

# Mission Report

Mission:

**Conference of Parties 25 (COP25)**  
**United Nation's Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**  
**December 08-13, 2019**  
**Madrid, Spain**

For:

**Ministry of Education, Science, and Sustainable Development of Aruba; and**  
**The Minister's Council of the Government of Aruba**

Prepared by:

**ing. Kevin H. de Cuba, MSc.**  
**Independent Senior Circular Economy Advisor**

## **Traveler:**

ing. Kevin de Cuba, Independent Senior Circular Economy Advisor, in the capacity as pro-bono or goodwill Circular Economy Ambassador for the Ministry of Education, Science, and Sustainable Development of Aruba (MinESSD) attended the 25th Conference of Parties under the United Nation's Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25) to participate in Circular Economy and Climate Change related meetings and activities during 2nd week of COP25 (December 08-13, 2019) in Madrid, Spain. Mr. de Cuba's mission was approved by the Minister's Council on December 03, 2019.

## **Objective:**

The objectives of this mission are multiple, and are as follows:

1. Identify opportunities for international financing and strategic partnerships and cooperation to enable Aruba to start implementing its [2050 Circular Economy Vision \(Aruba VEC2050\)](#) (approved by the Minister's Council and published on June 18, 2019);
2. Identify and establish contacts with senior and high-level representatives operating in the field of Circular Economy that may serve as potential speakers/panelists for the planned [Circular Economy Forum of the Americas 2020 \(CEFA2020\)](#) to be hosted in Aruba, Dutch Caribbean by the 2nd half of 2020; and
3. Built new relationships with Circular Economy colleagues working in the Government of the Netherlands and explore ways to intensify and if possible, formalize the cooperation between the countries part of the Dutch Kingdom on Circular Economy related themes.

## **Duration and Location:**

Sunday, December 08 – Friday, December 13, 2019 in Madrid, Spain.

## **Costs coverage:**

The travel and accommodation costs were covered by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sustainable Development of Aruba.

## Activities, Outcomes, and Recommendations:

### DAY 1 (Sunday, December 08)

Fly out from Medellin, Colombia to Madrid, Spain with scheduled arrival time in Madrid of 2:45PM on Monday, December 09.

### DAY 2 (Monday, December 09)

Arrival in Madrid at 2:45PM. Headed straight to Feria de Madrid (IFEMA), venue of COP25, to register and participate upon invitation by CTCN as International Circular Economy Expert and Director of Americas Sustainable Development Foundation (ASDF) in a panel organized by the U.N. Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) with focus on Circular Economy as a means to address Climate Change.



Arrival and registration at COP25 venue, IFEMA, Madrid, Spain

Through a formal request by the Government of Aruba's Directive of Foreign Affairs (*Directie Buitenlandse Betrekkingen van Aruba*), I was assigned an access badge (Party Overflow) to participate as part of the delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UNFCCC, headed by Mr. Bastiaan Hassing. This enabled me to access the Blue Zone and participate in all high-level meetings ongoing at COP25 during my participation.

## Event #1

17:45 – 19:15

***COP25. Building countries capacity on circular economy as a medium to tackle climate change: initiatives in Latin America & the Caribbean and international best practices.***

*Paris Commitment Capacity Building (PCCB) Hub*

*Blue Zone, COP25 Venue, IFEMA, Madrid, Spain*

The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) is a joint initiative by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Environment (UN Environment), and International Partners, and is mainly funded by the European Commission (EC).

This workshop organized within the PCCB hub space and hosted by the CTCN was to provide highlights on CE initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region and deepen the potential of CE as a medium to tackle climate change.

Please see a copy of the agenda below (see also: <https://www.ctc-n.org/calendar/events/cop25-circular-economy-event>):

Time	Description:
17.45-17.55	Opening session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gonzalo Muñoz, HLC Chile</li><li>• Introduction to the workshop, Federico Villatico, CTCN</li></ul>
17.55-18.25	<b>Session 1: Development of circular economy (CE) roadmaps in Latin America and the Caribbean</b>  Panel discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation of the ongoing multi-country technical assistance in Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay. <b>Kevin de Cuba</b>, on behalf of the implementing consortium Factor – Spain and Americas Sustainable Development Foundation</li><li>• Discussion with countries' representatives from Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay on the value of the assistance vis à vis the national strategy and future perspectives <b>Guillermo Gonzáles Caballero</b>, Head of the Circular Economy Office at the Ministry of Environment in Chile, <b>Claudia Octaviano</b>, NDE of Mexico, and <b>Paola Visca</b>, NDE of Uruguay</li><li>• Introduction to the next multi-country technical assistance on CE in Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador and Paraguay. <b>Federico Villatico</b>, CTCN.</li></ul>

18.25-18.45	<b>Session 2: Circular Economy in the Latin America and the Caribbean region</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Coalition for circular economy. <b>Gustavo Manez</b> - UN Environment</li> <li>• UNIDO Circular Economy projects in LAC. <b>Alla Metelitsa</b> - UNIDO</li> </ul>
18.45-19.15	<b>Session 3: International Best practices</b> <p>Panel discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best practices on circular economy from private sector and international organizations</li> </ul> <p>International Organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ernesto Hartikainen, SITRA</li> <li>• Joss Bleriot, Ellen McArthur Foundation</li> <li>• Stefano Signore, European Commission</li> </ul> <p>Private sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luca Meini, ENEL – Italy</li> <li>• Petar Ostojic, Neptuno Pumps – Chile</li> </ul>
19:15	Q&A and conclusions

### Background:

Through an international consortium between **FACTOR Ideas for Change** and **Americas Sustainable Development Foundation (ASDF)** – an independent non-profit advisory foundation established in Aruba; they have successfully won the international tender launched by the CTCN in April 2019. Therefore experts of **Circular Economy Platform of the Americas (CEP-Americas)** – an initiative launched by ASDF in 2016 is since July 2019 leading the implementation of the first international Circular Economy project by the CTCN in Latin America assisting the nations of Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay in performing a baseline assessment of the conditions in each country for the development of national roadmaps to transition toward Circular Economies.

The project which is a 12-month project (July 2019 – June 2020) entails the mapping of key national actors across all sectors of society (including the public sector, private sector, academia and civil society); perform large scale surveys and interviews to assess the level of understanding of actors of the principles of the Circular Economy, establish a first snapshot of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) in each country; identify any initiatives in line with the Industry 4.0; identify and describe existing or potential projects that are compatible with the Circular Economy; benchmark compared to other international Circular Economy projects and case studies; develop Circularity criteria and indicators to enable the selection, monitoring

and evaluation process; and facilitate a multi-stakeholder process to start outlining the national Circular Economy roadmaps.

**Kevin de Cuba**, as **Technical Team Leader of the FACTOR-ASDF Team**, gave a short 10-minute presentation about the mid-term results of the CTCN Circular Economy Project. The panel session was attended by several senior and high-level representatives.



From left to right: **Federico Villatico** (Regional Manager - LAC, West and Central Africa at CTCN); **Guillermo Gonzáles** (Head of the Circular Economy Office at the Ministry of Environment in Chile); **Kevin de Cuba** (Team Leader, CTCN CE LAC Project & Director, Americas Sustainable Development Foundation); **Claudia Octaviano** (General Coordinator of Climate Change Mitigation and Low Carbon Development of Mexico and NDE Mexico); **Paola Visca** (Climate Change Division of the Ministry of Housing, Planning and Environment of Uruguay and NDE Uruguay); and **Gonzalo Muñoz** (High Level Champion COP25).

### Outcomes:

This event served as a suitable platform to enable me to establish new contacts which are to the interest of Aruba's Government and with whom opportunities for cooperation on Circular Economy can be explored. In addition, some of these contacts are candidates to be invited to the **Circular Economy Forum of the Americas 2020 (CEFA2020)** to be hosted in Aruba, Dutch Caribbean in the second half of 2020.

