

FEAD event: what will the German Presidency deliver on circular economy objective?

Press release

Brussels, 6 November 2020 – In view of the Council conclusions on the Circular Economy Action Plan expected in December, FEAD held a successful online debate on the role of the German Presidency and its deliverables on circular economy.

The debate, initiated by FEAD President – **Peter Kurth**, was joined by **Dr. Christoph Epping** - German Federal Ministry of Environment, **William Neale** - European Commission, **MEP Jan Huitema** – Renew rapporteur for the Circular Economy Action Plan, **MEP Sirpa Pietikainen** – EPP shadow rapporteur on the same file, and **Stéphane Arditi**, European Environmental Bureau.

Facilitated by moderator Jacki Davis, discussions revolved around **four key issues** of interest to the Circular Economy Action Plan:

- Europe cannot reach its circularity objectives without **creating a truly competitive market for secondary raw materials**. Proper economic incentives, and strong binding measures, such as **mandatory recycled contents** in products, are needed from policy makers to achieve these objectives.
- A strong focus should be given during the product design stage. **Eco-design measures**, through essential requirements and provisions on durability, are needed to increase the recyclability and reusability of products.
- **Waste that can be recycled and/or recovered has to be diverted from landfills**. This is crucial for going up the waste hierarchy and save on GHG emissions.
- **Waste-to-energy** capacities for residual non-recyclable waste represent an integral part of the circular economy. To achieve the objective of diverting residual waste from landfills, waste-to-energy is now more than ever needed.

In conclusion, panellists agreed that, in the context of the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, **circular economy stimuli equals recovery stimuli**. The waste management industry is a fundamental actor to properly redirect investments and leverage on its own potential to achieve circularity and climate neutrality.

In this regard, FEAD President – Peter Kurth stressed that: “*Raw materials of the future come from waste. The waste management industry is a key partner to achieve this objective and to channel the proper investments towards economic recovery*”.

FEAD warmly thanks the panellists for their participation and collaboration, and welcomed the large interest expressed by attendees from across Europe.

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