



Biodegradable Waste Management in the EU: challenges and opportunities

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Outline

1. Challenges in Greece and the EU Municipal Waste Management Policy
2. Waste Targets Review
3. Conclusions





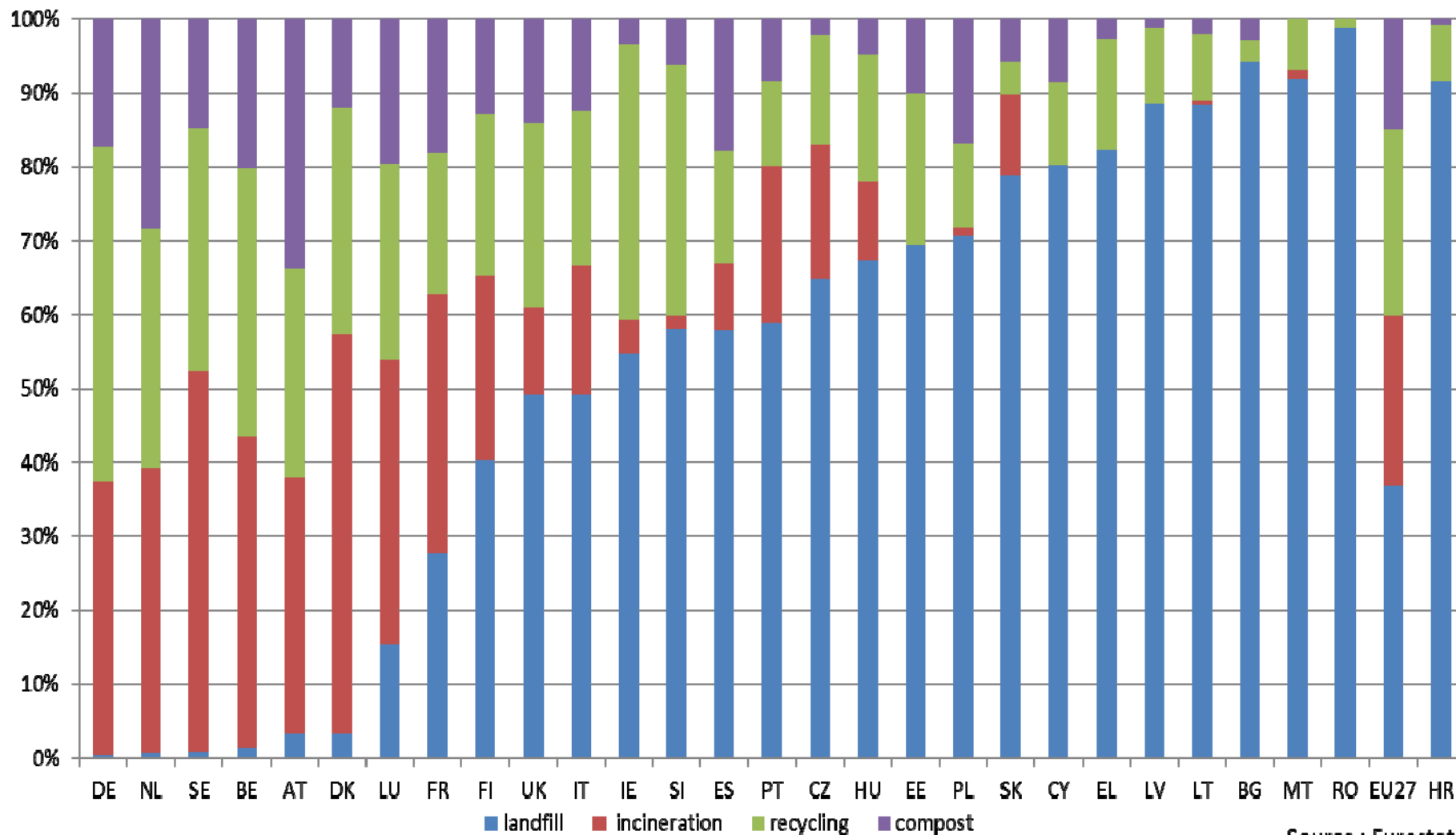
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Challenges



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Municipal Waste Treatment (2011)



Source : Eurostat



Things (slowly) moving in the right direction:

- ❑ Over the past 10 years recycling + composting increased by 13% for the whole EU –from 27% to 40%
- ❑ During the same period, 13 % reduction of the landfilling rate – from 50% to 37%
- ❑ But still a long way to go – EEA report on municipal waste management: Extraordinary effort needed in a majority of MS to achieve the 50% recycling target
 - 9 MS: 2-4% increase per year
 - 7 MS: more than 4% per year





