

# European Environment Agency

Are we heading to a  
real recycling society?



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SCP and waste**



# Overview

1. What is a Recycling society?
2. Progress towards recycling in Europe
3. Effects of better waste management on the environment
4. Some points for discussion



The long-term goal is for the EU to become a recycling society, that seeks to avoid waste and uses waste as a resource.

(Thematic Strategy on prevention and recycling of waste, 2005)



**A society where a high share of resources is coming from waste materials?**

**The opposite of the throwaway-society?**

**A society where everything is recycled or re-used?**

**A society with much lower waste generation?**

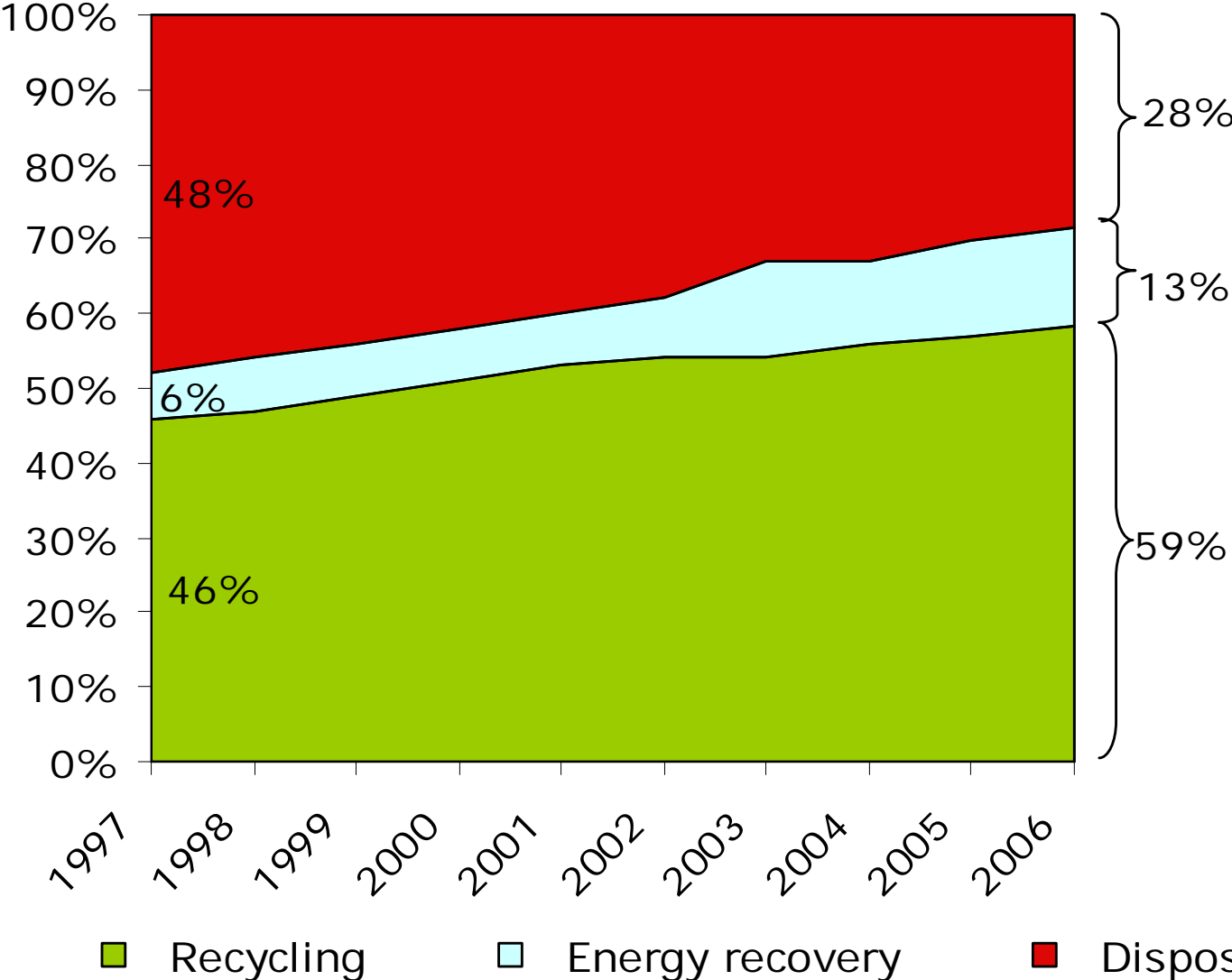
**A society operating at the cost- and eco-efficient optimum of recycling?**

