



INVESTING
for a greener future
EU Green Week > 30 May - 3 June 2016



Investing in a greener future through the circular economy
a European Network of Environmental Professionals Green Week
2016 event in partnership with the British Chamber of Commerce in
Belgium and OREGA

**Rue du Commerce, 123,
B-1000 Brussels**

Brussels, Friday 3rd June, 2016 (10:30 till 15:00)
followed by a buffet lunch

Background

[Closing the loop: the new Circular Economy Package to boost competitiveness, create jobs and generate sustainable growth](#) was published on the 2nd December by the European Commission. It proposes an action plan and legislation to help the transition to a more circular economy, where the value of products, materials and resources is maintained in the economy for as long as possible, and the generation of waste minimised, is an essential contribution to the EU's efforts to develop a sustainable, low carbon, resource efficient and competitive economy. Such transition is the opportunity to transform our economy and generate new and sustainable competitive advantages for Europe. A gradual shift towards an energy and resource-efficient circular economy will increase competitiveness and boost economic growth, while creating more and better jobs in the EU.

Saving, re-using and recycling materials will support the future competitiveness of successful companies. But what about its impacts on our labour markets. Are we ready for this revolution in the European Union? Skilled professionals are the starting point for us to create the skill base to drive circular innovation. Remanufacturing as well as product refurbishment are best executed at a local or regional level, as this cuts down logistics costs and allows players to tap local engineering skills. But economic gains on this scale can only be realised only if multiple players across business & research come together and reconceive materials flows and manufacturing processes, supported by policy-makers and investors as the transaction costs of shifting are extremely high where no single entity can make this happen on its own. Does the private sector have the resources and ambition to make the jump to the circular economy? How do we get clusters and symbiosis between industries progressing where wastes and resources become synonymous between different sectors? What EU tools and funds are available to drive this long term policy agenda?

Green Week 2016

As a partner event to Green Week 2016 our side event brings experts and businesses together to discuss how we can make this change to invest in a greener future. The circular economy action plan from the European Commission is now with the European Parliament and the Member States. Its implementation has implications for job creation, new skills, and using raw materials and resources more efficiently and about preventing waste, and much more besides. You will have a valuable opportunity to hear about the emerging challenges for the circular economy,

Where will it take place?

The Side event will take place between 10:30 and 13:00 on Friday 3rd June at the offices of **OREGA (Leopold)**
Rue du Commerce, 123, B-1000 Brussels

How do I register?

Go to [REGISTRATION PAGE](#) online before Tuesday 31st May 2016

Outline programme

Investing in a greener future through the circular economy

10:30	Coffee and Registration
11:00	Welcome from Orega and British Chamber of Chamber in Belgium
11:05	Introduction from moderator Jonny Hazell - Green Alliance
11.25	Knowledge and networking opportunities for professionals in the circular economy - Kristof De Smet, President of the European Network of Environmental Professionals
11:35	Closing the loop: Driving the Circular Economy contribute through environmental, social and economic growth - Pierre Henry - European Commission (DG Environment)
12:05	An operator's perspective on making the circular economy happen – Pierre Eymery, Director for Public Affairs, Veolia
12:15	The Circular Economy & Sustainable land use - towards a more effective spatial planning policy in Flanders – Kristof De Smet, President of the European Network of Environmental Professionals
12:25	Panel Session and Moderated Debate
12:55	Conclusions from chair
13:00	Buffet lunch (13:30 – 15:00)
15:00	End of meeting