

Key messages from split-up sessions



Production Phase

- Enabling framework (regulatory, finance) should accompany market drivers to foster more circular economy
- There is no one-size-fits-all solution to product design – need to recognise differences across materials and products
- Use better the existing framework (Ecodesign/GPP) to improve material efficiency through requirements on, e.g., reparability, durability and recyclability
- Quality standards are needed for secondary raw materials to increase their use

Markets for Secondary Raw Materials

- Value chain cooperation/agreements (incl. platforms), involving policy makers: matching demand and supply needs, providing online information about presence of recyclable materials in products (stocks and flows), and establishing transparent EPR schemes.
- Regulatory obstacles exist and are often sector specific ("one size does not fit all") : e.g. unclear (end-of-) waste/product status, lack of harmonised material quality standards.
- E-procedures by Member States needed to facilitate shipment of waste and materials and to improve traceability.

Consumption phase

- Existing EU instruments (Ecodesign, EU Ecolabel, EU Energy Label...) should address durability and reparability more systematically
- Repair should be facilitated via access to spare parts, repair services, repair information and manuals, promotion of local initiatives
- Demand for mandatory information on lifespan of products (if done correctly) and for improved and longer guarantees to drive durability of products

Materials and Chemicals

- Innovation and design for recyclability of materials and products: dismantability, "molecular recycling", progressive phase out of substances of concern (reparability!) under certain conditions
- Alignment of products, chemicals and waste legislation : risk assessment and management tools embedded in REACH and other products legislation; compatibility between waste legislation and chemical legislation including REACH.
- Promote traceability and information about substances of concern in virgin and recycled materials throughout value chain (database could be better than labelling).

Research, Innovation and Investment

- Boost innovation by combining ambitious vision, minimum standards, and market incentives; e.g. ensure high value use of bio-waste and resources
- Build trust between all stakeholders on basis of robust knowledge, co-designing solutions, convincing economics, and consistent policy
- Use the potential of innovative green public procurement and adaptive regulatory frameworks for systemic innovation

Waste complement to the legislative proposal

- Targets needed for legal certainty and to drive investment. Targets should cover the whole hierarchy and more waste streams (food, industrial, commercial). Landfill restriction measures needed while avoiding the creation of local over capacities
- Implementation/enforcement is key. Harmonised definitions/standards, improved statistics, traceability are needed. Separate collection is essential as well as supporting measures (public procurement, better design, awareness)
- Economic instruments are helping (green taxes, incentives, PAYT). Clear rules needed for extended producer responsibility.