



European  
Commission

# Latest developments and next steps on circular economy policy



*Daniel Calleja Crespo*  
*Director General for Environment*



“I will propose a European Green Deal in my first 100 days in office”

**Ms. Ursula von der Leyen**  
President-elect European Commission

## Priorities of the new European Commission 2019-2024

**A European Green Deal**

**An economy that works for people**

**A Europe fit for the digital age**

**Protecting our European way of life**

**A stronger Europe in the world**

**A new push for European democracy**

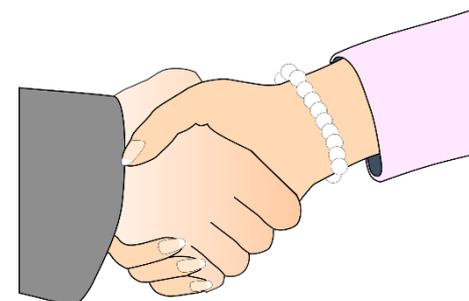
# Towards a European Green Deal

*President-elect's political guidelines:*

**1. First Climate-Neutral Continent**

**2. A Just Transition & Sustainable Europe Investment Plan**

**3. Preserving Europe's Environment**



***New  
Circular Economy  
Action Plan***

### 3. Preserving Europe's Environment



## Preserving Europe's environment

**A biodiversity strategy**

**Zero pollution ambition**

**From Farm to Fork**

"I will propose a New Circular Economy Action Plan, focusing on sustainable resource use, especially in resource-intensive and high impact sectors such as textiles and construction"

# A new Circular Economy Action Plan



**Ms. Ursula von der Leyen**  
President-elect European  
Commission



**Mr. Virginijus Sinkevičius**  
Commissioner-elect for  
Environment and Oceans

"We need to find ways to further reduce the environmental footprint of our production and consumption. (...) I will be looking at a wide range of measures to achieve more circularity in our economy."

# **WHY A CIRCULAR ECONOMY?**

# Why do we need a circular economy?

## Environment

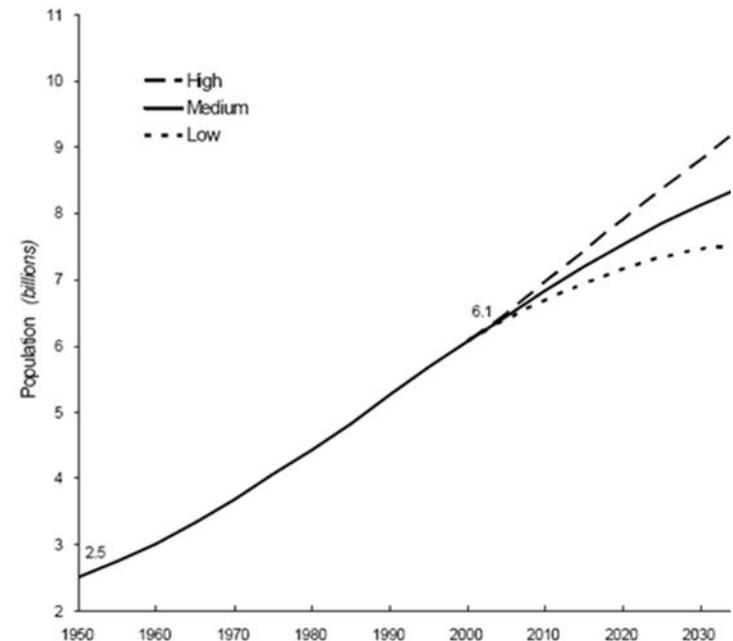
- inefficient use of resources
- greenhouse gas and other emissions
- depletion of resources
- impacts on landscape
- water pollution

