



# The Waste Framework Directive within the EU Circular Economy

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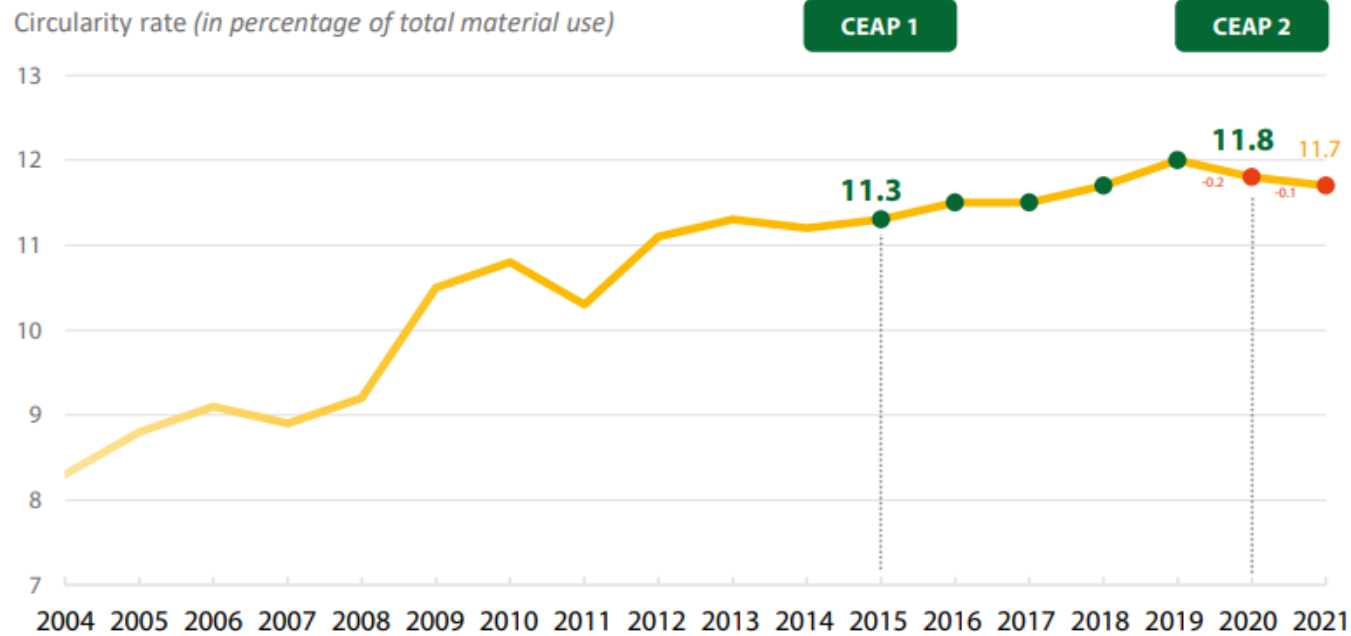
A futureproof EU Waste Framework Directive Workshop | 14 June 2024

