

A pledge for a zero waste Europe

In view of the upcoming 2019 European elections, we commit to pioneer circularity measures during the 2019-2024 mandate.

During the last one, ambitious decisions were taken with the adoption of the Circular Economy Package and the EU Plastics Strategy. Yet, circularity is far from being a reality when the European Union is only 12% circular. The EU needs to finish what it started.

Millions of Europeans have been protesting in the streets to claim a more sustainable society. We can witness that individuals all around Europe are embracing Zero Waste solutions despite a system that is still rewarding and facilitating wasteful practices.

We commit to put in place the measures to make a Zero Waste Circular Economy come true, and we call on all European parties and elected individuals to join the pledge.

The Europe we want is one that preserves valuable resources whilst generating local jobs, increasing the resilience of our communities and standing up for environmental justice.

FOR THIS REASON, WE PLEDGE TO:

TO PUT PREVENTION AT THE FOREFRONT OF EU POLICIES, TO FIGHT WASTE AND TOXICS GENERATION BY:

- Setting a range of EU-wide waste prevention policies, including targets to reduce single-use plastic packaging and food waste.
- Creating a new legislative framework to support the development of new, waste-free business models.
- Turning the current Common Agricultural Policy into a Common Food Policy that looks at food systems holistically and allows for the reduction of food waste (required by the SDG 12.3).

TO SET IN MOTION THE NECESSARY MECHANISMS TO CLOSE THE LOOP OF MATERIALS AND NUTRIENTS IN EUROPE BY:

- Implementing the EU Circular Economy and Plastic Strategy with proper enforcement of the EU obligations Creating a new legislative framework to support the development of new, waste-free business models.
- Enlarging the scope and efficiency of ecodesign and Extended Producer Responsibility schemes, to incentivise producers to design their products for circularity
- Developing a stricter policy for food contact material that reduces our exposure to toxics in products

TO REDUCE THE LEAKAGE OUT OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY BY:

- Stopping EU subsidies and economic incentives for the construction of landfills and incinerators and redirect EU funding to prevention, reuse and recycling Creating a new legislative framework to support the development of new, waste-free business models.
- Factoring in the negative impact that waste treatments have in fighting climate change and ensuring that climate policies include the positive impact of investments and actions upstream.

SIGNATURES:

