



Belgian One
Health Network

Circular Economy

Useful inputs for the discussion
(incl. those from the preparatory workshop)

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6 Priorities of the EU Commission (2019-2024)

1. A Europe fit for the digital age (strategy) : **new technologies**
2. A stronger Europe in the world: serve as an example
3. Promoting our European way of life: rule of law, regulations
4. A new push for European **democracy**: participation
5. An economy that works for **people**: **jobs** for the youth, **SME's**
6. A European '**Green Deal**' : **first CO2-neutral** continent



Ursula Von der Leyen Press Statement 11/12/2019 (Verbatim)

- A very special day: the College of Commissioners agreed on the EU Green Deal
- It is, on one hand, our vision for a **climate-neutral continent by 2050** and, on the other hand a very **dedicated roadmap to this goal, with 50 actions** for 2050.
- Our goal is to **reconcile the economy with our planet**, to reconcile the way we **produce** and **consume** with our **planet** and to **make it work for our people**.
- It is, on one hand, about **cutting emissions** but on the other hand about creating **jobs** and boosting **innovation**.
- I am convinced that **the old growth model (based on fossil fuels and pollution) is out of date** and out of touch with our planet.
- The EU Green Deal is **our new growth strategy**, a strategy for growth that **gives more back than it takes away**.
- We want really to make things different and to be the **front runners** in **climate-friendly industries, in clean technologies, in green financing**.



Ursula Von der Leyen Press Statement 11/12/2019 (2)

- But we also have to be sure that **no one is left behind**. This transition will either be working for all and be just or not work at all. Therefore the crucial part of the '**just transition mechanism**': We have the ambition to mobilize **100 billion euros** precisely targeted to the most vulnerable regions and sectors.
- The EGD is a **broad road map**: we care also about **biodiversity, forests, agriculture, food, green cities, circular economy**.
- We do not have all the answers yet. Today is the **start of a journey** but this is Europe's '**man on the moon**' moment.
- The EGD is **very ambitious BUT** it will also be **very careful** in **assessing the impact** and every single step we are taking.
- The EDG is an **invitation for all to participate**. **European citizens are changing their lifestyle to protect the climate and the planet**. Therefore, our EGD tells them that Europe is at their side.
- We **owe the EGD to our children** because we do not own **this planet**. We just do have for certain time a responsibility and **now is time to act**.

1. TURNING AN URGENT CHALLENGE INTO A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

2.1. Designing a set of deeply transformative policies

2. Transforming the EU's economy for a sustainable future



Mobilising research and fostering innovation 2.2.3.

A zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment 2.1.8.

Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity 2.1.7.

From 'Farm to Fork': a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system 2.1.6.

Accelerating the shift to sustainable and smart mobility 2.1.5.

2.1.1. Increasing the EU's Climate ambition for 2030 and 2050

2.1.2. Supplying clean, affordable and secure energy

2.1.3. Mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy

2.1.4. Building and renovating in an energy and resource efficient way

2.2.2. Greening National Budgets

2.2.1. Financing the transition

2.2.5. Leave no one behind (Just Transition)

2.2.4. Activating education and training

3 The EU as a global leader

2.2. Mainstreaming sustainability in all EU policies

4 A European Climate Pact A time to act - together



Preparatory meeting of 9/9/2021

The stakeholders:

- **Present:** Federal administration, Academics,...
- **Missing:** recycling sector, Regions, Unions

Definitions:

