



To consult this press release online, please click [here](#)

www.acrplus.org

ASSOCIATION
OF CITIES
AND REGIONS
FOR SUSTAINABLE
RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

ASSOCIATION
DES CITÉS
ET RÉGIONS POUR
LA GESTION
DURABLE
DES RESSOURCES

ASOCIACIÓN
DE CIUDADES
Y REGIONES PARA
LA GESTIÓN
SOSTENIBLE
DE LOS RECURSOS

Press Release

To be released immediately

14 June 2022

Iain Gulland to serve another mandate at the head of ACR+

Iain Gulland, CEO of Zero Waste Scotland, has been renewed as President of the Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management (ACR+). Supported by the other 11 members of the Board of Directors, he will support the network in delivering concrete solutions envisioning circular economy as a tool to tackle current environmental challenges.

Brussels, Belgium – The CEO of Zero Waste Scotland, Iain Gulland, has been re-elected as the President of the Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management (ACR+) during the 2022 General Assembly of the network last 9-10 June in Brussels. It will be Gulland's third term, following his first election in 2018. Iain Gulland is to serve another two-year tenure, until 2024, and will lead ACR+'s work to support circular economy and increase capacities of local authorities regarding resource efficiency. He has more than 30 years' experience in sustainable resource management, including initiating recycling systems in the public and third sectors. Zero Waste Scotland leads on the delivery of the Scottish Government's Circular Economy strategy and other low carbon policy priorities, and is at the forefront of efforts to create a resource efficient, circular economy.



Iain Gulland during ACR+ General Assembly 2022

13 cities and regions to lead ACR+ Board of Directors



The freshly elected Board of Directors of ACR+ during the General Assembly 2022.

Iain Gulland was re-elected along with two vice-presidents, Fernando Leite representing the Intermunicipal Waste Management Service of Greater Porto - LIPOR (PT) and Hugh Coughlan representing the Eastern Midlands Waste Region (IE), and a treasurer Michael D. Hansen representing the city of Odense (DK). The [ACR+ Board of Directors](#) is completed by the following members, also re-elected unanimously during the General Assembly: the city of The Hague, the regions of Catalonia (ES), Brussels Capital (BE), Pays de la Loire (FR), Sardinia (IT), the province of Fryslan (NL), the



www.acrplus.org

metropolitan area of Arnhem Nijmegen (NL), and the two waste companies SERIT (for the Verona province - IT) and WasteServ Malta (MT).

Iain Gulland, ACR+ new President, said *“It is a privilege to be re-elected as President of ACR+ and to have the opportunity to support a renewed vigour for circular economy among ACR+ members and wider society. I am looking forward to continuing the work done so far and contribute to a crucial network of practitioners who actually make things happen on the ground for citizens.”*

Practical actions to boost circular economy at local level

Practical action is indeed at the heart of ACR+; the network builds connections between its members (and other key actors) to share and collaborate on the delivery of concrete solutions to embrace the transition to a circular economy as a tool to tackle environmental challenges with a holistic perspective.

Thus, in addition to an open session that saw key experts discussing how to empower the sustainable transition and build a circular resilient Europe, the ACR+ General Assembly included a whole afternoon dedicated to thematic discussion groups. Participants tackled four themes: Circular and Green Public Procurement: a powerful tool to shape the transition towards a Circular Economy; Sustainable Food Systems: aligning local action to EU targets and global challenges; Sustainable textiles: from EU strategy to local systems; EPR Schemes and the Cost of Littering, following the Single Use Plastics Directive.

Conclusions were various and show the direction taken by the network to make both circularity and climate-neutrality a reality, by seeing the big picture but also applying a territorial hierarchy and working at local level. These include for example shedding more lights on small-scale initiatives and projects which are also just as successful as bigger ones, taking into consideration the socio-cultural aspects or adopting when needed a tailored approach fitting the local contexts.

- - ENDS - -

Contact:

ACR+ Secretariat – Gaëlle Colas

E-mail: gc@acrplus.org

Tel: +32 2 234 65 00

The Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management (ACR+) is an international network of cities and regions sharing the aim of promoting sustainable resource management and accelerating the transition towards a circular economy on their territories and beyond. The network, gathering around 90 members, is open to other key players in the field of material resource management such as NGOs, academic institutions, consultancies or private organisations. Members' needs and priorities define the network's activities, which include facilitating the exchange of experiences between members, sharing technical and policy information and living up the network. To strengthen the knowledge and capacities of the network and push for innovation in the field of material resource management, ACR+ is also involved in several projects at European level and in the Mediterranean region, in cooperation with its members.

For more information visit our website: www.acrplus.org or follow us on Twitter: [@ACRplus](https://twitter.com/ACRplus)