

Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

The question of a Circular Economy

With climate change continuing to be one of the most important issues both in the EU and worldwide and about 7 billion tons of garbage estimated to be dumped into oceans annually, what can the EU do to improve the implementation of a more circular economy? How can the EU promote climate-friendly behaviour from multinational companies whilst still maintaining economic growth? Which measures can the EU take to resolve this global issue?

Preparation Module

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety!

*We are looking forward to getting to know you at the upcoming session and await fruitful debates. To ensure this, **we ask you to prepare some notes** as you will be asked to give insight into the question from your point of view as well as the country you represent. If you have any questions, you can of course contact us in advance.*

Best regards,

Your CP Laurenz and Alen

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KEY TERMS

Please make sure you are aware of the definitions of the following terms and what they encompass. Base your research off of these, and not only the links which follow.

Circular economy: An economic system aiming to minimize waste and pollution and reuse and recycle products, while improving the productivity of its resources.

Resource efficiency: Using resources in a sustainable and environmental-friendly way.

Systems thinking: The ability to be able to solve problems regarding complex systems.

Closed cycles: Closed cycle manufacturing means maintaining environmental standards in the industry cycle, by limiting the consumption of raw materials and reduce environmental impact.

Blue economy: "Sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem." (World Bank).

Eco-innovation action plan: EU initiative aiming to make progress towards a sustainable development and using its resources efficiently.

The Paris Accord: An agreement within the UN framework convention on Climate change.

CURRENT MEDIA COVERAGE

EU DOCUMENTS

EU circular economy plan:

<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/>

Marine littering:

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/good-environmental-status/descriptor-10/index_en.htm

Resource efficiency:

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/resource_efficiency/

Eco-Innovation action plan:

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/eoap/about-action-plan/objectives-methodology_en

Circular economy research and innovation: Connecting economic and environmental gains: (Make sure to look at page 6).

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/sites/horizon2020/files/ce_booklet.pdf

GENERAL

EU policy frame work and current challenges

https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/meetings/2019/20191104/2-Circular_Economy-V_Rizos_CEPS.pdf

Green growth and circular economy:

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/green-growth/index_en.htm

Key challenges for transformations towards a circular economy:

(Make sure you read through the economic, social and ecological benefits and the limit of the concept.)

<https://www.longdom.org/open-access/key-challenges-for-transformations-towards-a-circular-economy--thestatus-quo-in-germany-2252-5211-1000262.pdf>

Transverse innovation to meet the challenges of a circular economy:

<https://blog.ferrovial.com/en/2019/06/transverse-innovation-and-circular-economy/#>

Circular economy critics and challenges:

<http://www.circular.academy/circular-economy-critics-and-challenges/>

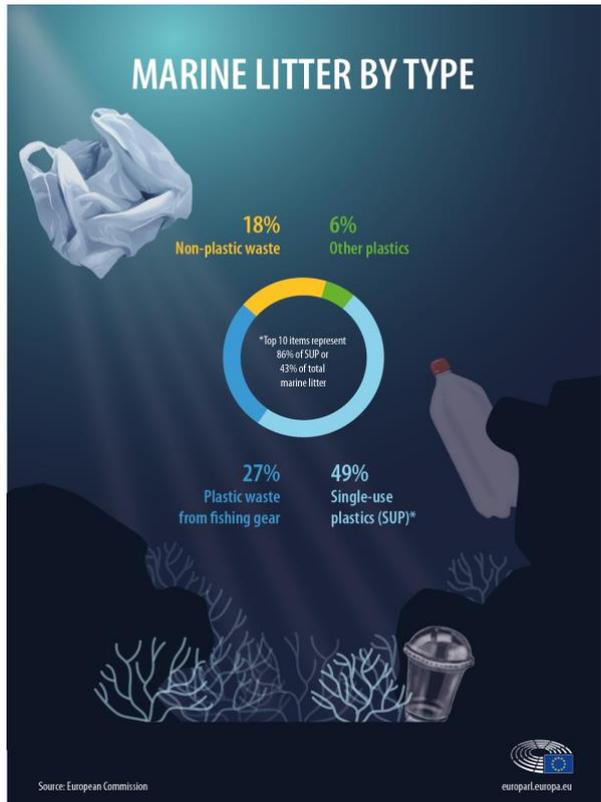
Multinational companies and sustainability:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesinternational/2015/07/06/can-multinational-corporations-be-sustainability-leaders/#63302401edd0>

Financial benefits of an eco-friendly business:

<https://greenbusinessbureau.com/blog/financial-benefits-of-an-eco-friendly-business/>

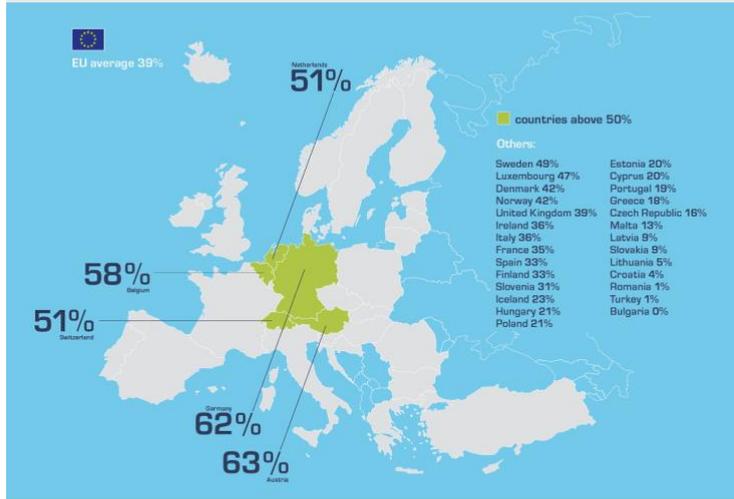
Facts and figures:





Recycling rates in Europe

Much of the waste we throw away can be recycled. Recycling benefits the environment by diverting waste away from landfills and by providing raw materials for new products. Recycling can also encourage innovation and create jobs.



In Europe, employment related to recycling increased by 45 % between 2000 and 2007

50/20

EU countries should recycle at least 50% of their municipal waste by 2020.



Recycling an aluminium can saves around 95% of the energy needed to make a new one from raw material.

Sources: EEA, European Commission, Eurostat

What's your take on waste in Europe?
Send your entry by 30 September 2013
eea.europa.eu/wastesmart



WWF

EUROPE IS THE 2nd LARGEST PLASTIC PRODUCER IN THE WORLD

70-130,000 t MICROPLASTICS in the sea/year
fragments <5mm enter the food chain impacting wildlife and people

150-500,000 t MACROPLASTICS in the sea/year
the most visible form of plastic pollution

500,000 tonnes of waste fit in **66,000 TRASH TRUCKS**

OUT OF THE PLASTIC TRAP: SAVING THE MEDITERRANEAN FROM PLASTIC POLLUTION
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