



Maria Banti
DG ENVIRONMENT

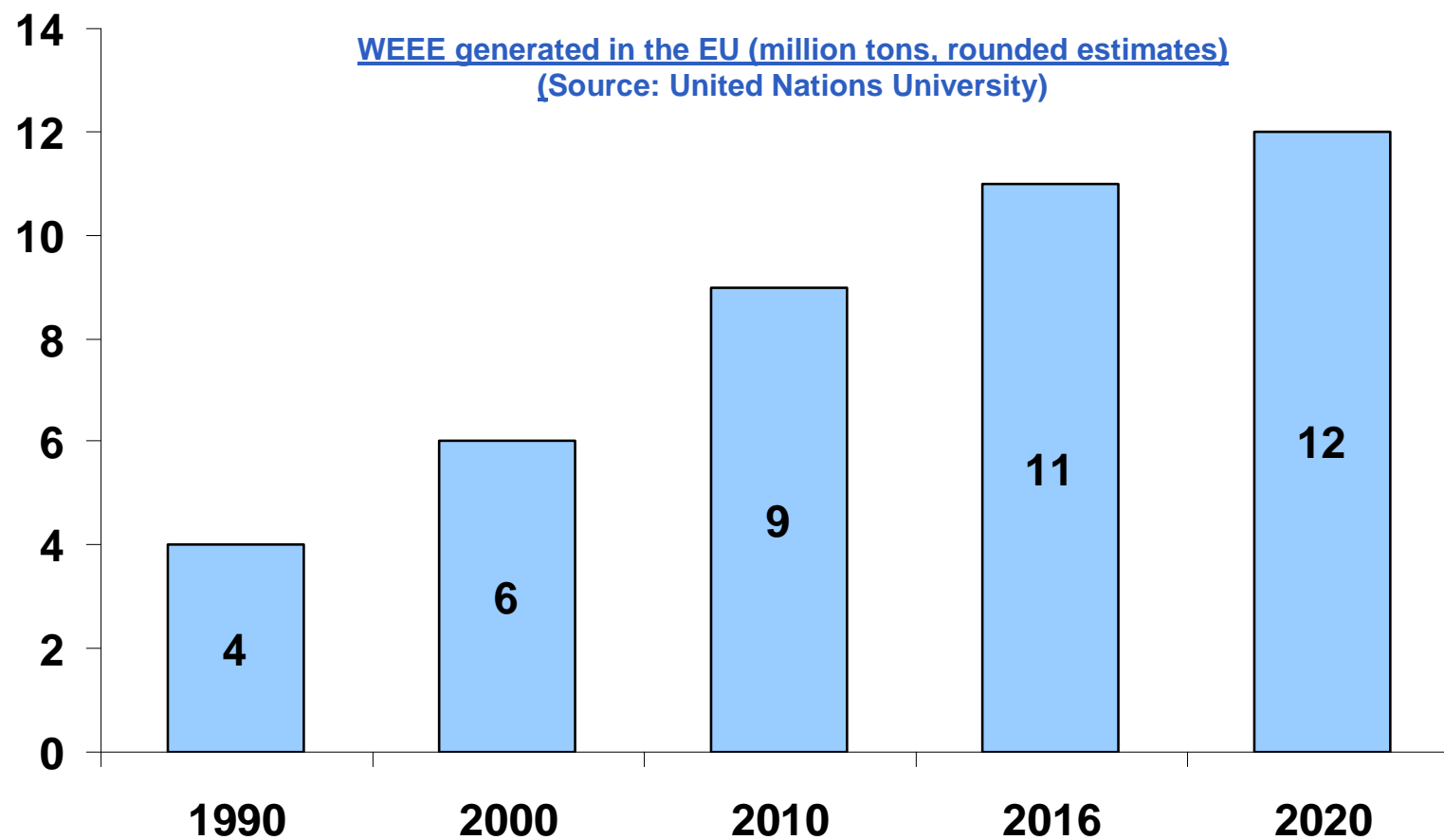
Urban Mines, Consumer Behaviour and Producer Responsibility in a Circular Economy

