



Book Launch: The Circular Economy and Green Jobs in the EU and Beyond

April 5th, 2022, 14:00 - 17:30

Avenue des Arts 46th, 5th Floor Brussels (FEPS HQ)

And via [zoom](#)

Against the background of the significant increases in materials consumption and waste production, the concept of the circular economy has been gaining ground in both academic and policy debates. The European Commission's Circular Economy Package, which was published on March 30th and includes amongst others the sustainable products initiative and the strategy for sustainable textiles, gives further testimony to this shift. To explore the potentials as well as possible shortcomings of the circular economy FEPS and partners have published an edited volume. The book critically engages with the concept of the circular economy and assesses policies aimed at creating a circular economy at the European, international, national and local level. Particular emphasis is given to the social dimension of the circular economy. At the launch event, editors and authors will present their assessment of current EU circular economy policies in light of their research and engage with EU policymakers and other stakeholders.

14:00 – 14:05 **The EU Member States and their Pathways Towards a Circular Economy**
László Andor, Secretary General, FEPS (via Zoom)

14:05 – 14:15 **The EU Member States and their Pathways Towards a Circular Economy**
Henning Wilts, Director Circular Economy, Wuppertal Institut (via Zoom)

14:15 – 15:30 **The Circular Economy's Forgotten Social Dimension**
Chair: Saïd El Khadraoui, Representative and institutional Expert, European
Environment Agency

While the environmental benefits of the circular economy have been widely emphasised, social considerations often remain in the background. This panel highlights the importance of these issues by addressing questions such as:

- Which effects does the circular economy have on employment and how can decent jobs be ensured by policy?
- How can circular economy products and services remain available and affordable?
- How can circular economy policies take the social economy into account?

Research presentations outlining policy implications

- **Kris Bachus**, Research manager Climate and Sustainable Development, KU Leuven,
- **Antonella Totaro**, Researcher, University of Turin

Discussion of the research from a policy perspective

- **Félix Mailleux**, Adviser Climate and Energy, European Trade Union Confederation
- **William Neale**, Adviser Circular Economy and Green Growth, European Commission DG ENV

Q&A and open discussion

15:30 – 15:45 **Coffee Break**

15:45 – 17:00 **EU Policies on the Circular Economy: Fit for purpose?**
Chair: **Andreas Dimmelmeier**, Policy Analyst, FEPS

The European Commission published its circular economy strategy in 2020. As part of the strategy the Commission will publish a new circular economy package, which includes the sustainable products initiative and a strategy on sustainable textiles, at the end of March 2022. The panel will assess these new initiatives against broader issues and developments related to the circular economy.

Key questions:

- What are the key points and aims of the measures proposed by the European Commission?
- Are the proposed initiatives sufficient to make circular business models the norm?
- Which levers and strategies are the most promising?
- What could be elaborated further?

Input presentation on the circular economy package

- **Helena Braun**, European Commission, Member of the Cabinet of EVP Frans Timmermans

Reactions on the package from researchers and stakeholders

- **Stéphane Arditi**, Director of Policy Integration and Circular Economy, European Environmental Bureau (via Zoom)
- **Ilaria Brambilla**, Researcher, Nelis Global
- **Janis Brizga**, Researcher, University of Latvia (via Zoom)

Q&A and open discussion

17:00 – 17:15 **Concluding Remarks**
Andreas Dimmelmeier, Policy Analyst, FEPS

17:15 – 17:30 **Refreshments**