

PLAN  
C

TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER - ANTWERP



PLAN C COMMUNITY NIGHT

# CLASH OF IDEAS OUR CIRCULAR FUTURE

SUPPORTED BY VITO

## 3 CLASHES, 6 SPEAKERS, 2 SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

**On Tuesday 18 October Plan C hosts its yearly Plan C Community Day, this time a 'Night'. The Community Night will be a clash of ideas about our future in a circular economy.**

We all want the world to be a better place for future generations. We all want a regenerative and restorative circular economy. We all want a system that is beneficial to both business and society. But that's the easy, theoretical part... Trying to put this into practice, the real question becomes: how do we get there?

We'll show the many angles to look at the future and that there is no 'one size fits all solution'. Does the sharing economy really change the way we consume? Will the circular economy fundamentally solve our problems with finite material resources? Will technology save us?

**Six speakers accepted the challenge to defend their views on stage, in three separate clashes. Each sharp, concise and thought-provoking.**



The Plan C Community Night is a complementary event for the International i-SUP Conference of VITO.

# PROGRAMME

---

**18:00** reception + catering

**19:15** start

- welcome by **Paul De Bruycker**, chairman of Plan C and CEO of Indaver
- three clashes, moderated by **Francesca Vanthielen**
  - **Rogier De Langhe & Hidde Boersma**
  - **Jenny Greberg & Dirk Fransaer**
  - **Veerle Spaepen & Anthony Baert**

**21:30** reception & networking

The event is English spoken.

# REGISTRATION

---

**COUNT ME IN**



TO THE REGISTRATION PAGE

Registration is **FREE**, but mandatory.

Since we provide quality drinks and bites for every attendee, we have a **"No Show" policy** that will result in a **€30 fee for no shows and late cancellations**.

Register at: [www.plan-c.eu/en/community-night](http://www.plan-c.eu/en/community-night)

# VENUE

---

The venue of the Community Night is the [Hilton Hotel in the Centre of Antwerp](#), at the Groenplaats.

## How to get there

- From Antwerp Central Station: tramway **15** (Boechout - Linkeroever) or **9** (Ekstelaar - Linkeroever) from station **Diamant** to station **Groenplaats** (11 min itinerary)
- By car: Parking Groenplaats (150 m), Q-Park Antwerpen Centrum (300 m), Interparking Eiermarkt (200 m)

# 3 CLASHES, 6 SPEAKERS, 2 SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

The opinions below are illustrative for the topics and do not necessarily represent the views of the speakers.

## CLASH 1

### WE'RE FACED WITH THE LIMITS TO GROWTH

We live in exponential times. Spurred by technological innovation, our levels of consumption, materials extraction and emissions are racing towards unsustainable extremes. Technological fixes will not suffice to solve our environmental challenges. We ourselves have to change. We need a new economic operating system to keep growth within our planet's capacity. The circular economy offers a model to achieve this transition.

SPEAKER: **ROGIER DE LANGHE**



Rogier De Langhe is an economic philosopher at Ghent University and co-organiser of the Assembly of the Commons in Ghent, an informal network for peer to peer and sharing economy.

### WE'RE FACED WITH THE GROWTH OF THE LIMITS

Human civilisation has an impressive track record of solving seemingly insurmountable problems. Technology and saviness have always led to new possibilities. The human race has never been as healthy, well-fed, safe and educated as it is today. We owe this to liberal democracy, globalisation and technology. There is no reason to think that today's environmental challenges are any different: our inventiveness, combined with circular approaches, will create even more abundance and wellbeing for even more people on the planet.

SPEAKER: **HIDDE BOERSMA**



Hidde Boersma is a Dutch molecular biologist and a freelance science writer. He has a TED Talk on ecomodernism: "Ecomodernists believe that intensive agriculture, large-scale urbanisation and investments in high-tech green energy are the only way to combine a green planet with a prosperous planet."

