EUROPEAN CIRCULAR ECONOMY INDUSTRY PLATFORM

Bringing the Action Plan to Life – Towards a Fact Based Circular Economy

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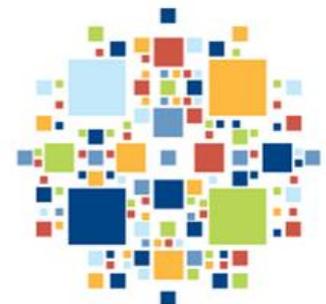
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BusinessEurope at a glance

- 40 members in 34 countries
- Representing small, medium and large companies
- European social partner

Pillars:
- National members
- Staff: about 50 persons
- Supporting network of 72 companies (ASGroup)
- Alliance for a Competitive European Industry (11 major EU industry sector associations)

Purpose:
- To provide EU policy input to create a business-friendly environment

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Why is circular economy good for Europe?

- Circular economy is a necessity:
  - By 2050, world population expected to be at **9 billion**
  - Europe loses **95%** of material and energy value
  - **8.3 billion** tons of plastic waste created since 1950, mostly landfilled or leaked

- Circular economy can be a game changer for jobs and savings:
  - Create **180,000 jobs** by 2030 and **2 million** in the longer term
  - Save **EUR 72 billion** per year in waste management costs
  - 10,000 tons of waste create **1 job** if burned/landfilled, **40 to 100 jobs** if recycled

"Industry's role in the transition to a circular economy is pivotal."

Markus J. Beyrer
Director General of
BusinessEurope

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Circular economy industry platform
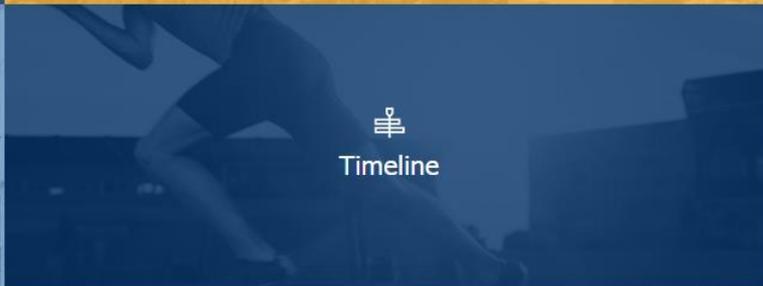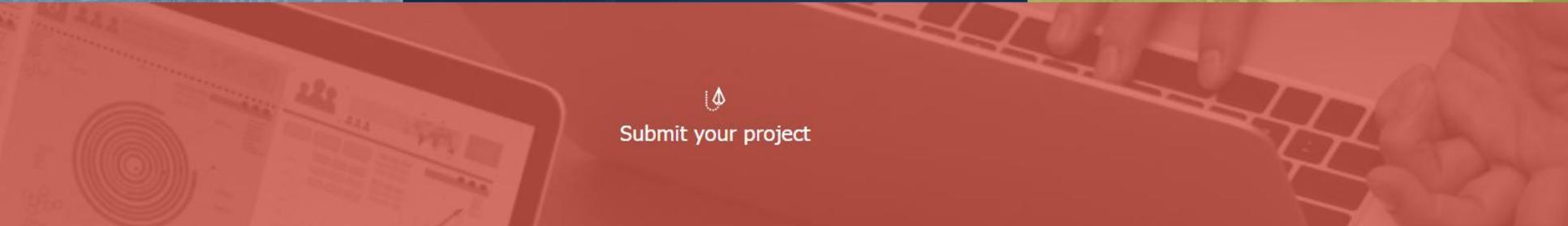
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Good practices by business – big and small

- Ikea Polska (Poland) **upcycles** textile waste & recycles old products

- Newlife Paints (UK) recycles emulsion paint

- Polystyrene Loop (NL) closed-loop **chemicals** recycling of polystyrene foam construction waste

- Latterie & Caseificio Moro (Italy) produces biogas from cheese by-products (**forest- and biobased**)

- Refurb (Denmark) refurbishes old **ICT** equipment

- Strategic minerals (Spain) recycles abandoned **mining** waste

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Challenges for companies

- On the platform – Similar to other companies:
  - Lack of a business case / high costs
  - Difficult permit authorisation procedures
  - Lack of harmonisation legislation & methodologies
  - Lack of suitable definitions (municipal waste, secondary raw materials)
  - Input or output issues recyclates (lack of quality or quantity)
  - Technical issues
  - Lack of access to finance
  - Lack of awareness
  - Lack of government support
  - Lack of internal agreement
- Other issues:
  - Language barriers

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Policy recommendations

- Facilitate
  - Apply flexibility
  - Don't regulate what we don't understand
  - CE Stakeholder Platform

- More access to finance
  - Horizon2020, Structural Funds
  - Incentivise
  - Underwrite risks of new business models

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Platform analysis + next steps

- MSc thesis analysis by Lukas Stumpf:
  - Sector representation
  - Heavy focus on recycling
  - Mismatch between policy-making and company implementation

- CE Stakeholder Platform
  - Streamline multiple platforms

- Events in Member States

- EU elections / next EU political cycle

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Thank you

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Member federations