

# Stakeholder Conference: 'Reinventing Plastics – Closing the Circle'

*26 September 2017, Brussels*

## Venue

Albert Borschette Conference Centre, Room 0A, Rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels.

## Introduction and objectives

Plastic is an important material for our economy. However, its growing production brings with it a series of challenges related to their production, use, and end-of-life that need to be addressed.

In its 'EU action plan for the Circular Economy' (COM (2015) 614 final), the European Commission set out a commitment to develop a plastics strategy due to be adopted in late 2017 through a Commission Communication. This strategy intends to support and complement the existing acquis and tackle the interrelated problems of prevention, reuse and recycling, fossil feedstock dependence and plastics leakage into the environment. The strategy is being informed by a number of technical studies and a wide variety of stakeholder engagement activities.

This conference is an important opportunity to explore issues and potential solutions to be proposed in the plastics strategy.

The conference provides an opportunity to:

- Set the plastics strategy within the broader context of EU actions to 'modernise' the economy and contribute to jobs and growth. The conference will introduce the main subjects of the strategy, with the aim of building support for the strategy and promoting understanding of the potential role of the Commission in delivering action.
- Engage with stakeholders on the plastics strategy and obtain high level feedback.

## Who should attend?

The event is expected to be attended by representatives of:

- European Institutions e.g. the European Commission, European Parliament, European Environmental Agency
- Public authorities: e.g. Member States' environment and industry ministries, regional and municipal authorities
- Industry representative organisations and individual firms
- Social enterprise groups
- Civil society organisations campaigning on environmental issues
- The research community

The conference will be held in English. The maximum capacity of the venue is 270 participants.

# Agenda

## 09.00 – 09:45 Welcome, coffee and tea

*Please allow yourself sufficient time for the necessary security checks at the venue*

## 09:45 – 11:15 Opening Plenary: The need for action and a common vision for the future (Main auditorium)

*The session will set the tone for the conference, demonstrating the need for action and allowing for discussion of the vision and the challenges of getting there.*

- “A plastics strategy for Europe”, Frans Timmermans, First Vice President of the European Commission
- Moderator: Katrina Sichel

### **Keynotes:**

- Xavier Bontemps, Senior Vice President, Total
- Alfred Stern, Executive Board Member, Borealis
- Tino Fonteijn, European Regulatory Affairs Director, Unilever
- Jean-Marc Boursier, President of FEAD, the European Federation of Waste Management and Environmental Services
- Joan marc Simon, Director of Zero Waste Europe, member of Rethink Plastic Alliance

## 11:15 – 11:45 Coffee break

## 11:45 – 12:45 Plenary session: Stakeholders views on priorities, challenges and ongoing commitments to action (Main auditorium)

- Moderator: Katrina Sichel

### **Panel members:**

- Karl-Heinrich Foerster, Executive Director, PlasticsEurope
- Ton Emans, President, Plastics Recyclers Europe
- Claire Dadou Willmann, Director, 2ACR
- Clarissa Morawski, Director, Reloop

## 12:45 – 13:00 Plenary session: Opportunities to deliver a modern circular plastics economy (Main auditorium)

- “The plastics strategy as a driver for growth and innovation”, Elżbieta Bieńkowska, Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

## 13.00 – 14:00 Lunch

## 14:00 – 16:00 Opportunities to deliver a modern circular plastics economy (session #1)

*The session will cover six key topics relevant to the plastics strategy, across two sets of parallel sessions. They will focus on addressing challenges, show what can be achieved by reference to innovative / best practice case examples, and discuss the drivers and support required to deliver action at scale across the EU.*

## 14:00 – 15:00 TOPIC #1: Instruments to encourage design for circular plastics (Main auditorium)

- Moderator: Sarah Nelen, European Commission

### **Panel members:**

- Carlos de Los Llanos, Director of Sorting & Recycling Department, Citeo
- Rauno Raal, General Manager, Estonian Deposit Organization
- Rob Opsomer, Lead, New Plastics Economy, Ellen MacArthur Foundation

## TOPIC #2: Limiting microplastics' uses and releases (Room OB)

- Moderator: Bjorn Hansen, European Commission

**Panel members:**

- Tanya Cox, Marine Plastics Project Manager, Flora & Fauna International
- Heather Leslie, Senior Researcher, Institute for Environmental Studies VU University Amsterdam
- Roberto Scazzola, Scientific and technical affairs Director, International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products (A.I.S.E.)

**TOPIC #3: Bio-based plastics and biodegradable plastics: sustainable solutions? (Room OC)**

- Moderator: Rana Pant, European Commission

**Panel members:**

- Kristy-Barbara Lange, Deputy Managing Director Regulatory Affairs, European-Bioplastics
- Nina Maier, Executive Secretary of the Interest Group on Plastics, European Network of the Environment Protection Agencies
- Catia Bastioli, CEO, Novamont

**15:00 – 16:00 TOPIC #4: Prevention of marine litter: addressing single use plastic items (Room OB)**

- Moderator: Matjaz Malgaj, European Commission

**Panel members:**

- Monica Verbeek, Executive Director, Seas at Risk
- Stefanie Werner, Co-Chair, MSFD Task Group on Marine Litter
- Eamonn Bates, Secretary General, Pack2Go Europe

**TOPIC #5: Quality and pricing for recyclates (Room OC)**

- Moderator: Luisa Prista, European Commission

**Panel members:**

- Markus Helftewes, Managing Director, DSD
- Timothy Glaz, Head of Corporate Affairs, Werner & Mertz
- Myriam Tryjefaczka, Sustainability and Public Affairs Director EMEA, Tarkett

**TOPIC #6: Interface between product, waste and chemical policy: how to balance phasing out legacy substances with higher recycling rates? (Main Auditorium)**

- Moderator: Enrique Garcia-John, European Commission

**Panel members:**

- Tobias Bahr, Director, European Automobile Manufacturers Association
- Ninja Reineke, Senior policy adviser, Chemtrust
- Nicolas Humez, Chairman of Hazardous Waste Europe

**16:00 – 16:15 Break**

**16:15 – 17:15 Plenary session: Taking forward action (Main Auditorium)**

- “The way forward for the EU strategy”, Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
- Report from the split groups, Katrina Sichel, Conference Moderator

**Keynotes**

- “Shaping the future – a call for global action”, Ligia Noronha, Director Economy Division, UNEP
- Estonian Presidency of the European Council (tbc)
- Sirpa Pietikainen, Member of the European Parliament