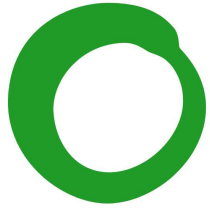


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Creating an EU recycling society ***Its not (just) implementation***

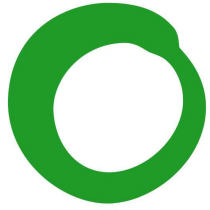
Dr Michael Warhurst,
Resource and Consumption campaign
Friends of the Earth Europe
June 2010



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Contents

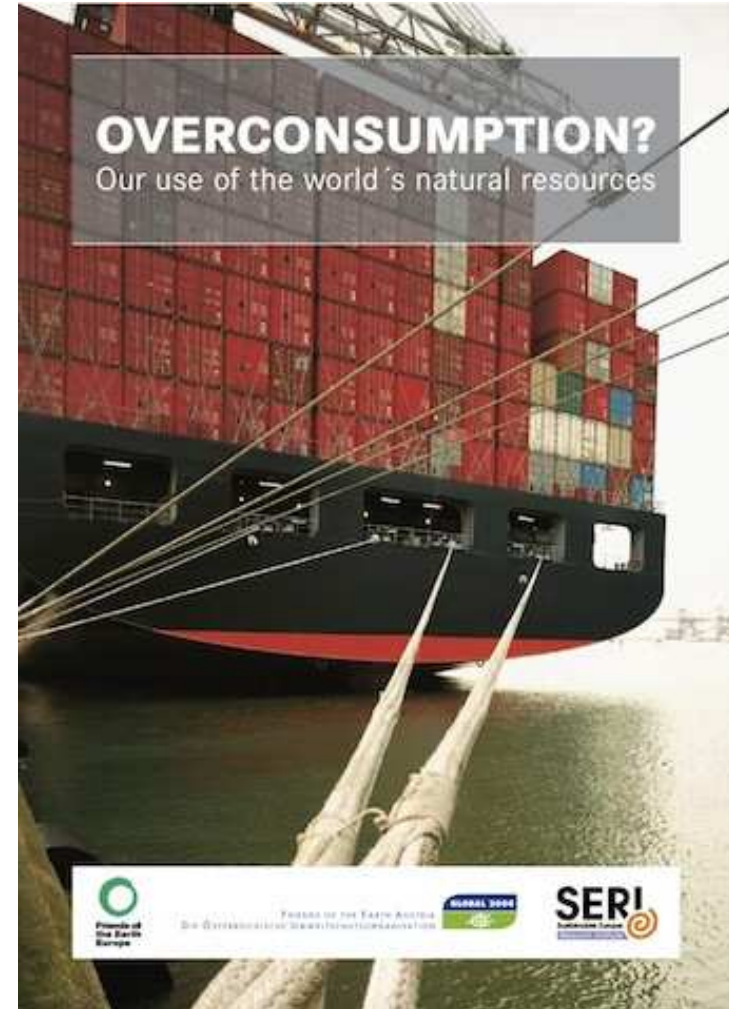
1. A resource efficient EU?
2. Reality of EU recycling
3. Where should we be in 2020?
4. Policy options for a resource efficient EU

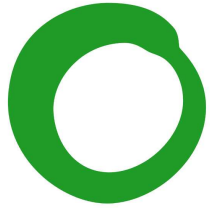


The resources challenge

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- We are using ever-increasing quantities of the world's resources
- Europe is particularly dependant on imported resources – see our 'Overconsumption?' report [3]
- There is an urgent need for more policies to boost eco-efficiency
- The resources agenda will get more important in future years, as consumption in large countries – e.g. China and India – continues to increase.
- Business pressure is increasing
 - E.g. Raw Materials Initiative



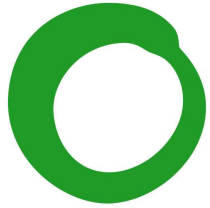


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EU “Resource Efficiency”?

