

EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
ENVIRONMENT

The Director-General

Brussels, **18.02.20**  
ENV.F/VH/jd(2020)210306

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

I would like to invite you to a Circular Economy Mission to Nigeria which will be organized back to back to the Waste to Wealth Conference and EXPO that the Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry will organise between the 27<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

The European Green Deal underlines that moving towards a circular economy is essential to foster sustainable economic growth and generate new jobs. Increased resource efficiency and circular economy solutions will improve the competitiveness of companies and create new growth opportunities in green markets domestically and abroad.

In view of the global dimension of environmental problems and solutions, global action will be necessary to achieve the European Green Deal objectives including through measures to accelerate the transition to a circular economy in Africa, both as an important producer and consumer of resources.

The concept of the circular economy is increasingly gaining traction in developing countries and emerging economies. Governments in Rwanda, Nigeria and South Africa for instance have launched the African Alliance on Circular Economy in 2017. The outcome of the 2017 Summit of the EU and the African Union (the "Abidjan Declaration") recognizes the high potential of the circular economy model for sustainable job creation and low emission, climate resilient and sustainable development. The Declaration of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in November 2019 underlined and reinforced African countries' commitment to promote circular economy approaches in Africa.

The Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs launched by the European Commission in September 2018 highlights the EU's interest in building a strong partnership and cooperation with Africa on an equal footing and enhancing opportunities for sustainable growth and the creation of local employment through new business models and mutually beneficial trade relations. The Alliance recognises the role of circular economy in relation to job creation, economic integration and trade.

The Political Guidelines for the Commission 2019-2024 include a commitment to develop a comprehensive strategy with Africa focussing on the continent's potential for investment and business cooperation. The European Green Deal will deepen our strategy on circular economy, which is a model that offers developing countries a way to 'leapfrog' to a more sustainable development path avoiding locking in resource and carbon-intensive practices.

The 2030 Agenda sets the basis for a sustainable urban development process with SDG 11 aiming to "Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" and with many other targets having a clear urban dimension. Managing environmental issues in urban areas, supporting the transition to a circular economy and creating green infrastructure should be central to the concerns of cities as major actors in the consumption of natural resources, the emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, as well as the production and disposal of waste.

We therefore would like to bring the successful concept of Circular Economy Mission to Abuja and Lagos, both major urban agglomerations in one of the most dynamic African economies.

The Mission will have the following objectives:

- To enhance our policy dialogue with Nigeria on the circular economy approach and to demonstrate its potential for sustainable and inclusive innovation, growth and jobs creation in big cities of Nigeria,
- To help create green business opportunities in particular for SMEs in Nigeria, including through matchmaking events between EU businesses and local entrepreneurs,
- To support the objectives of the EU Plastics Strategy.

The following preliminary focus of the Mission has been identified:

- Waste management (plastics, construction, e-waste, solid and domestic waste), including extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes and deposit return schemes (DRS), and litter prevention,
- Air pollution / urban sustainable transport,
- Water management, including waste-water treatment,
- Eco-labelling (for food).

The Mission will begin on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020 in Abuja with technical meetings with Nigeria's national and local authorities to introduce the EU audience and get insights on Nigeria's needs and concerns on environment and sustainable development. Our delegation will attend the Waste to Wealth Conference and EXPO that the Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry is organising.

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020 late afternoon, we will fly to Lagos to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the EU-Nigeria Business Forum on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

Business-to-business meetings (B2B) will be organised providing businesses and investors the opportunity to identify collaboration on technology exchange and business opportunities.

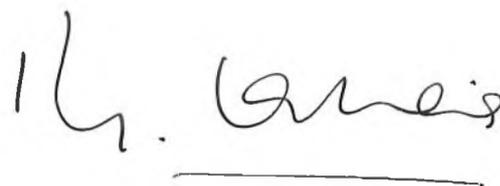
I would be delighted if you or your representatives could join us in Nigeria. I believe that the participation in our delegation of individual CEOs/entrepreneurs who are interested in fostering circular economy in Nigeria will make a major contribution to the success of this Mission. I hope that I can rely on your full support and on the help of your organisation to ensure that the delegation represents a broad spectrum of EU interests.

Note that we are unable to support financially the participation of any companies in this mission.

I would be grateful if you could confirm by **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020** that you or your representatives intend to accompany us to Nigeria. I would also welcome your suggestions on the targeted sectors relevant for your organisation and any efforts you may be willing to undertake to encourage participation of members of your respective organisation in this mission.

Please register on [https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CEM\\_Nigeria](https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CEM_Nigeria)

Yours sincerely,



Daniel Calleja

Contact:

Véronique Hyeulle, Adviser, [Veronique.Hyeulle@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Veronique.Hyeulle@ec.europa.eu), +32 22990235

Gaetan Ducroux, Africa Desk, [Gaetan.Ducroux@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Gaetan.Ducroux@ec.europa.eu), +32 22957792