## Recommendations:

CTCN	<p>Based on a conversation with <b>Federico Villatico Campbell, Regional Manager - LAC, West and Central Africa at CTCN</b>, he recommended Aruba to consider appointing a National Designated Entity (NDE) as is the case in all countries that fall under the UNFCCC to enable Aruba to be actively involved in the process.</p> <p>Since the CTCN management structure is relatively independent from the formal UN structure, Aruba is eligible to appoint an NDE which enables Aruba to actively participate in the multiple annual meetings, benefit of the technical assistance offered, and participate in tenders it brings about to assist the members to deploy technologies that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. And since CTCN has identified Circular Economy as a priority, there will be more Circular Economy focused assistance planned for 2020 and beyond. This would be a potential source of international assistance to help implement Aruba's VEC2050.</p> <p>The recommendation is to send a formal letter from the MinESSD directed to <b>Director of CTCN, Rose Mwebaza</b> and <b>Tareq Emtairah, Director, Department of Energy at UNIDO</b>, via the <b>Head of Delegation of the Dutch Kingdom to the UNFCCC, which is Mr. Bastiaan Hassing</b>, requesting the appointment and inclusion of an NDE for Aruba in the CTCN network. Upon this first step, further actions will be explained.</p>
UNIDO	<p>Established contact with <b>Alla Metelitsa, Chief, Climate Policy and Partnerships Division, Department of Energy at UNIDO</b> and discussed the possibilities of UNIDO working with Aruba on implementing its 2050 Circular Economy Vision and any renewable energy needs.</p> <p>UNIDO has financed the work done under the Biovalor Project in Uruguay, and has in recent years increased its work on Circular Economy related topics.</p> <p>Although she expressed concrete interest in working with Aruba, she was not certain in which modality this could occur. Therefore, she recommended to send a follow up email to her and enable her to explore how they may be of assistance to Aruba.</p>
ENEL	<p>Had a good exchange with <b>Luca Meini, Head of Circular Economy, Innovability at ENEL</b>. They sponsored CEFA2018 in Chile through intervention by Rodrigo Garrido (ENEL Chile) and they would be interested in looking into CEFA2020 in Aruba. We agreed to send a follow up email describing the scope and timing of CEFA2020 for ENEL to consider sponsoring.</p>



## DAY 3 (Tuesday, December 10)

### Event #2

8:30AM – 4:30PM

*Sustainable Innovation Forum 2019 (Private Sector Forum at COP25)*

*Novotel Madrid Campo de las Naciones*

*Madrid, Spain*

The 10th edition of the Sustainable Innovation Forum (SIF2019) is an annual private sector forum organized during COP-meetings as a means to offer the private sector to have parallel gatherings, meetings and panels inviting high-level public sector and international organizations' representatives to exchange information about latest innovations and commitments by the private sector on climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Forum is now recognized as the premium business-focused event during the UNFCCC's annual Climate Change Conference.



Arrival and registration of the Sustainable Innovation Forum 2019, Tuesday, December 10, 2019 in Madrid, Spain.

I decided to attend the first day of the Sustainable Innovation Forum as it has a solid list of high-level speakers with whom Aruba could explore cooperative opportunities and also the agenda included a complete session on ***“Igniting Systemic Change for a Circular Economy”***, with the attendance of Minister Eric Wiebes, Minister of Economy and Climate Policy of the Netherlands.

Please see the agenda below:

Time	Description:
8:30 – 9:20	Registration and Coffee
9:20 – 9:25	<b>Chairperson's Opening Remarks</b>  Nick Gowing, Chairperson, Sustainable Innovation Forum 2019
	<b>Keynote Address: Raising your Ambition</b>  Speaker:

	Hon. Josaia Bainimarama, Prime Minister, Fiji
	<b>Accelerating Solutions for Climate Action</b>  Speaker: Glenn Schmidt, Vice President Governmental and External Affairs, BMW Group
	<b>UN Address: The Global Momentum for Climate Action</b>  Speaker: Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba, UN Special Envoy for 2019 Climate Summit
	<b>Fireside Chat: Business ambition 1.5 degrees Celsius – The Business response to limit warming to 1.5C</b>  Speaker: Andrew Steer, CEO & President, World Resources Institute (WRI)
	<b>Towards a Robust Approach to Net-Zero in the Corporate Sector</b>  Moderator: Paul Simpson, CEO, CDP  Panelists: Gabrielle Ginér, Head of Environmental Sustainability, British Telecom (BT) Ramiro Fernandez, Climate Change Director, AVINA Foundation, High-Level Champion of Chile Maya Ormazabal Herrera, Head of Environment & Climate Change, Telefonica
	<b>Keynote Address</b>  <b>Limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius: Is mid-century carbon free economy possible?</b>  Speaker: Hoesung Lee, Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
	<b>Smart and Sustainable Mobility Systems</b>  Moderator: Nik Gowing, Forum Chair, Sustainable Innovation Forum 2019  Panelists:



	<p>Ursula Mathar, Vice President Sustainability, BMW Group</p> <p>Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Minister of Environment, Costa Rica</p> <p>Roberto Mario Esmeral, Vice Minister of Environment &amp; Sustainable Development, Colombia</p> <p>Enrique Alfaro, Governor of Jalisco, Mexico</p> <p>Tate Cantrell, Chief Technology Officer, Verne Global</p>
	<p><b>Transitioning Towards a Cleaner, Smarter Energy System of the Future</b></p> <p>Moderator: Jennifer Layke, Global Director, Energy Program, World Resources Institute (WRI)</p> <p>Panelists: John Neil Loughhead, Head of Steering Committee, Mission Innovation Senator Bob Wiechowski, California State Senator Hanno Schoklitsch, CEO &amp; Founder, Kaiserwetter Santiago Seage, CEO, Atlantica Sustainable Infrastructure James Shaw, Minister of Climate Change, New Zealand</p>
	<p><b>Climate Leader Insights: The Aviation Sector Climate Action Plan</b></p> <p>Speaker: Alexandre de Junaic, Director General &amp; CEO, International Air Transportation Association (IATA)</p>
Lunch	
	<p><b>Financing Climate Action: Frameworks to Accelerate Capital Flows for a Sustainable Future</b></p> <p>Moderator: Barbara Buchner, Executive Director, Climate Finance, Climate Policy Initiative</p> <p>Panelists: Rudolfo Lacy, Environment Director, OECD Yannick Glemares, Executive Director, Green Climate Fund Kimmo Tiilikainen, Minister of Environment, Finland Juan Camilo Ospina, Chief Investment Officer, SURA Gemma Sacristan, Chief Investment Officer, IDB Invest</p>
	<p><b>Igniting Systemic Change for a Circular Economy</b></p> <p>Moderator: Miranda Schnitger, Government Lead, Ellen MacArthur Foundation</p>

	Panelists: Steve Kukoda, Executive Director, International Copper Association George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, British Columbia, Canada Masagos Zulkifli, Minister of Environment and Water Resources, Singapore Eric Wiebes, Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, the Netherlands
	Q&A and conclusions

The Forum was attended by many high-level representatives of the private sector, public sector, NGOs, and academia. I attended all sessions during Day 1 to learn about the latest developments and updates regarding relevant topics, such as **smart and sustainable mobility, clean and smart energy systems, financing climate action, and accelerating climate compatible solutions.**

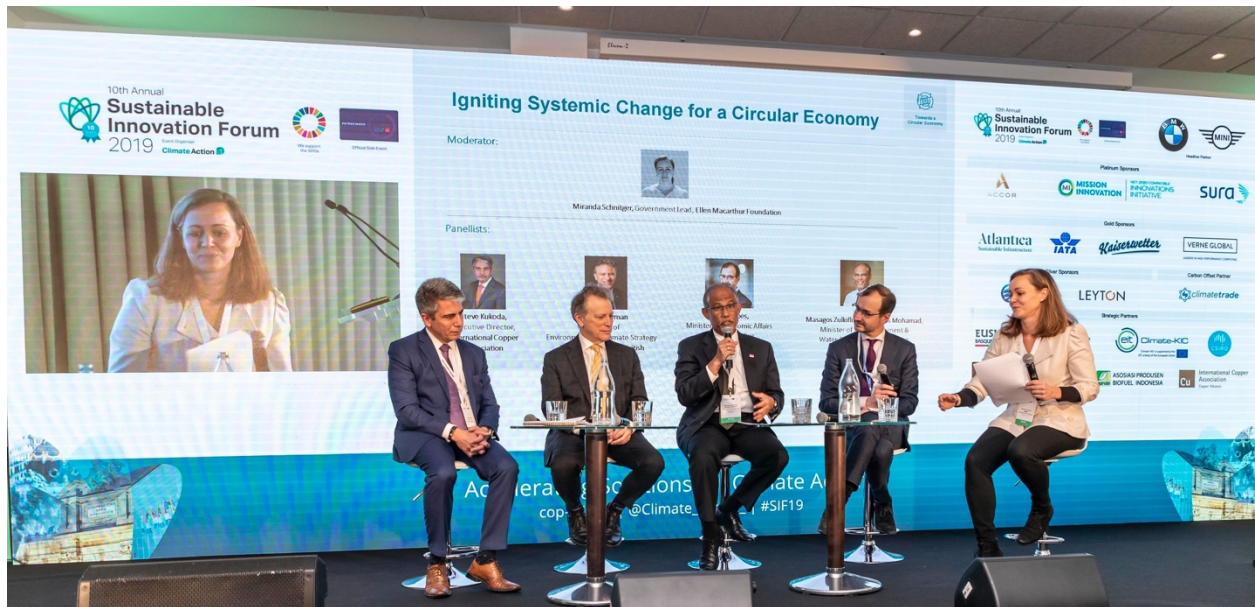


Participants on Day 1 of the Sustainable Innovation Forum 2019 at COP25, Tuesday, December 10, 2019 in Madrid, Spain.

