

## **National dialogue on Clean and climate neutral future: EU's long-term vision and implementation of environmental policy**

13 June 2019, in restaurant Kärbes, Tallinn, Estonia.

**President of Estonia Ms Kersti Kaljulaid** gave very inspiring speech about Estonia's goal of having a climate neutral economy by 2050. Estonia is capable of taking the leap ahead as it already has proved being capable of such leaps by creating a digital state.

**Ms Beatriz Yordi**, Director of European and International Carbon Markets of DG Climate Action, focused on the EU vision for a clean planet with net zero emissions from EU countries and full decoupling of EU GDP growth from emissions by 2050. She described 7 building blocks how to achieve it.

The panel **discussion on moving to a low-carbon economy by 2050** between the president Ms Kersti Kaljulaid, Ms Beatriz Yordi, Mr Einari Kisel from World energy Council, Mr Mart Maasik from SEB and Mr Arno Sillat from Estonian Association of Car Sales, was very lively and followed by many questions.

In the situation when EU carbon prices go up and Estonia depends on carbon- and energy-intensive oil shale it is important not to avoid difficult solutions by pretext of people in oil shale mining area losing their jobs. Oil shale gas is not a long-term solution and it is very important to separate social and economic issues.

**Ms Joanna Drake**, Deputy Director-General of DG Environment, highlighted the most pressing challenges and implementation gaps across all Member States and urged Estonia to increase resource efficiency, foster eco-innovation and develop greater capacity in recycling. EU money and expertise is available to help tackle these challenges and accelerate Estonia's transition to circular economy.

The **speech of Mr Meelis Münt**, Secretary General of Ministry of the Environment **on EIR recommendations to Estonia** was **dropped** due to lack of time.

During the **panel discussion on circular economy opportunities** and the role of government in promoting circular economy some examples of circular economy were given. These include plastic water bottles deposit scheme and voluntary GPP. Organic local food market grows by 10% annually.

The panelists - Ms Joanna Drake, Mr Kaupo Heinma, Ministry of the Environment, Ms Kristiina Martin, Circular Economy expert, Mr Ivar Heinola, Werrowool, and Ms Katriin Jüriska, Re-Use Center, - agreed that linear approach is still predominant and it is important to raise consumer awareness and make it easier for people to change their habits.

Mr Rene Kokk, a newly appointed Minister of the Environment of Estonia, opened **the last panel discussion on waste management in municipalities**. Other panelists included Mr Margus Vetsa, Environmental Management Lecturer, Mr Erik Sandla, Mayor of Harku Parish and Mr Kristjan Mark from Tallinn Waste Center.

Estonia is far from reaching 50% recycling target. Tallinn University has done a study that shows that 80% of collected waste do not comply with waste handling rules. The minister underlined the need to focus more on recycling and to make waste handling rules understandable for everybody.

Photos taken at the event

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/estonia\\_envir/albums/72157709077316218](https://www.flickr.com/photos/estonia_envir/albums/72157709077316218).