**75% – 85% – 95% recycling of all waste?**



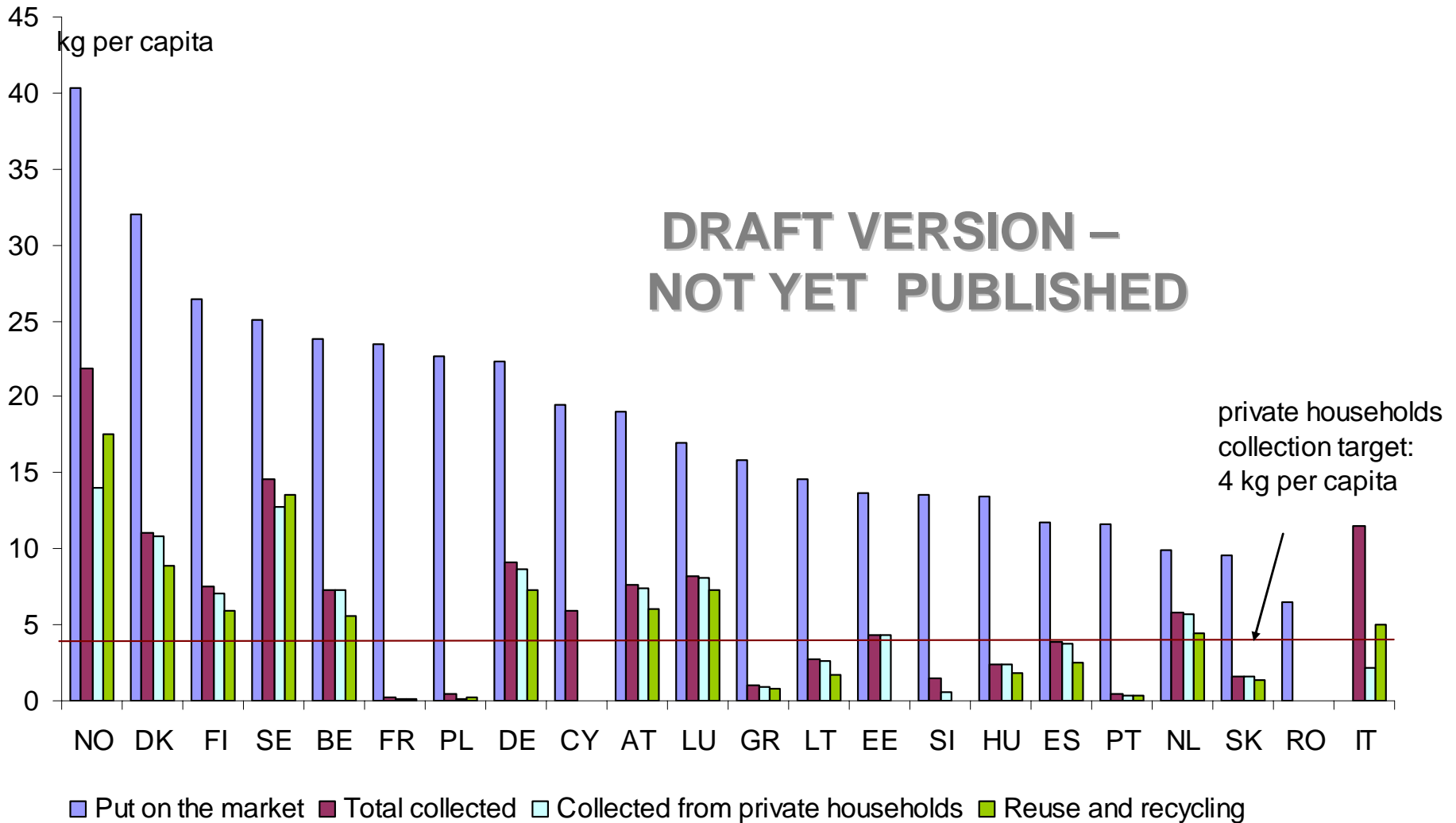
The good news:  
We make progress towards  
recycling

