OUR ACTIONS FOR A RESOURCE-EFFICIENT FUTURE: FOLLOWING UP G7 PROGRESS ON TOYAMA FRAMEWORK ON MATERIAL CYCLES AND 5-YEAR BOLOGNA ROADMAP

URGENT NEED FOR POLICY ACTION ON RE/CE/3R/SMM

Resource use is essential for a decent quality of life and to ensure that basic human needs are met. On the other hand, continuous growth in resource extraction and current unsustainable consumption and production patterns have generated negative environmental pressure on our planet. Considering the capacity of our planet and planetary boundaries, we need to take urgent action to avoid further unsustainable extraction, and develop strategies to decouple economic development and human well-being from resource use and its associated environmental impact. The international community has discussed how our society can achieve sustainable natural resource management and has begun to take action through resource efficiency (RE), circular economy (CE), 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) and sustainable material management (SMM).

G7 CONCERTED ACTION ON RE/CE/3R/SMM

The G7 is one of the leading forums to discuss and share best practices of RE/CE/3R/SMM for materialising concrete and concerted action, not only at the G7 level but also on a global scale. The G7 Alliance on Resource Efficiency was established at the G7 Summit Schloss Elmau in 2015 as a forum to share knowledge and create information networks. In addition, the G7 has been successful in consolidating its concerted actions through the adoption of several documents and initiatives such as the Toyama Framework on Material Cycles at the G7 Toyama Environment Ministers’ Meeting in 2016 under Japan’s presidency, the 5-year Bologna Roadmap at the G7 Bologna Environment Ministers’ Meeting in 2017 under Italy’s presidency and the G7 Plastic Innovation Challenges at the G7 Halifax Environment, Oceans and Energy Ministers Meeting in 2018 under the Canadian presidency. The G7 Alliance on Resource Efficiency recognises the significance of sharing best practices both within the G7 and with non-G7 countries through organising workshops and various actions. In addition, the Alliance shared the view on the importance of follow-up activities to look at the status of the G7’s actions and good examples in policymaking, implementation and monitoring, and to keep the momentum for our sustainable future.

G7 ALLIANCE ON RESOURCE EFFICIENCY WORKSHOPS

The G7 Alliance on Resource Efficiency, established at the G7 Elmau Summit in 2015, is a forum to exchange and promote best practices and foster innovation together with businesses and other stakeholders, including from the public sector, research institutions, academia, consumers and civil society, on a voluntary, nonbinding basis. As of May 2019, 15 alliance workshops were held as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sep-Oct 2015</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
<td>Role of Multilateral Cooperation</td>
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<td>Oct 2015</td>
<td>Birmingham, UK</td>
<td>Industrial Symbiosis</td>
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<td>Nov 2015</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
<td>Innovative Bio-based Products</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 2016</td>
<td>Yokohama, Japan</td>
<td>International Cooperation</td>
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<td>Mar 2016</td>
<td>Washington, DC, USA</td>
<td>Supply Chain Management</td>
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<td>Dec 2016</td>
<td>Tokyo, Japan</td>
<td>Resource Efficiency and a Low-Carbon Society</td>
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<td>Feb 2017</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium (EU)</td>
<td>Promoting Remanufacturing, Refurbishment, Repair, and Direct Reuse (RRRDR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2017</td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
<td>Environmentally Harmful Subsidies and Environmental Fiscal Reform</td>
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<td>Apr 2017</td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
<td>Marine Litter</td>
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<td>Jun 2017</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
<td>Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns in the context of SDGs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2018</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium (EU)</td>
<td>Plastics in the context of SDGs implementation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 2018</td>
<td>Montreal, Canada</td>
<td>Promoting Value Retention Process (VRP) and RRRDR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 2018</td>
<td>Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA</td>
<td>International Approaches to Reducing Food Loss and Waste</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2019</td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
<td>Tools making value chains more circular and resource efficient - Voluntary agreements, standardisation &amp; non-financial reporting</td>
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This is a follow-up to the Toyama Framework on Material Cycles and the 5-year Bologna Roadmap produced by the G7 Alliance on Resource Efficiency under the initiative of Ministry of the Environment, Japan. The results are compiled by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES).
Members of the G7 Alliance have implemented various significant efforts and best practices on the policy areas set out in the Toyama Framework on Material Cycles and the 5-year Bologna Roadmap. The results listed here are non-exhaustive but present recent actions to achieve a resource-efficient future.

Below are some notable examples found in the follow-up report.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLICIES & STRATEGIES

• Italy: “Collegato Ambientale (2015)” (Environmental Bill annexed to the financial law) / Towards a Model of Circular Economy for Italy - Overview and Strategic Framework (2017)

All members have monitoring indicators and some members have set targets for the strategies and policies including for resource productivity, material flow and recycling rates.

EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR)

• France: New 2018 Roadmap to extend the scope of some EPR schemes, and deploy new EPR schemes in toys, sports, leisure equipment, DIY and gardening equipment sectors
• Germany: In line with EU law, successfully implemented ERP for several waste streams e.g. packaging, electrical and electronic equipment, batteries and accumulators and end-of-life vehicles.
• Italy: New 2017 Strategy to revise the EPR rules to foresee new models of EPR (ECR: Extended Consumer Responsibility) or even community responsibility
• Japan: Progressive implementation of EPR through recycling laws on packaging, home appliances, end-of-life vehicles and small home appliances as well as Act on the Promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources
• UK: New 2018 Strategy to extend the EPR system beyond plastics to other products
• US: EPA’s voluntary Sustainable Materials Management Electronics Challenge
• EU: EU waste legislation (2018) on mandatory EPR for packaging, in addition to the existing EPR obligations for vehicles, electrical and electronic equipment and batteries

PLASTICS

• France: Ban on oxo-fragmentable packaging or bags / single-use plastic bags / rinsed cosmetics containing solid plastic particles / disposable plastic cups, glasses, and plates (from 2020) / cotton swabs made of plastic for domestic use (from 2020) (since 2015)
• Germany: Packaging Ordinance / EPR and refund schemes
• UK: National Waste and Resource Strategy for England (2018) includes a ban on plastic microbeads, tax on plastic packaging with under 30% recycled content, plans as to EPR schemes for product groups other than packaging.
• EU: European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy (2018) / A legislative proposal on the reduction of the impact of certain single-use plastic products and fishing gear

COLLABORATION WITH IRP AND OECD - INVITING ASSESSMENT AND GUIDANCE

The G7 has invited the International Resource Panel (IRP) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to provide their assessment and guidance to facilitate policy actions.

• IRP: Resource Efficiency: Potential and Economic Implications (2016 (SPM), 2017)
• OECD: Policy Guidance on Resource Efficiency (2016)
• IRP: Resource Efficiency and Climate Change (to be published soon)

In addition, the follow-up report finds that G7 members have made significant efforts in: Inter-ministerial or cross-cutting activities; Food waste; Green Public Procurement (GPP); Consumers / Citizen involvement and public awareness; Product lifetime extension policies such as Remanufacture, Refurbishment, Repair and Direct Reuse (RRRDR); Research and economic analyses; Financing in private sector; Industrial symbiosis; Best practices by private companies; Support for local actions; Best practices by local governments/cities, Public-private partnerships; International / regional cooperation; Monitoring Processes and Targets.