

**April 2018**

*Unlike a traditional linear economy based on a 'take-make-consume-throw away' pattern, a circular economy is based on sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling in an almost closed loop. In practice, it also implies reducing waste to a minimum. Although moving towards a circular economy could deliver benefits, it also poses challenges. In December 2015, the European Commission presented a circular economy package containing an action plan for the circular economy mapping out a series of actions planned for the coming years, as well as four legislative proposals on waste containing targets for landfill, reuse and recycling. The four legislative proposals are now close to adoption.*

### **Circular economy package – four legislative proposals on waste**

*'EU legislation in progress' briefing by Didier Bourguignon, 2018*

This briefing analyses the four legislative proposals on waste tabled by the European Commission in December 2015. The proposals introduce new waste-management targets regarding reuse, recycling and landfilling to be met by 2030, as a first step towards a more circular economy. More generally, they aim to better implement the waste hierarchy and to improve the quality of data available. Although waste management in the EU has improved considerably in recent decades, over a quarter of municipal waste is still landfilled and less than half is recycled or composted, with wide variations between Member States.

### **Closing the loop – new circular economy package**

*Briefing by Didier Bourguignon, January 2016*

This briefing analyses the action plan for the circular economy published by the European Commission in December 2015. In addition, it lays out opportunities associated with the transition to a more circular economy (such as reduced pressures on the environment, enhanced security of supply of raw materials, increased competitiveness, innovation, growth and jobs) as well as challenges (such as financing, key economic enablers, skills, consumer behaviour and business models, and multi-level governance).

### **Understanding waste streams – treatment of specific waste**

*Briefing by Didier Bourguignon, July 2015*

Waste streams are flows of specific waste, from its source through to recovery, recycling or disposal. They can be divided into two broad types: streams made of materials (such as metals, glass, paper, plastics or bio-waste) and streams made of certain products (such as packaging, electronic waste, batteries or end-of-life vehicles). The briefing assesses a number of aspects related to specific waste streams: sources of waste to be treated and uses of treated waste, applicable recycling and recovery methods, specific opportunities and challenges in particular related to recycling, and applicable European Union legislation and its implementation.

### **Further reading**

#### **Circular economy – revision of waste legislation: Implementation Appraisal**

*Briefing by Gertrud Malmersjö, March 2016*

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## [Review of the EU waste management targets – 'Circular Economy Package': Initial Appraisal of a European Commission Impact Assessment](#)

Briefing by *Samuele Dossi*, January 2016

## [Chemicals and the circular economy: Dealing with substances of concern](#)

Briefing by *Didier Bourguignon*, October 2017

## [Plastics in a circular economy: Opportunities and challenges](#)

Briefing by *Didier Bourguignon*, May 2017

## [Understanding waste management: Policy challenges and opportunities](#)

Briefing by *Didier Bourguignon*, June 2015

## [Valorisation énergétique des déchets: Opportunités et défis](#)

Briefing by *Didier Bourguignon*, April 2015

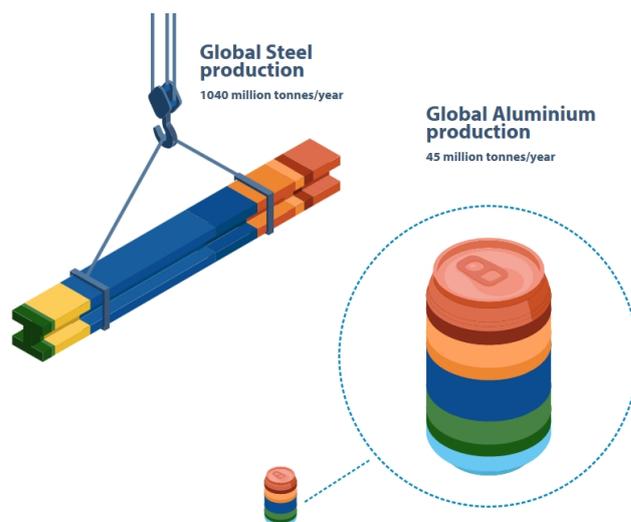
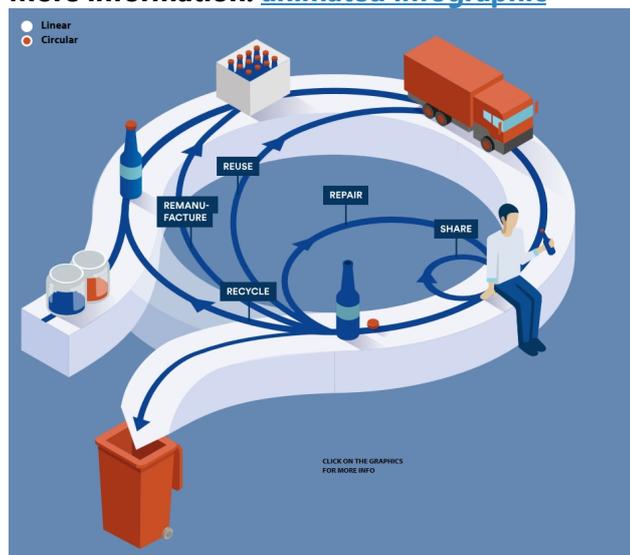
## [Turning waste into a resource – Moving towards a 'circular economy'](#)

Briefing by *Didier Bourguignon*, December 2014

## [Tackling food waste: The EU's contribution to a global issue](#)

Briefing by *Ivana Katsarova*, November 2016

### More information: [animated infographic](#)



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