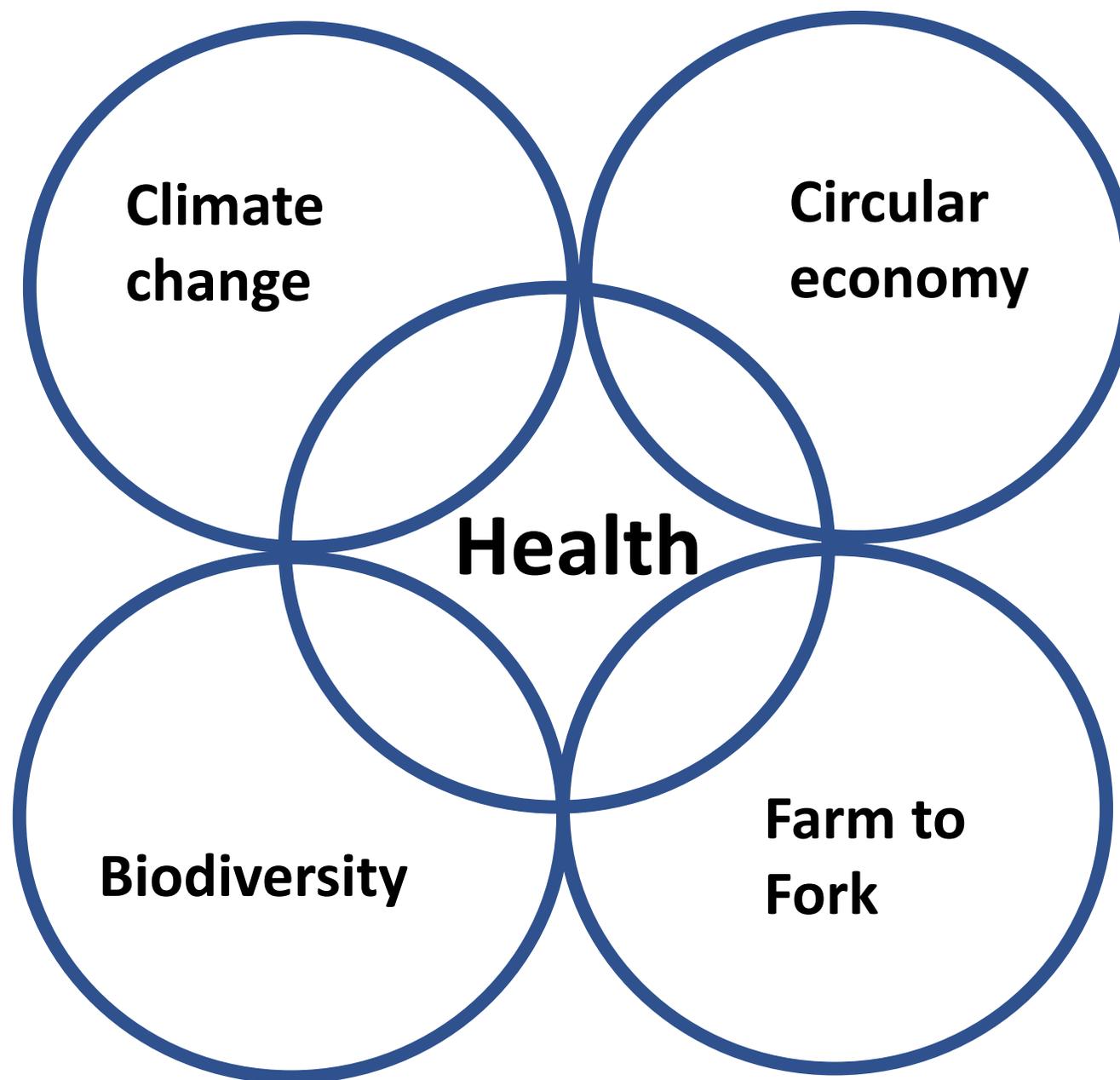
*A circular economy is an economic system of closed loops in which raw materials, components and products lose their value as little as possible, **renewable energy sources** are used and systems thinking is at the core.*

*Circular economy is about taking care of the **natural capital**, maintaining **products and materials at their highest application level** while minimizing their **environmental** and **health** impact*