During the several sessions I took notes of key ideas and recommendations that are worthwhile exploring as means to direct and implement Aruba's 2050 Circular Economy Vision.



Pictures of several sessions held during Day 1 at the Sustainable Innovation Forum 2019 at COP25, Tuesday, December 10, 2019 in Madrid, Spain.



Session: Igniting Systemic Change for a Circular Economy, Day 1 at the Sustainable Innovation Forum 2019 at COP25, Tuesday, December 10, 2019 in Madrid, Spain.

## Recommendations:

Government of Singapore	After a brief conversation with <b>Minister Masagos Zulkifli, Minister of Environment and Water Resources of Singapore</b> , we agreed that our ministry will send a follow up email to the <b>Deputy Director of Climate Change Negotiation Office, Ms. Mary-Anne Pan</b> to request a formal visit to Singapore to learn about the R&D activities brought about by Singapore on the management of water resources, which includes new innovations
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	<p>based on the biomimicry principles which is fully compatible with the circular economy.</p> <p>Once the Aruban delegation is approved and is able to travel to Singapore, the Government of Singapore will arrange stay and all logistics to visit sites and have high-level meetings on topics of mutual interest. From this technical visit, potential new cooperation opportunities may surge, with a focus on Circular Economy compatible solutions and applicable to island settings.</p> <p>Learning from Singapore's and Costa Rica's experiences (in a previous session about Climate Financing), a <b>personal observation</b> is that it's to Aruba's self-interest to find ways to finance its own transition toward a sustainable circular island economy.</p> <p>We should look into the Costa Rica's case where they financed their 10 Billion US\$ investment in their transition to become almost 100% renewable in their power generation. Another example is Singapore's ability to invest US\$300 million in their own Research &amp; Development (R&amp;D) to address their water scarcity challenges (they currently desalinate seawater and have a very efficient water management system).</p>
Ellen MacArthur Foundation	<p>Had a brief conversation with <b>Miranda Schnitger, Government Lead at Ellen MacArthur Foundation</b> about the role they play in aiding Governments such as Aruba in transitioning toward Circular Economy.</p> <p>She explained the high-level objectives and assistance they provide to the public sector, which includes (1) the creation of general awareness of what Circular Economy is all about, (2) developing research and share objective study results to enable informed decision-making; and (3) help facilitate match-making between knowledge partners, financiers, and beneficiaries to create an eco-system to enable the transition toward circular economy to occur.</p> <p>We agreed to send a formal request by the Ministry to her to enable them to explore ways of how EMF could be of assistance to Aruba for the implementation of Aruba's 2050 Circular Economy Vision.</p>
British Columbia, Canada	<p>Had a brief conversation with <b>George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy of British Columbia, Canada</b>, where I explained that Aruba has a 2050 CEV and is hosting CEFA2020, and our knowledge of World Circular Economy Forum 2020 (WCEF2020) planned for Sept 29 – Oct 01, 2019 in Toronto, Canada.</p> <p>And whether he would be interested in exploring cooperative opportunities to look into how their Extended Producer Responsibility</p>

	<p>program has been effective in addressing their waste management problems and success achieved with stimulating new recycling companies to divert waste from landfill.</p> <p>We agreed, I will send a follow up email to explore this idea of exchanging experiences with their EPR program and also take into consideration participating in CEFA2020.</p>
Royal Dutch Shell	<p>Exchanging ideas with <b>Deniz Ugur, Global Technology Development Executive, and Richard Taylor, Global Product Technology Manager at Shell</b>, we explored the idea of road construction. They recommend Aruba to explore the re-use of asphalt (roads) for building new roads. And offset need to import bitumen and other additives. This requires a conversation with the asphalt companies in Aruba. They indicated to be happy to engage in further conversations about this and other potential opportunities for making Aruba more circular.</p> <p>This item requires more research by our end, to gain a proper understanding of the challenges and opportunities that exist on Aruba regarding the re-use of asphalt and its sustainability.</p>
IATA	<p>Based on presentation by the <b>International Air Transportation Association's Director General &amp; CEO, Alexandre de Juniac</b>, Aruba needs to start exploring the way to get flights to and from Aruba carbon neutral. Based on IATA projections, there will be four times more flights by 2050, and they aim to half the GHG emissions by 2050 compared to 2005. Their focus is on biofuels, aiming to contribute to 80% reduction.</p> <p><b>My personal recommendation</b> would be to look into creating a financing mechanism or revolving fund for planting trees in Aruba as a means to offset carbon emissions originating from the flights to and from Aruba.</p> <p>Presently our economy heavily dependents on the 1Million+ visitors annually. And if we extend the scope of our assessment and consider the emissions brought about by all the tourists that visit our island. From the moment they decide to opt for Aruba as a vacation destination, on a macro-economic perspective, the visitors all represent a high GHG emission footprint, as most arrive by plane, and secondarily by cruise ships. Thus, in the same line of thought, we need to look into low carbon or net zero shipping lanes to Aruba for both cruise ships as freights.</p> <p>To turn this challenge into an opportunity, we should explore ways to stimulate our visitors to take our island's nature into account when visiting, as the natural beauty of the beaches and island sceneries are their main reason for visiting. And offer in first instance voluntary opportunities to contribute through intelligent digital and physical marketing. For instance, when buying a ticket, booking a stay, or purchasing or renting anything</p>

	<p>while on Aruba, use intelligent methods to direct the person to a website to make a voluntary donation that goes into a national revolving fund and financing mechanism specifically dedicated for planting trees across the island.</p> <p>This could become the most cost-effective way to address the island's regenerative capacity and solve water needs, soil quality retention, and carbon sequestration.</p>
IPCC	<p>Based on the Keynote Presentation provided by <b>Mr. Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC</b> and my brief conversation with him, Aruba needs to set clear science-based targets to be in line with the 1.5-degree Celsius target as part of the Circular Economy roadmap. It is very critical that this is back casted, where there are clear and objective annual targets that need to be met.</p> <p>This requires further research, and for this, funding is needed. I agree with Mr. Lee that science-based targets are needed to enable concrete quantification of results and adequate monitoring and evaluation of efforts.</p>
Climate Action	<p>Met with <b>Javier Ruiz, Head of Strategic Partnerships at Climate Action</b>, the organizers of the Sustainable Innovation Forum. He was very interested in the work Aruba is bringing about regarding Circular Economy. I explained that we are looking into establishing new partnerships and scope opportunities for financing.</p> <p>He indicated to be willing to assist us in doing the matchmaking. We agreed that I will send a follow up email with a clear description of our need, and he will be able to match us with potential partners from their database.</p>
Government of South Australia	<p>Mrs. <b>Cate Hart, Executive Director of Environment, Heritage and Sustainability of the Department of Environment and Water, of the Government of South Australia</b> congratulated Aruba on the 2050 CEV. She would like to place me in contact with the leading experts on Circular Economy from Australia to explore potential exchange opportunities. We agreed that I will send a follow up email for her to place us in contact.</p>
Swedish Energy Agency	<p>Met with <b>Olle Dierks, Lead for A Challenge for Sweden at the Swedish Energy Agency</b> and discussed the topic of Circular Economy. He offered to place me in contact with the leading Circular Economy experts from Sweden.</p> <p>Through LinkedIn, Mr. Dierks placed me in contact with Tobias Jonsson of CircularEconomy.se and Ola Altera, Chief Executive at Swedish Climate</p>



	Policy Council to explore cooperative opportunities to help bring about Aruba's 2050CEV.
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After the Circular Economy Session at SIF2019, I headed to the Blue Zone of the COP25 Venue to participate in other sessions.

