

Circle the Med - 1st online debate

“COVID-19 and climate change: A tale of two crises”

May 11th 2020 (15:00 pm Brussels, 16:00 pm Athens)



Mr George Kremlis

President of the Organizing Committee of the Circle the Med Forum and the International “Circular Clima Institute” of the European Public Law Organization (EPLO)



Mr. Daniel Calleja-Crespo

Director General of DG ENV of the European Commission

Athens, 04/05/2020

Dear All,

Since Health remains our top priority we would like to inform you that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the **Circle the Med Forum** will take place as it was scheduled on **November 9 and 10 2020**, but as a **digital event** (<https://circlethemed.com>).

This forum is a holistic follow up of the two other events that we have organized promoting Circular Economy: **Circle 2018** in Chania Crete and **Circle 2019** in Nicosia Cyprus. This time we are aiming at targeting the **MED as a whole** and tackle Circular Economy challenges as **Mediterranean challenges**.

In the meantime, we will be organizing a **series** of monthly “**virtual debates**” on **different pillars of the Circular Economy**, hosting invitees from all over the world to guide us to the main event of November.

In this context, in the **1st online debate** which will be held on **May 11th 2020 (15:00 pm Brussels, 16:00 pm Athens)**, Mr. George Kremlis, as President of the Organizing Committee of the **Circle the Med Forum** and the International “**Circular Clima Institute**” of the **European Public Law Organization (EPLO)** will host the **Director General of DG ENV** of the European Commission Mr. Daniel Calleja-Crespo in order to discuss the theme:

“COVID-19 and climate change: A tale of two crises”

- The virus is prompting us to change our habits in ways that could make a longer-term contribution to climate protection – working from home, video conferencing, working shorter weeks or staggering office hours to reduce traffic.
- Could Circular Economy become the post Covid-19 economic model par excellence to promote environmental and climate goals in a civil society which is ready to accept behavioral changes?
- How could the Mediterranean as the key European Sea benefit in terms of its coastal areas and islands from the European Commission’s action plan on Circular Economy?
- Are there any impacts on the Green Deal because of the Covid-19 pandemic?
- Companies might also conclude that what’s good for the planet – localized production – is a sensible way to protect their supply chains from all kinds of risk, such as extreme weather events linked to climate change.
- Is this Economic Shutdown a way to reach climate goals?
- Does the outbreak reveal what life might be like if we were to act seriously on climate change? Or what it might be like if we don’t?
- Pollution and greenhouse gas emissions have fallen across continents as countries try to contain the spread of the new Covid-19. Is this just a fleeting change, or could it lead to longer-lasting falls in emissions?

The President of the Organizing Committee of Circle the Med Forum

George KREMLIS

Register here to follow the event

The event will be hosted in a remote platform and broadcasted through the website of the Circle the Med forum <https://circlethemed.com/> and different social media channels of different stakeholders. A recording of the session will be also available for later viewing. All invitees will have the possibility to interact during the debate, participate in live polls and ask questions to the speakers.

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