

A Green and Inclusive Deal?
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For immediate release

The newly released “European Green Deal”¹ contains a palpable sense of support for improved social inclusion in a green and just transition but lacks urgency and detail on exactly how the EU proposes to implement such change. The deal, referring to “new business models”, fails to explicitly mention the role of existing sustainable entities such as social enterprises active in re-use and repair already providing up-skilling, jobs and training to vulnerable populations. This week alone, the European Council adopted conclusions on inclusive labour markets, recognising the value of social enterprises as improving the employment of people in a vulnerable position in the labour market².

Michal Len, Director of RREUSE insisted that “Explicitly recognising and supporting thousands of social enterprises already delivering significant environmental and social impact within their communities is essential in future measures under the Green Deal”.

While it’s promising to see support for designing durable, repairable and re-useable goods, the Green Deal also falls short in terms of product re-use with no explicit backing for second-hand, albeit mentioning the importance of adopting “sustainable behaviours”.

In light of this, Michal Len noted that “Positive words supporting a circular transition are welcome but the Green Deal gives precious little insight on specific measures to boost support for the re-use sector”. Moving forward, specific and explicit measures for re-use and second-hand practices should be made essential.

With references to shifting tax burdens from labour to pollution and overall support for “sustainable and job-intensive economic activity”, RREUSE hopes that other initiatives such as the future Social Economy Action Plan³ will help guide concrete inclusive measures proposed under the Green Deal”.

RREUSE appreciates that this Communication presents an initial roadmap wherein future needs and policies will be integrated.

¹ [The European Green Deal](#)

² The [European Council of Conclusions](#) on inclusive labour market was adopted on 10/12/2019

³ The [Social Economy Action Plan](#) was announced by Employment Commissioner Nicholas Schmit on 2 December 2019

Notes to editors

RREUSE is an NGO Network representing social enterprises active in the field of re-use, repair and recycling, with 27 members across 25 countries in Europe and the USA. Our main vision is for Europe to support the role of social enterprise in a circular economy, providing meaningful work opportunities to thousands of vulnerable members of our community through innovative economic, social and environmentally beneficial activities. RREUSE's primary mission is to help tackle poverty, social exclusion and a throwaway culture by promoting policies, best practices and partnerships that support the professionalism and development of social enterprises working in environmental services with high potential for local and inclusive job creation, notably re-use and repair.

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