



# Circular Economy Strategy The Netherlands

Gijs Könings, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Germany

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# About the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management

## › **Coordinating CE ministry in the Netherlands**

- Also contains environment topics
- Minister for the Environment:
  - Mrs. Vivianne Heijnen
- National CE strategy since 2016
- International strategy since 2019



Ministry of Infrastructure  
and Water Management





# The Dutch CE roadmap until now



NL circular  
in 2050



National  
program  
2023 -  
2030

Transition  
agendas

Raw  
materials  
agreement

Implementation  
program  
2019-2023



# Circular Dutch Economy by 2050

## › **Goals for a circular economy**

- The goal is for the Dutch economy to be completely circular by **2050**.
- By **2030** the reduction of the raw materials footprint (% to be determined) 'used to be 50%' but roadmap appeared too complex to monitor till 2030.

Nederland circulair  
in 2050



Circulaire economie





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 UNIE VAN  
WATERSCHAPPEN

# Approach: Collaboration is key

- Diverse group of partners and stakeholders involved at a national level
- Public-private partnerships are crucial in developing a national strategy
  - Science
  - Sector representatives
  - Businesses
- Rules of the game:
  - Constructive, attentive and with respect
  - Government ambitions as starting point
  - Existing agreements are continued



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Biomass and food



Plastics



Manufacturing industry



Circular construction



Consumer goods



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## Examples of policies

- Extended Producers Responsibility for recyclable products (e.g. mattresses)
- Deposit returns system (on bottles, cans, exploration for textiles)
- Fair ICT pact (procurement – buyer and supplier groups),
- Product passports for buildings, infrastructure and electronics (exploration)
- Circular/modular bridges and over passes



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# National program 2023 - 2030

- More focus on reducing our raw materials footprint (exploring the possibility of aligning with a 50% reduction in the raw materials footprint within the EU taxonomy by 2030 and 75% by 2050, while also looking at the broader environmental impact)
- New phase of policy development: from the initial phase of setting up the base, with joint transition plans, public-private platforms to more "force and pressure"
- Primary focus shifts from recycling to "higher on the ladder of circularity" to refuse, reduce, redesign, reuse and repair
- European regulation is crucial to steer the linear market toward circularity (level playing field). Proactively influencing the EU agenda is therefore the highest priority - again, international cooperation is crucial
- In addition, we focus more on steering in (international) value chains (as with textiles and electronics) and international bodies (e.g. around new standards)
- Important tool for CE remains the EPR (which we are now extending to textiles, mattresses, disposable products), which we also want to expand in scope by also promoting reuse systems to prevent waste collection, sorting and recycling. We promote more prefab, modular and industrial construction



# Consultative structure



## Involved ministries:



Ministerie van Infrastructuur  
en Waterstaat



Ministerie van Landbouw,  
Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit



Ministerie van Economische Zaken  
en Klimaat



Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en  
Koninkrijksrelaties



## Lessons learned:

- Cooperation with stakeholders is key
- Reduction of material use & environmental impact of the materials
- Behavioural changes require time, information and the right incentives
- A circular economy is a local economy, but international cooperation is crucial
- Set goals and monitor them (How? Soon to be announced)
- Create an economy for the front runners of today
  - Holland Circular Hotspot
- Policy should be consistent and provide certainty





## More information

About Dutch CE policy:

<https://www.government.nl/topics/circular-economy>

Dutch CE showcases:

<http://hollandcircularhotspotmagazine.com/>



# More information Netherlands Embassy in Berlin

Department for Infrastructure and  
Watermanagement

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