# Looking back

Need for action & achievements over the past 5 years

# Need for action

## Closing the loop – slow progress



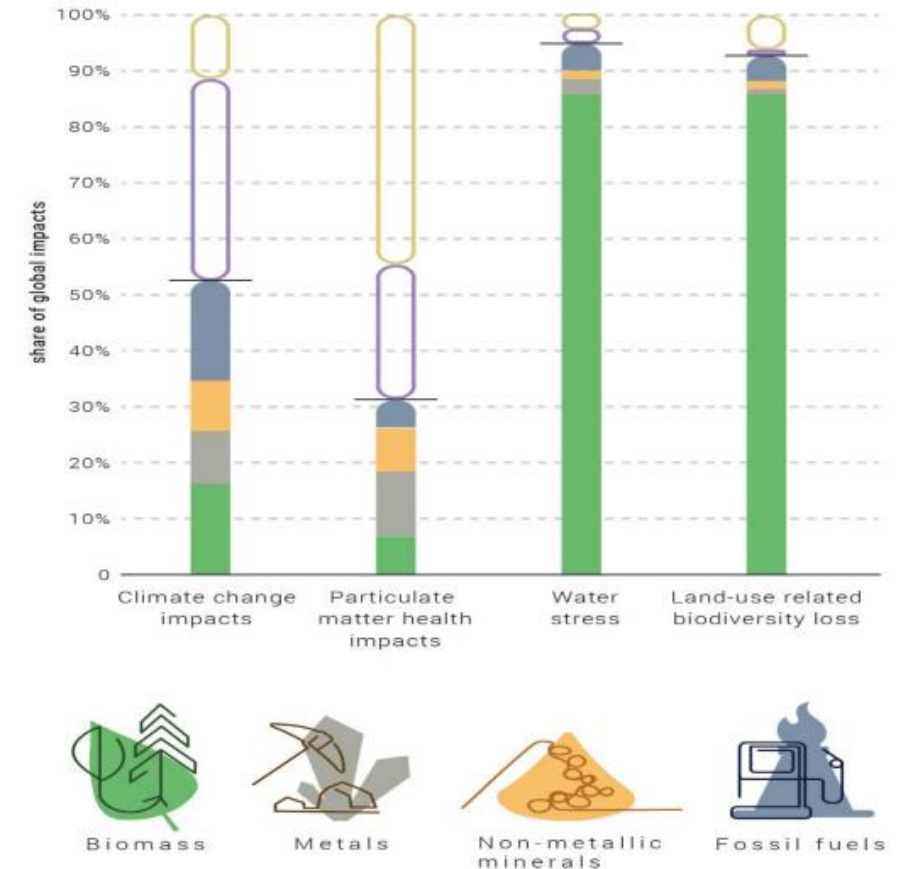
Source: European Court of Auditors (2023). Circular economy Slow transition by member states despite EU action