### Event #3

4:30PM – 6:00PM

*SDG 7 Roundtable: Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action*

*San Pedro de Atacama, Blue Zone, COP25 Venue, IFEMA, Madrid, Spain*



Roundtable discussion as part of the Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action on December 10, 2019, at San Pedro de Atacama, Blue Zone, COP25 Venue, Madrid, Spain

Climate and SDG goals require a bigger renewable share and more energy efficiency. The event highlighted best practice policy making, technology developments, business innovations and inclusive approaches that can be replicated and scaled to meet the mutual commitments of SDG7 and the Paris Agreement.

During this event, parties such as the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll) and UNFCCC hosted a roundtable to take stock of progress made under SDG7 and discussed outlooks and solutions for ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030. Several invited countries gave a brief update regarding their work performed in the fields of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

The discussion also highlighted the pre-2020 action necessary to realize the energy transition, the Energy Action Pathways and Global Climate Action Yearbook, and how the initiatives from the Climate Action Summit can be taken forward and accelerated.

### Recommendations:

Rocky Mountain Institute	Met in passing with <b>Jules Kortenhorst, CEO of the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)</b> and based on the quick exchange I understand MRI might
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	start endeavoring into Circular Economy field. He placed me in contact with <b>Beth Hartman, Managar, Office of the CEO</b> to send a follow up email to explore with them regarding the topic of Circular Economy.
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#### Event #4

6:00PM – 6:30PM

*Delegation of the Dutch Kingdom to the UNFCCC*

*Kingdom of the Netherlands Office, Blue Zone, COP25 Venue, Madrid, Spain*

Informal meeting with **Eefke van de Wouw, UN Youth Representative on Sustainable Development for the Netherlands**. The National Youth Council (NJR) of which she is a member of, is an NGO for youth participation in the Netherlands. They take social issues into account as a starting point and make young people co-producers of the solution. In this way they connect bottom-up movement with top-down policymaking.

#### Event #5

6:30PM – 7:00PM

*CCCCC Project Presentations*

*Presentation Room, Joint CARICOM/AOSIS Pavilion, Blue Zone, COP25 Venue, Madrid, Spain*



Participated together with **Bastiaan Hassing, Head of Delegation of the Dutch Kingdom to the UNFCCC** in an event organized by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (CCCCC) at the CARICOM/AOSIS Pavilion with interest in knowing the latest updates in the Caribbean regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The project described at that moment was the **USAID funded Airborne LIDAR System project**, where with the donation of Maya Airlines, the LIDAR System was installed on a small plane to enable CCCCC start using the LIDAR system for Climate Monitoring.

LIDAR, stands for Light Detection and Ranging, and is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth. These light

pulses—combined with other data recorded by the airborne system— generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics.

LIDAR systems allow scientists and mapping professionals to examine both natural and manmade environments with accuracy, precision, and flexibility. In the U.S., NOAA scientists are using LIDAR to produce more accurate shoreline maps, make digital elevation models for use in geographic information systems, to assist in emergency response operations, and in many other applications. The LIDAR can even measure some gases and particles in the atmosphere with high resolution to apply for climate monitoring, meteorology, and much more.

This is a great addition to CCCCC’s technological portfolio to enable them to improve their capacity to perform climate change analyses and enable them to more effectively communicate the situation in the Caribbean.

Caribbean Community Climate Change Center	Met with <b>Dr. Ulric Trotz, Deputy Director and Science Advisor at CCCCC</b> and discussed the ongoing activities in the Caribbean region. I updated him on my role on behalf of Aruba and ongoing work in Circular Economy. Dr. Trotz expressed interest in the topic of Circular Economy and asked for us to have a call after COP25 to explain more about it and explore opportunities to work together in the Caribbean.
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#### **DAY 4 (Wednesday, December 11)**

##### **Event #6**

*9:30AM – 4:30PM*

*COP25 Side-Event: EuroChile Circular Economy Conference and Bilateral Meetings*

*Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid, Spain*

Eurochile is a business association established in Chile with focus on building strategic business alliances between Chilean and European companies. They first got in contact with Circular Economy back in 2016 during the first a Commercial Circular Economy mission organized by the European Commission, bringing a delegation of business representatives from Europe to Chile to explore business opportunities for deployment of European technologies and solutions to address sustainable development challenges in Chile through a Circular Economy approach.



Participants at the Eurochile COP25 Side-event on Circular Economy and Bilateral Meetings, December 11, 2019, Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid, Spain

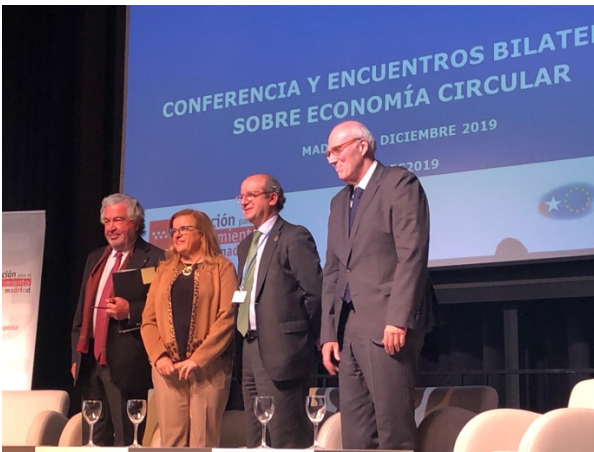
Please see the events agenda below:

Time	Description:
8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:30	<b>Welcome Remarks</b>  <b>Maria Luisa Castaño Marín</b> , General Manager of Research and Technological Innovation. Science, Universities and Innovation Advisor at Comunidad de Madrid. <b>Vicente Caruz</b> , President of Eurochile Foundation <b>Marcos Pinta Gama</b> , Vice-Secretary of Secretary General of Iberoamerica <b>Daniel Calleja</b> , Director General of Environment at the European Commission
9:30 – 10:30	<b>The Circular Economy as a Climate Change mitigation tool</b> Moderator: <b>Linnet Solway</b> , Director of Technology Transfer and Circular Economy, Eurochile  Speakers: <b>Jocelyn Bléroit</b> , Executive Lead, International Institutions, Governments & Cities, Ellen MacArthur Foundation <b>Ladeja Godina</b> , President of the Coordination Group of the European Circular Economy Stakeholders Platform & Founder and Director of Circular Change <b>Ernesto Hartikainen</b> , Senior Lead, Carbon-Neutral Circular Economy, SITRA Finnish Innovation Fund <b>Victoria Duque</b> , Manager, Triciclos Colombia
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee</b>

11:00 – 12:45	<p><b>The transition of the business sector toward a Circular Economy: role and opportunities</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Jose Aravena</b>, Executive Director Eurochile</p> <p>Speaker: <b>Filippo Pasquet</b>, Principal Administrator, Responsible for the Enterprise Europe Network, European Commission <b>Freek van Eijk</b>, Director, Holland Circular Hotspot <b>Linnet Solway</b>, Director of Technology Transfer and Circular Economy, Eurochile <b>Paloma Mallorquin</b>, Project Officer, Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking <b>Cristián Rojas</b>, President, Association of Enterprises and Professionals for the Environment (AEPA) <b>Manuel Antonio Ríos</b>, Strategy Manager, AlfaSeta <b>Miquel Lozano</b>, President, Tesalys</p>
12:45 – 13:15	<b>Brunch</b>
13:15 – 14:45	<p><b>Advancing toward Circular and Sustainable Societies</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Jesús Rojo</b>, Head of Technology Transfer and European Programs, Madri+d Foundation</p> <p>Presenters: <b>Luca Meini</b>, Director of Circular Economy, ENEL Holding <b>Luis Fernando Pizarro</b>, Coordinator of Public Relations, Project 4o Sector, General Secretariat Iberoamerica</p> <p>Panelists: <b>Clemens Rosenmayr</b>, Head of Energy &amp; Environment, Eurochambers <b>Beatriz Luz</b>, Founder, Exchange4Change Brazil <b>Gema Díaz Real</b>, President, SNIACE S.A.</p>
14:45 – 15:00	<p><b>Closing</b></p> <p>Speaker: <b>Jose Aravena</b>, Executive Director, Eurochile</p>
15:00 – 19:30	<p><b>Bilateral Meetings</b></p> <p>Opportunity to meet counterparts, close deals, and exchange of ideas and knowledge, technology transfer, and networking for future collaborations.</p>



Was happy to meet my colleague of the Circular Economy Platform of the Americas, **Beatriz Luz, Founder of Exchange4Change Brazil**, and also **Freek van Eijk, Director of Holland Circular Hotspot**.



