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SECURITE DE LA CHAINE ALIMENTAIRE
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Strengthening sustainable resources management in the EU

Circularity and beyond

DISCLAIMER : please bear in mind that
this is a work in progress

Working Document



Process

Until now:

- ▶ Group of experts beginning of the year
- ▶ First draft of paper submitted for feedback
- ▶ First workshop: 14/02/2023
- ▶ Re-drafting of paper and second round of feedback
- ▶ Second workshop: 20/03/2023 with participation of :
 - ▶ Hans Bruyninckx - Executive Director - European Environment Agency
 - ▶ Sarah Nelen - Deputy Head of Cabinet of Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans at European Commission

From now:

- ▶ Outreach with discussion paper:
 - ▶ Stakeholders EU & BE
 - ▶ State members
 - ▶ Biletral meetings with Parliament, Commission, etc
- ▶ Panels during de WCEF : 15-16 of April 2024

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Objective of the note

- ▶ Start the outreach phase > draft Council conclusions by end of 2023 > *Kick off/facilitate a reflection on a vision and orientation for sustainable resources management & Circular Economy Policy*

Content of the note

▶ Context

- ▶ Current situation
- ▶ A lot has been done so far...
- ▶ ... but proven insufficient

▶ Next steps – post 2024

- ▶ Establishing a new EU governance framework on sustainable resource management
- ▶ Consolidate strategic priorities of the EUGD and the Circular Economy Action plan related to sustainable resources management

Context

- Europe does not live within the limits of the planet
- EU policies on climate, biodiversity and pollution lack a sustainable resources perspective
- Europe is geopolitically vulnerable and should become more strategically independent
- A sustainable resources policy cannot be limited to the EU Region
- The green transition will be just and inclusive or it will not happen

➔ The European **Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP)** has already led to several initiatives to strengthen circularity and to manage waste and materials across the Union. e.g :

ESPR, batteries regulation, right to repair, CPR, waste & waste packaging regulation, textile strategy, ...

... but more is needed

Efficiency improvements > Absolute decoupling

Outer loops > Inner loops

Product level > Value chain perspectives & EU consumption footprint

Supply side > Demande side

+ Systemic approach (complexity) & link with climate, biodiversity and pollution risks

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Next steps - Post 2024 (1/2)

1) Establishing a new EU governance framework on sustainable resource management

we invite the Commission to set up processes to work on...

- **Binding targets and monitoring** (mid-term and long-term horizons 2040, 2060 and a set of indicators)
Should we have one general target and/or sectoral targets? What time horizon? How to formulate it? Which research already conducted can form a starting point?....
- **A legal instrument** (legal basis, link with climate/biodiversity/... targets, monitoring tools, policy instruments such as MS and Commission's obligations, economic instruments, financing mechanisms, ...).
- **Intra EU governance** (internal structures and governance that allows a systemic and institutionalized approach & technical aspects: indicators, data sources, socio/economic scenario's modelling, etc.)
- **A global strategy**
- **Enabling conditions for an inclusive and just transition**
- **Multi-stakeholder engagement**

Who should be involved in this process? How to involve stakeholders? Which steps between 2024 and 202x? How to build it? What time horizon? What are the lessons learned from climate/biodiversity/etc. experiences?

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Next steps - Post 2024 (2/2)

2) Consolidate strategic priorities of the EU GD and the CEAP related to sustainable resources management

- Secure and reinforce the current sustainable **product policy and the implementation of the ESPR**
- Securing and executing the different strands of work under the **Sustainable chemicals strategy**
- Continue and deepen the **European Farm to Fork strategy**, in particular finalizing the Sustainable food systems initiative and the Soil Health Law
- Align the **European food strategy** and the reviewed **bioeconomy strategy** in view of the material footprint reduction target.

Which are other priorities already on the agenda that should be further pursued?