# Packaging waste management, EU-15

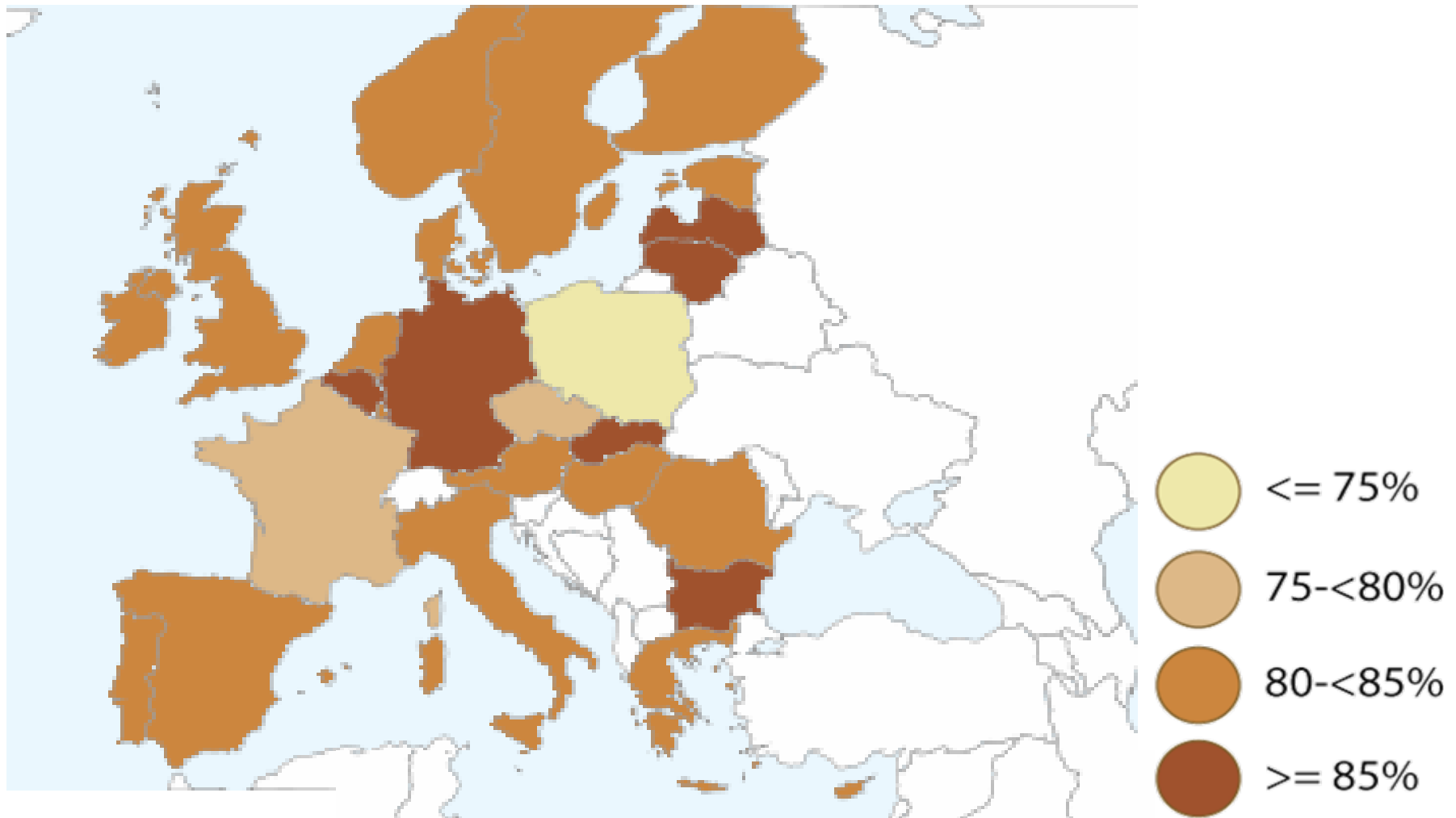


Source:  
EEA CSI-17

# WEEE

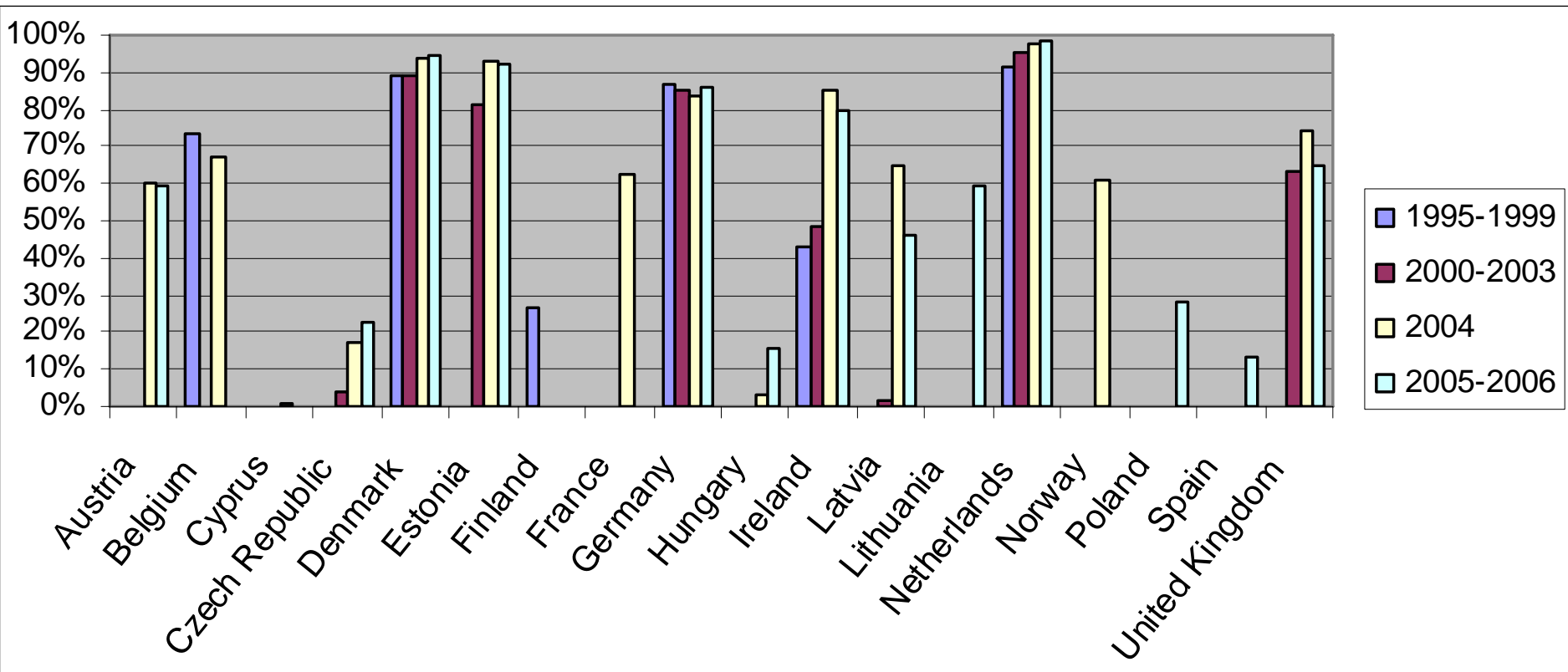


# Recycling of end-of-life vehicles



Source: Eurostat