>€5 billion worth of
materials

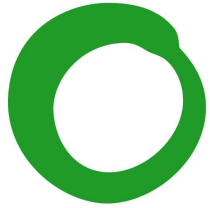
Dumped in landfill or incinerators every year... [1]



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The 'Gone to Waste' report

- Methodology:
 - Used Prognos data to estimate the amount of 'routine' recyclables that aren't being recycled
 - The report does not cover the rarer metals from WEEE etc.
 - Used a conservative valuation of these materials
 - We did not consider the cost of recycling
 - Used established methodology to calculate climate benefits of recycling this material
- Results – if this material was recycled [1]:
 - The material would have had a minimum potential monetary value of **€5.25 billion**.
 - We would have saved **CO_{2eq} emissions of 148 million tonnes, equivalent to taking approximately 47 million cars off the road per year.**



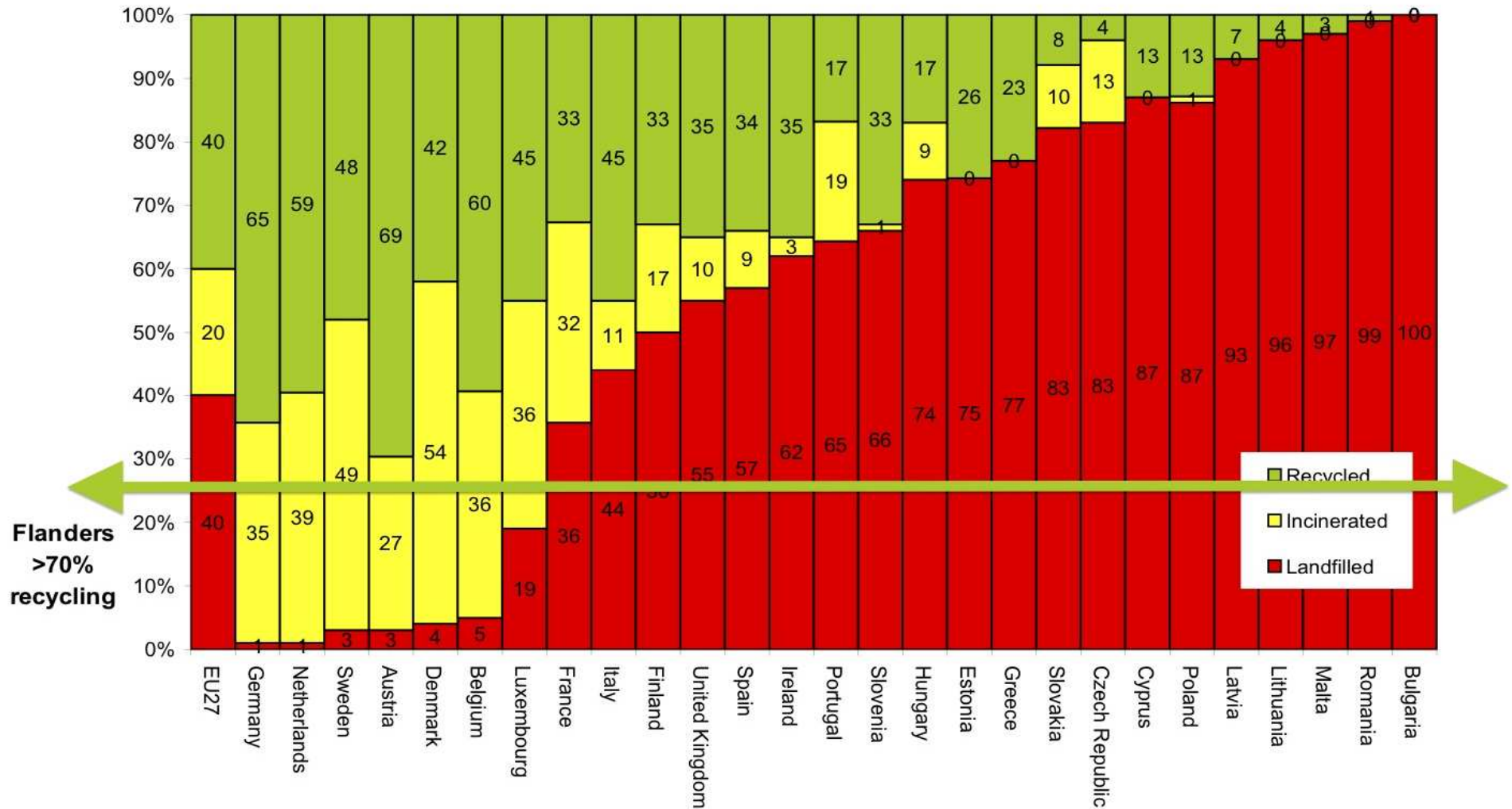
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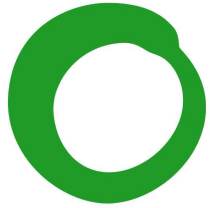
What's going wrong?

