the **exchange of expertise, information and best practices** happening on the ground and triggering the uptake of circular models is a key factor to ensure an effective transition. Civil society's involvement and engagement is crucial in this context. A keynote speaker will inspire the audience with a forward-looking perspective on **how innovative digital solutions could be used to boost sharing, cross-fertilising and taking up of circular economy solutions**.

09.45 **Participatory circles – session 1**

Participants will be invited to join one-hour parallel conversations to discuss **specific topics related to the circular economy**. Designed with a participatory format, the purpose of these circles will be to provide knowledge and identify barriers to the circular economy transition (**#Knowledge&Barriers**), foster policy dialogue and develop proposals on what should change (**#Dialogue**) as well as promote the exchange of good practices and learning experiences (**#Practices**). The participatory circles will be led by members of the Platform's Coordination Group.

- **#Knowledge&Barriers**: parallel circles on specific topics such as cultural challenges and the role of digital in circular economy led by **Michael Kuhndt** (Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production), reparability and serviceability of products led by **Carsten Wachholz** (European Environment Bureau) and the role of bio-cycles led by **Jocelyn Bleriot** (Ellen MacArthur Foundation)
- **#Dialogue**: parallel circles on specific topics such as product design led by **Laurent Zibell** (industriAll), low carbon / low waste and the circular economy led by **Andrea Brown** (World Business Council for Sustainable Development) and extended producer responsibility led by **Esther Colino Caro** (Ecoembes)

- **#Practices:** parallel circles on specific topics such as circular approaches in agri-food and forestry led by **Oana Neagu** (COPA and COGECA) and risk and reward of circularity in SMEs led by **Alyssa Jade McDonald-Baertl** (Ecopreneur)

11.00 **Participatory circles – session 2**

- **#Knowledge&Barriers:** parallel circles on specific topics such as the international dimension of the circular economy led by **Andrea Brown** (World Business Council for Sustainable Development) and **Stephane Arditi** (European Environment Bureau) and the social dimension of circular economy led by **Laurent Zibell** (industriAll)
- **#Dialogue:** parallel circles on specific topics such as bottom-up initiatives and concrete business cases led by **Alexandre Affre** (Business Europe) and **Herald Friedl** (Circle Economy), green financing led by **Alyssa Jade McDonald-Baertl** (Ecopreneur) and remanufacturing led by **Walter Stahel** (the Product-Life Institute).
- **#Practices:** parallel circles on specific topics such as the urban partnership on CE led by **Dorthe Nielsen** (Eurocities) and **Lieze Cloots** (the Public Waste Agency of Flanders) and how circular is the SME community over Europe led by **Alyssa Jade McDonald-Baertl** (Ecopreneur)

12.15 **Closing #Call to arms**

After a wrap-up of the participatory circles discussions, high-level representatives from the EESC and the European Commission will conclude the morning and will give **new perspectives on stakeholders' further engagement** in the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform.

13.00 **Lunch and networking**

During lunch, participants will have opportunities for networking and for visiting good practice stands on the circular economy.