# Construction and demolition waste

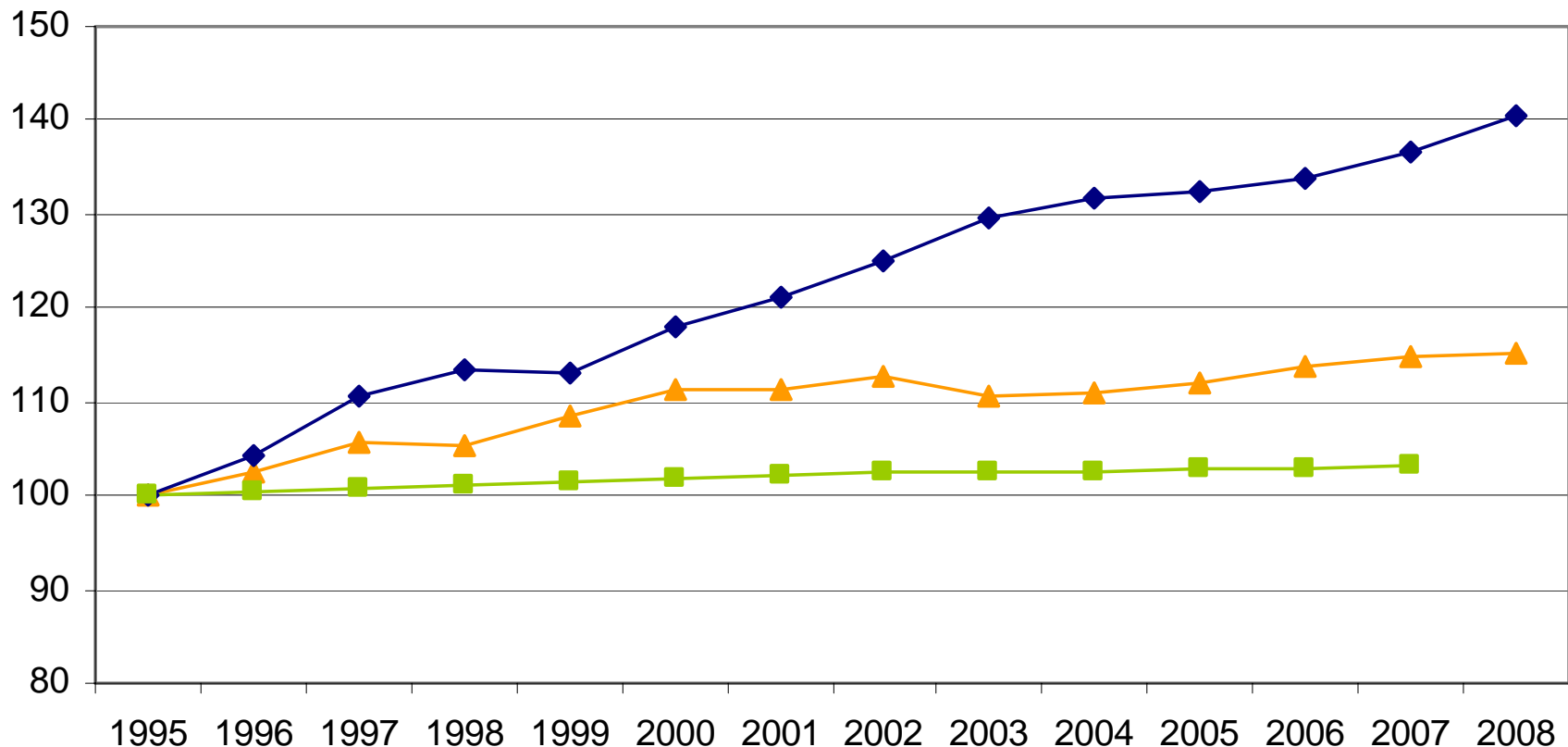


Source: ETC/SCP, based on national data

# The not so good news: Waste generation