## • Access to raw materials

- scarcity or depletion of resources
- future trends

## • Societal pressures

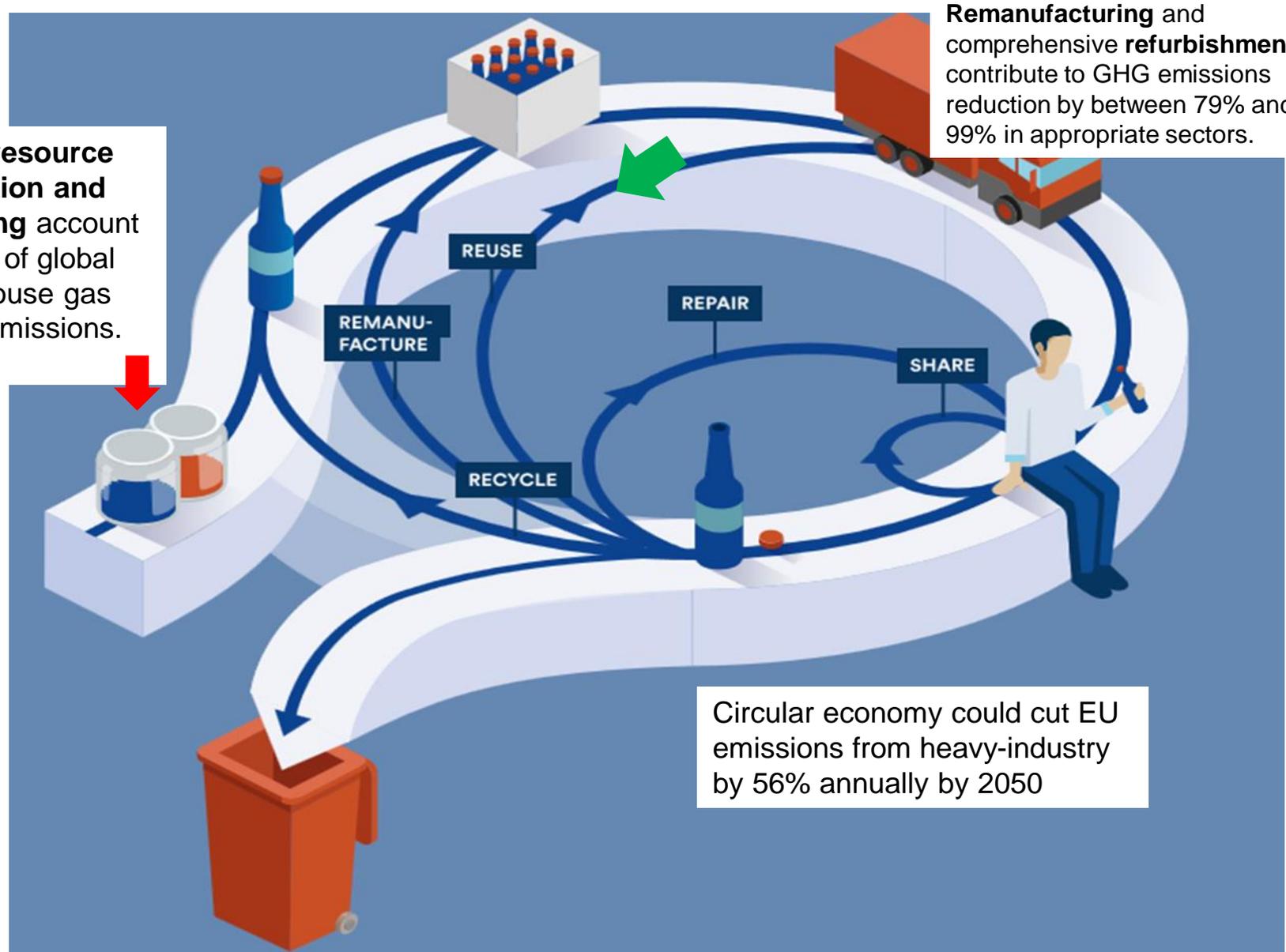
- global middle class = 5 billion by 2030



