

## Call for proposals: study assessing the impacts of EU circular economy policies in third countries – focus on the electronics and automotive sectors

**Deadline: 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

### Background

The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) wishes to explore and provide recommendations how to better integrate the implications of EU circular economy policies in third countries within its policy making processes.

EU circular economy policies will likely affect how resources are used in different sectors of the economy. This could have implications for product and material flows and the socioeconomics of countries outside the European Union, notably when these policies address products or services traded globally. Due to its strong internal market and the high dependence of the EU on imports from third countries of some commodities and finished goods, we anticipate that successful CE policies could indeed have far-reaching but heterogenous implications overseas.

Foreseeing, understanding, and mitigating potential negative impacts overseas could help to strengthen global support for circular economy policies and create positive spillovers. Conversely, it could also hinder CE policy making where the risks are acute or where particular communities are unfairly impacted.

At different stages in the development of EU circular economy policies there will be opportunities to assess the possible impacts overseas. With respect to the EU's better regulation agenda, just before the European Commission proposes a new law an impact assessment is carried out to inform and support the decision making process. There is usually limited consideration in impact assessments for the implications of policies outside the EU. Other methodologies such as the Methodology for ecodesign of energy-related products (MEErP) are applied at the pre-proposal stage in circular economy policy development and do not consider impacts in 3<sup>rd</sup> countries either. Different methods and approaches could be considered to address this, trying to best balance the additional resources required and the practical feasibility.

This project will examine these considerations with respect to two specific sectors and areas of policy: 1) electronics (EEE and WEEE) with respect to the EU ecodesign legislation and circular electronics initiative; 2) vehicles with respect to the End of Life Vehicles Directive (ELVD).

### Objectives of the study

The objectives of this study are:

- To provide a literature review of the potential impacts of CE policies in 3<sup>rd</sup> countries to identify positive opportunities and potential risks.
- To provide a typology of possible opportunities and risks linked to CE policies overseas. As far as possible, a characterization of these opportunities and risks for the two targeted sectors and how they could evolve over time should be undertaken, notably in view of technological

and consumption trend affecting those two sectors (e.g. 5 G, Electrification of cars, longer lasting and more repairable products...).

- To characterise the typical approaches in developing existing European circular economy policies and identify whether or not and how thoroughly impacts in third countries were taken into account. A number of specific CE policies could be examined (e.g. SUP Directive, Batteries Regulation, ESPR)
- To provide recommendations for approaches and methodologies which could be applied to better assess impacts in third countries taking into account the technical and practical feasibility. This could include but not be limited to impact assessments. The possibility to document specific indicators, complementing the environmental, financial and socio-economic indicators most often documented when evaluating and impact assessing a EU legislative proposals should be considered. To provide two case studies to exemplify how impacts in 3<sup>rd</sup> countries could be better integrated in EU policies currently under development, with a focus on the electronics and vehicle sectors. We suggest looking at the End of Life Vehicles Directive, the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation and Circular Electronics Initiative. The case studies should include estimates of possible risks associated to these policies using the typology developed previously and provide recommendations for mitigating the risks.
- To present the findings in a report and in a public workshop/webinar.

The objective of the EEB in this area is to ensure that EU circular economy policies achieve positive sustainability outcomes overall, including outside of the EU. We wish to identify possible ways of mitigating risks while enhancing positive opportunities. We also wish to ensure that CE policies further gain support from countries beyond the EU and are not viewed as policies benefiting Europe exclusively and/or appearing protective of European industry rather than supportive of global progress towards circularity and sustainability.

## Deliverables

The deliverables expected for this project are:

- 1) A laid out report or briefing (up to 30 pages excluding annexes and bibliography) targeted at EU policy makers. The language of this report will be English and it should be non-technical, focused on main findings and (innovative) policy recommendations, clear and understandable by both policy makers and concerned citizens. There should be use of case studies to illustrate the issues and potential risk mitigation strategies. We foresee that the briefing will be mostly based on literature review and use insights from stakeholders without requiring the gathering and compilation of new data. However tentative extrapolation based on available literature for the two targeted sectors and the future decades would be welcome (such as considering volumes of trade and waste or local employment implications). The report should include an executive summary, highlighting the main findings and recommendations.
- 2) A stakeholder engagement in the form of a workshop or a limited number of interviews. This is to gather the ideas of relevant actors on this topic and improve the quality of the findings and recommendations. In the case of a workshop, the EEB itself will organise and host the workshop, but the consultant should consider how this can support the development of the work. For example they may help us to decide which stakeholders to invite and when to

organise the workshop so it can best support the study. The consultants would be expected to participate in the workshop.

- 3) Visuals included in the report but usable as stand alone appealing infographics or graphics for enhanced dissemination of the report notably through social media
- 4) A presentation during a public event with an associated slides desk

Note: We are open to proposals for the format and content of the report but suggest that at least the following contents are reflected:

- a) Introduction and typology of possible opportunities and risks from CE policies in 3<sup>rd</sup> countries
- b) Analysis of existing EU CE policies to assess whether these risks have been addressed
- c) Characterisation of main opportunities and risks for the two targeted sectors, including possible quantified impacts beyond EU
- d) Recommendations on how to better address these risks, identify key strategies or points of intervention and related indicators (notably in Impact Assessments)
- e) Two case studies illustrating how the recommendations could be applied in practice to CE policies addressing end of life vehicles and electronics.
- f) Conclusions, notably targeting Ecodesign and ELV revisions

## How to apply

Interested consultants should submit a proposal by no later than the **9<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

The proposal should consist of a max 10-pages document demonstrating an understanding of the topic, showing a proposal for an approach, a presentation of the study team and references/experiences, and a budget.

CVs of the study team should also be submitted (not included in the page limit).

**Applications should be submitted by email to: [jean-pierre.schweitzer@eeb.org](mailto:jean-pierre.schweitzer@eeb.org)**

We will judge the proposals based on the quality of the offer (50%), the experience and quality of the team (35%) and the consideration for enhanced communication through visuals/infographics (15%).

## Timeline

The timeline of this work should be able to support the negotiations of the ESPR. Thus, it is expected that the final deliverables for this work should be released by **mid December 2022**. If the consultants are able to finalise the deliverables beforehand this is preferred, though we are happy to discuss the timeline with consultants based on their availability and constraints.

We suggest the following timeline for the work:

- Publication of ToR: 02/08/2022
- Deadline for proposals: 9/09/2022
- Selection of consultant: 15/09/2022
- Start of work, kick-off meeting: 20/09/2022
- Early draft – outline/structure of the report: by 21/10/2022
- Draft final report including case studies and first set of recommendations: 30/11/2022

- Final report including outcomes of stakeholder engagement with final layout and visuals: by 20/12/ 2022
- Webinar and presentation of results: beginning of 2023 (tbc)

## Budget

The total budget available for this work is **28,000.00 EUR net.**

## Contact

The contact for this project:

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