is growing



# Municipal waste is increasing

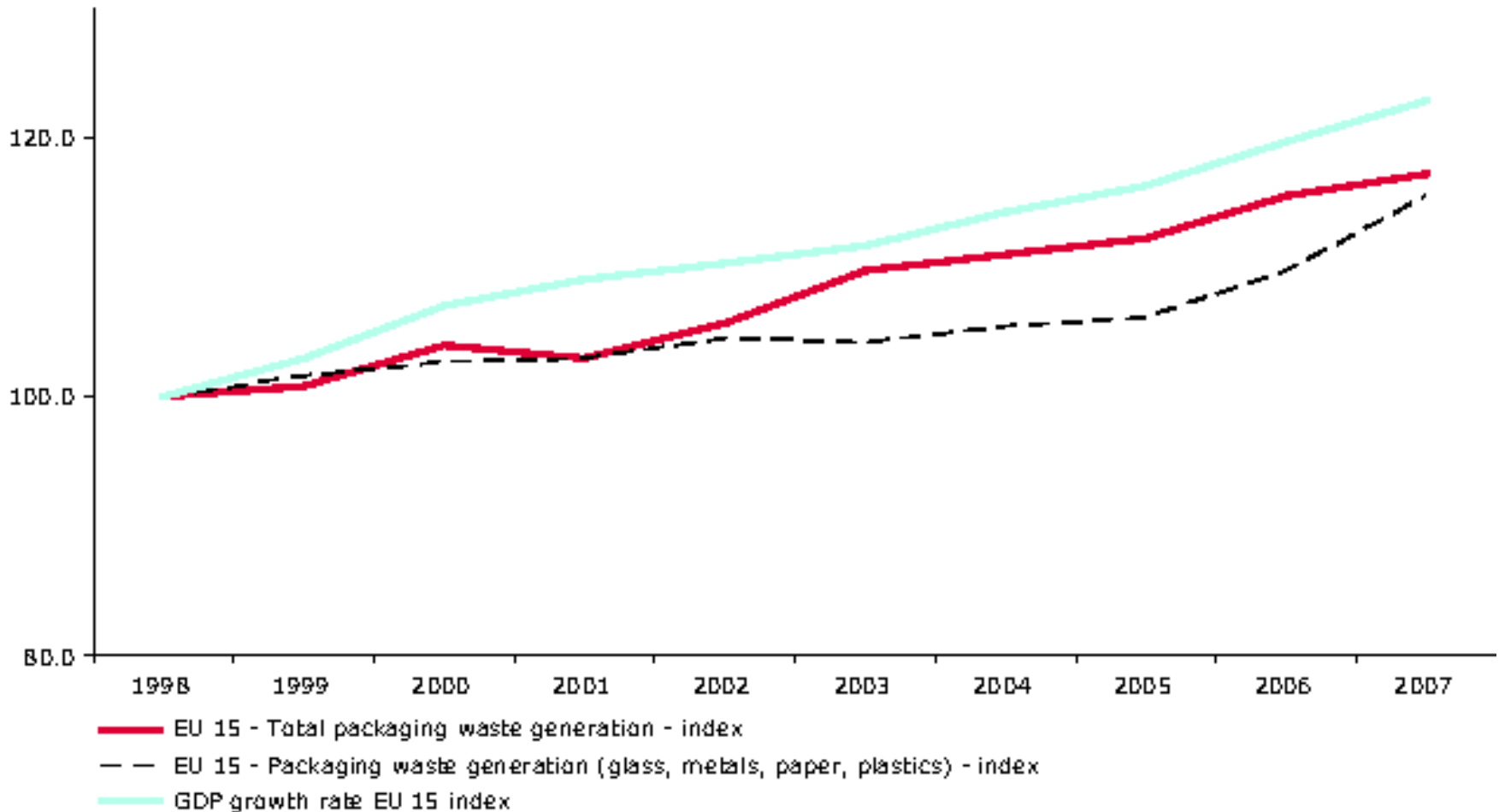


—▲— Index Municipal waste generation EU-27 —◆— Index GDP EU27 —■— Population EU27 index

