

## PLENARY

### The Challenge of Circularity in the Green Transition

Tuesday, 11 October 2022 | 11:30 -13:00 CET

Co-organised with [Leonardo SpA](#)

#### CONTEXT:

Russia's war on Ukraine shed light on the importance for the European Union to reduce its dependency on external resources and accelerate the transition towards climate neutrality by 2050. At the same time, the conflict revived the strategic role played by Europe's defense sector in the sustainability agenda.

With the European Green Deal and its related new [EU circular economy action plan](#), the Commission has already set a clear direction for sustainable growth. The transition from a linear to a circular economy will **reduce pressure on natural resources, eliminate waste and pollution, and create jobs**.

#### ABOUT THE SESSION:

Companies across all sectors and industries are in need for innovative solutions to recycle parts and components. **Not all materials are equal when it comes to recycling**, and some are still land-filled or incinerated, discarding all functionality and value once they reach end-of-life. This is also the case of **composite materials**. While allowing for lightweight structures and energy savings, the sustainability advantages of fiber-reinforced composite materials during the use phase are not yet matched by lower impacts throughout the lifecycle. Therefore, the reduction of their environmental impacts will play an important role in the future, especially for the aerospace, automotive, wind energy, construction, and marine sectors. At the session, CSR Europe and Leonardo will contribute to the **dialogue with high-tech industries on how to advance sustainable recycling solutions in a Circular Economy**. During the session, the Blueprint developed in the framework of the [Think Tank "New Materials & Circular Economy Accelerator"](#), exploring innovative synergies for composite materials, will be presented. [Register.](#)

#### WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Circular Economy experts and R&D representatives of companies
- Sustainability Managers
- Policymakers

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## HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY SESSION

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TIME (CET)	AGENDA ITEM	GUEST SPEAKERS & PANELISTS
11:30-11:40	<b>Welcome</b>	Stefan Crets <i>Executive Director, CSR Europe</i>
11:40-11:50	<b>Keynote</b>	Mariya Gabriel, <i>Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth</i> <b>European Commission</b>
11:50-12:00	<b>Keynote:</b> Striving towards sustainability and circularity in the aerospace and defence industry	Alessandro Profumo, <i>CEO, Leonardo</i> <i>President, AeroSpace and Defence Industries Association of Europe</i>
12:00-12:20	<b>The Challenge of retaining value</b>	Marcos Ierides, <i>Innovation Consultant, Bax &amp; Company</i>
12:20-12:50	<b>Panel:</b> Investing in collaborations and circular strategies	Luca Meini, <i>Head of Sustainability Initiatives &amp; Circular Economy, ENEL</i>  Pascal Chalvon Demersay, <i>Chief Sustainability &amp; Government Affairs Officer, Solvay</i>  Abhishek Gupta, <i>Lead 'Circular Cars Initiative' and 'Resilient Automotive Value Chains',</i> <b>World Economic Forum</b>  David Romero Vindel, <i>Sustainability &amp; Environmental Senior Expert, Siemens Gamesa Renewables</i>

12:50-13:00	<b>Conclusions</b>	Renata Mele <i>Senior Vice President Sustainability</i> <b>Leonardo</b>
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## ABOUT THE EUROPEAN SDG SUMMIT 2022

Ahead of the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt, CSR Europe and its members are happy to welcome you at [the European SDG Summit 2022: Together for an Inclusive Green Deal](#).

After the pandemic and amid the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, the world needs to accelerate the journey towards climate neutrality and the adoption of an inclusive approach to the green and digital transition. Together with Environment and Governance, the **Social dimension of ESG** is now well understood as an equally important driver to enhance sustainability, but more attention is needed on how to address inequalities. The scale and magnitude of the effort ahead require not only individual commitments but also collaborative actions from all stakeholders.

At the Summit, CSR Europe will also release the second edition of the [European Sustainable Industry Barometer](#) in collaboration with **Moody's ESG Solutions**. The Barometer will provide data on the sustainability level and maturity of European industry federations, with a focus on the **social dimension of their ESG efforts**, demonstrating the progresses made and where additional efforts are needed.