Obvious links between the 4 domains identified by the BEOH-network

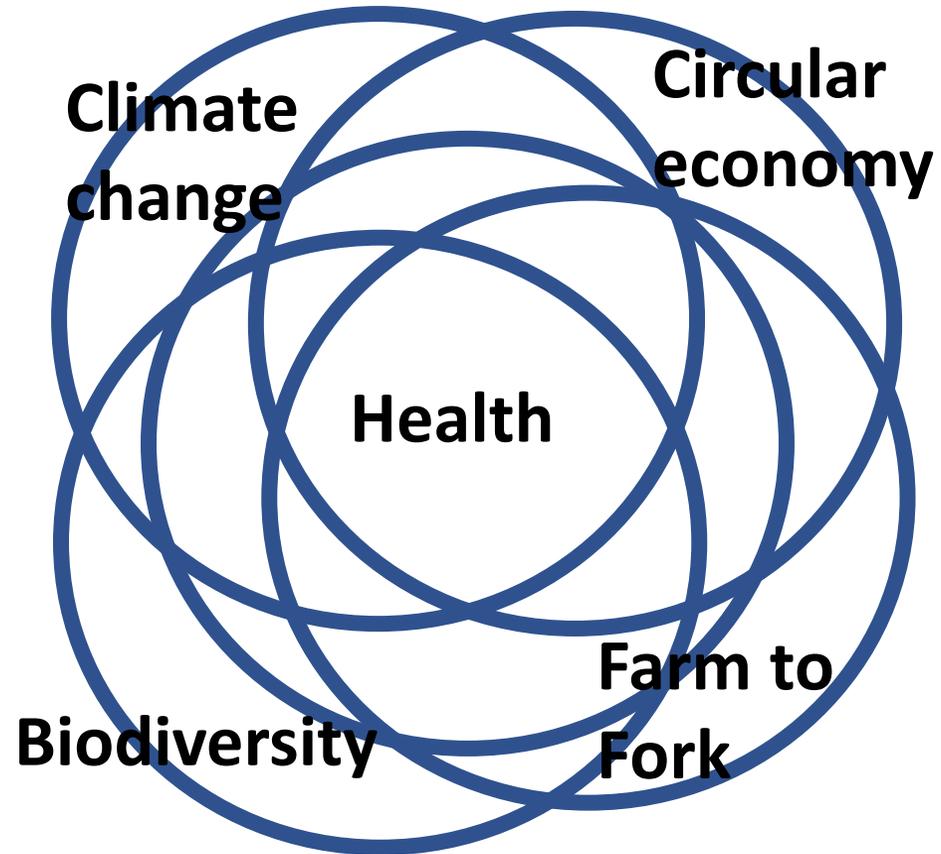


BEOH : Health + 4 topics (1)