Picture gallery of the four main components of the program of the Eurochile COP25 Side-event on Circular Economy and Bilateral Meetings, December 11, 2019, Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid, Spain

## Presentation: Daniel Calleja, Director General of Environment at the European Commission

A presentation of interest was the one provided by **Daniel Calleja, Director General of Environment at the European Commission** regarding the next Circular Economy Action Plan. The President-Elect Ursula von der Leyen and Commissioner-Elect for Environment and Oceans, Mr. Virginijus Sinkevicius have already expressed their commitment to Circular Economy for the coming years.

The three main Political Guidelines for the President-Elect are (1) Become the First Climate-Neutral Continent; (2) Enable a Just Transition & Sustainable Europe Investment Plan; and (3) Preserving Europe's Environment. And under the latter policy objective, the new Circular Economy Action Plan will be brought about.

The underlying reasons why Circular Economy is import for Europe are driven by (1) the Environment; (2) Access to raw materials; and (3) Societal Pressures. There is the understanding that global resource extraction and processing accounts for 50% of global greenhouse gas (GHG)



emissions. The remanufacturing and comprehensive refurbishment can contribute to GHG emissions reduction by between 79% and 99% in appropriate sectors. And Circular Economy could cut EU emissions from heavy industry by 56% annually by 2050. New rules in the waste management sector will make the EU a global leader in recycling.

They have set clear targets:

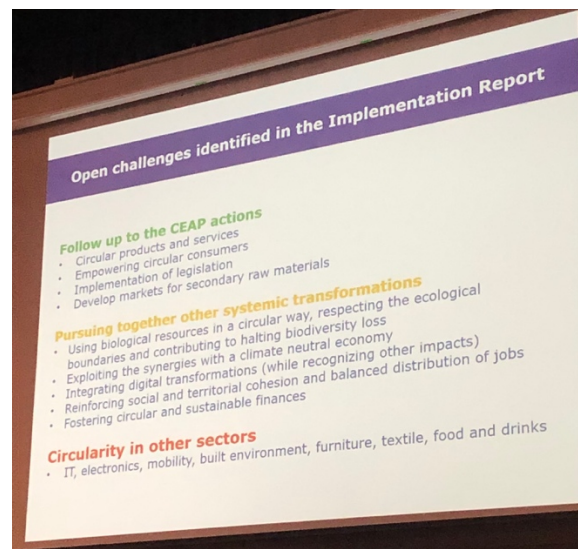
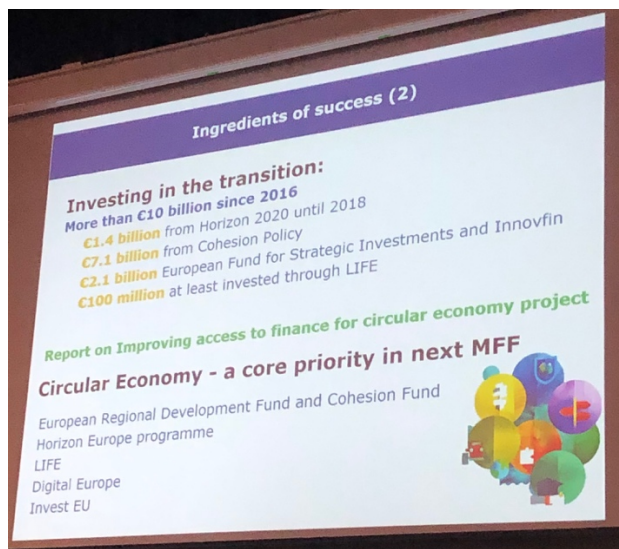
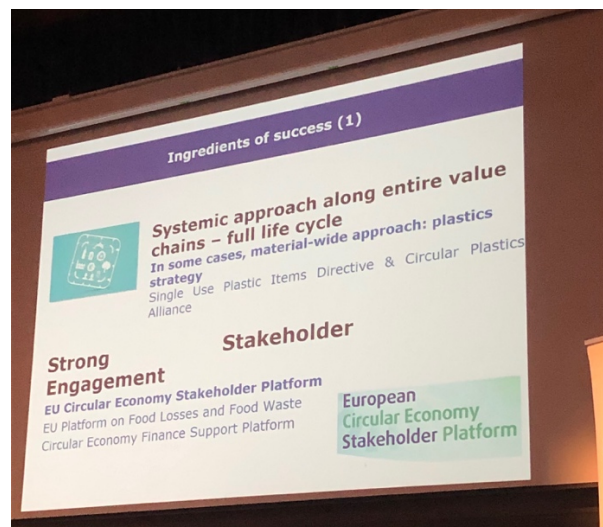
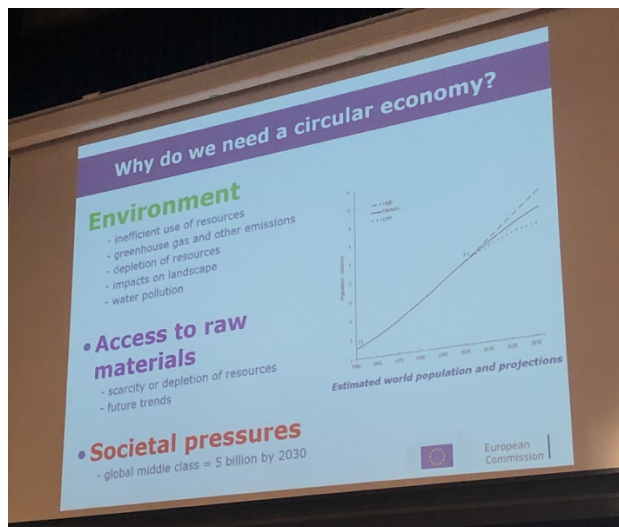
- By 2030, at least 70% of all packaging waste in each EU country should be recycled.
- By 2035, all EU countries should recycle at least 65% and landfill less than 10% of municipal waste.

Specific recycling targets are also established for specific materials:

- Paper and cardboard: 85%
- Ferrous Materials: 80%
- Aluminum: 60%
- Glass: 75%
- Plastic: 55%
- Wood: 30%

The European Commission projects an increase in employment to Circular Economy related activities of 4 million jobs and anticipate the market value for Repair, Reuse and Recycling of EUR147 billion and EUR17.5 billion of investments.





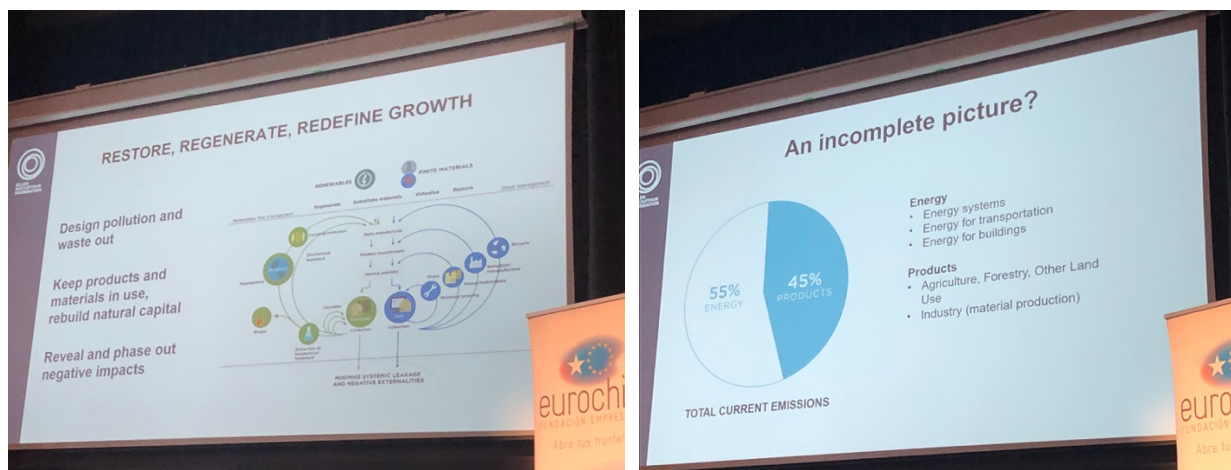
Slides from the presentation provided by Daniel Calleja, Director General of Environment at European Commission during the Eurochile COP25 Side-event on Circular Economy and Bilateral Meetings, December 11, 2019, Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid, Spain

The success of the European Green Deal will depend on strong engagement with stakeholders across Europe. Also, the steady investment in Circular Economy solutions is required. This is among the core priorities for the next Multiannual Financial Framework of the European Commission.

