

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT

The Director-General

Brussels,
ENV/E1/VH/cp (2017) 110689

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

I would like to invite you to a Circular Economy Mission to South Africa taking place between 2-5 May 2017.

Developing a circular economy is essential to foster sustainable economic growth and generate new jobs. The attractiveness and the necessity of the circular economy model lies in the fact that it offers solutions to the volatile prices of inputs, the issues of security of supply for certain crucial raw materials and the increasing costs of managing waste appropriately. Increased resource efficiency and circular economy solutions will improve the competitiveness of companies and create new growth opportunities in green markets domestically and abroad.

The EU and South Africa have a shared interest in increasing cooperation on the environmental dimension of sustainable development while opening up opportunities for growth and investment. Therefore, we would welcome the involvement of key business representatives in this Mission.

The Circular Economy Mission to South Africa will have the following objectives:

1. To promote a circular economy, sustainable and inclusive innovation and growth in the European Union and in South Africa,
2. To help EU green business and in particular SMEs to operate internationally by exploiting green business opportunities in the European Union and in South Africa,
3. To promote green business partnerships in targeted sectors by participating in matchmaking events with local entrepreneurs.

The following preliminary focus of the Mission has been identified:

- Circular economy,
- Resource efficiency and sustainable use of natural resources,
- Eco-innovation,
- Chemicals,
- Waste management,
- Water management,
- Energy saving.

I will lead the mission, which will begin in Johannesburg and Pretoria on 2 and 3 May 2017 when we will meet with political representatives and key circular economy leaders.

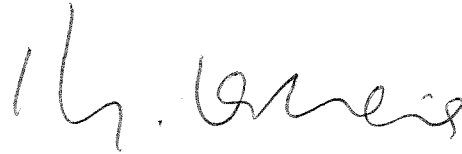
We will then fly to Durban in the evening of 3 May 2017. There, we will have the opportunity to participate in a high level event focusing on circular economy organized by the Department of Environment in the margins of the World Economic Forum on Africa which will take place on 4-5 May 2017, in partnership with the Government of the Republic of South Africa (<https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-on-africa-2017>).

I would be delighted if you or your representatives could join us in South Africa together with presidents or representatives of national federations that you would wish to invite. I believe that the participation in our delegation of individual CEOs/entrepreneurs who are interested in fostering circular economy in South Africa will make a major contribution to the success of this mission. I hope that I can rely on your full support and on the help of your organization to ensure that the delegation represents a broad spectrum of EU interests.

Should you need any further information on the Circular Economy mission, please contact Ms Véronique Hyeulle, Advisor, Veronique.Hyeulle@ec.europa.eu, (Tel: +32 22990235).

I would be grateful if you could confirm by 31 March 2017 that you or your representatives intend to accompany us to South Africa. I would also welcome your suggestions on the targeted sectors relevant for your members and any efforts you may be willing to undertake to encourage participation of members of your respective organizations in this mission.

Yours sincerely,



Daniel Calleja