



Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations

In cooperation with



Virtual Side event in the margins of the High Level Political Forum 2021

“Circular economy: the economy of the future?”

July 8, 2021 13.00 – 14.30 EST

As the efforts of all countries for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals become more and more intense, it becomes more obvious that the current patterns of production and consumption are unsustainable in the long term.

Unsustainable natural resource use is having a huge impact on the environment. Projected increase in global population and the number of people living in cities is expected to further deplete natural resources beyond sustainable limits.

Large increase is projected for the global use of biomass, fossil fuels, metals and minerals, if we continue on the same paths of production and consumption. These trends would have huge impacts on our planet, in terms of climate change, environmental and land degradation, water stress, biodiversity loss and human health.

The new model of circular economy is meant to allow the planet to breathe, while leaving no one behind. By decoupling economic growth from resource use, setting global standards in product sustainability, keeping resource use within planetary boundaries and promoting the re-use of materials, circular economy may be the only sustainable economic model for the future. Not only could it lead to a healthier planet and more prosperous humankind in the long term, but it could also create jobs and new business models in the very near future.

This side event presents these new trends, by presenting successful business practices in the area of circular economy from different regions.

Program

Introduction by H.E. Ambassador Mrs. Maria Theofili, Permanent Representative of Greece to the UN

Greeting by Prof. Konstantinos Aravossis, Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Greece

Speakers:

Mr. Carlos Silva Filho, President of the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)

Mr. Antonis Mavropoulos, founder and CEO of D-Waste and former President of ISWA, co-author of “Industry 4.0 and circular economy: Towards a wasteless future or a wasteful planet?”, scientific consultant to UNEP IETC

Mr. Atilio Savino, Representative of the ISWA Regional Chapter of Latin America and the Caribbean and founder of the Center of Excellence of Circular Economy and Climate Change of LAC

Mr. Lefteris Arapakis, Director and co-founder of Enaleia, Winner of “Young Champion of the Earth” UNEP Award in 2020

Mr. Mario Malinconico, Coordinator of Italian Bioplastics Association, Italian Delegate to the World Council of Science, Coordinator of CNR Institutes in the International Network “Historic Cities against Plastic Waste”

Ms. Melina Taprantzi, Social entrepreneur, Founder of Wise Greece, Winner of “SDGs and Her” World Bank and UNDP Award in 2020

Mr. Igor Kos, Consultant, Institute for Circular Economy, City of Maribor, Slovenia

Mr. Michele Schiavo, Research fellow, Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales (IDDRI), Paris (tbc)

Q&A session, open to all participants

Concluding remarks by Ms. Elisa Tonda, Head of the Sustainable Consumption and Production Unit of UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)