



**2nd EU-IEF Energy Day:
Efficient and Sustainable Resource Management in the Circular Economy**

**Summary and Conclusions by Ms. Lucie Berger, Head of Trade and Economic Cooperation,
Delegation of the European Union to KSA/GCC**

An interesting discussion between the speakers and panellist in the workshop entitled "Efficient and Sustainable Resource Management in the Circular Economy", which took place on 13 February 2018 in Riyadh, has underlined the need to **look for opportunities** when it comes to the circular economy – instead of focusing on challenges.

The key messages from the panel discussions as well as from the interventions from other participants could be summarised as following:

- **Energy efficiency** is possibly the most important part of tackling climate change.
- **Waste is a resource**, whereas better waste management forms an essential part of resource efficiency; most importantly, it is economic (as seen on many concrete examples from Europe).
- **Engagement with stakeholders** is key; no change can be achieved without the industry, the private sector, but also the households.
- While appropriate **regulation and standardisation** are required to facilitate the development of circular economy, nothing changes without an appropriate **awareness raising and education**. The biggest change always comes from people.
- **Access to finance** is essential. There is not necessarily need for subsidies but easy access to loans, risk guarantees (a system that we adopt in EU a lot) or even advisory services could help SMEs and private initiatives to take off.

Finally, the participants emphasised that **collaboration is a must**:

Consequently, and with respect to the request to cooperate more on CCS, the EU announced that they are currently working with the EU-GCC Clean Energy Network on the organisation of a **regional event on climate change**, to further develop the relevant cooperation between EU and the Gulf states. It should take place this year in Kuwait, and the agenda will include discussions on the NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) as well as CCUS (with a specific emphasis on reuse of carbon).

And secondly, with respect to the **Saudi Ministry of Economy and Planning's Action Plan on circular economy**, the EU is ready to cooperate, discuss ideas and further exchange best practices.