DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure

on monitoring framework for the circular economy

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on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
B8-0000/2018

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on monitoring framework for the circular economy (2018/0000(RSP))

The European Parliament,

– having regard to Article 3 (5) and Article 21 (2) of the Treaty on the European Union,

– having regard to the Commission communication of 16 January 2018, COM (2018) 29 final, on a monitoring framework for the circular economy,

– having regard to the Commission communication of 2 December 2015, COM (2015) 614 final, Closing the loop - An EU action plan for the Circular Economy,

– having regard to the Commission communication of 2 July 2014, COM (2014) 398 final, Towards a circular economy: A zero waste programme for Europe,

– having regard to the Commission communication of 20 September 2011, COM (2011) 571 final, Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe,


– having regard to the report of the European Environment Agency, No 2/2016, Circular economy in Europe, developing the knowledge base,

– having regard to the report of the European Environment Agency, No 10/2016, More from less — material resource efficiency in Europe,


– having regard to the report of the UNEP International Resource Panel, UNEP (2017) Resource Efficiency: Potential and Economic Implications,

– having regard to the question to the Commission on the Report on a monitoring framework for the circular economy (O-000000/2018 – B8-0000/2018),

– having regard to the question to the Council on the Report on a monitoring framework for the circular economy (O-000000/2018 – B8-0000/2018),

– having regard to the motion for a resolution of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety,
having regard to Rules 128(5) and 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas Circular Economy is an economy where the value of products, materials and resources are maintained in the economy for as long as possible and the generation of waste is minimised; presenting an approach to address increasing scarcity of resources and environmental pressures linked to the current more linear economic model;

B. whereas the Commission in its communication recognises the importance of the monitoring framework as a basis for setting new priorities towards the long-term objective of a circular economy;

C. whereas the proposed set of indicators grouped in four stages and aspects of the circular economy are limited to production and consumption, waste management, secondary raw materials and competitiveness and innovation;

General remarks

1. Highlights that the role of circular economy indicators is to provide a compass to guide policy makers in many fields and business in many sectors towards decisions that deliver sustainable economic, social and environmental development in the European Union and to measure progress towards those goals;

2. Highlights that the complex dynamics governing the transition require clear and robust policy-relevant indicators that are based on comprehensive data, from which the most pertinent information for decision makers can be extracted;

3. Notes that the identified indicators focus primarily on waste generation. Regrets that the communication does not present a more comprehensive and holistic set of indicators allowing to measure the decoupling of economic growth from resource use and environmental impact. Highlights that the Monitoring Framework should at least cover the full range of objectives and concrete actions of the Circular Economy Action Plan in order to have an effective instrument for measuring circularity and progress towards the achievement of its objectives, specifically the actions listed under the section on production and consumption and in terms of strategic value chains and value retention with material flows in the Member States;

4. Notes the absence of any reference to the shift from overconsumption to sustainable consumption in the Commission’s existing set of indicators;

5. Calls on the Commission to improve its knowledge base and overall data availability for measuring progress in the circular economy, utilising, as much as possible, existing or easily generated data in order to limit administrative burdens;

6. Highlights the need of a flexible monitoring framework due to the multifaceted and dynamic nature of transition, allowing for the adaptation of the indicators to maintain its effectiveness;

Content of the monitoring framework

7. Highlights the importance of resource productivity as one of the key elements to secure
sustainable growth and jobs in the EU, therefore regrets the lack of a resource productivity indicator in the Monitoring Framework. Underlines that the total raw material input productivity indicator” shall encompass both biotic and abiotic raw materials and shall consider imported goods not only with a view to their own weight, but also their entire specific primary raw material input, this is put in relation with the gross domestic product to which the value of imported goods has been added;

8. Requests that the Commission ensure that monitoring framework complements analytical work of the Resource efficiency and Raw material scoreboards, and that these indicators be integrated into the monitoring framework for the circular economy;

9. Welcomes the circular material use indicator as the use of secondary raw materials is a key element of the Circular Economy but is of the opinion that exported materials are not used for the European Union’s economy and should therefore not be counted in contrast to the imported waste which should be counted in and therefore calls for an improvement of the indicator;

10. Points to the benefits of an indicator measuring whether the overall consumption of primary raw material declines with increasing use of secondary raw material;

11. Regrets that the strong focus on recycling as it does not properly reflect the waste hierarchy whose main aim is waste prevention which is mainly achieved in the design and production phase. Highlights, therefore, that more indicators are necessary in these fields;

12. Reminds the Commission of its obligation to present a common methodology and minimum quality requirements for the uniform measurement of levels of food waste by 31 March 2019 serving as an additional indicator;

13. Stresses the need to take into consideration the impact of circular economy on carbon emissions and to develop a specific indicator;

14. Requests, against the background of the Commission communication on the options to address the interface of chemicals, waste and product policy, the introduction of indicators that measure the success in reducing harmful substances in the circular economy while closing the loop of the circular economy;

15. Welcomes the self-sufficiency indicator but highlights that is does not provide information about the relative importance of the different metal categories;

16. Welcomes an indicator to measure the influence of green public procurement as public procurement is an important driver for stimulating and developing circular economy and is in line with UN Sustainable Development Goal 12.7;

17. Calls on the Commission to revise the proposed indicators in order to take in account the inclusion of other horizontal policy areas such as the bio-economy and cohesion policy. Notes that in its review of the 2012 European Bioeconomy Strategy the Commission pointed out that the existing policy framework highlights the need for a sustainable, circular bioeconomy. Stresses that the monitoring framework for the circular economy

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should also take into account the development of biomass supply and demand, in order to ensure that the bioeconomy operates within the limits of the biosphere, while providing optimum social and economic gains;

18. Calls on the Commission to further develop synergies between the different Directorate-Generals (DGs) in order to develop horizontal indicators that could be relevant in monitoring the conditionality that will apply to European structural and investment funds under the next Multiannual Financial Framework;

19. Recognises the lack of certain robust data and knowledge gaps that are important to provide greater insights on progress such as new business trends, sustainable consumption and waste prevention; calls on the Commission to work on filling these gaps;

**Follow-up Process**

20. Calls on the Commission to continually review and update existing indicators and to identify and develop relevant additional ones, thereby ensuring their future proofing, through a follow-up procedure fully involving the Member States and the European Parliament;

21. Calls on the Commission to take into account the ongoing actions of different Member States to monitor progress towards a resource efficient circular economy and to invest in a further dialogue with Member States, the European Parliament and stakeholders to continuously develop and improve the monitoring framework;

**International dimension**

22. Deplores the lack of any clear reference to the monitoring framework currently under development for the UN Sustainable Developing Goals (SDGs), in particular goal 12. Recalls that in its resolution on EU action for sustainability\(^1\) the Parliament urged the Commission to develop effective monitoring, tracking and review mechanisms for implementing and mainstreaming the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda;

23. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

\(^1\) European Parliament resolution of 6 July 2017 on EU action for sustainability (2017/2009(INI))