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Event | 05.05.2026 | 15:00 - 18:30

REMADE IN EUROPE

HOW THE EU'S CIRCULAR ECONOMY CREATES JOBS AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

Europe still relies heavily on raw material imports and wasteful linear production models that harm our environment, weaken our economic resilience, leave our industries exposed to geopolitical shocks and destroy jobs.

But another model is already emerging across the continent.

From material reuse and repair to innovative recycling technologies, a new generation of industry, entrepreneurs, researchers and civil society actors is demonstrating that circular economy solutions can strengthen Europe's sovereignty and security while reducing waste, emissions and offer quality jobs.

As Greens/EFA policymakers, we work closely with these pioneers who are showing how circular business models can drive innovation, create local jobs and build a more resilient European economy. Yet for these solutions to scale, they need the right political framework. The upcoming Circular Economy Act is a key opportunity to ensure that Europe moves decisively towards a truly circular economy and redefines the notion of competitiveness around the respect for planetary boundaries and social rights.

On Tuesday, 5 May 2026, European policymakers, entrepreneurs, researchers and civil society leaders who are at the forefront of circular innovation met at the Circularium, a Brussels circular production and social innovation centre. The event was a mix of policy discussion around the Greens/EFA Group's reflections on the Circular Economy Act, and encounters with real-world circular economy businesses.







- **Photos of the day are available here and free to use**

- **Recording of the discussion is available here**

PROGRAMME

14:30 - 15:00 Registration, networking and opening of circular economy stands
15:00 - 15:05 Welcome and scene setting by Greens/EFA MEP **Sara Matthieu**
15:05 - 15:20 Keynote Speech: Objectives of the Circular Economy Policies

- **Janez Potočnik**, Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel, Partner at Systemiq, Former EU Commissioner for the Environment

15:20- 16:05 Panel Discussion - Rewriting the resource playbook: How circularity can make Europe geopolitically resilient

- **Heather Grabbe**, Senior Fellow, Bruegel
- **Arthur Corbin,** Cabinet Member of Executive Vice-President Stéphane Séjourné, European Commission
- **Sanna Markkanen**, Head of Policy Analysis at the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership and Main Author of *No Time to Waste: Driving the EU Resilience and Competitiveness through a Circular Economy*
- Moderation: Greens/EFA MEP **Rasmus Nordqvist**

16:05-16:35 Networking Break

- Demo of Resortecs ' Smart Disassembly™ equipment
- Pitch by - and Exploration of - the circular economy stands: TOMRA, IsoFabric, NOOSA, BC Material

16:35-16:45 Keynote Speech: Circular Economy in the Single Market for the Future

- **Philippe Pochet**, Professor at the College of Europe, Green European Foundation Fellow, Former General Director of the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)

16:45-17:30 Panel Discussion: From Niche to Norm: Scaling Circular Business Models Across European Industry

- **Mariana López Dávila**, Head of Circular Economy and Nature, the Environmental Coalition on Standards (ECOS)
- **Marie Castelli**, Head of Sustainability and Public Affairs, Back Market
- **Patrik Frisk**, CEO, REJU, and Founding Member of the European Circular Textile Coalition
- Moderation: Greens/EFA MEP **Anna Cavazzini**

17:30 - 18:30 Wrap up by Greens/EFA MEP **David Cormand** and cocktail along the circular economy stands

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Responsible MEPs



Anna Cavazzini

Member



David Cormand

Member



Sara Matthieu

Member



Rasmus Nordqvist

Member

Contact person



Stéphanie Lepczynski

Stakeholder Engagement Officer

Venue

Circularium Event Space
95 Chaussée de Mons
1070, Anderlecht
Brussels
METRO Clémenceau

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