**Presentation: Jocelyn Bléroit, Executive Lead, International Institutions, Governments & Cities, Ellen MacArthur Foundation**

The presentation by **Jocelyn Bléroit, Executive Lead, International Institutions, Governments & Cities, Ellen MacArthur Foundation** was also of particular interest. It contained two critical slides that summarize the basics for what circular economy stands for and why it is relevant as a means to combat climate change. The Circular Economy can be summarized by placing attention to (1) Make sure you design pollution and waste out; (2) Keep products and materials in continuous use and rebuild natural capital; and (3) Reveal and phase out negative impacts throughout the society.

Based on their recent study it becomes clear that 45% of all global GHG emissions is attributable to products. The energy that goes into making any product used on earth, and the land uses necessary to bring them about (agriculture, forestry and other land uses) and the material extraction and use for making products in the industry.



Slides from the presentation provided by Jocelyn Bléroit, Executive Lead, International Institutions, Governments & Cities, Ellen MacArthur Foundation during the Eurochile COP25 Side-event on Circular Economy and Bilateral Meetings, December 11, 2019, Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid, Spain

This new outcome places the Circular Economy at the central stage as a means not only to combat climate change, but as a holistic and integrated approach to address other global sustainability challenges.

**Presentation: Ladeja Godina, President of the Coordination Group of the European Circular Economy Stakeholders Platform & Founder and Director of Circular Change**

The presentation by **Ladeja Godina, President of the Coordination Group of the European Circular Economy Stakeholders Platform & Founder and Director of Circular Change** also captured my attention as an example of how in Europe a network of Circular Economy hotspots has been developing and at what point in time the several national Circular Economy roadmaps in Europe have come into being.



Slides from the presentation provided by Ladeja Godina, President of the Coordination Group of the European Circular Economy Stakeholders Platform & Founder and Director of Circular Change during the Eurochile COP25 Side-event on Circular Economy and Bilateral Meetings, December 11, 2019, Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid, Spain



It is interesting to observe that Luxembourg is highlighted as the first European nation to take the initiative to consider in December 2014 themselves as a knowledge hub and testing ground for the Circular Economy through their National Roadmap to positive impacts. Thereafter followed by Scotland, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, Denmark, Italy, Portugal, Slovak Republic, the revised and updated Action Plan by the Netherlands, Greece, Slovenia, France, the Danish Circular Economy Strategy, Sweden, Slovak Republic's Strategy, and most recently Finland's Roadmap to the Circular Economy 2.0. The point to highlight here is that Aruba's 2050 Circular Economy Vision is timely and requires a more in-depth analysis to convert it into a National Roadmap and Action Plan.

#### Recommendations:

European Commission	<p>Through the presentation given by <b>Daniel Calleja, Director General of Environment of the European Commission</b>, it becomes clear that the European Green Deal, to be announced during COP25, outlines and confirms that the European Commission will continue to commit funding to Circular Economy both in Europe as well as part of its international aid programs.</p> <p>A 2nd edition of the <b>European Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) 2021 – 2025</b> is being drafted which includes clear commitments and interventions at the EU level on supporting the EU Member States to transition toward circular economies.</p> <p>Aruba needs to confirm whether through its status as European Union Overseas Country and Territory (OCT) it can benefit of the European Green Deal, and explore which mechanisms are available to secure funding to help implement its 2050 CEV.</p>
Holland Circular Hotspot	<p>Agreed with <b>Freek van Eijk, Director of Holland Circular Hotspot</b>, to work together on elevating the importance of cooperation within the Dutch Kingdom on the topic of Circular Economy. And develop a common voice and representation of common interests when dealing with international partners. Such partnership will have to be based on combining the interests and strategic approach by each country within the Kingdom.</p> <p>My presence at COP25 as part of the Dutch Kingdom's delegation to the UNFCCC is a good example of how all countries in the Kingdom can be represented and their interests upheld, while collaborating on knowledge exchange and scoping together for international alliances.</p>

## Event #7

5:00PM – 7:00PM

*Circular Economy Master Class*

*COTEC Foundation for Innovation*

*Spanish Pavilion, Blue Zone, COP25 Venue, Madrid, Spain*

Attended a session on Circular Economy organized by the COTEC Foundation for Innovation of Spain. They are the creators of the most comprehensive video about Circular Economy in Spanish which has been used by many as the proper means of introduction to Circular Economy. A master class was given by **Sergio de Pazos Fernandez, Director of Strategic Design at El Instituto** and **Bruno Teixidor, Creative Director at El Instituto** the creative designers of the Circular Economy video.

They elaborated on today's global overload of information, as they call it, **Infoxication**, which makes it very complicated to reach the masses with a call to action for important issues such as the Climate Emergency.



Master Class and Discussion Panel held during the COTEC Foundation's COP25 Side-event on Circular Economy, December 11, 2019, Blue Zone, Spanish Pavilion, COP25 Venue, Madrid, Spain

I managed to establish contact with the **President of COTEC Foundation, Cristina Garmendia** to explore opportunities to cooperate with Aruba on creating awareness and building capacity on Circular Economy.

COTEC Foundation	After a brief conversation with <b>Cristina Garmendia, President of COTEC Foundation for Innovation</b> , she recommended me to send her an email for her to place me in contact with the General Manager of COTEC Foundation to explore opportunities to assist Aruba with implementing <b>Strategic Objective #1: Build our people's awareness, knowledge and skills of Aruba's 2050 Circular Economy Vision.</b>
El Instituto	Established contact with <b>Sergio de Pazos Fernandez, Director of Strategic Design at El Instituto</b> to enable me to send a follow up meeting to explore opportunities to work together on the strategic outreach and

	communication to achieve a successful engagement with national stakeholders in Aruba to appropriate the Aruba 2050 Circular Economy Vision and contribute to its implementation.
Iberdrola	After a short conversation with <b>Carlos Salle Alonso, Vice-President of Energy Policies and Climate Change at Iberdrola</b> , he indicated to be interested in what we are aiming to achieve. As a utility firm focused on the transition to renewable energy, they are moving forward to exploring opportunities for renewable energy technology deployment. We agreed to send a follow up email to further the conversation.

## Event #8

7:15PM-9:00PM

*Blue Leaders Event*

*Benelux Pavilion, Blue Zone, COP25 Venue, Madrid, Spain*



Several high-level speakers attended the Blue Leaders Event, including the principle host of COP25, **Minister of Environment of the Government of Chile, Claudia Schmidt** and businesspeople such as Donna Bertarelli and others passionate about the protection of the Oceans, and that recognize the potential to build global climate resilience with ocean protection.

I decided to attend this event, as I was scoping through the events, I realized **Aruba** is since COP21 (Paris) signatory to the “**The Because the Ocean Declaration**” which presently has the support of 39 countries who support this initiative to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, which focuses on the ocean, and promotes an Ocean Action Plan within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

See: <https://www.becausetheocean.org/the-initiative/>



This year’s COP saw climate and ocean practitioners and advocates working together to highlight the linkages between the ocean and climate change. After all, the ocean absorbs 90% of anthropogenic heat and one third of the CO2 we produce, and this comes with a cost for marine life. Ocean temperatures are increasing, the ocean is more acidic due to increased concentrations of CO2, the melting of polar ice and glaciers are elevating sea levels, and ocean-related extreme weather patterns are affecting humans, marine wildlife and habitats, not to mention the global economy. Coral reefs, hosting no less than 30% of the species of marine life known to date, are under extreme stress and are threatened as a result of ocean warming, acidification, and extreme storms.



