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Marius Vaščega Head of Cabinet Sinkevičius

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Discussion:

████████ explained the split of HP into 2 companies 4 years ago, with HP Enterprise (HPE) focusing on B2B (AI, edge computing, data centres and servers etc). They recently acquired Cray Supercomputers. The sister company (HP) produces consumer electronic devices. They had since the 1990s had a "Design for Environment" programme focusing on material and energy efficiency.

The impact of their products is 60% in the use phase (the inverse of consumer electronic devices which are 60% in production and waste) and only 0.1% at end-of-life. They have two repurposing centres for dismantling and remanufacturing of their hardware (and that of other companies), one in the USA and the other in Scotland (Erskine). They claim to remanufacture 89% and recycle 10% of the materials. The main obstacle they face is cross-border transportation.

They aim at selling all their hardware "as a service" by 2023. Public procurement is increasingly OPEX (operating expenditure) rather than CAPEX (capital expenditure), but needs to become more green, and this will require awareness raising particularly in regions. Increasingly procurers ask them for an Ecovadis sustainability rating and this works well, with a very robust methodology.

████████ noted the need for a common and agreed business approach to LCA, which must be data-driven. HPE equipment uses large amounts of energy, mostly linked to cooling. They develop better conductors than traditional copper to help. Data centres will account for 50% of Swiss energy consumption by 2035, but the Power-Use-Effectiveness (PUE) index is not adequate to measure this any more. They have therefore developed with the Swiss government and other partners the "Swiss Data Centre Efficiency Label" (just launched at Davos). It will be open-source.
HPE will organise a conference on circular economy and climate change in Brussels before the summer and will invite the Commissioner.

The CEO of HPE is co-chairing the French government's "Tech for Environment" group (next meeting on 10th June), launched by the FR Minister of Environment and the Secretary of State for Digital.

Responding to interest in the up-coming Green Deal initiatives, Mr. Vaščega explained the sectoral approach to be taken by the CEAP.

████████ explained the intention to link Digital Strategy, Industrial Strategy and CEAP, with attention to (1) enabling CE through digital, (2) greening ICT and (3) digital for environment policy. He noted that B2B is often well ahead of B2C in CE, and invited further identification of obstacles to remanufacturing. He explained the PEF methodology, which is based on sectoral engagement in the process. He referred the visitors to the GPP criteria for data centres. He mentioned the interest of the German environment ministry in pursuing a digital for sustainability agenda.

Follow-up
- HPE will invite Commissioner to their conference in spring 2020

- HPE may provide input on digital aspects of Circular

Kind regards