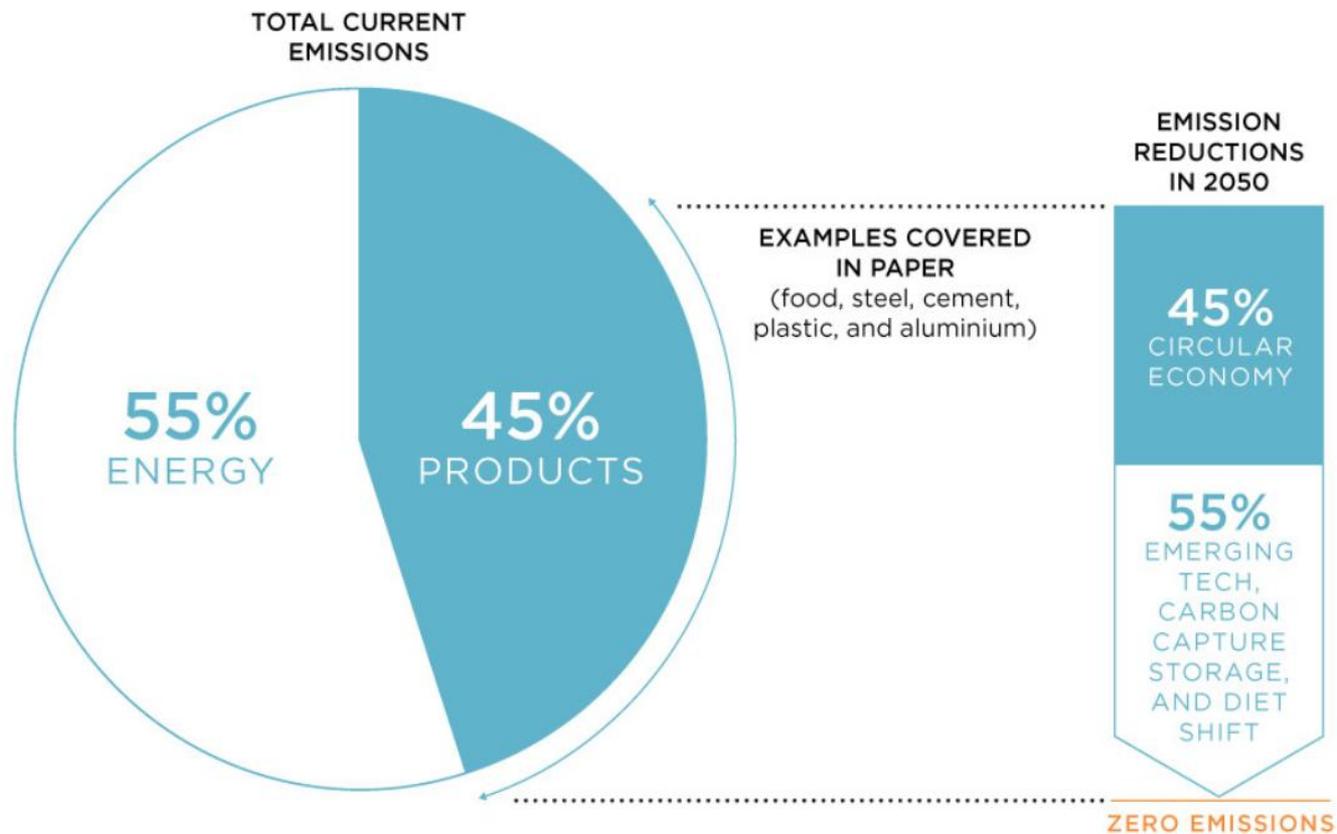
*Estimated world population and projections*

# Decarbonisation potentials

Global **resource extraction and processing** account for 50% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.



# 2019 Ellen MacArthur Foundation/Material Economics Report



# **CIRCULAR ECONOMY ACTION PLAN (2015-2019)**

# Circular Economy Action Plan (2015-2019)

**4+ 1 key areas**  
**5 priority sectors**  
**54 actions**

Production	
Emphasis on circular economy aspects in future product requirements under the Eco-design directive	2016 onwards
Eco-design work plan 2015-2017 and request to European standardisation organisations to develop standards on material efficiency for setting future Eco-design requirements on durability, reparability and recyclability of products	December 2015
Proposal for an implementing regulation on televisions and displays	End 2015 or beginning 2016
Examine options and actions for a more coherent policy framework of the different strands of work of EU product policy in their contribution to the circular economy	2018
Include guidance on circular economy into Best Available Techniques reference documents (BREFs) for several industrial sectors	2016 onwards
Guidance and promotion of best practices in the mining waste management plans	2018
Establishing an open, pan-European network of technological infrastructures for SMEs to integrate advanced manufacturing technologies into their production processes	2015/now
Examine how to improve the efficiency and uptake of the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and the pilot programme on environmental technology verification (ETV)	2017
Develop an improved knowledge base and support to SMEs for the substitution of hazardous substances of very high concern	2018

Consumption	
Better enforcement of existing guarantees on tangible products, accompanied by a reflection on improvements (upcoming Commission proposal for online sales of goods, and Fitness Check of consumer legislation)	2015-2017
Action on false green claims, including updated guidance on unfair commercial practices	2016
Analysis of the possibility to propose horizontal requirements on repair information provision in the context of Eco-design	2018
REFIT of Ecolabel, to be followed by actions to enhance its effectiveness	2016
Assessment of the possibility of an independent testing programme on planned obsolescence	2018
Subject to evaluation of the current ongoing pilots, explore the possible uses of the Product Environmental Footprint to measure and communicate environmental information	2016 onwards
Action on Green Public Procurement: enhanced integration of circular economy requirements, support to higher uptake including through training schemes, reinforcing its use in Commission procurement and EU funds	2016 onwards

Waste management	
<b>Revised legislative proposal on waste</b>	Dec 2015
Improved cooperation with Member States for better implementation of EU waste legislation, and combat illicit shipment of end of life vehicles	2015 onwards
Stepping up enforcement of revised Waste Shipment regulation	2016 onwards
Promotion of industry-led voluntary certification of treatment facilities for key waste <b>recycle streams</b>	2018 onwards
Initiative on waste to energy in the framework of the Energy Union	2016
Identification and dissemination of good practices in waste collection systems	2016 onwards

Market for secondary raw materials	
Development of quality standards for secondary raw materials (in particular for plastics)	2016 onwards
Proposal for a revised fertilisers regulation	Early 2016
Proposed legislation setting minimum requirements for reused water for irrigation and groundwater recharge	2017
Promotion of safe and cost-effective water reuse, including guidance on the integration of water reuse in water planning and management, inclusion of best practices in relevant BREFs, and support to innovation (through the European Innovation Partnership and Horizon 2020) and investments	2016-2017

Chemicals, products and waste regulatory, including how to reduce the presence and improve the tracking of chemicals of concern in products	2017
Measures to facilitate waste shipment across the EU, including electronic data exchange (and possibly other measures)	2016 onwards
Further development of the EU raw materials information system	2016 onwards

Sectorial action	
<b>Plastics</b>	
Strategy on plastics in the circular economy	2017
Specific action to reduce marine litter implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals	2015 onwards

Food waste	
Development of a common methodology and indicators to measure food waste	2016
Stakeholders platform to examine how to achieve SDGs goals on food waste, share best practice and evaluate progress	2016
Clarify relevant EU legislation related to waste, food and feed in order to facilitate food donation and utilisation of former foodstuffs for animal feed	2016
Explore options for more effective use and understanding of date marking on food	2017

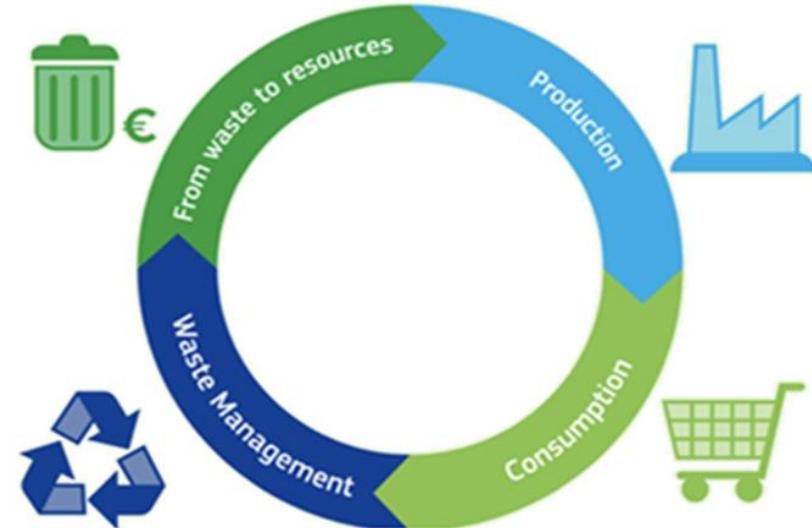
Critical raw materials	
Report on critical raw materials and the circular economy	2017
Improve exchange of information between manufacturers and recyclers on electronic products	2016 onwards
European standards for material-efficient recycling of electronic waste, waste batteries and other relevant complex end-of-life products	2016 onwards
Sharing of best practice for the recovery of critical raw materials from mining waste and landfills	2017

Construction and demolition	
Pre-demolition assessment guidelines for the construction sector	2017
Voluntary industry-wide recycling protocol for construction and demolition waste	2016
Core indicators for the assessment of the lifecycle environmental performance of a building, and incentives for their use	2017 onwards

