**Value Chain partnerships and commitments - Abstract of Mr Dittmann's intervention**

In his introduction to the session on "Value Chain partnerships and commitments", Mr Bernd Dittmann, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) will cover the following issues:

**1. What is the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (ECESP) and how it functions:**

* The ECESP is a joint initiative of the EESC and the European Commission which brings together circular economy stakeholders active in Europe. and scales up collaboration among the circular economy community.
* The main objectives of the ECESP are:
* Advancing the circular economy concept in Member States, regional and local governments, civil society and businesses
* Strengthening cooperation among stakeholder networks to facilitate the exchange of expertise and good practices on the circular economy
* Identifying social, economic and cultural barriers to the transition towards a circular economy
* The ECESP is also faced with certain challenges, such as finding appropriate ways to assess the progress in the transformation towards a circular economy and its impact on socio-economic development. The European Commission's Monitoring Framework for the Circular Economy is a good step in the right direction to assessing progress in this transformation.

**2. What it means to manage a value chain and how to foster partnerships:**

* Although making a profit is an important goal of companies, it disregards the opportunity to embrace sustainability. Conventional business models do not capture the ‘value’ of social and environmental benefits, nor do they encourage the development of business models that focus on sustainability issues, even though this may lead to new business opportunities. Opportunities for circular business lie in the threat of a linear economy.

**3. Discussion of three workshop topics by the panelists around the following questions:**

* How do you manage a value chain, and how do you encourage partnerships and active participation?
* How can these activities be scaled up, what are the barriers, and do the necessary tools exist to help develop these activities, and integrated strategies?
* How do you see platforms such as the ECESP evolving?