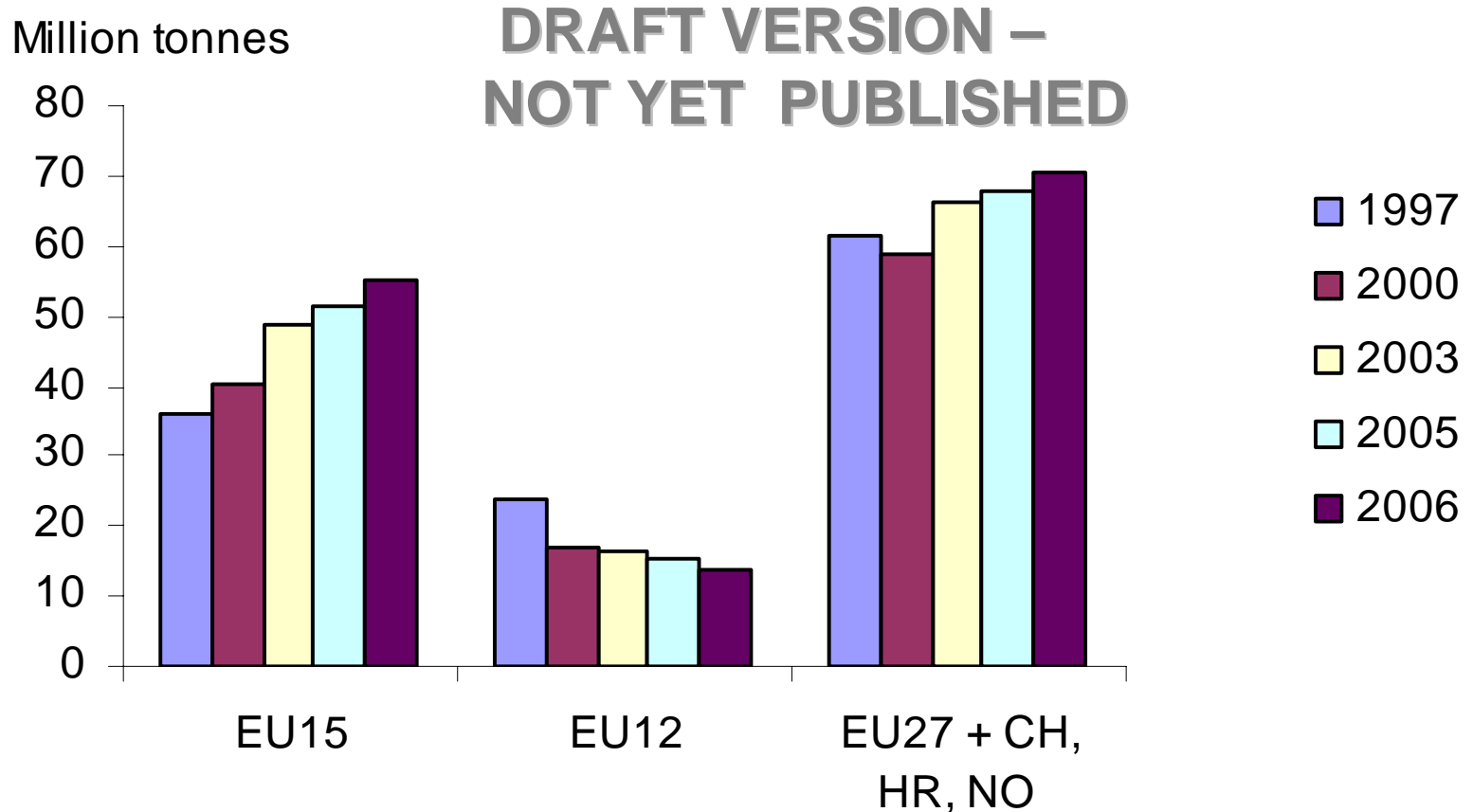


# Packaging waste is increasing

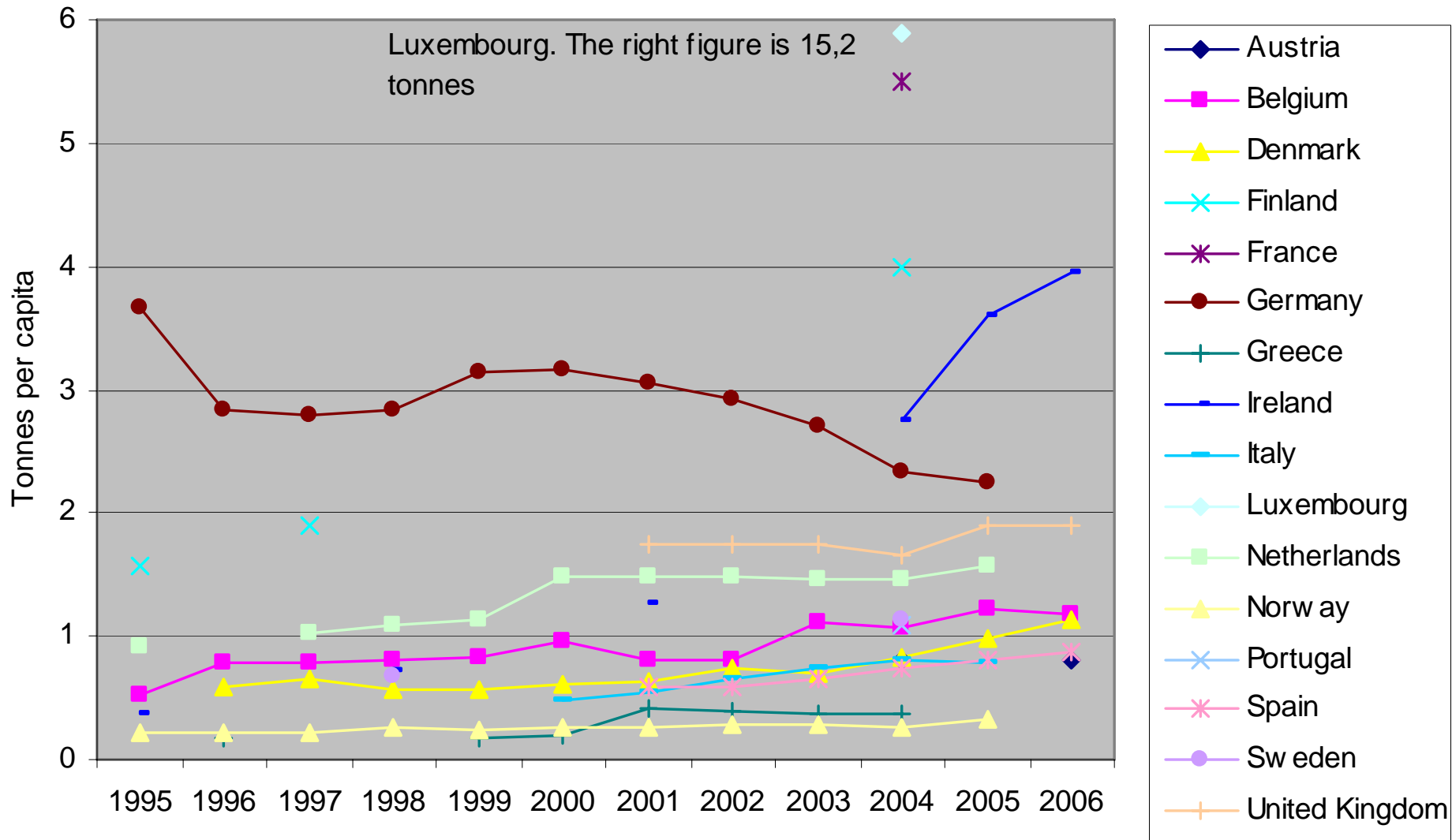
