

Impacts of the circular economy transition in Europe

Circular Impacts Final Conference

Brussels, 05 September 2018

Venue: CEPS, Place du Congrès 1, 1000 Brussels

The transition from a linear economy to a more circular one requires systemic changes involving a wide range of actors and sectors. Such a large scale transformation of markets will have impacts on industries, value chains and, in turn, on economies. Improving the evidence base about these impacts can help policy-makers decide on priorities and weigh potential policy options against each other. It can also contribute to achieving a better integration of the circular economy in strategic policy processes such as the European Semester

This Conference will present the evidence collected by the CIRCULAR IMPACTS project on the impacts of moving towards a more circular economy in Europe. The first session will focus on the impacts of the transition on three sectors: electric vehicles/batteries, car sharing and building materials. The second session will deal with the different options for developing scenarios about the transition to a circular economy and evaluating its economic, social and environmental impacts.

Based on existing data and indicators, CIRCULAR IMPACTS (<http://circular-impacts.eu/>) aims to develop an assessment of the macro-economic, societal, environmental and labour market impacts of the transition to a circular economy. The assessment will support the European Commission in its discussions with member states on progress in this field.

Agenda¹

12:15 - 13:15 Registration & lunch

13:15 - 14:10 **Setting the scene and presentation of the CIRCULAR IMPACTS library of evidence**

13:15 - 13:20 Welcome and moderation by **Vasileios Rizos**, Research Fellow, CEPS

13:20 - 13:30 **Key note speech: Patrik Kolar**, Head of Department, EASME - Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, European Commission

13:30 - 13:40 "CIRCULAR IMPACTS" - A library of evidence on the macro-economic, societal and environmental impacts of the circular economy transition, **Aaron Best**, Project Coordinator, Senior Fellow, Ecologic Institute

13:40 - 14:10 Q & A Section

14:10 - 15:40 **Impacts and potential benefits of the circular transition in three sectors: electric vehicles/batteries, car sharing and building-materials**

This session will present evidence and quantitative estimates from CIRCULAR IMPACTS about the impacts and potential benefits of moving towards circular economy approaches in three sectors: electric vehicles/batteries, car sharing and building-materials. The session will also offer an opportunity to discuss about the policy instruments that can foster the transition in these sectors.

14:10 - 14:15 Introduction by the chair, **Vasileios Rizos**, Research Fellow, CEPS

14:15 - 14:45 Impacts of the circular transition in specific sectors (10 min each)

- Circular economy prospects for EV batteries by **Eleanor Drabik**, Researcher, CEPS
- Car sharing in Germany by **Aaron Best**, Senior Fellow, Ecologic Institute
- Concrete recycling in France by **Laurens Duin**, Junior Researcher, Ecologic Institute

14:45 - 14:55 Comments/reactions (3-5 min each)

- **Vincent Basuyau**, Policy Officer, DG GROW, European Commission
- **Patrick ten Brink**, Director for EU Policy, EEB (European Environmental Bureau)

¹ As of 05 September 2018.

- 14:55 - 15:35 Open discussion
15:35 - 15:40 Concluding remarks by the chair
15:40 - 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 - 17:20 **Economics and policies of the circular transition**

Drawing on the results provided by CIRCULAR IMPACTS about the impacts of moving towards a circular economy in different sectors, this session will discuss about different options for developing scenarios about the circular economy transition and evaluating the economic, social and environmental impacts. This session will also discuss about the indicators that can be used at the micro and macro level for assessing the opportunities of the circular economy.

- 16:00 – 16:05 Introduction by the chair, **Arno Behrens**, Associate Senior Research Fellow, CEPS
16:05 – 16:45 Panel
- **Louis Meuleman**, Co-ordinator European Semester & Environmental Implementation Review, DG Environment, European Commission
 - **Rob Dellink**, Senior Economist, OECD
 - **Jinxue Hu**, Economic Researcher, NEO International
 - **Geert Woltjer**, Senior Researcher, Wageningen Economic Research
- 16:45 – 17:15 Open discussion
17:15 – 17:20 Concluding remarks by the chair
17:20 – 18:00 Networking cocktail

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