Biomass and bio-based materials	
Guidance and dissemination of best practice on the cascading use of biomass and support to innovation in this domain through Horizon 2020	2018-2019
Ensuring coherence and synergies with the circular economy when examining the sustainability of biorefinery under the Energy Union	2016
Assessment of the contribution of the 2012 Bio-economy Strategy to the circular economy and possible review	2016

Innovation and investments	
Initiative "Industry 2020 and the circular economy" under Horizon 2020	October 2015
Pilot project for "innovation deals" to address possible regulatory obstacles for innovators	2016
Targeted outreach to encourage applications for funding under EFSI, and support the development of projects and investment platforms relevant to the circular economy	2016 onwards
Targeted outreach and communication activities to assist Member States and regions for the uptake of Cohesion Policy funds for the circular economy	2016 onwards
Support to Member States and regions to strengthen innovation for the circular economy through smart specialisation	2016 onwards
Assessment of the possibility of launching a platform together with the EIB and national banks to support the financing of the circular economy	2016
Engagement with stakeholders in the implementation of this action plan through existing fora in key sectors	2016 onwards
Support to a range of stakeholders through actions on public-private partnerships, cooperation platforms, support to voluntary business approaches, and exchanges of best practices	2015 onwards

Monitoring	
Development of a monitoring framework for the circular economy	2017



# Waste Management



## *The Waste Package*



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 %

# Plastics Strategy

Improve the economics and quality of plastics recycling

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

**Boost the market** for recycled plastics



Curb plastic waste and littering

Actions on **single-use plastics and microplastics**



Drive investments and innovation towards circular solutions

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



Harness global action

Support to **multilateral initiatives** on plastics



# Directive on single-use plastics and fishing gear



Different measures for **each item** taking into account:

- **consumer behaviour/needs**
- **opportunities for businesses**



**Adopted by EP:** March 2019  
**Council's vote:** April 2019

## 10 most common plastic objects found on European beaches



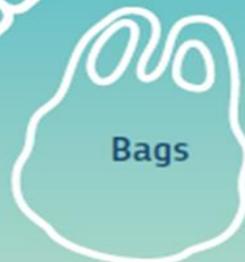
Cigarette butts



Food containers



Drink bottles



Bags



Crisp packets/  
sweet wrappers



Cups & lids



Cutlery,  
straws &  
stirrers

Sanitary applications



Cotton buds

Balloons and balloon sticks



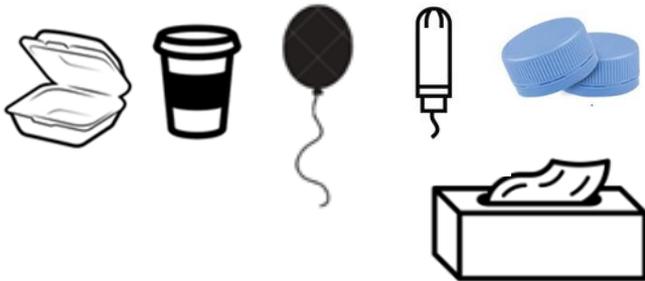
Single-use plastic items represent  
**50%**  
of marine litter

items with available sustainable alternatives



promote less harmful alternatives:  
market bans

items with no clear alternatives



prevention measures:  
design requirements,  
consumption reduction,  
consumer information



