



CIRCULAR ECONOMY
IN VISEGRAD GROUP
(V4) COUNTRIES
- CURRENT STATE AND
CHALLENGES



Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group
July 2016 - June 2017

JUNE 1, 2017

PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF HUNGARY

RUE DE TRÈVES 92-98

1040 BRUXELLES

Agenda

9.30 - 10.00 REGISTRATION

10.00 - 10.30 INTRODUCTION

- Karolina D’Cunha, Deputy Head of Unit European Commission DG Environment, Directorate B Circular Economy & Green Growth
- Vasileios Rizos, Research Fellow, CEPS (Centre for European Policy Studies)

10.30 - 11.15

PART I - MAIN R&I ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Karolina Zázvorková - moderator, European Commission DG Environment Directorate B3 - Waste Management & Secondary Materials

- Barna Kovács – advisor to BIOEAST, Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary
 - Pavol Alexy, Slovak Technological University, Slovakia
- Vladimír Kočí, University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, Czech Republic

11.15 - 11.30

LET'S TALK ABOUT GARBAGE EXHIBITION

- Marcin Szczelina, Architecture Snobs, Poland

11.30 – 12.00 COFFEE BREAK

12.00 - 13.30

PART II - GOOD PRACTICES

Małgorzata Gołębowska - moderator, European Commission DG Environment, Directorate B Circular Economy & Green Growth

- Tomasz Wojciechowski, Institute of Circular Economy, Poland
- Katarzyna Barc, Operational Director "Oddam Odpady" Initiative, Poland
 - Miroslav Galamboš, Panaroplast, Slovakia
 - Jiří Brejcha, MITAS a. s., Czech Republic

13.30 – 14.30 LUNCH



Karolina D'Cunha

is a Deputy Head of Unit "Sustainable Production, Products & Consumption" in the European Commission's Directorate General Environment. She was part of the Commission's team that prepared the Circular Economy Package adopted in December 2015, and her team is now responsible for the implementation of the parts of the strategy that deal with sustainable products, production and consumption.

Prior to her current job, she was responsible for the implementation and development of waste management policies for over ten years. She was, amongst others, responsible for the implementation of the Waste Framework Directive, as well as legislation on end-of-life vehicles, packaging, electrical and electronic equipment, and other waste streams.

In 2008, Karolina was responsible for the revision of the Waste Framework Directive - the cornerstone piece of European legislation on waste. In 2013, she concluded negotiations on the Ship Recycling Regulation and the review of the Packaging Directive which restricted the distribution of single-use plastic bags in supermarkets.

In its Circular Economy Package adopted in December 2015, the Commission laid down a path for Europe's transition to a low carbon, resource efficient, and competitive economy. The package is an effort to rethink our economic model. It looks at all stages of that model, from design to production to consumption, and it culminates in a new way of thinking about waste and re-using precious resources. It offers a long-term vision for increasing recycling and reducing landfilling, while still taking account of differences between Member States. Two years later, to keep track of the measures adopted and raise awareness about them, the Commission issued a report on the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan. The presentation will describe progress made so far, and point to the next actions that the Commission is planning to implement the package.



Vasileios Rizos

a Research Fellow at CEPS and an expert in various aspects of the circular economy. His background on the circular economy blends experience at the DG Environment of the European Commission and the Confederation of European Paper Industries where he worked, among others, on producer responsibility schemes across Europe. His main research areas at CEPS include regulatory and market barriers to the circular economy, industrial sustainability, green value chains and resource efficiency indicators. Vasileios has various publications on these issues and he is also a reviewer for academic journals.



Karolina Zázvorková

is Seconded National Expert from the Czech Republic working at DG Environment, Waste Management & Secondary Materials Unit. Her professional focus are hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment. Before joining the European Commission, she was Deputy Head of the Bilateral Cooperation Unit at the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic. Her academic background includes Master of Science from Vienna University of Technology and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna.

Vladimír Kočí

PhD in life cycle assessment (LCA) and environmental product declarations (EPD) expert focused on research and practical application of the life cycle concept. Currently he is dean of the Faculty of Environmental Technology and associated professor at the University of Chemistry and Technology Prague and also teaches at the Charles University and the Czech Technical University.

Vladimír Kočí is conducting life cycle based research connecting industrial activities with their environmental impacts. Vladimír Kočí provides commercial application of the life cycle and assessment of environmental impacts of products and services within LCA studio (www.lcastudio.cz). Currently he represents the Centre of Environmental Declaration (www.cendec.cz) as a chair of council.

Circular economy is currently a new approach in day-to-day business in the Czech Republic. Although a number of activities in business and/or research and development sectors is possible to classify as “within frame of circular economy” actors of these initiatives are seldom inspired by the Circular Economy Package of the EU. Part of the experts understands principles of circular economy as a perfect challenge supporting business, society and environment, but still strong part of experts is sceptical to it. There is strong need for communication of success stories inspired by the Circular Economy in the Czech Republic and support implementation of its principles into main industrial sectors and national governmental practice. Until present days the Circular Economy is often understood as “more environmental” waste management. There is one main challenge for supporting the Circular Economy in the Czech Republic today: open the topic to more stakeholders. We need not only waste managers, but also economists, designers and other experts in industrial branches like construction, food production, energy production etc. to become involved in the Circular Economy.

Research and development activities, which can be understood within the frame of the Circular Economy, are ongoing on several universities and number of companies. As an example of the academic institution strongly involved in almost of all technological topics of the Circular Economy is the Faculty of Environmental Technology of the University of Chemistry and Technology, where projects focused on sustainable energy production, carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies, waste management, water management, resource reuse, biofuels and LCA are conducted. Until now mainly strong international companies like SUEZ or Veolia are taking part in active implementation of the Circular Economy into practice, but currently even small national companies like ASIO focused on phosphorus recycling from waste water are becoming important.



