

## Partnership on Circular Economy

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> of May, 2019

**Place:** Brussels

The Partnership on Circular Economy, who met in Brussels on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2019, would like to make the following joint statement to highlight the potential of the Partnership on Circular Economy to help cities in a transition towards a circular economy.

We recognise that the Urban Agenda for the EU, established by the *Pact of Amsterdam* and agreed at the Informal Meeting of the EU Ministers responsible for Urban Matters in May 2016, aims to promote cooperation between all levels of governance in order to achieve a sustainable, socially inclusive, innovative and economically powerful Europe.

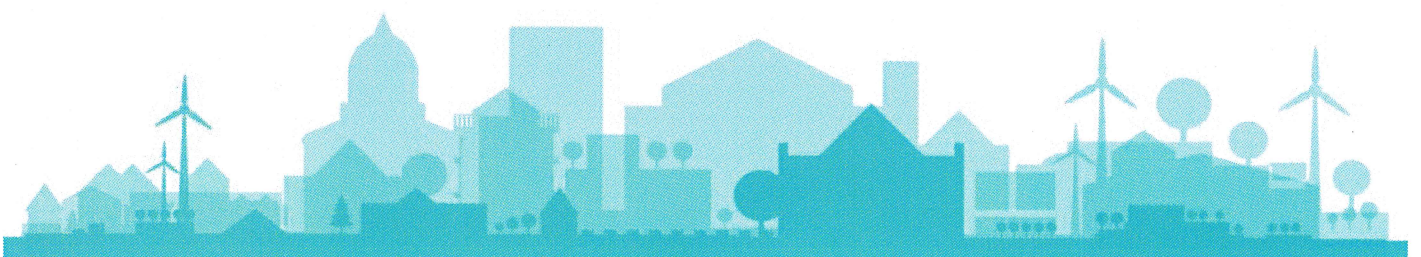
The Urban Agenda for the EU focuses specifically on three pillars of EU policy making and implementation:

- Better regulation
- Better funding
- Better knowledge exchange

We:

Underline the importance of the Urban Agenda for the EU as a promising tool in fostering the urban dimension in policies on city, regional, member state and European level, and wish this to be better recognised in policy making.

Emphasise that the partnership approach, based on a fair participation of all levels of governance, enriched by the expertise of relevant stakeholders, demonstrates a proven added value by reflecting and respecting the interests and the needs of the different actors actively involved in developing a circular economy across Europe.



Acknowledge that cities are essential in the transition towards a circular economy. 70 % of all European citizens live in cities where they produce and consume goods and services. Without active participation by cities, enterprises and citizens, the expected transition will not take place.

The Partnership for Circular Economy aims to promote a transition towards a circular economy in European cities. In this regard, the Partnership has put forward 12 actions, aimed at helping cities overcome barriers for cities in their circular transition. As high-level and leading representatives of the Partnership, we strongly recommend the responsible governance levels to look into the recommendations given in the actions regarding:

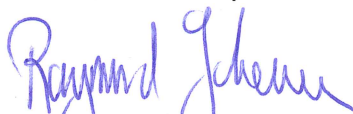
**Better regulation:** The Partnership has identified several barriers in the existing regulations for optimal use of raw materials, including secondary, from waste, bio-waste and waste water and search for solutions to these barriers. We strongly recommend all levels of Government from European to city level to start the process of adapting a regulatory framework to the principles of a circular economy.

**Better funding:** To facilitate access to financing, the Partnership is preparing a Circular City Funding Guide that will provide information on resources for both fund-seekers and fund-providers. Moreover, the Partnership strongly recommends the EU Member States and Regions to use the possibilities provided by the EU Cohesion Policy 2021-2027 regulatory framework in order to mainstream circular economy in their programming by using relevant options, where appropriate.

**Better knowledge exchange:** There is a huge need for developing and sharing knowledge for cities in the transition towards a circular economy. The Partnership has started 7 different actions to narrow these gaps. A common factor among these actions is the need for cities to exchange knowledge and learn from best practices. In addition, a circular economy creates new challenges for all governance levels in developing strategies, indicators and governing tools. The partnership underlines the need for supporting research along the value chain for all materials, helping industries, citizens and cities to design and take better decisions.

Through a successful completion of all actions under the Partnership, and with the support of all relevant stakeholders across the EU, we will strive to continue to develop the role of cities as cradles and catalysts of their circular transition while improving the welfare of our citizens.

On behalf of the partnership,



Raymond Johansen  
Governing Mayor City of Oslo,  
Coordinating City, Urban Agenda Partnership on Circular Economy