



Welcome to the workshop

## CIRCULAR CITIES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

European Economic and Social Committee, JDE63

7 March 2019, 09:30 – 10:50

### Objective

- **Share best practice in circular policy-making for climate adaptation in urban contexts**
- **Discuss silver bullets & barriers in scaling up circular solutions by and for cities**

### Leader

Dorthe Nielsen  
EUROCITIES

@EUROCITIEStweet

### Schedule

#### Welcome

##### Presentation of the 2019 Circularity Gap report

Annerieke Douma  
Circle Economy

@AnneriekeDouma  
@CircleEconomy

##### Panel on circular interventions for urban climate adaptation

Oriana Romano  
OECD  
Eveline Jonkhoff  
City of Amsterdam  
Cillian Lohan  
European Economic and Social Committee  
Audrey Nugent  
World Green Building Council

@OR\_orianaromano  
@OECD  
@EvelineJonkhoff  
@AmsterdamNL  
@CillianLohan  
@DiversEESC  
@audnag  
@WorldGBC

##### Deep dives on mitigating climate change with circular policy

Hakon Jentoft  
Urban Agenda Partnership for the Circular Economy  
Jonas Byström  
European Investment Bank  
Mette Skovgaard  
City of Copenhagen

@EUUrbanAgenda  
  
@EIB  
@Silledole

#### Summary and conclusions by the Leader

### Key questions

- **What circular policy instruments are cities in Europe deploying to mitigate climate change?** How can urban governments leverage high-level climate mobilisation to apply the CE agenda? What successes have been achieved and what challenges do they encounter?
- **How can cities manage the flow of resources on their territory?** Which resource streams are most important to climate change mitigation? Where to collect data, by whom and how to monitor?
- **What is the role of different stakeholders**, e.g. neighbourhood associations, other levels of government, local businesses, and global app developers, to close the circularity gap in cities? What are the inter-dependencies between these stakeholders?



- **How does the circular transition contribute to delivering Agenda 2030?** How can leveraging urban policy for the climate help achieve Sustainable Development Goals 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 13 (climate action)?

## Setting the scene

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In Europe, cities account for 70% of population and 65% of GDP. With a high density of skills and capital, cities serve as the engines for economic growth in most European regions. Their advanced telecoms, mobility and knowledge networks enable talent to flourish and innovations to spread quickly. Such concentration has its downsides though: cities account for 75% of natural resource consumption, 55% of greenhouse gas emissions and produce more than half of all the waste in Europe.

While national governments sign the formal commitments to mitigating climate change within the COP framework, these pledges are unachievable without a systemic rethink of how to manage our natural resources in a circular manner avoiding the waste of the linear disposal model. Cities' administrations are in the driver's seat for stimulating circular material use in construction, thus overcoming the 'linear lock-in' Europe's built environment faces. Implementing ambitious waste and recycling targets also remains unfeasible without collaborative urban programmes led by city authorities, who organise waste locally and supervise the (public) waste management companies that collect, separate, recycle, incinerate, landfill or transport goods and materials at end of life. With growing demand for mobility, and the appeal of disposable goods in dynamic urban contexts, reducing greenhouse gases remains an ever more challenging venture.

In this workshop, **EUROCITIES** will first present its circular economy task force and introduce the necessity of linking circular policy instruments to strategic climate goals in achieving sustainable urban development. As the **Circularity Gap Report 2019** shows the world remains barely 9% circular, there is ample room for practical implementation. To share best practice in bridging this 'circularity gap', pioneering cities will take the stage to present their successful interventions, focusing especially on the design of their respective interventions, the barriers they faced, and silver bullets discovered. Further deep dives will enable participants to explore links between climate change mitigation as long-term objective and the circular economy toolkit; from the access to finance, resource mapping, plastic waste reduction and public-private collaboration perspectives.

## Coming up

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- A **summary report** on successful urban policy tools and the barriers cities face when scaling up circular solutions, presented as case studies on climate change mitigation, will be published on the ECESP website
- **Presentations** will be published on the **conference webpage** upon authors' consent
- The **Urban Agenda Partnership for a Circular Economy** is currently working on the implementation of 12 actions leading to better knowledge, improved regulation and increased access to funding for cities transitioning towards a circular economy.
- The **Ellen MacArthur Foundation** is launching **Circular Economy in Cities**, a suite of easily accessible online resources (urban policy instruments, city-led case studies) for pioneering cities to be disseminated globally.

## About the lead

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**Dorte Nielsen** is the Secretary General of EURO CITIES, where she coordinates the network's activities on the Urban Agenda for the EU and leads projects on sustainable urban mobility and green and smarter cities. She joined EURO CITIES in 2011 from the Greater London Authority's EU office, previously worked at the Secretariat General of the European Commission and has a particular interest in citizen engagement and participation.



**EUROCITIES** is the network of major European cities. Its members are the elected local and municipal governments of major European cities. EURO CITIES was founded in 1986 and now brings together the local governments of more than 140 of Europe's largest cities and over 45 partner cities, who between them govern 130 million citizens across 39 countries. The EURO CITIES circular economy task force, led by the city of Amsterdam aims to facilitate the sharing of knowledge between cities with the pursue of speeding the transition to circular economy.

**Want to keep the conversation going? Contribute your good practice on [circulareconomy.europa.eu](https://circulareconomy.europa.eu), join the online forum or drop us a line: [CEStakeholderEU@eesc.europa.eu](mailto:CEStakeholderEU@eesc.europa.eu)**