# CLASH2

## EUROPE NEEDS TO REOPEN ITS MINES

The circular economy is a long-term project. While we are trying to launch it, the global competition for resources will continue relentlessly. That struggle harms European businesses and their competitive position, thereby also hampering the financial progress we need to build the circular economy in the first place. That's why we have to play the card of our own resources. Reopening certain mines in Europe would give the economy a much-needed adrenaline shot and provide a boost to the circular economy. As a bonus, this strategy allows us to solve the issue of fair and cleaner resources.

---

### SPEAKER: **JENNY GREBERG**



Jenny Greberg is Associate Professor at the Luleå University of Technology (Sweden). Her main interest is mine production optimisation, and she has a special focus on simulation of mining operations.

## EUROPE NEEDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

In the long run, only a circular economy will reduce our dependence on imported raw materials and fossil fuels. Moreover, not every European country has - even idle - mines. These countries, like Flanders, should therefore pursue a different strategy focused on the long term. A circular economy will alleviate our resource dependence, solve our waste problem and provide sustainable growth by boosting innovation and resource efficiency.

---

### SPEAKER: **DIRK FRANSAER**



Dirk Fransaer is managing director of the Flemish institute for technological research, VITO (Belgium). He graduated as a civil engineer and as biomedical engineer. In its materials research VITO focuses strongly on creating favorable technological conditions for a circular economy.

# CLASH3

## THE SHARING ECONOMY IS THE DAWN OF A NEW COLLABORATIVE ECONOMY

The sharing economy is an effective approach to eradicating waste in our economy. Waste comes in many guises. There's waste of space and time, waste of idle assets, waste of talents... That's why the sharing economy is a perfect complement to the circular economy. We need more peer-to-peer collaboration, open-source innovation and civil cooperatives that put people and planet first. Communities should regain control of their economic assets and destiny. Only through collective economic action can we create a truly resilient and sustainable economy.

---

### SPEAKER: **VEERLE SPAEPEN**



Veerle Spaepen is programme manager at Plan C, the Flemish hub for circular economy. She specialises in circular fashion and sharing economy. She co-founded Les ReBelles d'Anvers, Belgium's first fashion library.

## THE SHARING ECONOMY IS NOT CHANGING ANYTHING FUNDAMENTALLY

The sharing economy converts every commodity that has been bought and removed from the market into a rentable object that never leaves the market at all. There's no denying that the sharing economy can make the consequences of the current financial crisis more bearable. However, it does nothing to address the causes and doesn't fundamentally change the way we consume. Also, the supposed environmental benefits of the sharing economy are doubtful.

---

### SPEAKER: **ANTHONY BAERT**



Anthony Baert is a former economist at ING Bank and now economic adviser at the political party Groen (Flemish Greens).

# ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

---

The Plan C Community Night is a complementary event for the International i-SUP Conference of VITO.



Plan C is the Flemish circular economy hub: connecting, challenging and enabling entrepreneurs and organisations to make it happen. We aim for an economic system in which the reuse of products and resources is maximised and waste is designed out. Plan C is a pillar of the Flanders' Materials Programme.

[www.plan-c.eu](http://www.plan-c.eu)



i-SUP 2016 is the 5th edition of the International i-SUP Conference organised by VITO. The conference focuses on sustainable industrial innovation, with specific, integrated sessions and three thematic tracks: energy, materials and chemistry.

[www.i-sup.org](http://www.i-sup.org)



VITO is a leading independent European research and technology organisation in the field of cleantech and sustainable development, providing solutions to today's big societal challenges. VITO presents innovative and high-quality solutions which give large and small companies a competitive advantage, and advises industries and governments on their policy for the future. VITO has 750 highly-qualified employees who work on projects all over the world. VITO's headquarters are located in Mol, Belgium, with a subsidiary in China.

[www.vito.be/en](http://www.vito.be/en)

## JOIN THE CLASH.

**COUNT ME IN** 

TO THE REGISTRATION PAGE

### Plan C

Stationsstraat 110  
2800 Mechelen  
Belgium

[www.plan-c.eu](http://www.plan-c.eu)

[info@plan-c.eu](mailto:info@plan-c.eu)

 [@Plan\\_C\\_](https://twitter.com/Plan_C)

 [/planc.transitienetwerk](https://www.facebook.com/planc.transitienetwerk)