Competitiveness

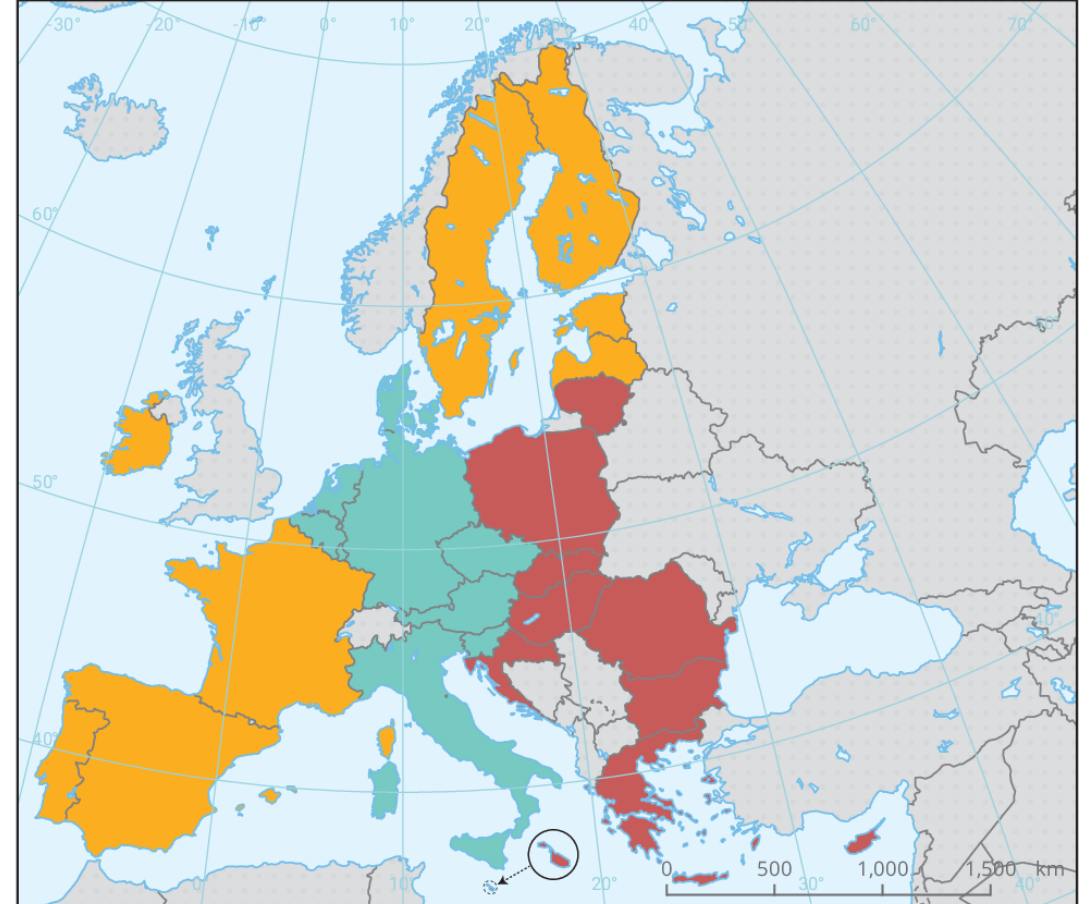
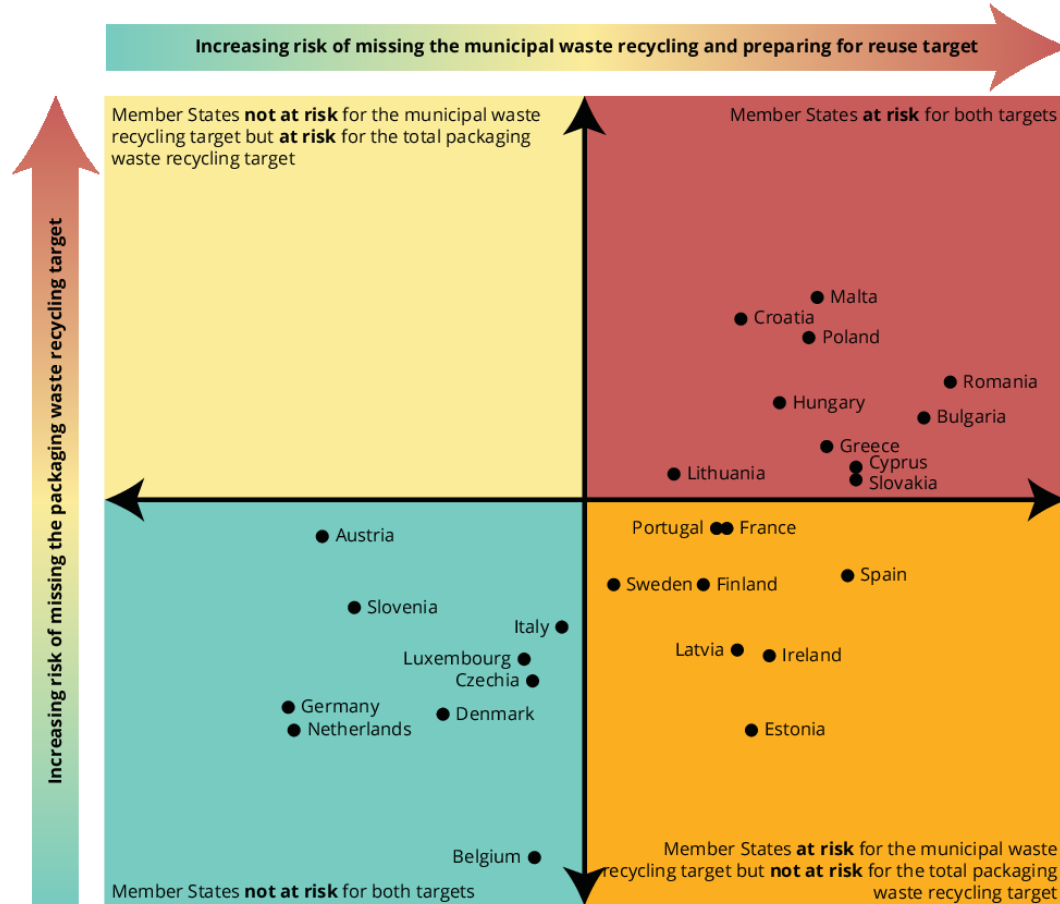
Resilience

