Closing the loop in the circular economy:

EU action on production, consumption and stimulating markets

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What is Circular Economy?

Circular economy systems keep the added value in products for as long as possible and eliminate waste.

They keep resources within the economy when a product has reached the end of its life, so that they can be productively used again and again and hence create further value.

Closing the loop in Production – key areas for Action

- Sustainable sourcing
- Improved product design
- Resource efficient production processes

Key messages from the Conference

Production Phase

- **Enabling framework (regulatory, finance)** should accompany market drivers to foster more circular economy
- There is **no one-size-fits-all solution** to product design – need to recognise differences across materials and products
- Use better the **existing framework** (Ecodesign/GPP) to improve material efficiency through requirements on, e.g., reparability, durability and recyclability
- **Quality standards** are needed for secondary raw materials to increase their use
Public Consultation - Production phase

Key aspects for products
(i) phase out hazardous substances, (ii) encourage information exchange and capacity building and (iii) rephrase the term "green".

Key aspects for production
• (i) better coordination and cooperation on all levels
• (ii) set a precise legal framework in order that private sector investments are secured.

Key regulatory barriers:
(i) differences regarding national implementation of EU legislation,
(ii) unclear definitions in particular related to end-of-waste criteria and by-products
(iii) the lack of coherence between chemicals and waste legislation.

Closing the loop – Markets for Secondary Raw Materials

• Quality and confidence
• Legislative gaps and barriers
• Price competitiveness
Key messages from the Conference

Secondary Raw Material Markets

- **Value chain cooperation/agreements** (incl. platforms), involving policy makers: matching demand and supply needs, providing online information about presence of recyclable materials in products (stocks and flows), and establishing transparent EPR schemes.

- **Regulatory obstacles** exist and are often **sector specific** ("one size does not fit all") : e.g. unclear (end-of-) waste/product status, lack of harmonised material quality standards.

- E-procedures by Member States needed to **facilitate shipment of waste and materials** and to improve traceability.

Public Consultation – SRM

Key Points raised:

Action needed most for:
- bio-nutrients,
- plastics,
- critical raw materials
- construction aggregates

Key barriers:
- uncertainties about quality/lack of standards,
- insufficient cooperation between actors in the value chain
- lack of data on material flows
Closing the Loop in Consumption
Key areas for action

- Consumption is a key driver of circular economy
  - What and how much is consumed (waste prevention, environment friendly goods and services)
  - How is it used (repair, upgrade)
  - What happens at the end-of-life (separate collection)

- Public Procurement (GPP)

Key messages from the Conference

Consumption phase

- Existing EU instruments (Ecodesign, EU Ecolabel, EU Energy Label...) should address **durability and reparability** more systematically
- Repair should be facilitated via access to spare parts, repair services, repair information and manuals, promotion of local initiatives
- Demand for mandatory information on lifespan of products (if done correctly) and for improved and longer guarantees to drive durability of products
Public Consultation – Consumption Phase

Key measures supported:

- Encourage waste prevention (e.g. minimising food waste) (54.55%);
- Ensure the clarity, credibility and relevance of consumer information related to the circular economy (e.g. via labels, advertising, marketing etc.) and protect consumers from false and misleading information in this respect (53.91%);
- Provide more information relevant to the circular economy to consumers, for example on expected lifetime of products or availability of spare parts (44.12%).
- Priority products: Electronics, Food and beverages, Packaging materials

Enabling Framework

- Investment
- Innovation
- Cooperation between different actors
- Support to SMEs
Thank You!