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

# Impacts



## Employment in CE related activities:

- 4 million workers
- 2012-2016: +6%

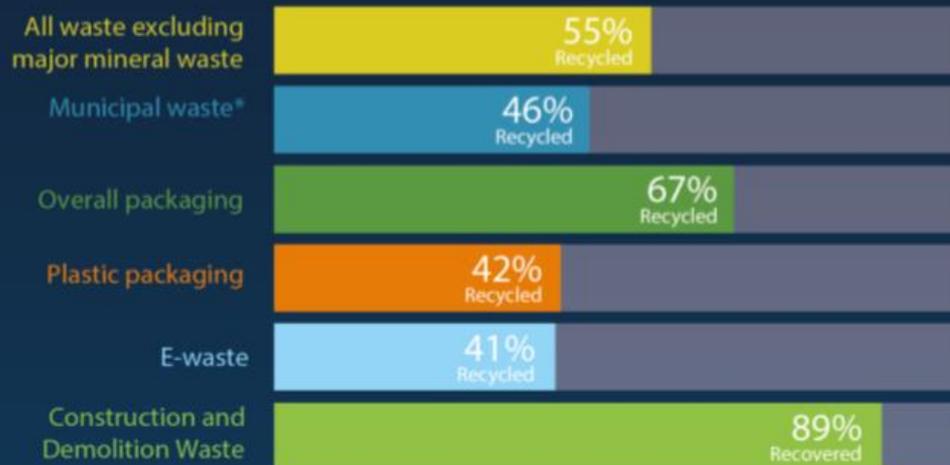


## Repair, reuse, recycling:

- €147 billion value added
- €17,5 billion investments



## Overview of recycling rates of different waste streams (EU, 2016)



\*2017

**Recycling and use of recycled materials = steadily growing**

**Recycled materials = 12% of raw material demand**

[More info](#)

# **INGREDIENTS OF SUCCESS**

# Ingredients of success (1)



## 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  
Engagement**

**EU Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform**

EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste  
Circular Economy Finance Support Platform

**Stakeholder**

European  
Circular Economy  
Stakeholder Platform

## Ingredients of success (2)

### 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

**Report on Improving access to finance for circular economy project**

### **Circular Economy - a core priority in next MFF**

European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund

Horizon Europe programme

LIFE

Digital Europe

Invest EU





# A NEW ACTION PLAN

# Open challenges identified in the Implementation Report

## Follow up to the CEAP actions

- Circular products and services
- Empowering circular consumers
- Implementation of legislation
- Develop markets for secondary raw materials

## Pursuing together other systemic transformations

- Using biological resources in a circular way, respecting the ecological boundaries and contributing to halting biodiversity loss
- Exploiting the synergies with a climate neutral economy
- Integrating digital transformations (while recognizing other impacts)
- Reinforcing social and territorial cohesion and balanced distribution of jobs
- Fostering circular and sustainable finances

## Circularity in other sectors

- IT, electronics, mobility, built environment, furniture, textile, food and drinks

## Possible focus

- Circular products and services
- Empowering circular consumers
- Implementation of legislation
- Develop markets for secondary raw materials
  
- Sectorial approach (high impact sectors: textiles, construction, food, others)
  
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Monitoring framework

# Stakeholder engagement

#CEstakeholderEU

## European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform

A joint initiative by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee

Home Good Practices Strategies Knowledge Policy & Commitments Dialogue Contribute! News & Events About

- **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/>



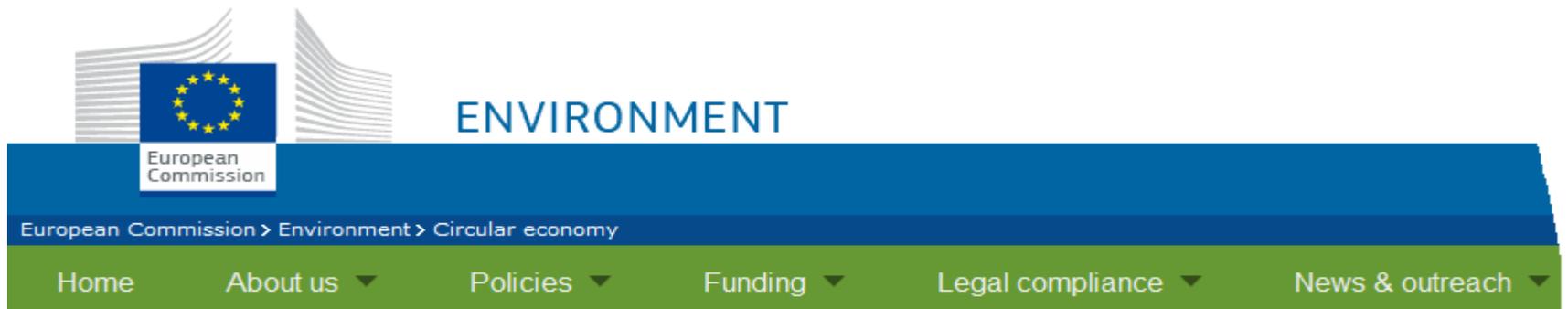
# Circular Economy Missions to Partner Countries

- Increase **cooperation between EU and partner countries** in the field of **environmental policy**
- Better understanding of the **environmental challenges faced by partner countries**
- promote green solutions through **business partnerships** abroad (matchmaking events between European and local entrepreneurs, exchange of views with targeted audiences)
  
