

Trade Policy for a Global Circular Economy

International Chamber of Commerce and the Swedish Mission to the WTO



WTO, Rue de Lausanne, Geneva
Room CR2



27 November 2019, 13.00–15.00

Purpose: informative and engaging discussion on the need for a global perspective and free trade in the transition to a circular economy.

Participants:

- Daniel Badman, **Stora Enso**
- Pär Larshans, **Ragn-Sells**
- Malin Nordin, **IKEA**
- Anna Åkesson, **Skanska**
- International Chamber of Commerce

Moderator: Mikael Anzén, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sweden to the WTO

Background:

Contrary to the current linear models, the concept of circular economy is one where the value of products, materials and resources is maintained to create value in the economy for as long as possible. It protects against scarcity of resources and volatile prices, minimizes the generation of waste and increases the use of sustainably sourced renewable resources. [A recent study](#) shows that it is possible to halve carbon emissions from production and consumption by transitioning. The same study also confirms that if we don't adopt and create circularity, we will have no possibility to fulfill the Paris agreement.

The business community has a key role to play in the development towards a circular economy. The transition to circular economy creates new business opportunities and innovations for more efficient production and consumption. However, the switch is not without hindrances.

With production and sales today being largely international, free trade is a precondition for a successful transition. However, as waste regulations are mostly still national, the free movement of material and resources is hindered at every border. Lack of harmonization and standardization, misdirected subsidies and lack of communication between actors and sectors are all hindering businesses from shifting towards circularity.

In this interactive panel discussion, Swedish companies IKEA, Ragn-Sells, Stora Enso and Skanska, together with the International Chamber of Commerce will elaborate how we can enable the transition to a circular economy and make trade work for people and our planet.

In case you do not hold a WTO badge, [please register](#) for the event by Wednesday, November 20th

ICC Sweden

Box 16050 | 103 21 Stockholm

www.icc.se | info@icc.se | +46 8 440 89 20