Social/health

## Global impact by material resource type



Source: IRP (2019), Global Resources Outlook 2019. Summary for Policymakers



Reference data: ©ESRI

### Prospects for EU Member States of meeting the recycling targets for municipal waste and packaging waste

Risk score

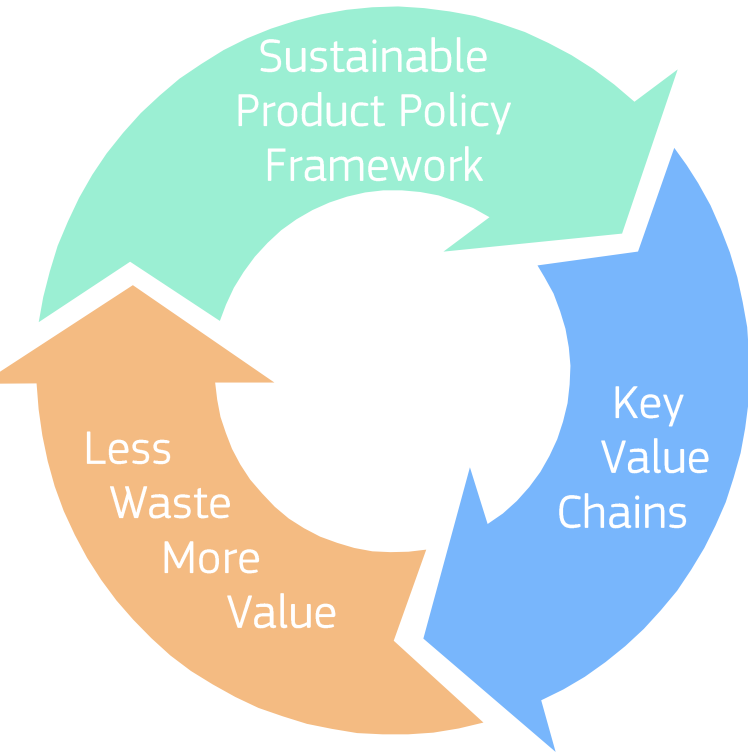
- Member states not at risk for both targets
- Member States not at risk for the municipal waste recycling target but at risk for the total packaging waste recycling target
- Member States at risk for the municipal waste recycling target but not at risk for the total packaging waste recycling target
- Member states at risk for both targets
- Outside coverage

# 2023 Early Warning Report on waste

- **Key recommendations** of the 2023 report:
  - **Biowaste** (~1/3 of municipal waste) by expanding the capacity to separately collect and treat biowaste (e.g. fertiliser, soil improver, biogas)
  - **Separate collection** by introducing incentives and accountability of waste manager and raising awareness of citizens to be part of the solution
  - **Improve data quality** to ensure adequate picture of the status quo (e.g. packaging waste underreported)
  - **Landfilling and incineration** should be disincentivised through economic measures (e.g. taxes)
  - **EU and national investments needed** to improve the waste management infrastructure for supports prevention, collection, sorting and recycling
- **Implementation challenges** for targets to be achieved by Member States (e.g. achieving the targets, derogation requests)



# Circular Economy Action Plan



35 actions & new approach

Make sustainable products the norm  
Empower consumers and public buyers  
Sustainable production processes

Electronics & ICT  
Batteries & vehicles  
Packaging  
Plastics  
Textiles  
Construction & buildings  
Food, water & nutrients

Waste prevention (re-use, durability)  
Reduce problematic waste exports  
Markets for secondary raw materials

Making circular economy work for people, regions and cities

Circular economy as being indispensable for reaching climate neutrality

Getting the Economics Right

Financial Markets

Investments and R&I

Global Level Playing Field

Monitoring

# Design phase – Ecodesign for sustainable products

Most of the product's lifecycle environmental impact is determined at design stage



The provisionally agreed **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation** will address the design of products placed on EU market to support circularity

## Key criteria are:

- Durability, reliability, reusability, upgradability
- Reparability, possibility of maintenance and refurbishment
- Presence of substances of concern
- Energy use or energy efficiency
- Resource use or resource efficiency
- Recycled content
- Possibility of remanufacturing and recycling
- Possibility of recovery of materials
- Environmental impacts, including carbon and environmental footprint
- Expected generation of waste materials



# Use phase – empowering consumers

Consumer choices also depend on receiving adequate information on products



- Introduction of information requirements and a **Digital Product Passport**
- Introduce rules to strengthen consumer protection against untrustworthy or false environmental claims -> **ban greenwashing** and practices misleading consumers
- Tackle false environmental claims and create a level playing field for businesses
- Introduce measures to make repair easier and more attractive

