Implementing the Circular Economy in the EU

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What is the circular economy?

- An economy where the value of products, materials and resources is maintained in the economy for as long as possible, and the generation of waste minimized.
Why urgent action is needed

From 1970 to 2017, the annual global extraction of materials **tripled** and it continues to grow.

*Source: The International Resource Panel, [Global Resources Outlook, 2019](https://www.resourcepanel.org)*

More than **90%** of biodiversity loss and water stress come from resource extraction and processing.

*Source: The International Resource Panel, [Global Resources Outlook, 2019](https://www.resourcepanel.org)*

EU’s industry accounts for **20%** of the EU’s emissions.


Only **12%** of the materials used by EU industry come from recycling.

*Source: Eurostat, 2016 figures*
Economic benefits: micro

- **Significant cost saving** for EU industry from circular economy approaches:

  ✓ Potential net benefits for businesses in the EU from improved resource efficiency (waste prevention and re-use, focus on eco-design and similar measures) = could bring net savings of €600 billion, or 8% of annual turnover, to EU businesses

- **The cost of inaction:**
Figure 5.1 EU GDP impacts in the circular economy scenarios (% from baseline)
### 1 action plan
4+1 key areas
5 priority sectors
54 actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Timscale</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Production</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ensure that renewable energy technologies are included in future product requirements under the Eco-Design Directive</td>
<td>2016 onwards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eco-design work plan 2016-2017 and request to European standardisation organisations to develop standards on energy efficiency for existing future EcoDesign requirements on durability, reliability and reproducibility of products.</td>
<td>December 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Proposed for an implementing regulation on television and displays</strong></td>
<td>First 2015 or beginning 2016</td>
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<td><strong>Sustainable urban mobility plan</strong></td>
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<td>Development of a comprehensive policy framework of the different types of works of EU (public policy) on their contribution to the circular economy</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<td>Propose the introduction of a new coherent policy framework on sustainable urban mobility and a road map on the development of the concept of circular mobility. The Commission should also establish a monitoring mechanism to ensure their implementation</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<td><strong>Sustainable and Circular Economy</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Development of a common methodology and indicators to measure food waste</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<td><strong>Restoration, protection and rehabilitation of the mining waste management plan</strong></td>
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<td>Proposal on a proposal for the rehabilitation of the mining waste management plan</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<td><strong>Sustainable construction</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Integration of eco-innovations into new public buildings</td>
<td>2016</td>
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### 4+1 key areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sectoral actions</th>
<th>Timscale</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Plastics</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategy for plastics</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specific action to reduce marine litter implementing the Strategy for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</td>
<td>2015 onwards</td>
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<td><strong>Food waste</strong></td>
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<td>Development of a common methodology and indicators to measure food waste</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Critical raw materials</strong></td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Construction and demolition</strong></td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voluntary industry-wide recycling target for construction and demolition</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Biomass and bio-based materials</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Biomass and bio-based materials</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Innovation and investments</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Innovation and investments</td>
<td>2016</td>
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### 5 priority sectors

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<th>Method for secondary raw materials</th>
<th>Timscale</th>
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<td>Development of quality standards for secondary raw materials (in particular for textiles)</td>
<td>2016 onwards</td>
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<td>Proposal for a revised fertilisers regulation</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<td>Proposed legislation setting minimum requirements for used water for irrigation and groundwater recharge</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promotion of cost-effective water reuse, including guidance on the integration of water reuse in water planning and management, and incentivisation of best-practices in interest SMRFs, and support to innovation (through the European Innovation Partnership and Horizon 2020) and investments</td>
<td>2015-2017</td>
</tr>
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| Analysis and policy options to assess the interface between chemicals, products and waste legislation, including how to reduce the number of substances of concern in products | 2017 |
| Measures to facilitate waste shipped across the EU, including harmonised data exchange and possibly other measures | 2016 |
| Further development of the EPR raw materials information system | 2016 onwards |
1st CEAP: ingredients of success

Systemic approach along entire value chains – full life cycle
In some cases, material-wide approach: plastics strategy
Single Use Plastic Items Directive & Circular Plastics Alliance

Strong Stakeholder Engagement
EU Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform
EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste
Circular Economy Finance Support Platform

Investing in the transition
More than €10 billion since 2016
€1.4 billion from Horizon 2020 until 2018
€7.1 billion from Cohesion Policy
€2.1 billion European Fund for Strategic Investments and Innovfin
€100 million at least invested through LIFE
The new rules will make the EU a global leader in recycling:

• By 2030, at least 70% of all packaging waste in each EU country should be recycled

• By 2035, all EU countries should recycle at least 65% and landfill less than 10% of municipal waste

There are also recycling targets for specific packaging materials:
• Paper and cardboard: 85%
• Ferrous metals: 80%
• Aluminium: 60%
• Glass: 75%
• Plastic: 55%
• Wood: 30%
Example: Plastics Strategy

All plastic packaging will be *reusable or recyclable* (by 2030)

**Boost the market** for recycled plastics

Actions on *single-use plastics and microplastics*

**Strategic Research Innovation Agenda for Plastics** (2018)

Support to *multilateral initiatives* on plastics
items with available sustainable alternatives

items with no clear alternatives

promote less harmful alternatives: market bans

prevention measures: design requirements, consumption reduction, consumer information

better waste management: separate collection, extended producer responsibility + clean-up

Directive on single-use plastics and fishing gear
Example: Energy savings due to Ecodesign and Energy Labelling

Measures taken by 2016: energy use of Italy

Revisions by 2020: energy use of Denmark

Improved measures (e.g. refrigerators, washing machines, TVs) also address reparability (spare parts), recyclability, etc.
The European Green Deal

- Mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy
- Increasing the EU’s Climate ambition for 2030 and 2050
- Supplying clean, affordable and secure energy
- Building and renovating in an energy and resource efficient way

Transforming the EU’s economy for a sustainable future

- A zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment
- Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity
- From ‘Farm to Fork’: a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system
- Accelerating the shift to sustainable and smart mobility

Financing the transition

Leave no one behind (Just Transition)

The EU as a global leader

A European Climate Pact
As announced in European Green Deal:

- **Action in the next 5 years**, to transform the economy by 2050
  - Publication together with industrial strategy

- **Sustainable Products policy**: green products to become the norm
  - Long product lifetime: durable, repairable, upgradeable
  - Low environmental impacts: material use, waste, etc.

- **Digitalisation as an enabler**
  - electronic product passport

- **Empowering consumers**:
  - no misleading green claims
  - Reliable information for consumers
  - ‘right to repair’

- **Focus on resource intensive sectors**
  - e.g. textiles, construction, electronics, plastics
Stakeholder engagement

#CEstakeholderEU

European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform
A joint initiative by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee

• Advancing the circular economy concept on the ground
• Strengthening cooperation among stakeholders' networks

representatives of networks of businesses, civil society and local, regional and national public authorities

Submit your own good practices, knowledge, strategies and voluntary commitments!

Link to website: http://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/