Marcin Szczelina

architecture critic and curator based in Warsaw. An expert of the EU Prize for Contemporary Architecture - Mies van der Rohe Award. The founder of the Architecture Snob (architecturesnob.pl) a platform for testing the borders of architecture. The author of numerous texts devoted to contemporary architecture. A correspondent for "Domus" Magazine. Together with Hugon Kowalski presents project called "Let's talk about garbage" in the main exhibition at last year's Venice Architecture Biennale curated by Alejandro Aravena. www.letstalkaboutgarbage.com

The exhibition proposed by Kowalski and Szczelina faces the global problem of waste overproduction. Our modern consumerist societies neglect the "after-life" of their mass-produced items, packed-tight in successive layers of plastics. The stake of "Let's talk about garbage" is an attempt to present new, alternative strategies of coping with the flood of waste pouring down the streets of our cities. The creators of the exhibition show how architecture can stimulate the reduction of the amount of waste and how it can take part in the process of recycling.

Designing disposable or short-lived items, usually made of plastics that will decompose in landfills for hundreds or even thousands of years, contributes to creating masses of carelessly generated waste. The creators of the exhibition present the life cycles of some discarded items – their collection, sorting, processing and reuse. Such processes as recycling, upcycling (i.e. recycling which raises the value of the processed material) or product design which take into account its future processing propose solutions to the problem of waste overproduction.

Miroslav Galamboš

received his Master's degree in Economic Sciences from Luigi Bocconi Commercial University in Milan, Italy. After graduation he worked in headquarter of Intesa Sanpaolo Bank in Milan and in VUB Bank in Bratislava, Slovakia. He has been active in the area of investments, project financing and loan syndication for more than 6 years. His international experience includes programs and trainings from United Kingdom and Italy. Since 2013 he works as a financial manager in Panara company and he is mainly responsible for business strategy of new developed materials and managing operations of CEPOMA (Center for Applied Research of Environmentally Friendly Polymeric Materials) – an excellent and unique joint centre with the University of Technology in Bratislava that serves as a technological and technical basis for R&D activities connected with new biodegradable and bio based blends.

Every year, millions of tons of plastic waste end up in the landfill or in the oceans.

Panara Company was established as a production and trading company of PE plastics films in 2001 and since 2006 entered into a bioplastics area with the goal to develop biodegradable- bio based blends for different types of plastic processing.

The main objective is to introduce to the worldwide market a new generation of sustainable bioplastic material based on PHA and PLA polymers which might be used for production of final plastic products (such as films for agriculture use, packaging material, 3D prints etc).

Panara company brings unique solution: 100% bio – based and biodegradable bioplastics which are able to reach mechanical, physical and technical properties comparable to fossil based materials and in the main time can degrade in industrial (central) composting units into water and carbon dioxide. Time to the total bio-decomposition is approx. 120 days. Due to mentioned specifications we are fully in the line with Circular economy concept.

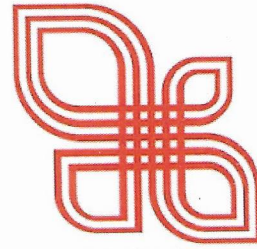
Bio plastics are only one part of overall solution in the field of plastic waste. It is necessary to create complex system for plastic waste separation, collection, logistic and liquidation. Therefore, Panara participates on a pilot program: Smart city aiming to design fully functional chain of ecological waste treatment.



Jiří Brejcha

graduated from the University of Chemistry and Technology in Prague, Czech Republic in 2001. He worked at the Department of Mixing, Product Industrialization, Mitas, a. s. (2001 - 2004) and he is part of the Research and Development Department at Mitas, a. s. since 2004. His responsibilities include raw material development, chemical substance management (including Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) and compliance of national and EU chemical legislation and he also participates in FP7 demonstration project "Dandelion Rubber and Inulin Valorization and Exploitation for Europe". Jiří Brejcha is an active member of the European Tyre & Rubber Manufacturers' Association (ETRMA) working groups focused on chemical, environmental and health and safety since 2008. He is also responsible for Mitas a.s. cooperation with universities and research institutes.

Tyres and raw material development in last two decades show fast development. Producers and especially their R&D teams are pushed to change material composition and product design to meet new expectations rising with increasing legal requirements, speed of transport, new machineries and globalization of the raw material market. Energy and production efficiency requirements, in same time with decreasing of capacity and labour work spending, are other aspects that accelerate material development. The environmental task is more and more actual with higher social development of all parts of the world. Environmental issue doesn't mean only chemical substance restriction and regulation (e.g. REACH) but also very important aspect of circular economy which goes hand in hand with strategic security and independency of economics especially in Europe. Presentation highlights some ideas and approaches of today's raw material of tyre development from different points of view and gives an overview of the research and development activities in this sector of industry.



Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group
July 2016–June 2017

The Visegrad Group

was formed on the 15th of February 1991 at a meeting of the President of the Czechoslovak Republic, Václav Havel, the President of the Republic of Poland, Lech Wałęsa, and the Prime Minister of Hungary, József Antall.

This high-level meeting in Visegrad, Hungary, created an imaginary historical arch linking the idea of this meeting to the idea of a similar meeting, which took place there in 1335 and was attended by John of Luxembourg, King of Bohemia, Charles I of Anjou (Charles Robert), King of Hungary, and Casimir III, King of Poland. The central motive of the two meetings was the desire to intensify mutual cooperation and friendship among the three Central European states.

The whole V4 initiative is a result of the strong will of the central European countries to act together in various areas and to strengthen the cooperation of the region.

Main organiser



Co-organisers



Permanent Representation
of Hungary
to the European Union



Partner