Snapshots of the Blue Leaders Event, on December 12, 2019 at the Benelux Pavilion, Blue Zone, COP25 Venue, Madrid, Spain

The specific mechanisms for enabling Ocean protection remained in the open and thus I recommend to request more insights via the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment of Aruba regarding the content of the “Because the Ocean Declaration” and the possible mechanisms that could be used to secure funding to implement **Strategic Objective #4: Develop and use suitable and available renewable resources of the Aruba 2050 Circular Economy Vision.**

**Recommendations:**

Association: Costa Rica por Siempre	<p>Based on a conversation with <b>Maria Luisa Hernandez Badilla, Program Officer and LAC Region Coordinator at Costa Rica por Siempre</b>, she explained to me that they manage a program where the focus is on facilitating and catalyzing investments in protection of marine and terrestrial natural areas. And that they cooperate with governments in the Caribbean region.</p> <p>She suggested to explore with Aruba on the aspect of not only protecting natural areas, but also on revitalizing natural areas, which includes for instance planting trees as a means to offset climate change impacts.</p> <p>We agreed that I will send a follow up email to explore with them the possibility of cooperating on this front of facilitating the financing of a program to reforestation in Aruba. This is an action</p>
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	point clearly highlighted in Aruba's 2050 Circular Economy Vision and therefore an interesting opportunity to explore.
Adaptation Fund	<p>Met with <b>Farayi Madziwa, Readiness Program Coordinator, at the Adaptation Fund</b> and <b>Mahamat Assouyouli, Senior Climate Change Specialist at the Adaptation Fund</b> and discussed the topic of Circular Economy. They were not aware of the context and opportunities the Circular Economy principles could bring about, as a means for climate change adaptation.</p> <p>We discussed the multiple areas of interventions that are possible, starting with Circular Procurement and Tendering. Where future infrastructural project can be subjected to objective circularity indicators which make these projects not only more sustainable, but also more versatile to climate-induced and other natural disasters. They got fascinated about the topic and will further investigate it to discuss at the Secretariat of the Adaptation Fund.</p> <p>I will need to follow up to keep the momentum going and enable the Adaptation Fund to start discussing Circular Economy as a new area of focus and financing for climate adaptation purposes.</p>

## DAY 5 (Thursday, December 12)

9:00AM – 12:30PM

*Green Zone, COP25 Venue, Madrid, Spain*

Had a complete walk-through in the Green Zone of the COP25 venue. This is the publicly accessible segment of the COP25 venue where a large number of stands and other parallel meetings and activities were taking place during the two weeks of COP25.





Snapshot of the Green Zone at COP25 Venue, Madrid, Spain

Many international organizations and multinational companies were showcasing their latest initiatives, technologies, and projects that serve as means to mitigate or adapt to climate change. Here also several new contacts were established whom may be considered technological solutions providers to the interest of the Aruban Government that are compatible to the circular economy principles.

Also, several parallel events and meetings were ongoing among politicians, scientists, NGOs, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs), and Youth Organizations. All sharing their perspectives, showcasing new ideas and solutions, and/or expressing their concerns about the ongoing formal negotiations.

*1:30PM – 4:00PM*

*Blue Zone, COP25 Venue, Madrid, Spain*

Had a complete walk-through in the four halls visiting the several country pavilions and international organizations stands to learn about their initiatives and establish new contacts to explore opportunities to cooperate with Aruba on addressing Climate Change through Circular Economy compatible interventions and vision.







Snapshot of the Country Pavilion at the Blue Zone at COP25 Venue, Madrid, Spain

*4:00PM – 4:30PM*

*Delegation of the Dutch Kingdom to the UNFCCC*

*Kingdom of the Netherlands Office, Blue Zone, COP25 Venue, Madrid, Spain*

Had informal conversations with colleagues of the Dutch Kingdom delegation about Aruba's vision on Circular Economy and potential opportunities to cooperate with colleagues of the Netherlands. Exchanged information with **Sanne Kruid, Intern Climate at the Inclusive Green Growth Department of the Climate and Energy Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs** and **Alana Thelissen, Policy Advisor, Circular Economy and Climate Adaptation at the Directorate General for the Environment and International Affairs at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management**. They will help me to get in contact with Senior Experts on Circular Economy within their respective ministries.

*5:00PM – 6:30PM*

*European Commission announcement of the European Green Deal*

*EU Pavilion, Blue Zone, COP25 Venue, Madrid, Spain*

Frans Timmermans, Vice-President of the European Commission gave a final update and presentation about the European Green Deal. During his intervention he mainly focused on explaining the underlying essence behind the Green Deal.



Frans Timmermans, Vice-President of the European Commission, December 12, 2019, EU Pavilion, Blue Zone, COP25 Venue, Madrid, Spain

## Summary of key messages:

- Frans Timmermans: “The Green Deal is a way to enable Europe and its citizens to re-balance its relationship with mother earth. It’s a new way where everybody can have a decent life based on our values on this planet. That is the basis for the Green Deal.”
- “This is not just an answer to Climate Change, it is an answer to the many forms of changes that we are facing. It is also a growth strategy. If we implement the policies that we advocate in the Green Deal, it means rebooting our economy, setting it on a completely different footing, looking completely differently at how we produce food, and consume food. Looking completely different on how we organize mobility. How we negotiate our relationship with other parts of the world. How we create a better balance between our cities and the rural areas. Etc, etc.”

Based on my personal observations, without using the words “Circular Economy” the essence behind the Green Deal is Europe’s intention to continue to transition toward a Circular Continent.

- Frans Timmermans: “What I am trying to say, is that it is much more than us trying to attain the Paris objectives. It is about understanding that we need to become masters of our own faith, and we can only do that if we mobilize governance at all levels. Local, regional, national, European, global and of all nations. No longer just government by government, but governance by civil society where everyone who is interested in this, by economic actors, by trade unions, by NGOs, by the scientific community, by academia at large, by the media, etc. That we all have a stand and a stake in this. That we do this in a way that it is inter-generational, because I fear the lack of understanding between generations if we don’t care for it.”
- “It is a comprehensive approach to this issue. It is not a blueprint, it’s a roadmap. It offers avenues for us, starting with the assumption that we want to have a commitment to law at some point soon. That we will be Europe, the climate neutral continent by 2050.”
- To achieve this 2050 target, “we need to backtrack up until today and see what needs to be done at intermediate steps to get there”.
- “Obviously, one of the first things we need to do is make a sound assessment of where we need to be in 2030. We have a lot of scientific indications, but I would like to do a very thorough impact assessment between now and somewhere in the summer of next year, so that we know exactly what needs to be done to get us where we need to be.”

For Aruba’s case, I highly recommend us to use the Aruba 2050 Circular Economy Vision as a general starting point and perform an in-depth assessment of the type and scope of interventions needed, their timing and duration, and resources necessary to accomplish them.

- Frans Timmermans: “What I find most exciting and also stimulating is that the society is caught on to the emergency of the matter. Over 90% of Europeans see Climate Change as an urgent matter that needs to be dealt with. And this is the best starting point you can have as a politician as to have support for taking measures in such an area. I also see a change in attitude of the private sector, only in a very few years, with a few exceptions, especially in the fossil fuel industry. But mostly, especially big corporations are on the

same line, understanding that this paradigm shift is something that we have to embrace rather than trying to slow down.”

- “The challenge for the private sector will be with the Small and Medium Sized Enterprises because for them, they don’t do planning over 20, 30, or 40 years, they think about tomorrow to next year on how to keep their employees employed. And we need to make sure that we have a proposition for them.”
- The Green Deal can become an engine for job creation, and it can be done, as the capital is there to invest. “It is a matter of governance, of organizing and mobilizing our banks, mobilizing intermediate agencies such as the chambers of commerce, of creating nexuses with bigger industries so that they understand that they need to take the SMEs along on this road. I think that if we can show some early success, if we can show this works, it can take away a lot of the fear that people have for this change.”
- “We live in a day and age that for the first time in a long time, that the dominant feeling is not, my kids will be better off than I was and let’s put our shoulder behind it, the dominant feeling is, I fear for the future of my kids, they will probably be worse off than I am.”

Also in the case of Aruba, I believe that there is a consensus and demand for a comprehensive approach, such as enabling Aruba to transition toward a sustainable circular island economy and make Aruba more resilient to external shocks and reduce its dependency on volatile and increasingly expensive energy sources, food, products, and commodities.

- Frans Timmermans: “You may say change equals loss, I don’t want that, so no change. And if we don’t break that mode, we will be in the ironical or really sad situation, that those people who will suffer most, if we don’t address the challenge of climate change, the most vulnerable people in our society can be mobilized to be also the most focal people to stop us responding to the challenge of climate change, because they believe there is nothing in it for them, other than loss.”
- “So, if we want this to happen, we have to make sure it is done in a socially viable way so that people see, not just hear, but see that we are leaving no one behind. Then I believe we can create and mobilize societies to such an extent that they will embrace the opportunities that this new way of looking at our society has to offer. That is hopefully the essence of the Green Deal when you look at it more carefully.”
- Europe is responsible for approximately 9% of the total global emissions, “so it will only be effective on the global scale if we can convince our other partners to take comparable measures or to go along the same path. And we will do everything we can, all our efforts will be directed to that, and that’s why we are here, that’s why we are working hard at this COP”. But, by the COP next year in Glasgow, we have to be ready, we have to have our plans worked out, we have to be able to make a proposition to the other parts of the world that has a realistic perspective of keeping us on track to fulfill the Paris goals.



