



**ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT**

The Minister

European Commission
First Vice President Frans Timmermans
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

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Consultation on Circular Economy

The green transition represents opportunities for improved productivity, more efficient and healthy local communities and cities as well as low carbon development. Norway therefore welcomes the Commission's public consultation on circular economy. The EU and Norway share the same vision to develop a greener and more circular economy and to enhance competitiveness. We support a broad and holistic approach to the circular economy based on result achieved in other international processes. We will build on policy results from COP 21, the Sustainable Development Goals and Financing for Development, and we will use the momentum to contribute to further development of low carbon economies.

On 16 June 2015, the Norwegian government appointed a commission to analyse and propose policies and means to enhance green competitiveness and green transition in Norway. The commission will submit its conclusions and recommendations by October 2016.

Norway has a long tradition of using national policy targets combined with regulations, economic incentives, information and extended producer responsibility schemes. A transition towards a circular economy depends on our ability to deliver in terms of those political measures. Norway will contribute to this transition at all levels, both through the development of common legislation and standards, the Horizon 2020 programme for research and innovation, business and trade, the EEA and Norway Grants and in other appropriate ways.

Norway has an ambitious chemicals policy and works together with likeminded countries in the EU to further develop the EU chemicals policy. This is also important for the circular economy. Transition to a more circular economy calls for the involvement of all economic sectors and improved policy integration and coherence. Norway welcomes a broad approach of identifying efficient measures which can promote sustainable production and consumption,

non-toxic material cycles and stimulates innovation and business opportunities. We are looking forward to seeing the contributions from Horizon 2020, especially "Societal Challenges" to strengthen research on circular economy, raising awareness of policy choices and gradually contributing to a greening of European economies.

Norway will participate both at political and at expert level in the further development of a circular economy in Europe. We look forward to the European Commission's policy proposals at the end of 2015.

Please find attached our views on some of the main issues, in addition to the formal consultation questionnaire.

Yours sincerely,


Tine Sundtoft

Copy:
Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska
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