

The EU Circular Economy Act should boost the sustainable material cycles and create well functioning markets for recycled materials

The EU Commission is currently preparing a new Circular Economy Act. It will be published in 2026. DG ENV is in charge of preparing the Act. It will be based on an impact assessment and after that there will be a public consultation.

The basis for the Act is to reduce the dependency on other countries when it comes to raw materials, especially critical raw materials. The purpose is also to look at how different actions in Circular Economy support the industry's transformation from fossil based virgin materials to circular and biobased materials. The Commission will also look into strengthening the markets for recycled materials. One possible option is to place measures on public procurement. Also the investors' trust in Circular Economy needs to be supported, and good examples of well functioning Circular Economy business cases need to be showcased.

Chemical Industry Views:

- The Chemical Industry is an important sector in advancing Circular Economy and reducing dependencies on raw materials. Different solutions based on recycled materials and sustainable carbon cycles need to be introduced.
- The Commission should change its whole way of thinking, from waste to raw materials. The Waste Framework Directive and waste hierarchy should cease to exist in the long run. The use of recycled materials should be made easier and based on risk analysis.
- In different measures concerning Circular Economy, cascade use and the efficient use of side streams should be encouraged.
- The Commission should create a roadmap for the creation of a well functioning market based on recycled materials. The impact assessment should cover a range of different legislation, for example ESPR, PPWR ja ETS.

Timeline

2026

Additional information

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