



**Frans TIMMERMANS**  
First Vice-President of the European Commission

**Jyrki KATAINEN**  
Vice-President of the European Commission

Brussels, **24 JUL. 2019**

Dear Honourable Member,

We would like to thank you for having shared with us the GLOBE EU's recommendations on accelerating the transition to a circular economy in the EU, as well as for your constructive cooperation with the Commission in the preparation and implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan.

As underlined in the 'Reflection Paper "Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030", the Commission shares your view that circular economy is a long-term trend, which will contribute importantly to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We fully acknowledge the untapped potential of the circular economy to protect Europe's natural capital, to strengthen its industrial base and to enhance the circularity of biological cycles acting along the food value chain and beyond. Circular economy is also key for realising our mid-century vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate-neutral economy. The Commission understands that these transformations will require structured collaboration and remains committed to keep working across departments.

In this context, we would also like to assure you that the Commission is committed to the timely and effective implementation of the EU waste legislation, the European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy and the Action Plan on Financing Sustainable Growth. We would also like to stress that circular economy is an important part of the European Commission's proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework, in particular for Horizon Europe, the 2021-2027 framework programme for research and innovation.

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*The Commission welcomes your interest in addressing the sustainability of sectors such as food, buildings, textiles and finance, which could benefit from an integrated approach, similar to the one proposed with the Plastics Strategy. This is in line with the Commission's views expressed most recently in the Reflection Paper "Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030" and in the report on the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan.*

*At its meeting in Brussels on 20 June 2019, the European Council recognised the importance of circular economy when moving forward, having underlined in the strategic agenda for the EU for 2019-2024 that the success of the green transition ahead of us will depend, among other things on having an effective circular economy.*

*The development of a new action plan with concrete measures will fall under the responsibilities of the new Commission and the GLOBE EU's recommendations offer a very valuable input in this context.*

*We look forward to continuing our fruitful cooperation and putting the EU economy onto a circular path.*

*Yours faithfully,*



Frans Timmermans



Jyrki Katainen