



**Parliamentary
Dimension**

**PARLIAMENTARY DIMENSION
OF THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Flemish Parliament

17 - 18 March 2024

version 24 January 2024

INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY

PROGRAMME

Sunday, 17 March 2024

2.00 pm – 6.00 pm: Visit of a circular company: EKOPAK

<https://ekopakwater.com/en/>

7.00 pm – 10.00 pm: Welcome reception and dinner offered by the Flemish Parliament

‘De Daktuin’, rooftop restaurant of the Flemish Parliament

Entrance: Visitors’ Centre of the Flemish Parliament

IJzerenkruisstraat (rue de la croix de Fer) 99

1000 Brussels

Monday, 18 March 2024

8.15 am – 9.15 am: Accreditation of the participants of the national parliaments

Welcome of the delegations – Coffee & Tea

Venue: Hertogsstraat (rue Ducale) 6

1000 Brussels

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English – French – German – Dutch

The meetings will be chaired by Mr Robrecht Bothuyne, Chairman of the Committee for Economy, Work, Social Economy, Science and Innovation of the Flemish Parliament

Morning Meeting

Hemicycle Flemish Parliament

9.30 am – 9.45 am: Welcome speech by Ms Cathy Coudyser,
Chairwoman of the Committee on Foreign Policy, European Affairs,
International Cooperation and Tourism

9.45 am – 10.00 am: Speech by Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius,
European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries (tbc)

10.00 am – 10.15 am: Speech by Mr Jo Brouns,
Flemish Minister of Economy, Innovation, Work, Social Economy and
Agriculture and President of the Competitiveness Council for Industry during
the Belgian Presidency of the European Union

10.15 am – 10.45 am: ‘Circular Flanders, a public private partnership for the transition towards the
circular economy’
Speech by Mrs Brigitte Mouligneau,
Transition manager at Circulair Vlaanderen
<https://vlaanderen-circulair.be/en>

10.45 am – 11.00 am: Coffee break

Best Practices

- 11.00 am – 11.20 am: The [JUUNOO](https://juunoo.com/) experience (SME)
Presentation by Mr Chris Van de Voorde,
Circular Economy Expert | Founder of JUUNOO and the Circular Value
Institute
<https://juunoo.com/>
- 11.20 am – 11.40 am: The [INDAVER](https://indaver.com/) experience (Sustainable Waste Management)
Presentation by Mr Karl Vrancken,
Chief Sustainability Officer INDAVER
<https://indaver.com/>
- 11.40 am – 12.10 pm: The working together experience: [Outofuse](https://outofuse.be/en) – [What4Ever](https://watt4ever.be/) – [Umicore](https://www.unicore.be/en/)
Presentation by Mr Aimilios Orfanos, CEO Watt4Ever
Presentation by Mrs Catherine Lenaerts, CEO Watt4Ever
Presentation by Mr Mark Adriaenssens, CEO Outofuse
<https://outofuse.be/en>
<https://watt4ever.be/>
<https://www.unicore.be/en/>
- 12.10 pm – 12.30 pm: Circular Hubs, Connecting social economy with circular entrepreneurship
in the 'mainstream' economy
Presentation by Mr Geert Vaes,
'Bondgenoot' and cofounder of [werecycle](http://werecycle.be/en)
<http://werecycle.be/en>
- 12.30 pm – 2.00 pm: Walking Lunch

Room of Pillars (Zuilenzaal) of the Flemish Parliament

Afternoon meeting
Hemicycle Flemish Parliament

Debate on the future of Circular Economy in the European Union

All participants are invited to join in.

The debate will tackle 4 questions/positions:

- 2.00 pm – 2.30 pm: Which role should the European Union play in promoting circular economy? Should the European Union set concrete targets for Member States?
- 2.30 pm – 3.00 pm: How can we build a network of circular hubs in different Member States and help each other with the transition to circular economy? What is the best way to exchange know-how and best practices between Member States and between companies? What is the role of the European Union in this?
- 3.00 pm – 3.30 pm: How can we ensure that education and training of employees, entrepreneurs and managers include the specific skills for switching to a circular economy? Which measures can we take to promote 'circular thinking' skills? How do we make the population/consumers aware of the benefits of circular economy and how do we stimulate awareness?
- 3.30 pm – 4.00 pm: Should we use materials and raw materials more consciously? Should there be a European export ban on materials and products containing interesting reusable raw materials?
- 4.00 pm – 4.30 pm: Presentation of and debate on the Flemish Parliament proposal of resolution on circular economy in the European Union
- The proposal for resolution will be transmitted to the next European Commission as part of the political dialogue with the European Commission.
- 4.30 pm – 5.30 pm: Reception – Room of Pillars (Zuilenzaal) of the Flemish Parliament