Reclaiming materials from WEEE

**The EU policy framework on urban mining,
management of WEEE and Producer Responsibility**

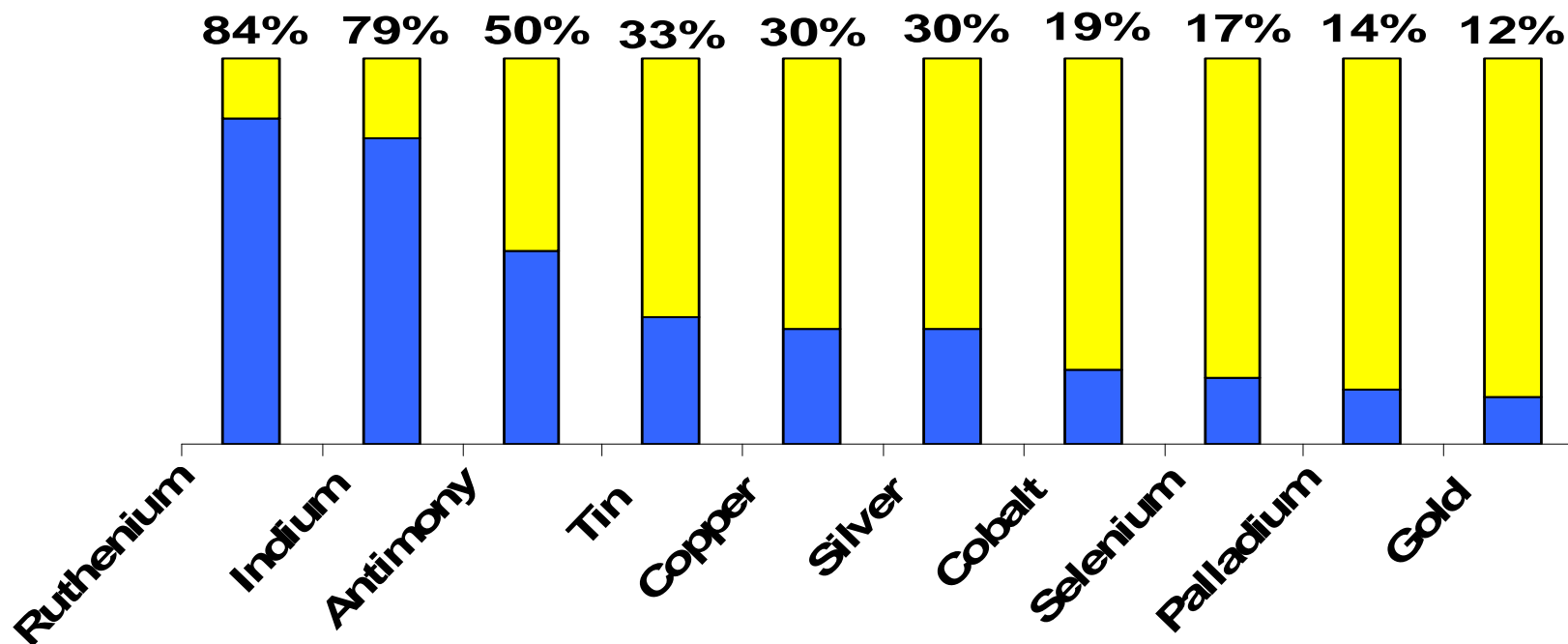
Brussels, 6 June 2014

AMOUNT OF WEEE CONTINUES TO GROW



SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF RESOURCES ARE TRAPPED IN EEE AFTER PRODUCTION

Resource demand for use in EEE as approximate share of total demand (Estimates for 2006)



