

## SOCIETAL KEYNOTE SPEECH

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Environmental protection is a priority for 95% of European citizens. The Circular Economy is both a solution for environmental protection and an opportunity to create Jobs, Growth and Investment in Industry.

At EU level, this has already meant since 2016:

- 650 M€ contribution to H2020 R&D projects for Circular Economy
- 2.400 M€ EIB credits to Circular Economy projects.
- 10 one to one green green business partnership events abroad (with Chile, China, South Africa, Colombia, India, Japan, Indonesia, Mexico, Singapore, Malaysia)

The example of plastics is powerful with a combination of goal setting, private actions, public support and international cooperation. By 2030:

- All plastics packaging will be reusable or recyclable
- > 50% of plastic waste will be recycled
- Sorting & recycling capacity will be X 4 (vs. 2015).

Beyond plastics, EU companies by embracing the circular economy strategy, can be the big winners saving 600 billion euros per year, reducing emissions up to 4% and creating the jobs of the future. EU standards can become global standards.

### **SPEAKER**

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