

MEPs and Member States call for a more social and circular transition

Yesterday, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) voted positively on [a text calling for a more ambitious Circular Economy in the EU](#). Providing an opinion on the [Circular Economy Action Plan \(CEAP\)](#) released by the Commission in March 2020, it complements [the comments made by Member States](#) on the same text in December 2020. Mathieu Rama, Senior Policy Officer at RREUSE, insisted: “The RREUSE network is pleased to see that the [gaps left by the already promising CEAP](#) have been filled by both the MEPs and the Member States. This sets the Commission on a path towards the development of bold policies enabling a more social and circular EU economy”.

As things stand, Member States are to reach combined recycling and preparing for re-use targets, making it unlikely that preparing for re-use activities will be prioritised over other forms of waste management. In reaction, the MEPs’ particularly welcome suggestion highlights that “preparing for re-use and recycling targets should be separate in order to give preparing for re-use the priority it has in the waste hierarchy”. Currently in the EU, only [Spain, Belgium](#) and [France](#) have set preparing for re-use targets. Hopefully, the Commission will consider these cases when assessing the possibility of setting re-use and preparing for re-use targets by 2025, a legal obligation under the [revised Waste Framework Directive](#).

In parallel, Member States also showed some support to the re-use sector by stating that there is a “need to strengthen repair and re-use systems in the EU and (by calling) on the Commission to consider intensifying the EU-wide discussion on repair and re-use systems for certain products”.

Regarding the more social dimension, Mathieu Rama commented: “While the Commission had already mentioned the crucial role played by social enterprises in the circular economy, it is extremely uplifting and promising to see both MEPs and Member States reaffirming the importance of social value”.

Indeed, MEPs explicitly praised the capacity of repair and maintenance services to “generate job opportunities” and encouraged the Commission to promote and support the “community repair initiatives, co-operatives and social enterprises” of the sector. Speaking of the impact that COVID-19 had on the textile industry, Member States highlighted the “need to work with stakeholders, including consumers and social repair networks”.

Currently, RREUSE is engaging with the European Commission and stakeholders on many elements of the action plan in a bid to scale up the creation of green and inclusive jobs while making the use of natural resources more sustainable.

Click here to view RREUSE’s position on the [new Circular Economy Action Plan](#), the [EU strategy for Sustainable Textiles](#), the [proposal for Empowering the consumer for the green transition](#), the [EU Renovation Wave](#) and the [Farm to Fork Initiative](#).



For more information please contact Mathieu Rama, Senior Policy Officer – Mathieu.rama@rreuse.org ,
www.rreuse.org

RREUSE is an international network representing **social enterprises active in re-use, repair and recycling**. RREUSE members divert around **1 million tonnes of goods and materials** on an annual basis from landfill.

In 2019, RREUSE members active in re-use **extended the lifespan of 214 500 tonnes of products**, counterbalancing the average CO2 emissions of approximately 108 000 EU citizens.

Environmental services, including those of re-use and repair, enabled **850 social enterprises** federated by RREUSE's wider network to fulfil their social mission, which for the most part includes the provision of work opportunities, training and support services for disadvantaged individuals. There are approximately **105,000 employees, volunteers and trainees** engaged in the activities of RREUSE members.