- Poor implementation...
- But this is not the only problem:

EU MSW Recycling rates

EUROSTAT, MSW 2008

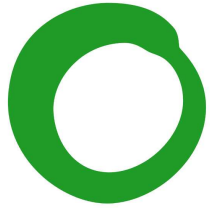




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What's going wrong?

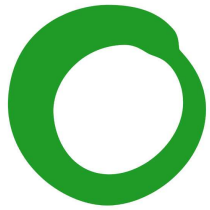
- Poor implementation
 - A standard DG Environment response
 - But if every EU nation is not doing enough, then it must be more than this....
- Low ambition, e.g.
 - No overall recycling target until we got a 50% target into the Waste Framework Directive revision
- Frozen policymaking, e.g.
 - Packaging recycling targets last revised in 2004
 - And still promote 'recovery' of plastic, when landfill is better for the climate than most incineration [2]



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Packaging recycling targets

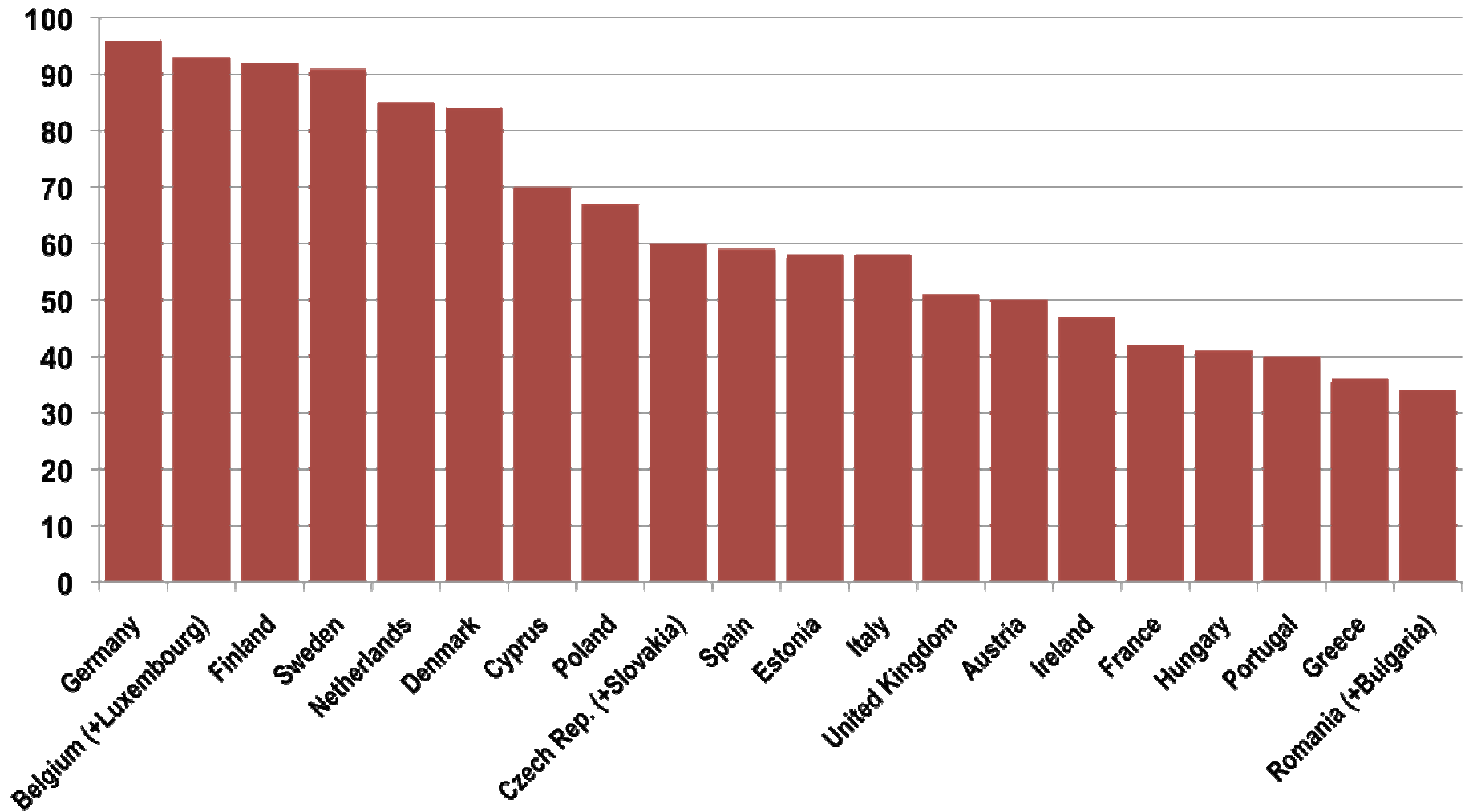
- “No later than 31 December 2008 the following minimum recycling targets for materials contained in packaging waste will be attained:
 - (i) 60 % by weight for glass;
 - (ii) 60 % by weight for paper and board;
 - (iii) 50 % by weight for metals;
 - (iv) 22,5 % by weight for plastics, counting exclusively material that is recycled back into plastics;
 - (v) 15 % by weight for wood.”
- ***Is this really the best Europe can do?***

