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Member of the European Commission

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Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

I would like to invite you to a combined Circular Economy Mission to Japan and Indonesia between 22 and 26 October 2018.

Developing a circular economy is essential in order to foster sustainable economic growth and generate new jobs. The attractiveness and the necessity of the circular economy model lie in the fact that it offers solutions to volatile material cost, issues of security of supply for certain crucial raw materials and increasing costs of managing waste appropriately while minimising the negative environmental impacts associated to the current linear production model. 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 Circular Economy Mission to Japan will coincide with the second World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF2018). Japan's Ministry of the Environment and the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra will host the WCEF2018 in Yokohama from 22-24 October 2018. The Forum intends to present the world's best circular economy solutions and will bring together around one thousand key 'thinkers and doers' from around the world. With a circular vision towards 2050, the Forum will address economic development and social equity in the circular economy, global value-chains and circular trade as well as shared mobility and future transportation.

The World Circular Economy Forum is a good place to illustrate the EU's new measures and exchange best practices and innovative ideas. It will offer an opportunity to promote our work on plastic and marine litter, supporting the EU Plastics Strategy in the region and advancing related discussions in the G20 of which Japan will assume the Presidency in 2019.

Our Circular Economy Mission to Japan under the leadership of Vice-President Jyrki Katainen will focus on 'Showcasing Circular SMEs' and 'Preventing Marine Plastic Waste with Circular Solutions'.

On Wednesday 24 October in the evening our business delegation will travel from Tokyo to Jakarta to arrive on Thursday 25 October around lunchtime. I will take over the leadership of the Circular Economy Mission at this point. Our joint presence in Indonesia will also allow us to send a strong signal to the 'Our Ocean Conference' (OOC) taking place in Bali the subsequent week, about the EU's active role in fighting marine litter globally and in promoting a sustainable blue economy globally. Participants are encouraged to benefit from OOC 2018 and make commitments to sustainable action (<http://ourocean2018.go.id/>).

The Indonesian leg of the Circular Economy Mission will begin in Jakarta on Thursday 25 October late afternoon. Meetings with key circular economy leaders and Indonesian authorities will be held on Friday 26 October 2018. The business delegation will also attend an EU-Indonesia Business Dialogue in Jakarta, with a particular focus on plastics and marine litter, chemicals, corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

In summary, the objectives of the combined Circular Economy Mission to Japan and Indonesia are:

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


The following possible focal areas for the mission have been identified:

- Waste,
- Plastics (including marine litter),
- Chemicals.

I would be delighted if you or your representatives could join us in both Japan and Indonesia. The participation of individual CEOs/entrepreneurs who are interested in fostering circular economy in Japan and Indonesia will make a major contribution to the success of this mission and I would particularly welcome the presence of SMEs in our delegation. I hope that I can rely on your full support to ensure that the delegation represents a broad spectrum of EU interests.

I would be grateful if you could confirm your participation by **Friday 13 July 2018** whether you or your representatives intend to accompany us to Japan and Indonesia. Any suggestions on the targeted sectors relevant for your members would be welcome as would be efforts you may be willing to undertake to encourage participation of members of your organisation in this mission.

Yours sincerely,



Karmenu Vella

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