



NRK Recycling

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Congress Plastics gone circular

Speech Jur Zandbergen, chairman NRK Recycling

Dames en heren, ladies and gentlemen

A warm welcome to Amsterdam, a warm welcome to Pakhuis De Zwijger where especially during the EU2016 Dutch EU Presidency a lot of events have taken place. Today you are with us in already the 3rd NRK Recycling event in Amsterdam during the last few months, Pakhuis DeZwijger is also symbolic for the development path of the Dutch plastics recycling industry. This meeting place has been conceived by private investors around a concept : “an idea”. By uniting people and providing means around ‘an idea’ while showing persistence and endurance it has become what it is today : a flourishing centre of synergy, cooperation and unification.

NRK Recycling is following a similar development track albeit sometimes still moving forward uphill on more bumpy roads. Persistence, endurance and belief (trust) are common grounds that unite our members. Yet, we are also confronted with other effects, ignorance and misconceptions. Plastics are in the news nearly every day, in recent time often negatively related to litter issues. They have even been on the recent G7 agenda as top priority item. We all share these concerns. The largest fight to prevent littering is however on land, not in the oceans what some people assume. One of our key messages is ‘add value to waste’ and close the material loops to the maximum by doing so.

There are fortunately also many good things happening with plastics. Yet they prove to be not so well known to the public, so we intend to be out in the media more often. There are also many things that can be changed already today by implementing and enforcing existing legislation and by better using the state of the art recycling technologies that have been developed over the last decades.

Several Dutch companies and internationally renowned Dutch recycling experts have helped shaping today s leading European plastics recycling industry. They have been stakeholders in many formal discussions around legislations leading to continuous improvements. A number of them are here with us today.

Following the 2008 WasteFramework Directive and the 2013 GreenBook on Plastics Waste, the European Commission published their Circular Economy package in December 2015, where especially the recycling of plastics got most attention.

Several studies on how to improve recycling of plastics have been published in recent years, all with similar conclusions. A recently published Ellen McArthur Foundation report ‘The New Plastics Economy – rethinking the future of plastics’ reconfirmed those views in several areas:

- Create an effective after use plastics economy :
 - o For instance :
 - o Radically increase the economics, quality and uptake of recycling.
 - o Scale up the adoption of reusable packaging

- Drastically reduce the leakage of plastics into natural systems
 - o For instance :
 - o Increase the economic attractiveness of keeping materials in the system
 - o Improve after-use collection, storage and reprocessing infrastructure



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In recent days, the European Parliament has indeed come up with detailed revision proposals in several EU legislation on how to better achieve this more circular economy for plastics. Although not all details have yet been evaluated, we are positive that the European Parliament proposals are covering most of the key missing items in the Commission proposal.

How do we value these recent developments :

From NRK Recycling point of view, we believe the recycling targets, tools and pragmatic details proposed by the European Parliament in recent days to be realistic and achievable. The quality of collection and sorting on monostreams will have to be strongly improved and outlets for recyclates will have to be simultaneously stimulated.

'Recyclates should become the prevailing raw material choice. This is the topic of today and the goal for tomorrow'.

In April NRK Recycling, in partnership with Ministry of I&M (Infrastructure and Environment) and several PlasticValueChain partners, has successfully participated at Innovation Expo, organized near the Eye Museum, close to here.

Sandra, who has been wearing one of the dresses you see here behind me on stage, has become an international celebrity that day as photos on Twitter and other social media went around. Ad Broeckx, a special thanks for making them available to NRK Recycling.

On walking distance from here you will also find FabCity, part of the Europe by People EU2016NL events, with the theme 'Together we make the City of Tomorrow'.

In the PlasticExpo, Wasted by Cities Foundation, NRK Recycling and partners have informed thousands of FabCity visitors about the various existing possibilities of plastics recycling. Special thanks to all NRK Recycling members and network partners who have actively contributed by making materials and products available.

During this period we have been able to establish better contacts with a number of great people, inspiring designers, youngsters, startups in 3D printing and a number of other key stakeholders. Follow up meetings will be organized as better design for recycling, eco-design and improved waste management are important themes.

We have however also got confirmed from these many visitors, that there still is a lack of knowledge on the many potentials that improved recycling of plastics can bring. Both in considerable CO2 emission savings, creation of green jobs and last but surely not last considerable resource savings by even better closing the material loops.

Today NRK Recycling aims to further unify people from different backgrounds in synergy and cooperation around 'Plastics gone Circular'. Today we have therefore invited for you a broad spectrum of speakers, who all will share their own views on tomorrow, challenges ahead but certainly also on achievements made so far. We trust that by the end of the day, you are even more inspired and convinced that next to Green Energy, you can make use of high quality Green Raw Materials and by doing so making the world a better place.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish you an interesting and inspiring afternoon with us and will now hand over to Bernard.