

DRAFT AGENDA

EVENT: Trade, sustainable development and circular economy – advancing policy coherence under the European Green New Deal

22 November 2019 | [The Office](#), Brussels

As part of the activities of Finland's Presidency of the Council of the EU, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) and the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) are organizing an event that will provide food for thought for building coherence and advancing solutions at the interface between trade, sustainable development and the circular economy. At the event, IEEP will present their new study, and an interactive dialogue engaging experts and the audience will explore key issues and opportunities at the circular economy and trade interface, as well as the way forward.

AGENDA

9:00-9:30 Registration and coffee

9:30-10:00 Welcome and opening remarks | Pasi-Heikki Vaaranmaa, Director of Trade Policy Unit | Ministry for Foreign Affairs Finland, with video message by Ville Skinnari, Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade, Finland

10:00-10:30 Presentation and launch of the report 'EU circular economy and trade: Improving policy coherence to deliver for sustainable development' | Susanna Gionfra IEEP

10:30-11:30 Panel I + QA: Discussion on the report and its recommendations | Marianne Kettunen IEEP

Panel representatives:

Veronique Hyeulle, Advisor for Global Sustainable Development | DG-ENV

Thibaut Portevin, International Aid/Corporation Officer | DG-DEVCO

Karoliina Rasi, Senior Adviser | Finnish Confederation of Industries

Jocelyn Blériot, Executive Officer | Ellen McArthur Foundation

Richard Gower, Senior Associate | Tearfund

11:30-12:30 Panel II + QA: Next steps in trade policy? | Malena Sell MFA

Panel representatives:

Madelaine Tuininga, Head of Trade and Sustainable Development | DG-TRADE

Aik Hoe Lim, Director | WTO Division on Trade and Environment

Al-Hamndou Dorsouma, Division Manager of Climate and Green Growth | African Development Bank

Henrique Silva Pacini Costa, Research Fellow | Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University

Shunta Yamaguchi, Policy Analyst | OECD

12:30-13:00 Concluding remarks + final discussion

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

BACKGROUND

Implementing Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement are global undertakings that warrant new innovative solutions. Moving towards a low-carbon circular economy delivers benefits such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduced pressure on the environment, security of supply of raw materials and increased competitiveness. A low-carbon circular economy also stimulates innovation, boosts economic growth and creates jobs.

Finland has placed climate – as well as partnership with Africa – at the centre of its EU Presidency. Commission President-elect Ursula von der Leyen is ushering in a new European Green Deal. The circular economy transition provides key solutions to addressing climate change and moving towards the European Green Deal. These solutions need to be global in scope and include developing countries.

Europe has adopted a comprehensive circular economy package (see box below). However, in today's globalised world, raw materials, technologies, products, components, waste, and services are produced and consumed in a web that spans the whole planet, frequently crossing borders. The circular economy transition has the potential to provide important positive **opportunities for developing countries** as well. The circular economy transition can open up new development and business opportunities through trade and trade policy, providing new decent jobs and advancing the creation of higher value-added jobs. Developing countries can integrate into sustainable global value chains and simultaneously bring their own circular economy solutions to international markets. These opportunities should be identified and advanced. At the same time, potential risks should also be identified and mitigated.

The EU has adopted policy measures that require its Member States to move away from a linear economy based on producing, using, and discarding products towards a circular economy that focuses on behavioral change, resource and energy efficiency, and the closing of material loops. Products are, at the outset, designed to last for a long time; to be easy to repair and to recycle, and at the end of their life, they become raw materials all over again. There is a focus on improved industrial processes, product design, and recyclability. The circular economy has a high services content and the sharing economy – based on digital platforms – is part of the transition. The focus is on the full product lifecycle and the economy as a whole.

To inform the future policy developments, IEEP has undertaken a study to explore the links between trade, circular economy and sustainable development, providing policy recommendations for better policy coherence, with a specific focus on developing countries. The study provides evidence-based analysis of the global dimensions of the EU circular economy and its interlinkages with trade. It explores the effects of the transition to circular economy in Europe on third countries and the EU's role in the development of a sustainable circular economy worldwide. The project is supported by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and by a Steering Committee formed by experts from the OECD, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Tearfund and The Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra.