



Mr Robrecht Bothuynne
Chairman of the Committee for
Economy, Work, Social Economy,
Science and Innovation

Brussels, 24 January 2024

Subject: Interparliamentary Conference on the Circular Economy of the Flemish
Parliament, Brussels, 17 and 18 March 2024

Dear Madam/Sir,

I hope to welcome you and all other participants from the national parliaments of the EU Member States and candidate countries, and from the European Parliament to the Interparliamentary Conference on Circular Economy on 17 and 18 March 2024 in Brussels. The Flemish Parliament organises this conference, which I have the honour of chairing, as part of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union.

On Sunday 17 March 2024, in the afternoon, we will visit a circular company in Flanders (Ekopak <https://ekopakwater.com/en/>). Afterwards, we can debate on our experiences and findings over dinner at 7 pm in De Daktuin, the rooftop restaurant of the Flemish Parliament.

On Monday 18 March 2024, the Interparliamentary Conference will take place in the premises of the Flemish Parliament. The welcoming speech by the Chairwoman of the Committee on Foreign Policy, European Affairs, International Cooperation and Tourism will be followed by introductory speeches by the European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries and by the Flemish Minister for the Economy, Innovation, Work and Social Economy, who will chair the Council for Competitiveness Council for Industry during the Belgian Presidency.

We subsequently get a detailed presentation by a change manager from Circulair Flanders (public-private partnership) on how to stimulate and promote circular economy, and the role government, the private sector and civil society can play in it. The importance of involving all sectors of society in the evolution towards a circular economy and facilitating its roll-out will also be discussed.

After a coffee break, several companies will present their best practices. We chose an SME, a large company, a collaboration between a large company and several SMEs, and a circular hub connecting social economy with circular entrepreneurship in the 'mainstream' economy.

After lunch, we will launch a debate in which all attendees can participate. The debate is structured around four propositions we believe to be important for the future of the circular economy in the European Union. We hope it will be a lively discussion with a lot of input from the different participants, as to enrich our knowledge with experiences and comments from the other EU member states.

We also propose a Flemish Parliament resolution on the future of circular economy, which we intend to address to the next European Commission as part of the political dialogue. We will conclude our work with a farewell reception.

We have prepared an exciting and interesting programme for you all, and are looking forward to welcoming you to our Interparliamentary Conference on 17 and 18 March 2024.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned below the text 'With best regards,'.

Robrecht Bothuyne
Chairman of the Committee for Economy,
Work, Social Economy, Science
and Innovation