# End-of-life phase – from waste to resources

## Waste prevention

- Reduction targets for complex waste streams (e.g. food)
- Extended producer responsibility schemes (e.g. textiles, end-of-life vehicles, packaging)

## Re-use & recycle

- Mainstream re-use, preparing for re-use and recycling
- Assess the scope to develop further EU-wide end-of-waste criteria for certain waste streams

## Waste exports

- Revise the Waste Shipment Regulation to facilitate/digitalise intra-EU and condition extra-EU shipments
- Facilitate shipments to recovery facilities, which are subject to pre-consents by the competent authorities

## Waste hierarchy



# Implementation

## 2020

- New **Batteries Regulation**
- Green City Accord
- Pact for Skills and Revision of the Skills Agenda

## 2021

- Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency
- Review of EU rules on concentration limits of persistent organic pollutants (POPs)
- Proposal for a revision of the EU **Waste Shipment Regulation**

## 2022

### SPRING PACKAGE

- Proposal for a Regulation on **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products**
- EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles
- Updated EU consumer rules to empower consumers for the green transition
- Revision of **Construction Products Regulation**

### AUTUMN PACKAGE

- Policy framework on bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics
- Revision of the **Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation**
- Proposal for a Regulation on certification for carbon removals

## 2023

- Directive on substantiation and communication of explicit **environmental claims**
- Proposal on common rules promoting the **repair** of goods
- Revision of Circular Economy Monitoring Framework
- **EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance criteria for circularity**
- **Targeted revision of the Waste Framework Directive for textiles and food**
- Revision of rules on **End-of-Life Vehicles**
- Regulation on preventing pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution

# Looking forward

A potential glimpse into the future

# Review clauses in the WFD (and LFD)

- Ongoing work on the forthcoming **Commission report** on three review clauses of Waste Framework Directive (WFD) and one on the Landfill Directive (LFD)
- The **European Parliament is asking for evaluating the WFD and LFD** as part of the ongoing targeted amendment of the WFD (Trilogues expected in the Autumn)

## Article 11(6) WFD

6. By 31 December 2024, the Commission shall consider the setting of preparing for re-use and recycling targets for construction and demolition waste and its material-specific fractions, textile waste, commercial waste, non-hazardous industrial waste and other waste streams, as well as preparing for re-use targets for municipal waste and recycling targets for municipal bio-waste. To that end, the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council, accompanied, if appropriate, by a legislative proposal.

## Article 12(2) WFD

2. By 31 December 2024, the Commission shall carry out an assessment of the disposal operations listed in Annex I [disposal operations], in particular in light of Article 13 [Protection of human health and the environment], and shall submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council, accompanied, if appropriate, by a legislative proposal, with a view to regulating disposal operations, including through possible restrictions, and to consider a disposal reduction target, to ensure environmentally sound waste management.

