

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **AFEP's COP 21 Circular Economy event: French companies in favour of public policies and private/public initiatives to combat Climate Change through Circular Economy**

**At AFEP's COP21 side-event "*Circular Economy and climate change: what public policies for the 2°C challenge?*" on 3 December 2015, the day after the publication of the EU package on Circular Economy, companies discussed with Mr Karmenu Vella, EU Commissioner for the Environment, and Ms Segolène Royal, French Minister of Ecology, how to get public policies and company solutions fit together in order to fight climate change through Circular Economy. AFEP member companies are already committed and ready to strengthen their efforts in favour of Circular Economy on the occasion of the new impulse given by the European Commission's action plan on circular economy.**

#### ***Circular economy has a major role to play in order to overcome the climate challenge***

Circular economy is part of the low-carbon strategies and enables to decrease the domino effect of greenhouse gas emissions at every step of the product life (design, production, consumption).

#### **Karmenu Vella presented the key principles of the EU package on Circular Economy released on 2 December**

« A circular economy will bring benefits for society, benefits for climate, and greater benefits for businesses. I know that France has picked up on this idea already through legislation on the circular economy ».

#### **Ségolène Royal reacted to Karmenu Vella's speech**

"The new Circular Economy package which has been presented by the European Commission today is a step forward on the way to a transition to a circular economy". However, "it is necessary to significantly strengthen the European ambition in order to enable this transition in a near future".

#### ***For AFEP member companies, Circular Economy is within easy reach***

All the operators must go into action. AFEP supports a coordinated approach at EU level along the whole value chain, leading to the adoption of ambitious goals. It is also necessary to involve States as facilitators of circular economy projects, in order to reach common objectives of companies, States and local communities, such as the "Greendeals" set up in the Netherlands.

#### **AFEP published its final report on Circular Economy on 3 December 2015.**

A dedicated working group, chaired by Jean-Louis Chaussade, CEO of SUEZ, has brought together 75 company representatives and around twenty experts in 2015. The group focused on three key issues: feedbacks from cross-business cooperations; voluntary, legislative and regulatory tools on circular economy; and recommendations. According to Jean-Louis Chaussade, "the State must act as a facilitator; companies have to take commitments through voluntary approaches.



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**About AFEP**

AFEP is the French Association of Large Companies. AFEP brings together more than 110 large companies operating in France, which employ 8.5 million and represent a consolidated turnover of EUR 2 600 billion worldwide. The Association aims to foster a business-friendly environment and to present the company members' vision to French public authorities, European institutions and international organisations. Afep works on cross-sectoral legislation in the following areas: climate change, environment and energy, economy, taxation, company law and corporate governance, corporate finance and financial markets, competition, intellectual property and consumer affairs, labour law and social protection, and corporate social responsibility.  
More information at: [www.afep.com](http://www.afep.com).

**About AFEP's work on Circular Economy**

[AFEP's booklet on Circular Economy](#)  
and [AFEP's report on Circular Economy](#) (in French)