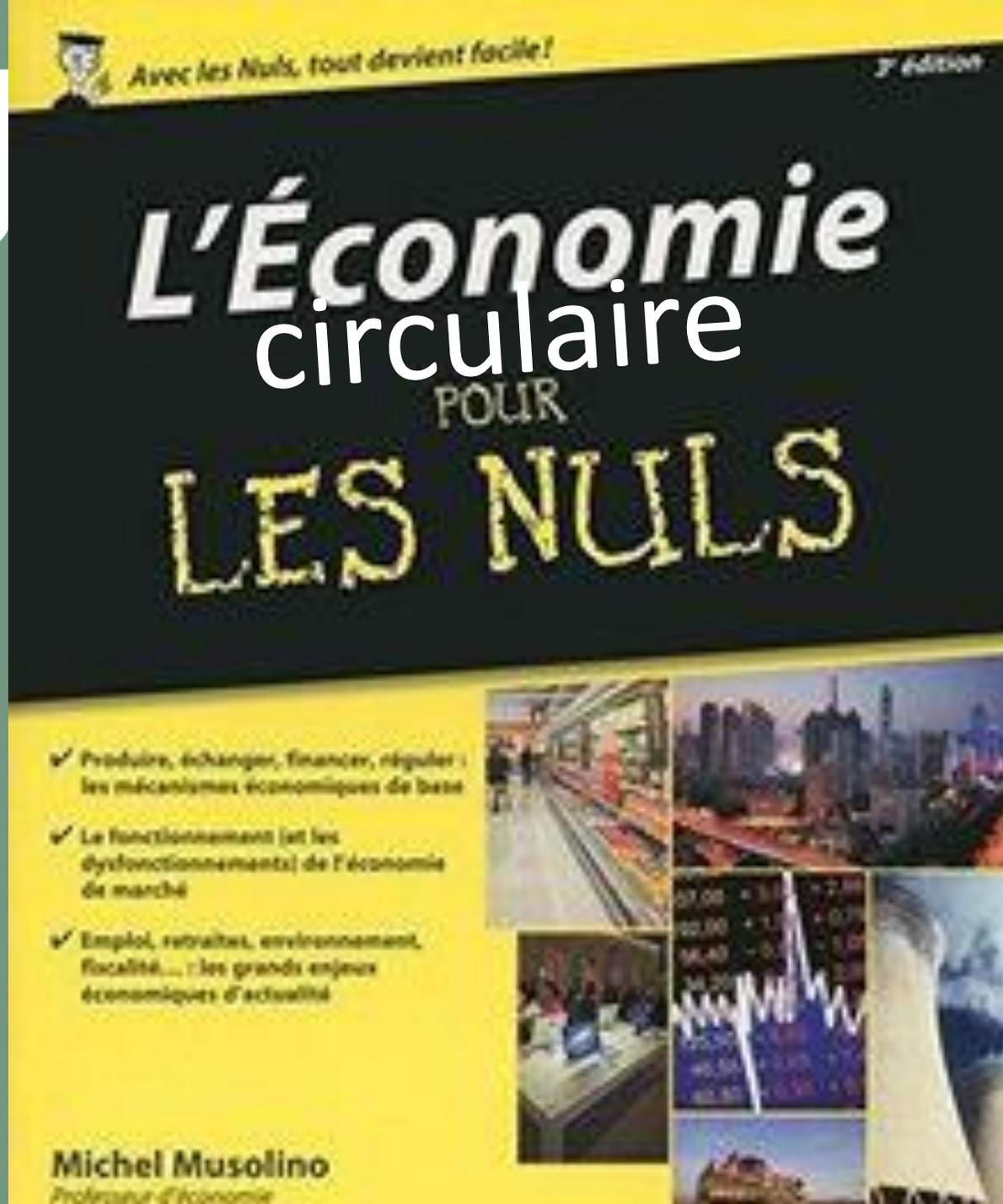
BEOH : Health + 4 topics (2)