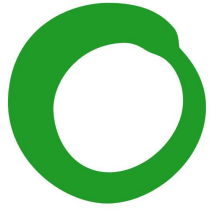


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Resource efficient?

Aluminium cans recycled in 2008 (%)

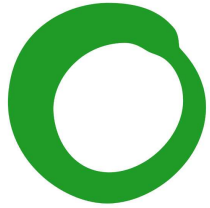




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Important?

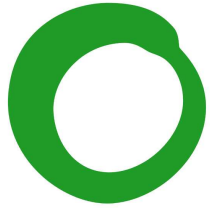
- Does European industry's access to resources matter?
- Does the creation of jobs matter?
- Does climate change matter?
- If yes, then we need a step change in recycling



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A 2020 vision for waste

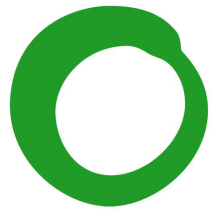
- The EU is measuring its resource use, and creating policies to reduce it.
- Waste volumes are reducing, with waste prevention targets in place.
- All member states are aiming beyond 70% reuse & recycling, with many exceeding this by some margin
 - All waste streams and types are being addressed
 - There is a focus on spreading best practice around Europe (including in market development).
- There is a regulatory ban on recyclable materials (including WEEE, batteries & household recyclables) entering residual waste treatments
- Product policy is making things more long lasting, more reusable and more recyclable
 - Including an extension of producer responsibility to new product groups – Toys? Furniture?