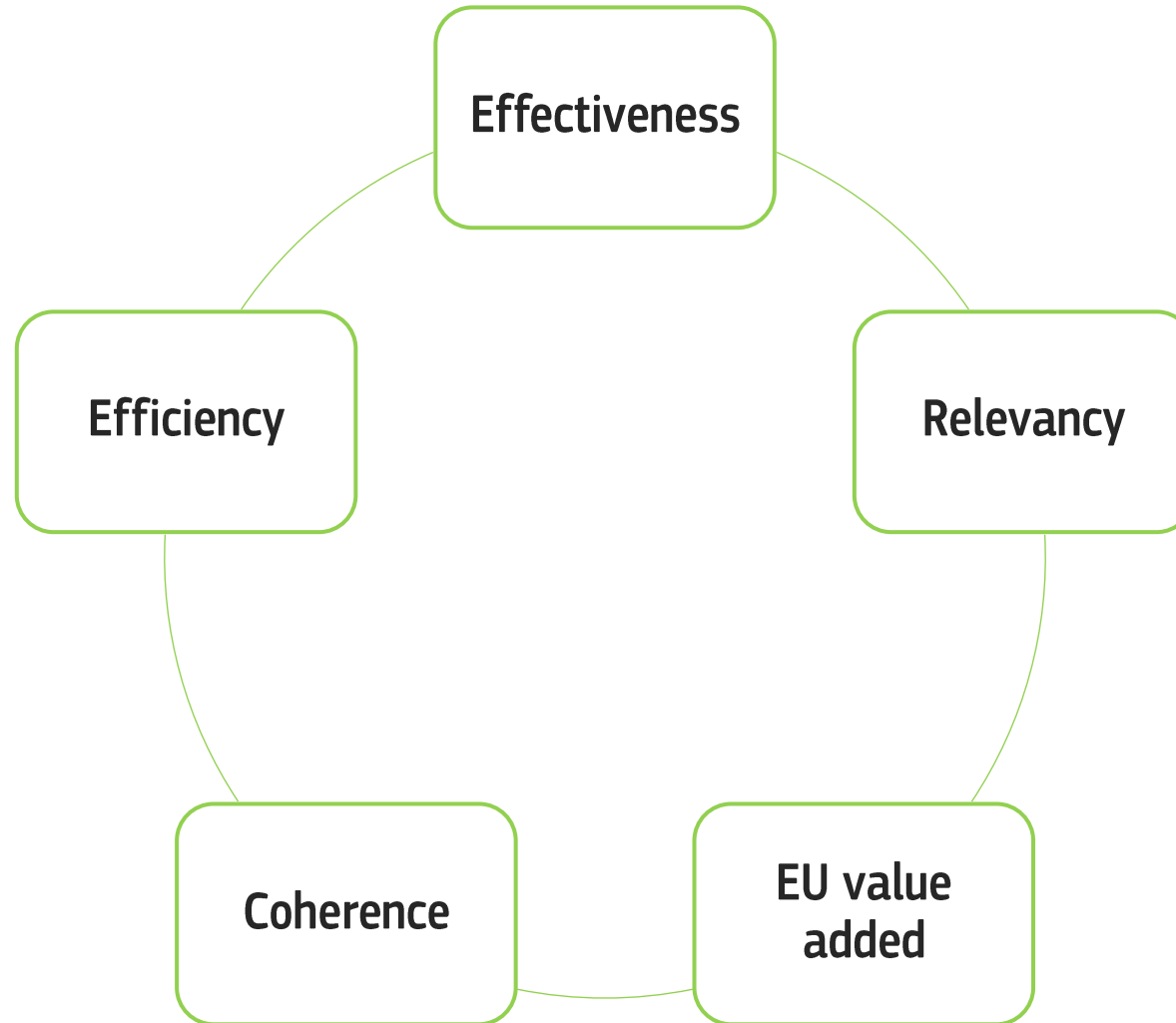
## Article 5(9) LD

9. By 31 December 2024, the Commission shall review the target laid down in paragraph 5 [5. Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that by 2035 the amount of municipal waste landfilled is reduced to 10 % or less of the total amount of municipal waste generated (by weight)] with a view to maintaining or, if appropriate, reducing it, to considering quantitative target per capita on landfilling and to introducing restrictions to the landfilling of non-hazardous waste other than municipal waste. To that end, the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council, accompanied, if appropriate, by a legislative proposal.

## Article 9(9) WFD

9. By 31 December 2024, the Commission shall examine data on re-use provided by Member States in accordance with Article 37(3) [re-use of products and food waste prevention] with a view to considering the feasibility of measures to encourage the re-use of products, including the setting of quantitative targets. The Commission shall also examine the feasibility of setting other waste prevention measures, including waste reduction targets. To that end, the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council, accompanied, if appropriate, by a legislative proposal.

# Evaluation | Better Regulation Guidelines



# Potential next Commission priorities

- We will need to wait for the next Commission priorities, following the **recent elections**
- **Political support** for continuing to implement the circular economy agenda by European Council conclusions, Enrico Letta's report, Member States, stakeholder feedback, etc.
- **Selected legislative proposals possible** (e.g. WEEE Directive)
- Likely focus on **narrowing the gap between the legislation in force and the practice on the ground** in close cooperation with Member States and stakeholders (e.g. economic instruments, investment, implementing legislation including EU-wide End of Waste criteria)
- Key to also improve **enforcement and efficiency while reducing administrative burden**

# Thank you



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