6:30PM – 8:00PM

*COP25. EU climate technologies day: Accelerating global climate technology collaboration and partnership - CTCN Circular Economy*

*EU Pavilion, Blue Zone, COP25 Venue, Madrid, Spain*

Participated in my last session of the day focused on accelerating climate technology through collaboration and partnerships.

Please see the agenda below, or see: <https://www.ctc-n.org/calendar/events/cop25-eu-climate-technologies-day-accelerating-global-climate-technology>

Time	Description:
18:30	<b>Introducing the structure of the event, speakers &amp; objectives</b>  Dr. Matt Kennedy, University College Cork, Ireland
18:35 – 18:50	<b>Welcome by Director of Climate Technology Centre and Network</b>  Dr. Rose Mwebaza, CTCN
18:50 – 19:00	<b>Approaches to stimulating innovation through leveraging IP</b>  Victor Owade, WIPO
19:00 – 19:50	<b>Interactive session highlighting Exemplar N-S/S-S/triangular Case studies</b>  A focus on climate technologies, North-South collaboration what the climate technology issue means for the global South, and on North-South climate tech cooperation, with a focus on the role of CTCN.  Experience sharing from Zimbabwe, NDE of Zimbabwe, Mr. Elisha Moyo  Regional request for technical assistance on circular economy, Mr. Iker Larrea from the Factor, implementer
19:50 – 20:00	<b>Moderated Q&amp;A</b>  <b>Dr. Matt Kennedy</b> , University College Cork, Ireland



Iker Larrea, Partner and Head of Markets at FACTOR, December 12, 2019, EU Pavilion, Blue Zone, COP25 Venue, Madrid, Spain

The event was attended by a colleague at FACTOR, Iker Larrea, speaking on behalf of the international consortium between FACTOR and ASDF and elaborating about the work we are implementing in Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay regarding their national Circular Economy roadmaps and linkage to the Nationally Determined Commitments (NDCs) under the UNFCCC.

#### Recommendations:

<p>World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)</p>	<p>Based my conversation with <b>Victor Owade, Assistant External Relations Officer, Intergovernmental Organizations and Partnerships at WIPO</b> and <b>Peter Oksen, Senior Program Officer, Climate Change and Food Security at WIPO</b> I understood that Aruba can get free access to the WIPO Green Database which is a database for finding technological solutions to help address any climate change challenge in any sector of the economy.</p> <p>They facilitate the match making, and help in the deployment of the technology to the place needed, and in some cases can offer additional capacity building training or help also in the process of securing the intellectual property of new inventions brought about in the country, for this there is an international network of national IP offices or representatives that are the first ones to approach.</p> <p>When exploring for Circular Economy compatible technologies and solutions one could consider using the WIPO Green Database as a starting point to explore what technologies are available that may enable the process of creating a circular solution or service.</p>
<p>Blockchain &amp; Climate Institute</p>	<p>After a brief conversation with <b>Pedro Baiz, Head of Research (Finance) at Blockchain &amp; Climate Institute (BCI)</b> explained that they focus on raising awareness among the international climate change policy community of the tremendous potential of blockchain technology to considerably enhance state and non-state climate actions through targeted technological interventions.</p>

	This is an area worthwhile investigating and explore ways of how blockchain technology can help facilitate and accelerate the process of securing international finance for the implementation of Aruba's 2050 Circular Economy Vision.
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8:00PM – 8:15PM

*Debriefing with Mr. Bastiaan Hassing, Head of Delegation*

*Delegation of the Dutch Kingdom to the UNFCCC*

*Kingdom of the Netherlands Office, Blue Zone, COP25 Venue, Madrid, Spain*

Had a brief meeting with Mr. Hassing to debrief him about the meetings I had and events I attended during the week at COP25.

#### **Key follow up items:**

- One highlight or item for follow up is to initiate a direct communication between MinESSD of Aruba and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (*Infra and Rijkswaterstaat*) of the Netherlands, led by Stientje van Veldhoven, which is the leading ministry on Circular Economy for the Dutch Government.
- Mr. Hassing will place Mr. de Cuba in contact with colleagues working on Circular Economy from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management.
- Furthermore, Mr. de Cuba will explore through the Government of Aruba, ways to initiate a regular exchange between the four countries in the Kingdom on the topic of Circular Economy.

Based on conversations held during the week with several colleagues of the Dutch Kingdom's delegation at COP25, and the potential interest to work more closely with the colleagues from the Netherlands on the topic of Circular Economy. The following are some recommendations for the MinESSD and Aruba's Minister's Council to consider.

#### **General recommendations:**

Based on my observations during the week and having exchanged many ideas about how to bring about a circular economy transition in Aruba, I recommend the following:

Personal Recommendation	<p>In the case of Aruba there is a need to build on the potential synergy between (1) the Ministry of Education, Science and Sustainable Development; (2) the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Culture; (3) the Ministry of General Affairs, Energy, and Innovation; and (4) the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, to create a proper public sector governance on the topic of Circular Economy.</p> <p>For this a recommendation is to establish the <b>first Inter-Ministerial Circular Economy Leadership Council</b> composed of the Ministers and/or appointed high-level representatives of each ministry. And assign the Inter-Ministerial Circular Economy Leadership Council to represent</p>
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	Aruba on matters relating to Circular Economy with the partner countries in the Dutch Kingdom and beyond.
Personal Recommendation	Consider also creating a <b>National Circular Economy Technical Advisory Committee</b> composed of both national and international Circular Economy Experts representing the public-, private-, academic- and civil society to share knowledge through objective analyses, awareness and capacity building, provide technical updates and insights, and objective information for proper synergy and decision making at the national level to operate with a common vision and approach regarding Circular Economy.
Personal Recommendation	I highly recommend us to use the Aruba 2050 Circular Economy Vision as a general starting point and perform an in-depth multi-stakeholder and technical assessment of the type and scope of interventions needed, their timing and duration, and resources necessary to accomplish them, thus building a detailed roadmap and action plan that is carried by all.
Personal Recommendation	While we detailed out the interventions, continue to expand the international presence of Aruba, through a <b>network of Aruban Circular Economy Experts</b> to serve as <b>Circular Economy Ambassadors</b> to continue to identify financing and strategic partnerships to enable Aruba to implement its 2050 Circular Economy Vision. International cooperation will be a fundamental need to materialize the multiple interventions outlined in Aruba's 2050 VEC.

#### DAY 6 (Friday, December 13)

- Fly back to Medellin, Colombia.

#### COP25 General Observations and Outcomes

As I have not been directly involved in the negotiation process and had a particular agenda focused on establishing new contacts and exploring financing and strategic cooperation opportunities on the topic of Circular Economy, I have not actively met and gathered any direct insights regarding the outcomes of COP25 while there. The information and feedback I have is similar to all that are following the COP25 results through social and formal media channels.

But one recurring issue raised by many speakers and panelists throughout the week is the need to tax carbon emissions. This relates to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, where a new global carbon trade market should be deployed and should also lead to limit or eliminate the subsidies for the fossil fuel industry to achieve a proper level playing field to accelerate the deployment of climate compatible technologies.

The lack of an agreement on key aspects of the Paris Agreement is a setback, but this issue should not distract from increased ambition and the implementation of policies for action at the

domestic level. We as the Aruban Government, should focus on creating a Sustainable Circular Island Economy, as our means for rethinking our island economy and recognize the need to deviate from our present take-make-waste linear economic model. This enables us to address multiple sustainable development challenges, including contributing climate change mitigation and adaptation, doing this while intentionally designing and phasing out the waste or pollution created on Aruba.

The Aruba 2050 Circular Economy Vision is very compatible with all other ongoing efforts outlined in Aruba's SDG National Committee and the National Development Plan, where we will continue to support among other, energy and mobility sector innovations for the effective and efficient use of clean and renewable energy sources, and most importantly address our basic human needs, which includes the our food production and security, access to clean water, and protect the other ecological services provided by the island's and surrounding ocean's ecosystems.

### **Certification**

I, the undersigned, certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, this Mission Report correctly describes the activities, meetings, and outcomes obtained during the mission.

Date: 17/DEC/2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin de Cuba', is written over a horizontal line.

Full name of authorized representative  
ing. Kevin de Cuba, MSc.

Independent Senior Circular Economy Advisor