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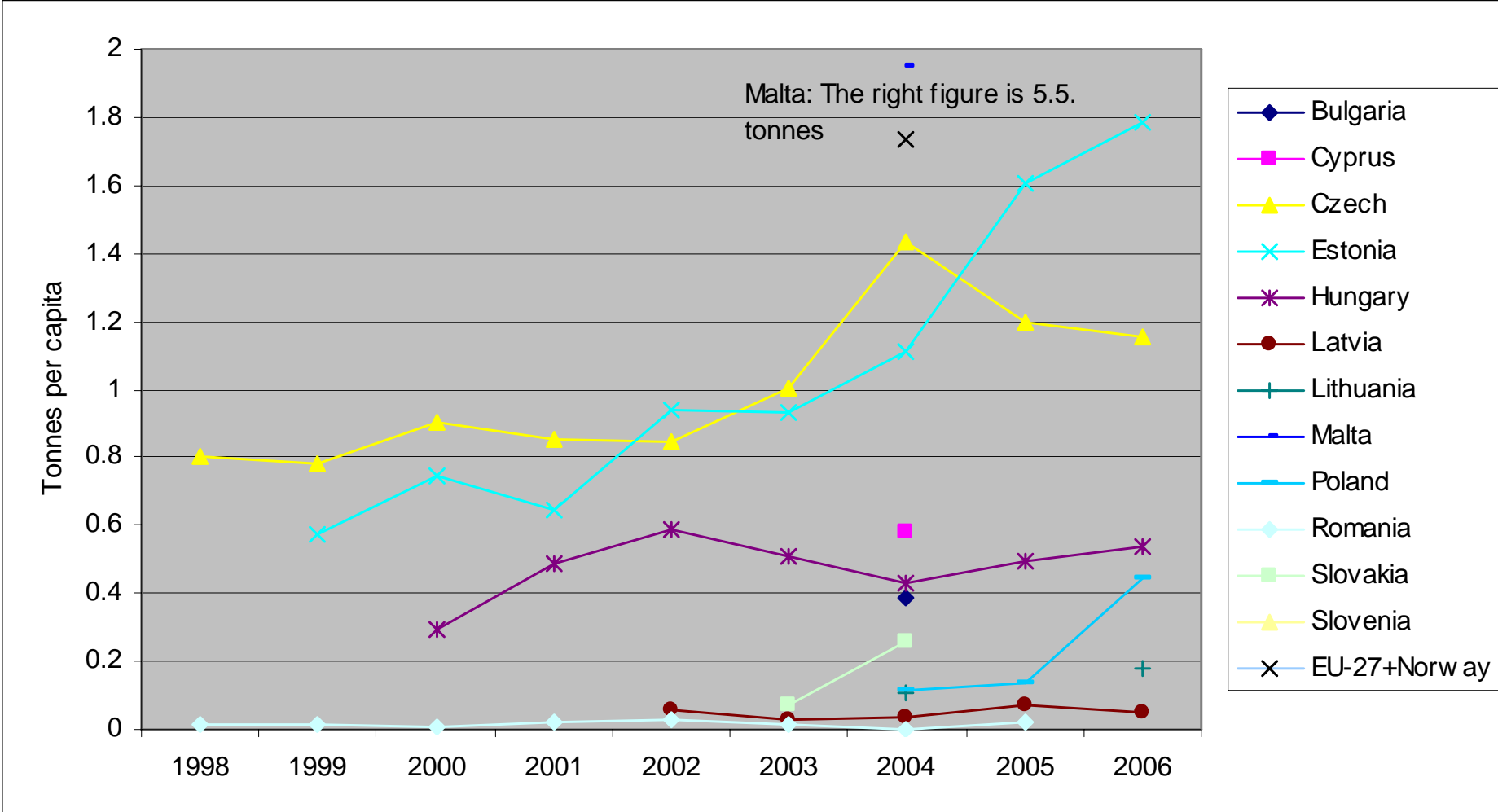
# Hazardous waste is increasing