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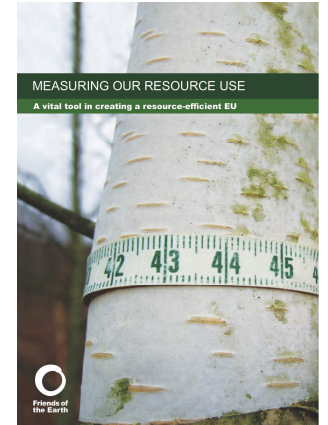
How do we get there?

1. Create new drivers on resource efficiency
 - Beyond climate or energy
2. Strengthen – and create - legislation to ensure that all materials are captured – at sufficient quality
 - E.g. landfill/incineration bans
 - Higher packaging and other recycling targets
3. Strengthen product regulation to ensure products are long lasting and recyclable
4. Share best practice – not worst practice
 - Stop creating over-capacity for residual waste
 - and focus on flexible and climate-friendly residual waste treatments...
 - Focus on quality recycling and reuse
 - Collection & anaerobic digestion, composting of biowaste

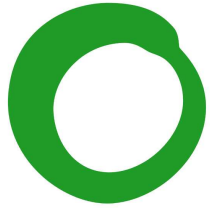


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A new driver for resource efficiency



- Friends of the Earth, with Sustainable Europe Research Institute, are campaigning to get the EU to measure and reduce its resource use
- We have selected four indicators [4], all including the ‘rucksack’/footprint of imported goods:
 - Total resource use (tonnes), which can be subdivided into biogenic/non biogenic and down into individual materials
 - Water use for nations, water footprint for products
 - Land use for nations, land footprint for products
 - Greenhouse emissions - both Kyoto and the GHG rucksack of imported products for nations, carbon footprint for products
- These should be incorporated into impact assessment
 - Impact assessment of existing TS ignored resource efficiency