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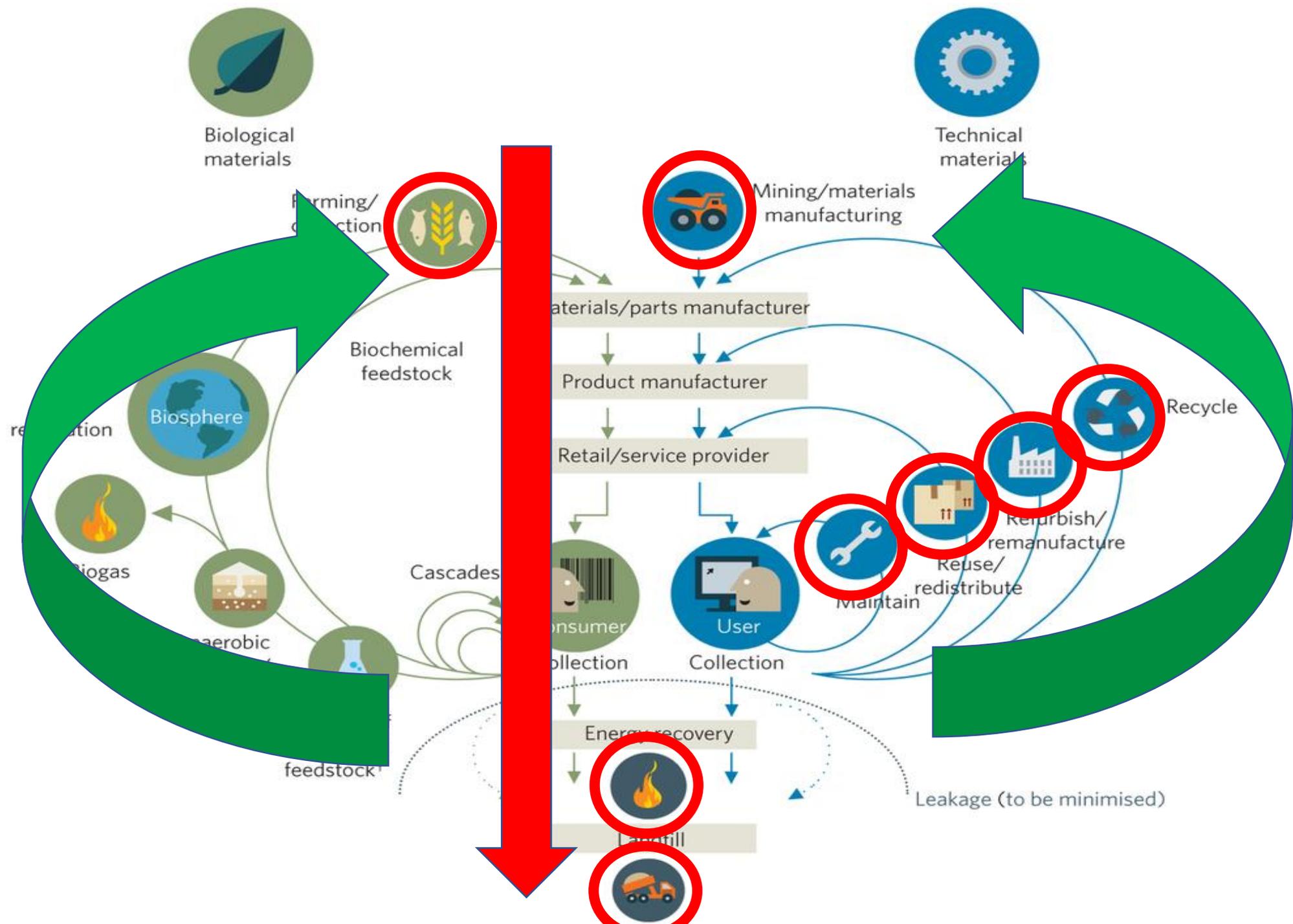


A few 'basics'
about
Circular
Economy!