# Construction and demolition waste is increasing, EU-15



# Construction and demolition waste is increasing, EU-12



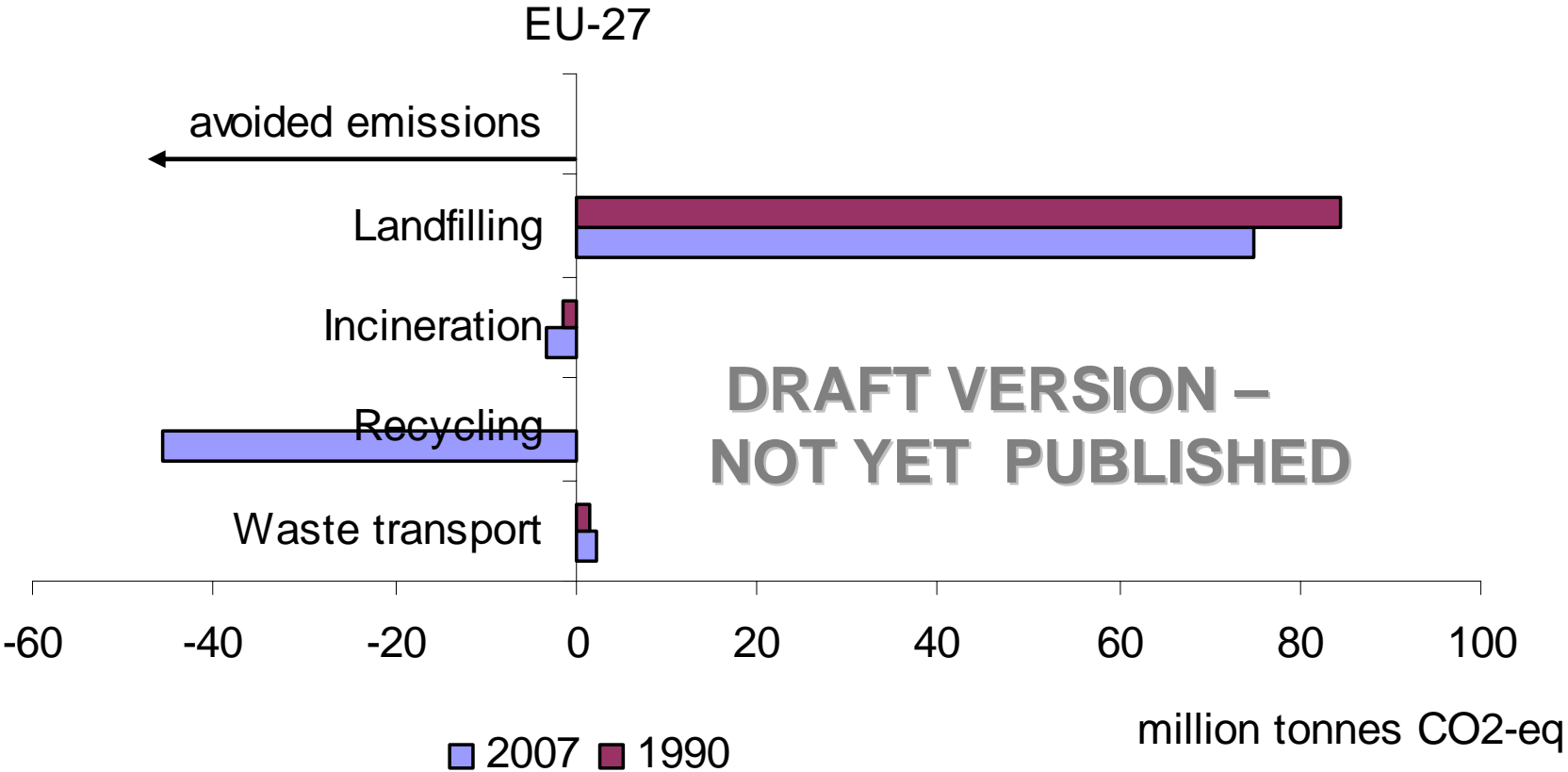
# Environmental impacts from waste

Over 3 300 landfills closed across Europe between 2004 -2006

Still a high number of sub-standard landfills in operation, mainly in the new Member States



# Better waste management reduces greenhouse gas emissions (MSW)



# For discussion

- How can we reduce waste generation?
- How much of the resources we use can be covered by recycled materials?
- Environmental benefits of recycling is linked to the quality of the recycled materials
- Illegal export for some wastes poses a threat to the environment and to the recycling markets



# Recent EEA publications on waste

- EEA report 1/2009: Waste without borders? Transboundary shipments of waste
- EEA report 3/2009:
- Country fact sheets on waste policies
- To be published in November 2010: State and Outlook of the Environment Report



# European Environment Agency

Thank you for your attention



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ETC/SCP: <http://scp.eionet.europa.eu/>