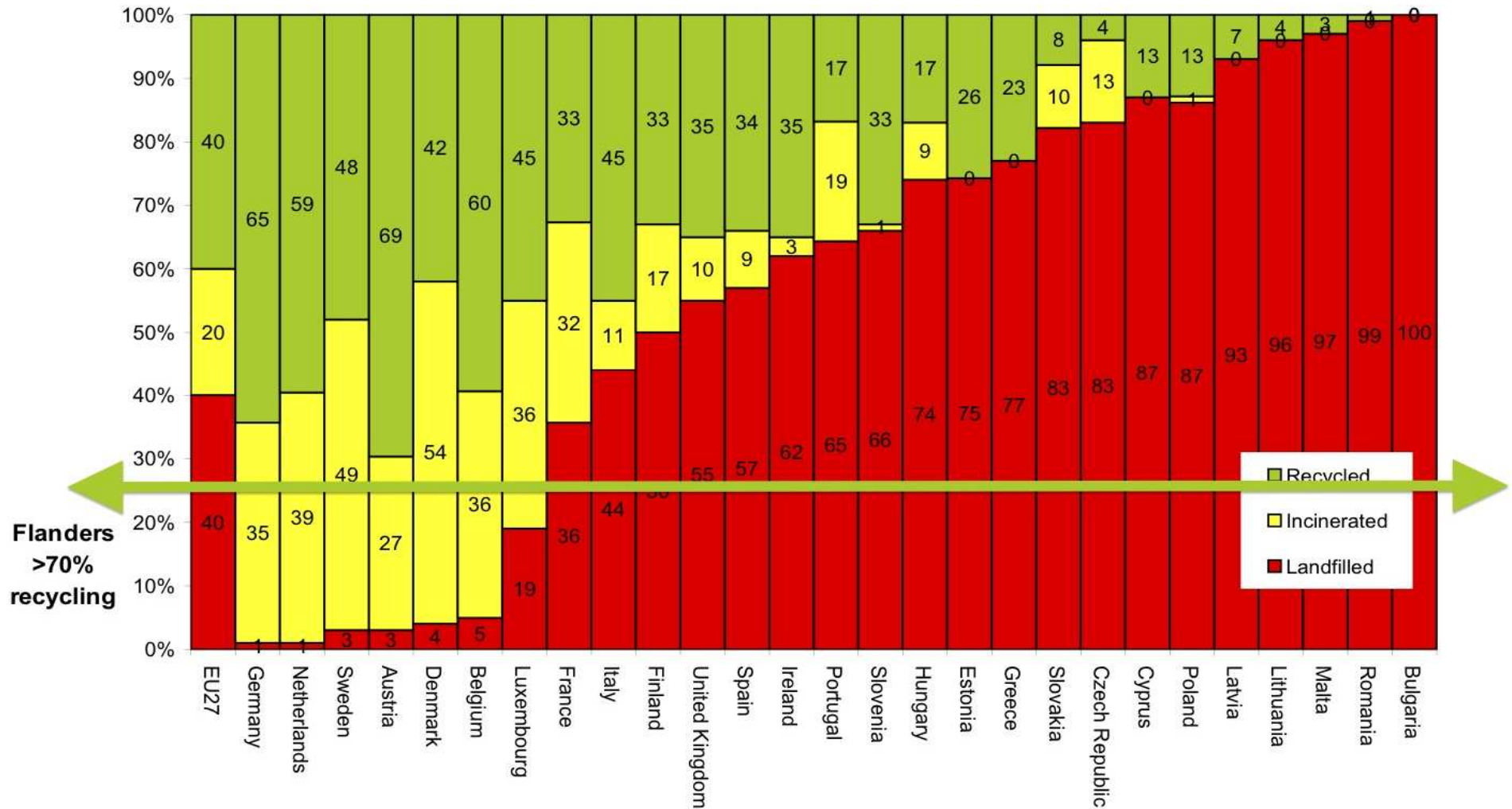
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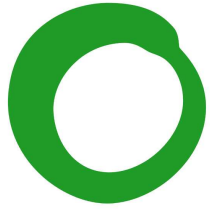
Conclusions

- We are nowhere near creating a sustainable waste (resource) management approach across Europe
 - based on ‘Best Available Techniques’ not ‘whatever we can get away with’
- New **measurement, targets** and **measures** are needed to stop the loss of valuable resources
- Inaction – and an appeal for ‘improved implementation’ – is not a viable response to our current economic & environmental situation
 - We should focus on moving to >70% recycling *as soon as possible*.
 - Some countries will require more time than others – but this should be the minimum target for all

EU MSW Recycling rates

EUROSTAT, MSW 2008





References

Friends of the Earth

- [1] “***Gone to waste: the valuable resources that European countries bury and burn***”, Friends of the Earth, October 2009:
http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/gone_to_waste.pdf
- [2] Eriksson, O., & Finnveden, G. (2009). ***Plastic waste as a fuel - CO2-neutral or not?*** Energy & Environmental Science, 2(9), 907-914.
- [3] “***Overconsumption? Our use of the world’s natural resources***”, Friends of the Earth Europe/Sustainable Europe Research Institute, September 2009:
http://www.foeeurope.org/publications/2009/Overconsumption_Sep09.pdf
- [4] “***How to measure Europe’s Resource Use***”, Sustainable Europe Research Institute for Friends of the Earth Europe, July 2009:
http://www.foeeurope.org/publications/2009/seri_foee_measuring_eu_resource_use_final.pdf
See also this briefing:
“***Measuring our resource use: A vital tool in creating a resource-efficient EU***”, Friends of the Earth Europe, April 2010
http://www.foeeurope.org/publications/2010/measuring_resource_use.pdf

For more information on Friends of the Earth Europe’s work on Waste & Resources, see
http://www.foeeurope.org/activities/waste_management/index_resources.html