

# PARLIAMENT

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## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

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GREEN  
WEEK  
NEEDS  
YOU

# KARMENU VELLA

EUROPE'S  
GREEN  
GUY ON  
SOWING  
THE  
SEEDS OF  
CHANGE

ALSO INSIDE  
STEEL CRISIS | EU WEEK AGAINST CANCER



## FITOVID : Implementation of Demonstrative & Innovative Strategies to reduce the use of phytosanitary products in viticulture

Ana M. Díez-Navajas<sup>1</sup>, Alejandro Barranco<sup>2</sup>, Sandra Rainieri<sup>2</sup>, Ramón Barrio<sup>3</sup>, Carmen Sampedro<sup>3</sup>, Emilio Gil<sup>4</sup>, Montserrat Gallart<sup>4</sup>, Artzai Picón<sup>5</sup>, Cristina L. Saratxaga<sup>5</sup>, Amaia Ortiz<sup>1</sup>.

**R**educing the number of fungicides applications in viticulture is a crucial key to decrease the phytochemical input in environment, and a requirement in European environmental policies. Grape culture prophylaxis gathers worldwide one of the highest outlay in fungicides, and its reduction will be beneficial for environment and human health. Different strategies are being applied for this purpose in LIFE FITOVID project, to control grape downy and powdery mildew in endemic areas.

Meteorological parameters allow studying the corresponding disease risk and the treatment time point. Monitoring spore concentrations, by collecting samples by passive spore traps, remains a good disease control strategy that, integrated with the use of meteorological data, provides a valuable tool to establish the basis for an accurate, modern Integrated

Pest Management strategy in the vineyard. A strategy based on the creation of a prototype for hyperspectral imaging, will allow detecting the pathogen before first disease symptoms appear. And the benefits of a well efficient application process by good calibrated machinery and beneficial inspections will allow the effectiveness of the spray application using a well-adjusted and inspected sprayer. This measure could reduce up to 30% of the used pesticides.

After fungicide applications, soil and water samples are analyzed to verify the reduction of inputs in both media. Additionally, chemical and toxicological analysis of fungicides performed on the zebrafish animal model in berry, grape juice and wine will allow detecting a possible decrease in the concentration of harmful chemicals and the consequences and effect of such decrease on human health.

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## WASATEX, a project really Green RE-USE OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY WATER



Wasatex is a project co-funded by the UE Commission, under the Eco-Innovation program. Europrogetti and Aspel realized the upgrade of a water treatment plant in Olimpias Group, site in Osijek (Croatia). The plant is now able to recover up to 90% of the treated water in the dyeing processes, with the consequence of significant reduction of the water inlet and discharge cost. It is the first of this kind in the Europe.

<http://wasatex.eu>

We expect to achieve extraordinary Improved Environmental Performance of whole Water Treatment Plant in:

- ↓ **reduction of Greenhouse gas emissions**
- ↓ **reduced water consumption**
- ↓ **reduction of cost of process**



**eco-innovation**  
WORK. BUSINESS. MEETS THE ENVIRONMENT





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# It's time to kick-start our job-rich green economy

Transitioning to a green economy will help to boost quality European jobs, argues **Jean Lambert**



**Jean Lambert** (Greens/EFA, UK) is Parliament's rapporteur on the green employment initiative

Growth does not necessarily equal jobs, and even less does it equal decent, secure, sustainable jobs. Green job creation is not getting the attention it deserves and it's time for EU policies to shed their preoccupation with economic growth and to instead focus on driving a job-rich recovery which doesn't trash the planet.

The green employment initiative passed by the Parliament last year was a positive step in the right direction. It set out the job creation potential of the green economy and showed the support that exists for green job creation policies, including workforce engagement in a green, just transition.

But since last summer not enough has happened to realise this potential, and there have even been backwards developments.

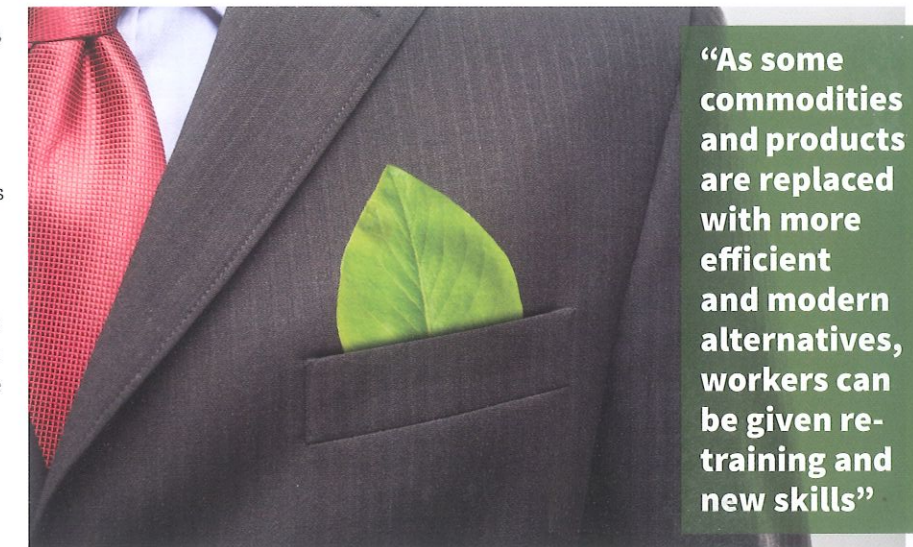
The withdrawal and subsequent rewriting of the circular economy package was bad news for jobs. A comparison of the 2014 and the 2015 packages shows 110,000 potential jobs have been lost in the new version. Measures to properly pursue a circular economy can create half a million new jobs in the EU. We cannot afford to miss opportunities, waste time and sideline jobs like this.

One area to be addressed is long-term reassurance to green businesses.

Through legislation, the EU can give certainty to emerging sectors and help them meet their potential. European Commission figures suggest that up to 20 million jobs could be created in the green economy by 2020. Direct and indirect employment in the wind, wave and tidal energy sectors could grow from 34,000 in 2013 to over 100,000 by 2023 within the EU. And we already know from figures that it is green sectors which have best weathered recession and

services or administration.

What's needed next is legislation for the integration of labour into a circular economy so we can ensure the requisite skill set is built for the transition to a low-resource Europe. The Commission's new skills agenda for Europe, promised in its 2016 work programme, will be an important test of its seriousness on this. And we also need all groups in the Parliament to get on board with the fact that new jobs and decent work can come with



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created most net jobs in Europe during the economic crises.

Another area to be addressed is the transition of workers in polluting industries. The phasing-out of polluting sectors and practices does not have to lead to job losses. As some commodities and products are replaced with more efficient and modern alternatives, workers can be given re-training and new skills. There are plenty of decent jobs to be had that contribute to preserving or restoring the quality of the environment: whether it is in agriculture, industry,

the expansion of the environmental sector. These concepts can work in tandem, and in fact they must.

If the EU is to tackle unemployment and start to live within planetary boundaries, we can waste no more time in kick-starting a job-rich green economy. Environmental sustainability must be part of building an economy that is fit for the future. Legislation which brings about EU-wide greener practices has the real potential to create sustainable employment and business practices for generations to come. ★

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