Source: Hagelüken/Meskers (Umicore), „Mining our Computers“, 2008



Management of WEEE

The WEEE Directive

- Aims to prevent or reduce the negative environmental effects resulting from the generation and management of WEEE and from resource use
- Its key purpose is to contribute to sustainable production and consumption by, as a first priority, the prevention of WEEE and, in addition, by the re-use, recycling and other forms of recovery of such wastes





THE MAIN CHALLENGES OF THE NEW DIRECTIVE

1. Increase separate collection and proper treatment, by establishing a collection rate ambitious and appropriate for each Member State
2. Fight illegal exports of e-waste disguised as "used equipment", by reversing the burden of proof on functionality for exporters
3. Reduce administrative burdens in the internal market, by simplifying registration and reporting requirements for new EEE placed on the market-> Improve compliance





Circular Economy means...

- designing for recyclability, for repair and reuse
- developing business models that bring products back to their producers at the end of their life or, as in the case of the WEEE Directive makes producers financial responsible for the recycling/recovery of their products when they reach the end of their life
- developing markets for secondary raw materials
- improving the recycling technologies to deal with more complex products and composite materials- EC Mandate to CENELEC to develop standards for the treatment of WEEE





REQUIREMENTS OF DIFFERENT NATURE BORN BY PRODUCERS

- **Eco-design responsibility** (e.g. Directives on eco-design, end-of-life vehicles, waste electrical and electronic equipment)
- **Waste operations and financing responsibility** (e.g. Directives on batteries, end-of-life vehicles, packaging, waste electrical and electronic equipment)
- **Information responsibility on product content and recycling properties** (e.g. Directives on batteries, end-of-life vehicles, packaging, waste electrical and electronic equipment)





COMMISSION IS LOOKING INTO EPR

- **Objectives**

- ✓ Describe, compare and analyse different types of EPR systems operating in the EU.
- ✓ Identify necessary conditions and best practices for the functioning of EPR systems.
- ✓ Propose and assess options to promote an optimal use of EPR systems across the EU.

- **SIX waste streams** (Batteries, ELVs, Packaging, WEEE, Graphic Paper, Oils)

- **Four main issues studied**

- i. Share of responsibilities among stakeholders involved and dialogue
- ii. Cost coverage and true cost principle
- iii. Fair competition
- iv. Transparency and surveillance

EPR Study: Selection of MS for case studies

<i>Batteries</i>	<i>ELV</i>	<i>Packaging</i>	<i>WEEE</i>	<i>Graphic Paper</i>	<i>Oils</i>
Austria	Sweden	Germany	Ireland	Finland	Belgium
Switzerland	Netherlands	Belgium	United Kingdom	France	Finland
Belgium	Germany	Netherlands	Finland	Netherlands	Germany
Denmark	Slovak Republic	Austria	Latvia	Sweden	Spain
Netherlands	Austria	Czech Republic	France		Italy
France	Finland	France	Denmark		Portugal
		United Kingdom	Sweden		





EPR Guiding principles proposed by the study

1. The definition and objectives of EPR should be clarified
2. Responsibilities and roles of each actor should be clearly defined along the whole product's lifecycle
3. The design and implementation of an EPR scheme should at least ensure the coverage of the full net costs related to the separate collection and treatment of the end-of-life products.
4. The fees paid by a producer to a collective scheme should reflect the true end-of-life management costs of its specific products.
5. Notwithstanding the way competition takes place, a clear and stable framework is necessary in order to ensure fair competition, with sufficient surveillance and equal rules for all, supported by enforcement measures (including sanctions).
6. Transparency is required on the performances and costs of EPR schemes
7. Key definitions and reporting modalities should be harmonised at European level
8. Member States and obligated industry should be co-responsible for the monitoring and surveillance of EPR schemes, and should ensure that adequate means for enforcement are in place.

Thank you!

For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/wee/index_en.htm

Contact Details:

Maria Banti

Maria.BANTI@ec.europa.eu

ONLY ONE EARTH

