



## **PATHWAYS TO CIRCULAR ECONOMY – EXPERIENCES FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**15.9.2020 (10:00-13:00)**

**Circular Economy has a significant role to play in climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as in strengthening economies recovering from COVID-19 pandemic. Transition to a fair and carbon-neutral circular economy has the potential to transform societies and move away from well-being based on excessive consumption and fossil fuel use. In a Circular Economy, the value of products and materials stays within the economy for as long as possible. Waste and non-renewable resources use are minimized, and end of life products are used to create further value. There are major economic benefits, opportunities to boost innovation, growth and job creation through transition to Circular Economy.**

**The online event on Circular Economy will bring together policy-makers, business leaders and influential thinkers to share circular economy transition experiences in South Africa and in Europe, and to discuss future orientations. The event will also showcase inspirational circular economy business cases and projects in South Africa.**

### **Moderator**

Albertus Louw is a well-known face on South African public Television, as presenter for 50|50, one of the longest running Environmental TV shows in the world. Albertus is also an award-winning producer and has many years' experience in the production of documentaries, TV inserts and other films on social and environmental issues. He is passionate about conservation, education and solutions for the future. His topics often include stories about the Circular Economy and he is walking the talk by living a "Cradle to Cradle" lifestyle, including having built his own eco-friendly and self-sustaining house from natural materials

**10:00-10:50    Session 1 - Transitioning to Circular Economy in the EU and in SA**

10:00-10:10 Circular Economy and the green recovery, Mrs Astrid Schomaker, Director for Global Sustainable Development, European Commission DG Environment  
*Astrid Schomaker is Director for Global Sustainable Development at the European Commission's Directorate General for the Environment. As such, she is in charge of international and inter-institutional relations as well as environment policy strategy, supervising the implementation of the EU's 7th Environment Action Programme. She has lead work on issues ranging from bilateral and multilateral relations to chemicals, oceans and water industry as well as overall coordination and communication, resource efficiency and economic analysis.*

10:10 - 10:20 Approach to Circular Economy implementation in South Africa – Mr Kgauta Mokoena, Chief Director, Chemicals and Waste Policy Evaluation and Monitoring, Department of Environment, Forest and Fisheries

10:20-10:30 How to use circular economy roadmap to build consensus and common vision to transit into circular economy – Mr. Kari Herlevi, Project Director, Circular Economy, Sitra  
*Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra's mission is to make Finland a successful pioneer in sustainable well-being and carbon neutral circular economy is at the heart of it. Sitra is the main organizer of the World Circular Economy Forum, and guided the development of the World's first national roadmap to circular economy. The roadmap presents the strategic objectives, vision and concrete actions that extend through the whole society.*

10:30-10:40 Implementing Circular Economy in Basque Countries industry by public private collaboration: learnings and cost-effectiveness – Mr. Ander Elgorriaga, Ecoinnovation Programmes Head, Ihobe (Basque Country)  
*Ihobe, the Circular Innovation Agency of the Basque Government, has for the last two decades focused on greening the industry by reducing greenhouse gases and increasing material productivity. The Basque Country is a regional laboratory for Circular Economy with cost-effective results in eco-design, eco-innovation and material efficiency. A strong mix of policy instruments and a long tradition in public private collaboration is the key of their learnings and success.*

10:40-10:50:Transitioning to a Circular Economy where waste is a resource – Mr. Chris Whyte, South African Country Leader for African Circular Economy Network (ACEN)  
*The vision of the African Circular Economy Network (ACEN) is to build a restorative African economy that generates well-being and prosperity inclusive of all its people through new forms of economic production and consumption which maintain and regenerate its environmental resources. Using waste as a resource provides multiple opportunities for transitioning to a Circular Economy.*

**10:50-11:10      Session 1 - Moderated discussion**

**11:10-11:20      Health Break**

**11:20-12:30      Session 2 - Innovative Circular Economy examples from the EU and SA  
(5min per presentation + 5min for Q&A)**

11:20-11:30     Circular Economy SMMEs and Industrial Symbiosis in creating job and cutting costs – video with intro from Mr. Mike Mulcahy, CEO, Green Cape