- **2016 (Chile, China)**
- **2017 (South Africa, Colombia)**
- **2018 (India, Japan, Indonesia)**
- **2019 (Mexico, Singapore, Malaysia)**

# Conclusion

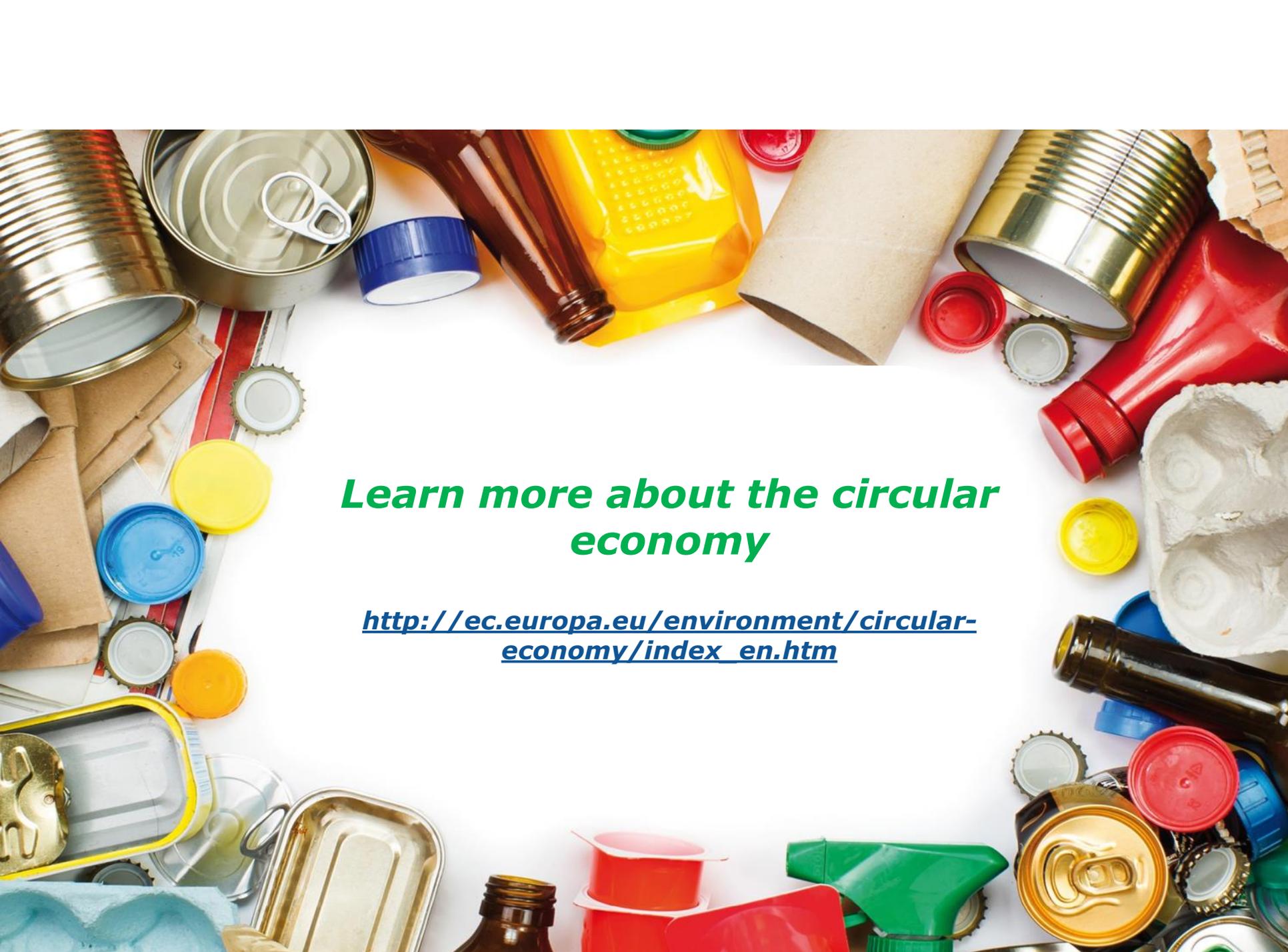
## ✓ **Success Factors:**

- ✓ **Business case**
- ✓ **Comprehensive approach**
- ✓ **Involving stakeholders - Critical mass**
- ✓ **On top of the political agenda**



Circular Economy

Implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan



***Learn more about the circular economy***

**[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm)**