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# Waste Framework Directive: European material industries renew call for measurement of real recycling rates

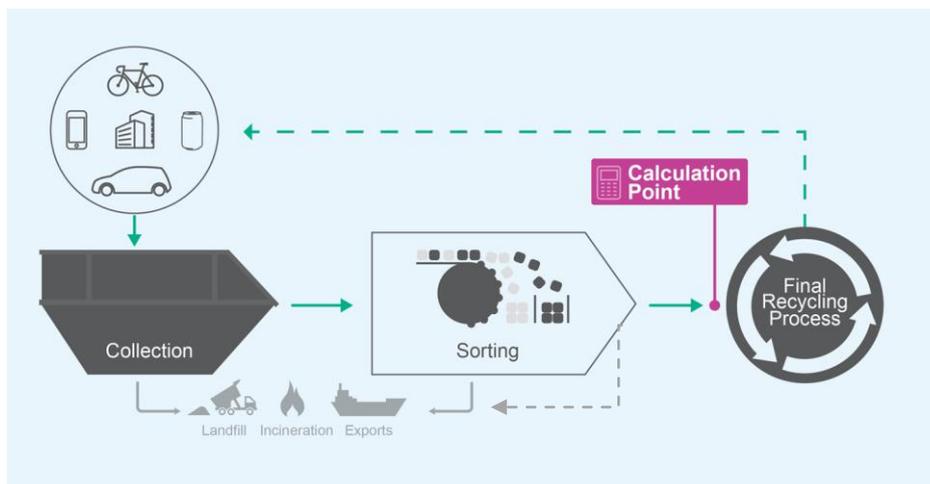
## Introduction

Europe's metals, steel and paper industries renew their call for a harmonised method to measure Member State recycling rates at input into the 'final recycling process'.

The Circular Economy Package is an ambitious step-change for Europe. We should look to improve current practices. Setting-up robust traceability systems is an integral component, which will allow for accurate measurement of real recycling rates.

## Our Call

- **Measure at input to the final recycling process** - MEPs and Member States should safeguard the European Commission's proposal for measuring real recycling rates at input to the final recycling process. This is an essential step to promote quality recycling across European sectors.
- **Improve traceability capacity** - The European Commission should assist Member States in further building-up traceability capacity along the recycling value chain, in order to collect reliable quantities of waste data at each step.



## Why measure at input into the final recycling process?

Measuring recycling rates at input into the final recycling process has the following benefits:

- **Promoting quality recycling of waste and end-of-life products**, by ensuring that real recycling takes place and avoiding that the collected and sorted waste which gets landfilled, incinerated or exported is counted as recycled.
- **Identifying a final recycling step**, where material is recovered from waste and is able to substitute primary material in a new product life-cycle. All actors of the recycling value chain make key contributions to the reprocessing of waste into products or materials. Recycling rates should measure the true rate of material recycled from waste.
- **Allowing a benchmark of progress**, by implementing a harmonised method for all Member States (although some might now have more difficulty achieving recycling targets)

### Why measuring at input to the final process is achievable

- **Across EU materials sectors, there are several EU-wide examples where information is already reported through the value chain until the point of final recycling:**
  - Paper - [Recovered Paper Identification System](#) – Enables the identification of supplier and paper grade throughout full paper recycling value chain
  - WEEE – [WF-Rep Tool](#) – Allows for monitoring of the whole WEEE treatment chain up to final recycling process
  - Plastics - [EuCertPlas](#) – Certification of plastics recycling companies, which includes traceability requirements and mass/balance reporting
- **Although the packaging sector has no EU-wide scheme, several Member States report information through the value chain until the point of final recycling, as part of EPR schemes:**
  - Aluminium Packaging – [CiAL Scheme \(EPR – Italy only\)](#) – Ensures traceability from scrap recovery to sorting until final recycling, with detailed reporting according to EMAS rules
  - Steel Packaging – [PRN Scheme \(EPR – UK only\)](#) – Ensures traceability from scrap recovery to final recycling, with detailed reporting
- **EU-wide traceability systems should be set-up to ensure transparency along different waste streams and ensure quality recycling takes place.** Best practice examples do exist, and should be applied at EU level and adapted to each value chain's specific requirements.
- **Improving traceability capacity can help to differentiate municipal, commercial and industrial sources.** Until now, there has been no stimulus for value chains to differentiate by waste source. A new stimulus will be provided by strong legislative requirements. Work will then be required across each value chain to incorporate differentiation by waste source.
- **After the Waste Framework Directive enters into force, Member States will still have 5 years to build on the existing examples and set-up improved traceability systems for municipal waste streams.** Our sectors are ready to support that effort.

### Annex – How are different sectors structured?

*It is important to note that in some sectors, the same operator conducts multiple steps in the recycling value chain; for example both the sorting and the final recycling step. In others, each step is conducted by a different operator.*

*This has no influence on where to measure the recycling rate (which should always be conducted at input into the operation that will allow for substitution of the primary material). For that reason, our model of the recycling value chain can be applied across all waste streams.*



### **About CEPI**

The Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) represents 505 pulp, paper and board producing companies across Europe and 920 paper mills. The sector uses a renewable resource, wood, from sustainably-managed forests as well as paper for recycling as its raw material. With a recycling rate of 72% (2015), we are a strong contributor to the circular economy and the bioeconomy.

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### **About Eurometaux**

Eurometaux is the decisive voice of non-ferrous metals producers and recyclers in Europe. With an annual turnover of €120bn, our members represent an essential industry for European society that businesses in almost every sector depend on. Together, we are leading Europe towards a more circular future through the endlessly recyclable potential of metals.

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### **About Eurofer**

The European Steel Association (EUROFER) is located in Brussels and was founded in 1976. It represents the entirety of steel production in the European Union. EUROFER members are steel companies and national steel federations throughout the EU. The major steel companies and national steel federations in Switzerland and Turkey are associate members.

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