*With over 2000 members GreenCape is the only African member of the International Cleantech Network. Over the last 10 years GreenCape has systematically removed barriers to Green Economy in South Africa and has contributed to attracting and facilitating over R30bn of investments and creating over 15 000 jobs in South Africa. GreenCape has piloted an award winning Industrial Symbiosis project (WISP) unlocking real economic, climate and social benefit in South Africa.*

11:30-11:40     Circularity in packaging– Mr. Shane van der Nest, General Manager, Huhtamaki South Africa

*The global food packaging specialist Huhtamaki (FIN) has a cradle to grave approach for paper cup recycling in South Africa. They are currently exploring the collection and recycling of McDonald's and other QSR cups and returning these to be recycled into egg trays. This creates job opportunities and strengthens sustainability.*

11:40-11:50     Food waste transformation into value – Mr. Coen Bakker, Marketing Manager, The Waste Transformers

*Every year hundreds of million tons of valuable resources leak from the local economies. The Waste Transformers is an Amsterdam-based award-winning young company that has established a path forward for local communities and businesses to embrace a circular economy approach to organic waste management – one that will generate economic growth and profit, create well-paid jobs and meet environmental objectives. TWT's 'game-changing' innovation has the potential to transform the current waste management systems and practices by allowing everyone to create their own clean energy from organic waste.*

11:50-12:00     AUGA group: Sustainable Organic Farming Model- Mr. Gediminas Judzentas, Marketing Director

*AUGA group, AB, based in Lithuania, is the largest vertically-integrated organic food company in Europe. The group of companies manages approx. 39,000 ha of organically certified arable land and develops sustainable organic farming model, based on circular economy principles and new technologies, specializing in crops, dairy cows, chicken and mushroom growing. Using proprietary and contracted manufacturing, the company produces a wide range of organic food products for the end consumer as well as organic commodities. The group of companies employ over 1,200 people. AUGA group is listed on the Nasdaq Vilnius and Warsaw stock exchanges. AUGA mission – deliver organic food with no cost to nature.*

12:00-12:10     Circular Economy in Property & Construction, Ms. Vere Shaba, Founder & CEO, Greendesign

*The property and construction sector is responsible for up to 40% of global energy consumption, 15% of water consumption, and 25% of the solid waste generated. This is why one of the goals of the World Green Building Council is to create a built environment that supports the regeneration of resources and natural systems, providing socio-economic benefit through a thriving circular economy. Greendesign was founded*

*with the vision of accelerating the green transition of buildings in Africa to net zero operational carbon new buildings by 2030 and net zero operational carbon existing and new buildings by 2050 as targeted by the Paris Agreement.*

12:10-12:20 Imvelisi – Developing Africa’s Enviropreneurs – Ms. Janavi Da Silva, Programme Manager, GreenMatter Partnership NPC

*Imvelisi is a partnership initiative between GreenMatterZA and the South African Young Water Professionals Network (YWP). The programme is funded by the Department of Science and Innovation with the aim of supporting the business development of young water and biodiversity innovators and their ideas.*

12:20-12:30 Innovative Waste Design: live demonstration, presented by Mr. Steve Gray co-founder of the Baobab Durban and MakerSpace Foundation.

*The Baobab Project is a social, economic & environmental development initiative aiming to inspire a generation to re-think, re-design & build a positive future through the framework of a circular economy. Simply put, empower people to improve their lives and preserve the environment in the urban context. The project is supported by a French company, Veolia.*

**12:30-12:40 Cooperation opportunities between SA and EU**

Eat Smart Challenge - Ms Ami Larsson Jain, Chargé d’Affaires a.i., Embassy of Sweden

Call for Proposals for Circular Economy startup support & TedTalk on Food Waste – Ms. Marjaana Hyppönen, Chargé d’Affaires a.i., Embassy of Finland

**12:40-12:45 Summary notes from the moderator**

**12:45- 13:00 Short film on Circular Economy by Mr. Albertus Louw**

Supported by:



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