

EMBASSY OF ITALY - BRUSSELS

PRESS RELEASE

“TECHITALY 2016 - TOWARDS CIRCULAR ECONOMY”

The Embassy of Italy in Brussels and the International Trade Agency (ITA) – in cooperation with the Permanent Representation of Italy to the EU, the National Research Council (CNR), the National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA), Confindustria and the Belgian - Italian Chamber of Commerce (CCITA-BEL) –on 29th and 30th November organized the *“Techitaly 2016 - Towards Circular Economy”* event.

Techitaly 2016 aims to promote the Italian excellence in the field of industry and technology applied to Circular Economy and sustainable development. This initiative follows similar events dedicated to the Italian technological excellence, held in Brussels in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

On the first day of the event a seminar will be held at the Residence of the Ambassador of Italy to Belgium and will be focused on the *“Circular Economy Package”* proposed by the European Commission on 2nd December 2015 (cfr.: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-6203_it.htm). The seminar will aim to illustrate and discuss some specific contents of the Package; to present the results thus far achieved by Italy and the challenges / opportunities arising from the measures proposed by the Commission. The discussion will also include a presentation concerning progress made in the fields of waste recycling and reuse of raw waste in production processes ("secondary raw materials"). Speakers include MEPs, European Commission officials, a Director General of the Italian Environment Ministry and representatives of the research community and Italian industry.

Techitaly 2016's second day is dedicated to present Belgian and Italian companies directly involved in the projects on Economic Circular, as well as to host B2B meetings between them. These meetings will be preceded by the presentation of specific examples of the Italian industrial and technological excellence. In particular, the intention here is to show the remarkable results achieved by Italian companies in

the fields of the farming, recovery of organic materials, treatment of municipal waste, energy efficiency for the building.

More information and the program of the event are available on: www.techitaly.eu

Information Note:

Since 2014 Italy considers the transition towards a circular economy a priority of its environmental and industrial policy, in the light of a sustainable and integrated development for all actors involved in the production chain. Both the public sector and the business environment show a growing demand for a switch from a "linear" system of production – where the life cycle of a product runs out with its first and only use – to a "circular" approach, which instead provides for a substantial re-use and recycling of waste and waste materials coming both from the industrial processing as private consumption.

The ambitious Circular Economy Package launched by the European Commission in December 2015 confirms the centrality of this issue, particularly in the wider context of the European debate on how to ensure sustainable economic growth without negative social and environmental impact. In this context, small and medium-sized enterprises – the real engine of innovation and technological development in Italy and Belgium – are playing a key-role in the implementation of the objectives included in the legislative proposals currently under revision.

In the framework of the EU action, *Techitaly* proposes itself as a privileged platform between Italy and Belgium and as an opportunity to deepen the debate on the development of cutting-edge technologies and exchange experiences, skills and "best practices". *Techitaly 2016* combines the Italian and Belgian excellence, operating at national and regional level, in the field of biotechnology, energy efficiency and environment and it aims to promote a joint reflection between Institutions, industry, research and civil society on the subject of growth, environment and innovation.