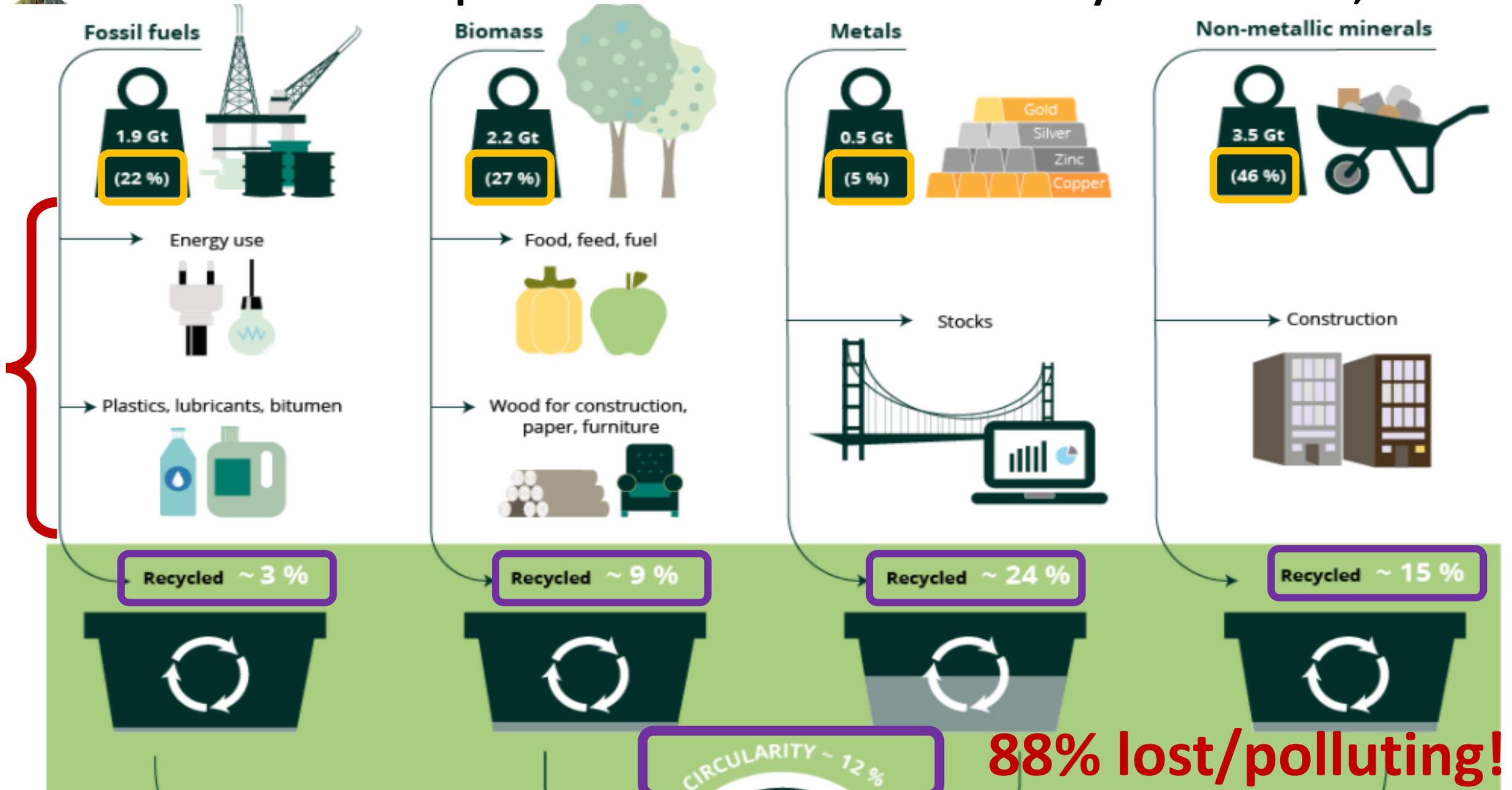


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Schematic representation of limits of circularity in the EU-27, 2019



