

Save-the-Date

Unwrapping the Package – towards a Circular Economy in Europe

25-26 January 2016

Rotterdam, The Netherlands

On Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th of January 2016, the government of The Netherlands will host a circular economy conference “Unwrapping the Package – towards a Circular Economy in Europe”, in the light of the forthcoming Commission’s proposal for a circular economy. The objective of this event is to discuss challenges and opportunities for a circular economy in Europe.

On the 25th of January the programme is aimed at stakeholders with hands-on experience from business, civil society and public authorities across the EU, as well as policymakers from national Member States and the EU Commission. This day is meant to identify priorities and effective actions, as well as to discuss how the CE-Action Plan will support the transition to a CE.

On the 26th of January, back-to-back with this event, a policy event will be organized. This event will consist of an exchange between policymakers from national governments and the European Commission to discuss implications of the Commission proposal for EU and national policy.

If you are interested to participate in one of these events (January 25th for all stakeholders, January 25th and 26th for policymakers), please reserve these dates while awaiting further information.

Please note that participation will be limited to 350 persons. To enable in-depth discussions, priority will be given to practitioners with hands-on experiences. With regard to policymakers, we aim for a maximum of three policy-makers per Member-State.

During the event real stories and cases will be used to feed the discussion. If you would like to share specific stories, cases and experiences during the event please contact us in advance at martin.van.nieuwenhoven@rws.nl.

A more detailed announcement of this event will follow soon, including the draft programme and registration information. Registration for the conference will be handled by Datalinx, conference secretariat (eventsmail@datalinx.nl).

Objective of the conference

In a circular economy, the value of materials is maintained during the product cycle, resource use is minimized and waste does not exist. The transition towards a circular economy requires action at all stages of the product life cycle: from the extraction of raw materials, through material and product design, production, distribution, consumption, repair, reuse, remanufacturing, recycling and sustainable waste management.

In December the European Commission will publish a Circular Economy package, consisting of proposals for waste legislation and an EU circular economy action plan. During the Netherlands Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2016, this proposal will be discussed in the Environment and Competitiveness Council.

In order to gain insight into the views of European stakeholders regarding the challenges and opportunities for a circular economy in Europe, the government of The Netherlands will organize a European stakeholder conference in cooperation with the European Commission.

Programme outline

January 25th: for stakeholders and policymakers

The objective of the Stakeholder Event on 25 January is to discuss challenges and opportunities for the circular economy in Europe, based on practical experiences. These discussions should facilitate identification of common priorities for national and EU policy, and help assess how the Commission proposal for a circular economy can successfully be implemented.

Stakeholders will be given the opportunity to share experiences and lessons learned in doing business, changing behaviour and developing capacities for a circular economy. In a world-café setting, key-messages will be derived that can form a basis for dialogue with policymakers on needs in national and European policy. Members of European Parliament will be invited to participate as well.

It is the aim to involve a balanced group of stakeholders (business, civil society, local authorities) from different backgrounds, sectors and Member States, as well as policymakers from Member States and the European Commission.

January 26th: closed session for policymakers

In an exchange between policymakers on January the 26th, policymakers from national Member States and the EU Commission will be invited to consider how national and EU policies, as proposed in the Circular Economy package, will help to achieve common objectives at the national and EU level. The session should enable sharing best policy practices, raise awareness of different policy approaches, and facilitate enhancing existing policies, tools and mechanisms.

Request for stories and experiences

During the event on January the 25th, stories and cases will be shared by entrepreneurs and other stakeholders with hands-on experience in developing and implementing activities that contribute to the Circular Economy. For this stakeholders are invited to bring forth stories on doing business, changing behaviour and developing capacities for a circular economy in the following categories:

- A. Production and products for circularity (including ecodesign and waste prevention, reuse, repair, refurbishment and recycling)
- B. New markets and business models (including product-to-service, lease, pay-per-use, production-on-demand, and 3D-printing)
- C. Biobased economy for circularity (materials oriented)
- D. Promoting change in consumer behaviour and life-style for circularity
- E. Operating in the secondary resources market
- F. High value recycling (including take-back schemes, cascading and upcycling)
- G. On the edge of waste or no-waste
- H. Food is no waste
- I. Sustainable sourcing
- J. Natural capital and nature-based solutions

Please send ideas for stories to martin.van.nieuwenhoven@rws.nl.

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