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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of the Council (Environment) on 21 October 2025 Circular economy initiatives and tools in Cyprus - Information from Cyprus

Cyprus has developed various national schemes and specifications, as well as guidance documents (manuals), to strengthen the principles of the circular economy and facilitate their implementation. These initiatives aim to reduce environmental impacts, promote circular practices, and raise awareness among citizens. The initiatives are presented below:

A) CYS/TS 600:2024 - Circular plastic products – Recycled content traceability and conformity assessment of recyclates and final products – Basic elements of a certification scheme.

The National Technical Specification CYS/TS 600:2024, entitled ‘Circular plastic products – Recycled content traceability and conformity assessment of recyclates and final products – Basic elements of a certification scheme’, defines the basic elements of a certification scheme for both recycled plastic materials (recyclates) and final plastic products. Its purpose is to verify product conformity with the requirements specified therein, in relation to their origin and recycled content, as well as compliance with existing standards related to plastic waste recyclates and environmental claims.

It is intended to be used by certification bodies seeking to create and maintain certification schemes for plastic products covering one or more aspects of the circular economy.

The implementation of this specification is expected to promote transparency and reliability regarding the use of recycled content, strengthen consumer and market confidence, support the transition towards a circular economy, and contribute to reducing the environmental impacts associated with the production and disposal of plastic products.

The National Technical Specification was developed by the Technical Committee CYS/TC 26 ‘Circular Plastic Products’ of the Cyprus Organisation for Standardisation (CYS), and it is available in English to facilitate its use by other EU Member States. The specification was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic on 17 January 2025.

B) Methodology of the Cypriot Technical Specification prCYS/TS 650:2025 – Guidelines for the quantification and reporting of carbon sequestration by trees.

The Cyprus Technical Specification prCYS/TS 650:2025, entitled ‘Carbon sequestration by trees – quantification guidelines and reporting’, is being developed by the Technical Committee CYS/TC 27 of the Cyprus Organisation for Standardisation (CYS). Its purpose is to establish a practical and scientifically robust methodology for the quantification of carbon dioxide (CO₂) sequestration at the level of individual trees, taking into account the specific climatic and ecological conditions of Cyprus.

The methodology is based on direct field measurements of each tree’s physical characteristics (such as the diameter at breast height (DBH)) and the application of species-specific allometric equations, enabling a reliable estimation of biomass and corresponding CO₂ storage. The specification prioritises the use of indigenous species and discourages non-native planting that may negatively affect local biodiversity.

Once finalised, the standard is expected to deliver comparable, verifiable, and transparent results for tree planting initiatives, supporting the documentation of CO₂ removals and contributing to the implementation of the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) and the National Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (NAS/NAP).

C) Circular economy certification scheme for hotels

Within the framework of the measure for the promotion of circular economy in hotel establishments, a certification scheme has been developed to facilitate the transition of hotels towards a circular economy and to enhance the competitiveness and resilience of hotel businesses through the integration and implementation of circular economy principles and the adoption of a sustainable and resilient business model.

It aims to create substantial added value for participating businesses by reducing energy consumption, waste generation, and food waste. At the same time, it enhances the acquisition of expertise on implementing circular practices, aiming at resource efficiency and environmental protection, prepares businesses for the utilisation of investment schemes, and ensures compliance with the current and forthcoming legislative framework on circular economy. Businesses implementing the measure gain a competitive advantage through certification under the Circular Economy Certification Scheme.

The initiative is closely aligned with European strategies on circular economy and sustainable tourism development, promoting the transformational adaptation of SMEs in the tourism sector toward greener and more efficient operational models.

D) Zero waste to landfill guide for buildings

The transition to a circular economy, in which materials are reused and recycled, is essential for the conservation of natural resources. Raw materials are depleting, while the production of new materials consumes enormous amounts of energy and water. The zero waste to landfill (ZWtL) strategy represents an innovative approach to waste management, aiming to minimise the amount of waste sent to landfills. Zero waste to landfill incorporates the waste hierarchy principle, promoting prevention, reuse, and recycling in order to reduce reliance on non-renewable resources.

Cyprus has developed a guidance manual for transforming buildings into zero waste to landfill buildings, initially targeting its application within the framework of EMAS certification for governmental bodies (ministries and deputy ministries). This is a consultative guide that provides instructions on how verification of zero waste to landfill can be achieved. The guidance manual explains the steps and procedures that must be followed for a building to be classified as a zero waste to landfill building.

E) Zero waste at events guide for events and festivals

Within the framework of Cyprus' actions to promote the circular economy and the green transition, a guidance manual on zero waste at events and festivals has been prepared.

The purpose of this best practice guide is to promote a zero-waste policy at events and festivals, aiming to reduce their environmental footprint, advance circular economy principles, and strengthen citizens' environmental awareness. It is addressed to local authorities, organised groups, and private individuals who organise events.

For an event to become sustainable and adhere to a zero-waste policy, it is essential to maintain effective control of the materials entering and used at the event, taking into account all parameters and the specific characteristics of each event.

This guide aims to contribute to improving the sustainability of events and festivals by presenting the key principles of the circular economy and the waste hierarchy derived from it. It includes key parameters that must be considered for the design and implementation of a zero-waste policy, while simultaneously exploring ways to reduce waste at source. A fundamental prerequisite is the willingness to implement the policy and commitment to the goal.

Cyprus expresses its intention to share further information on these initiatives with EU Member States and institutions within the framework of exchanging best practices and strengthening European cooperation to accelerate the green transition.