Global material use

Material demand per capita, Material productivity

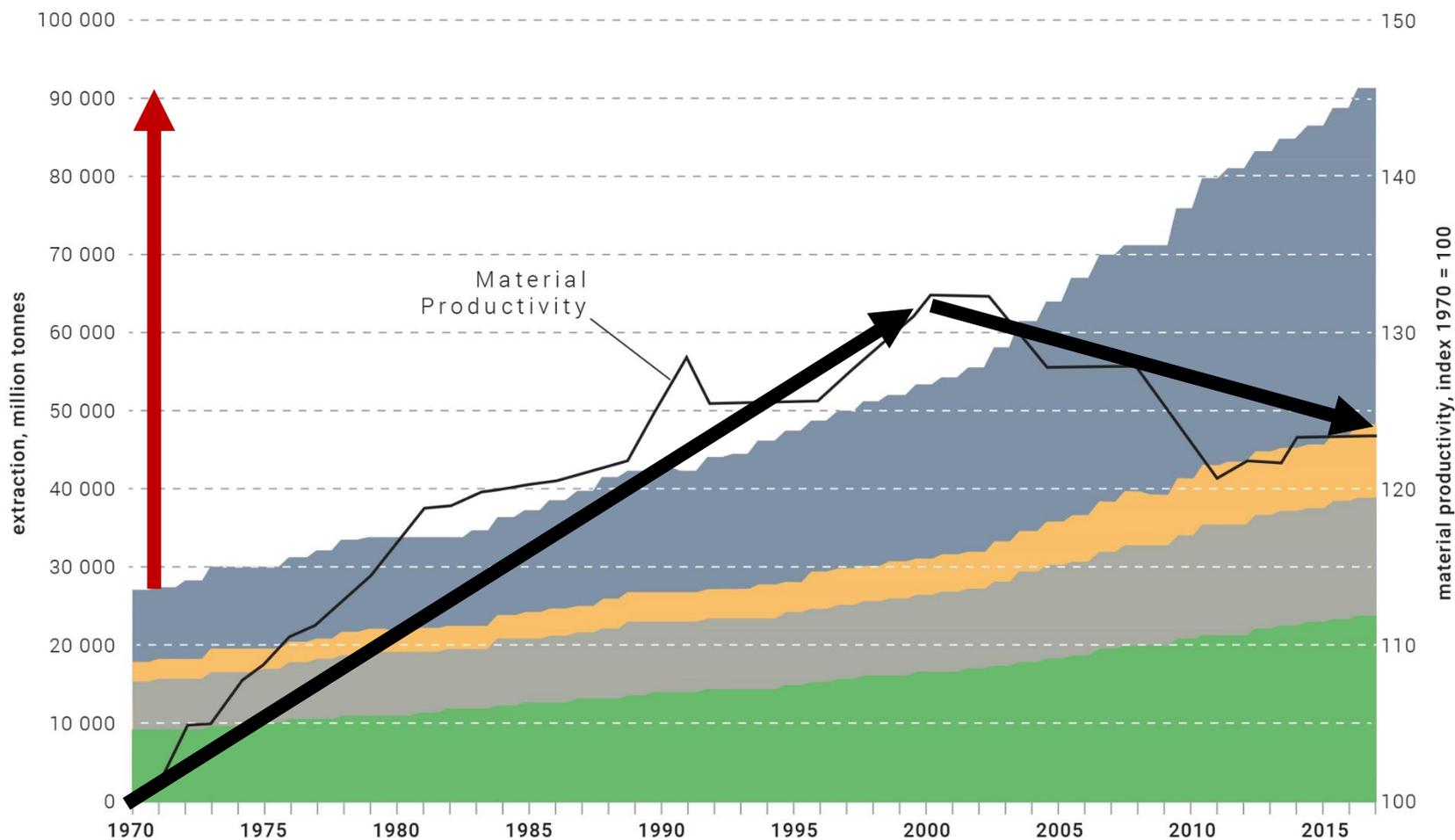


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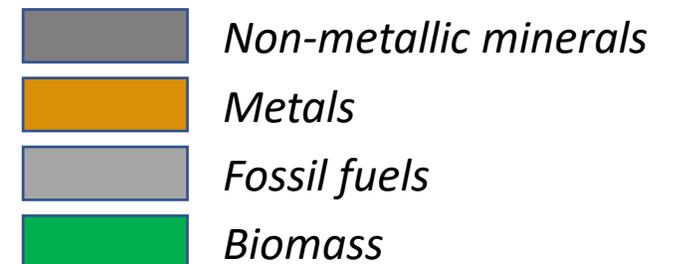


International
Resource
Panel

Global material extraction and material productivity, 1970 - 2017



- *Global material use* has more than tripled since 1970
- *Global material demand per capita* grew from 7.4 tons in 1970 to 12.2 tons per capita in 2017
- *Material productivity* started to decline around 2000 and has stagnated in the recent years





Un problème de ressources, pas juste d'énergie



Minerais de moins en moins concentrés



Extraction des matières premières requérant toujours plus d'énergie

Production d'énergie requérant toujours plus de matières premières



Energie toujours moins accessible





what do the others need to be aware of? (1)

- More generally, we need to accept and **anticipate that materials and products should be 100% circular**, that **CE is not always energy efficient nor possible indefinitely**, that CE is not an end but a means/tool to attain a sustainable and fair society.
→ leads to discuss ‘prevent’, ‘dematerialize’ and ‘sufficiency’
- CE definition needs to be broadened to include not only extracted/produced materials but also all goods that can be managed into a circular economy process. For instance, land use fits the CE process, where used lands/grounds/soils need to be reused before using new lands.
- CE requires to improve all steps of value chain and especially by shifting to **intelligent/smart design** so that all products are designed to optimize their **capacity to be repaired, reused, collected, and recycled**.



what do the others need to be aware of? (2)

- Intensify **CE public procurement** and sensibilization to boost CE consumption (consumer awareness)
- Expand the **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**
- **Ban certain “linear” products** and materials (the worst ones, like fossil material) to stimulate new markets
- **Tax virgin materials** and products and invest that CE innovation and subsidies to close gaps
- Create **new business models** (e.g., renting high quality products instead of owning)
- Promote **R&D for substitution** of hazardous chemicals; **traceability and detection** of risky substances; ‘cleaning ‘old’ contaminated waste.



Federal measures to support Circular Economy (1)

A. 'Belgium builds back circular' (EU recovery plan)

- Funding of private/public/research projects concerning **Ecodesign** and **replacing dangerous chemical** substances
- Creating **awareness** and give information to SMEs about circular economy to support and speed-up transition



Federal measures to support Circular Economy (2)

B. BE pilot for future EU legislative proposals

1. Sustainable Product Initiative (SPI)

- Coverage of a wide range of products.
- Integration of essential requirements (via **norms/standards**) related to product circularity: durability, repairability, upgrading, reuse of components, recycling of materials, ...
- In or next to the SPI : increasing the recycled content, reducing single-use products, product passport, prohibiting the destruction of unsold products, ...

2. Legislative initiative on the substantiation of environmental claims (PEF/OEF)

3. Revision of existing legislations

Batteries, ELV, RoHS, packaging, ...



Federal measures to support Circular Economy (3)

C. Federal plan of Circular Economy

1. Stimulate circular products and services

- Improvement of design of certain products to improve re-use or recycling.
- Introduction of an Repairability index
- Availability of information about software compatibility
- System of certificates concerning recycled content

2. Promote circularity in production methods

- Support and stimulate the development of circular economy models by facilitating the access to intellectual property of inventions
- Support the development of a digital system to trace material streams in the EU



Federal measures to support Circular Economy (4)

3. Support the role of consumers and procurement services

- Introducing product norms to support claims about repairability and reuseability
- Awareness raising campaign: SCP and CE
- Improve knowledge about Green Deal circular procurements

4. Ensure the necessary incentives and instruments

- Identifying, financing and execution of projects related to circular economy

5. Support the roles of employees in transition

- Education, restructuring of companies in a socially responsible way

6. Evaluate the proceedings

- Long term strategy to monitor the transition to circular economy

Regions: have been consulted; have their own circular economy plans



Regional measures to support Circular Economy

A. Flemish region – Vlaanderen Circulair

- Building circular → closed water, energy and material streams, investments in design and renovation of buildings
- Circularity in chemistry and synthetics
- Circularity in textile
- Circularity in electronics
- Bio-economy
- Ecological and sustainable foodchain (Farm2Fork)

More info: <https://www.vlaanderen-circulair.be/>



Regional measures to support Circular Economy

B. Walloon region

10 ambitions translated into + 60 measures in the following sectors:

- Waste prevention and management
- Novalia → financing of Innovation and Energy Transition
- Next → Reverse metallurgy
- Circular economy cheques
- Green Deal circular purchases for organisations and enterprises

More info: <https://economiecirculaire.wallonie.be/>



Regional measures to support Circular Economy

C. Brussels Region – Be Circular (2016-2020)

- Transform environmental goals into economic opportunities
- Economy in Brussels: produce locally, reduce traffic, optimize usage of territory and create added value for residents
- More jobs

111 transversal, sectorial and territorial measures, as well as measures concerning governance.

More info: <https://www.circulareconomy.brussels/>