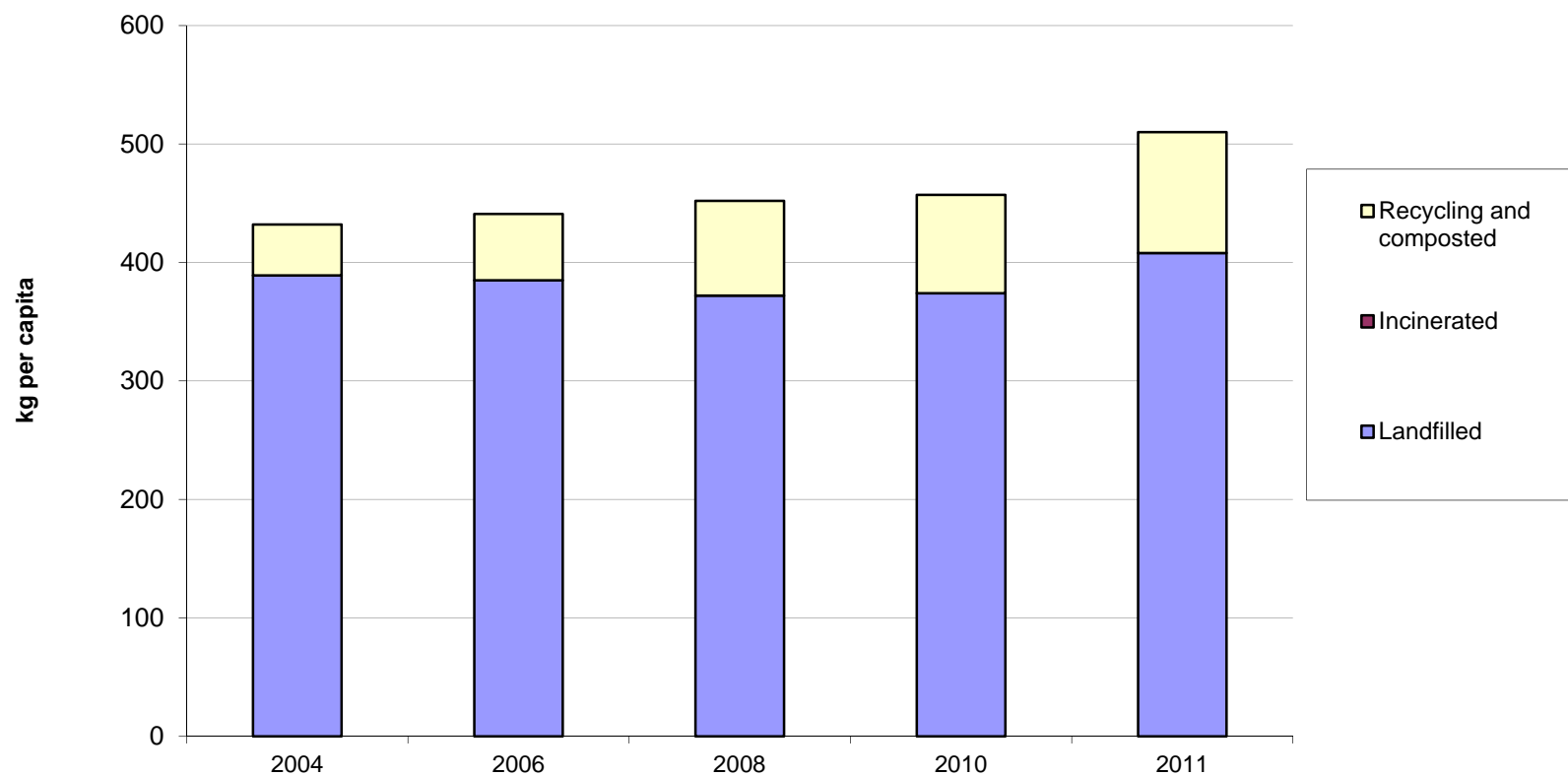
What the statistics tell us:

- ❑ Sharp differences amongst MS
- ❑ Recycling rate beyond or very close to the 50% target in some MS; in others, close to zero
- ❑ Landfilling virtually phased out in some MS; others still heavily relying on landfilling
- ❑ Problems persist everywhere: Incineration overcapacity in several MS with low landfilling and high recycling rates

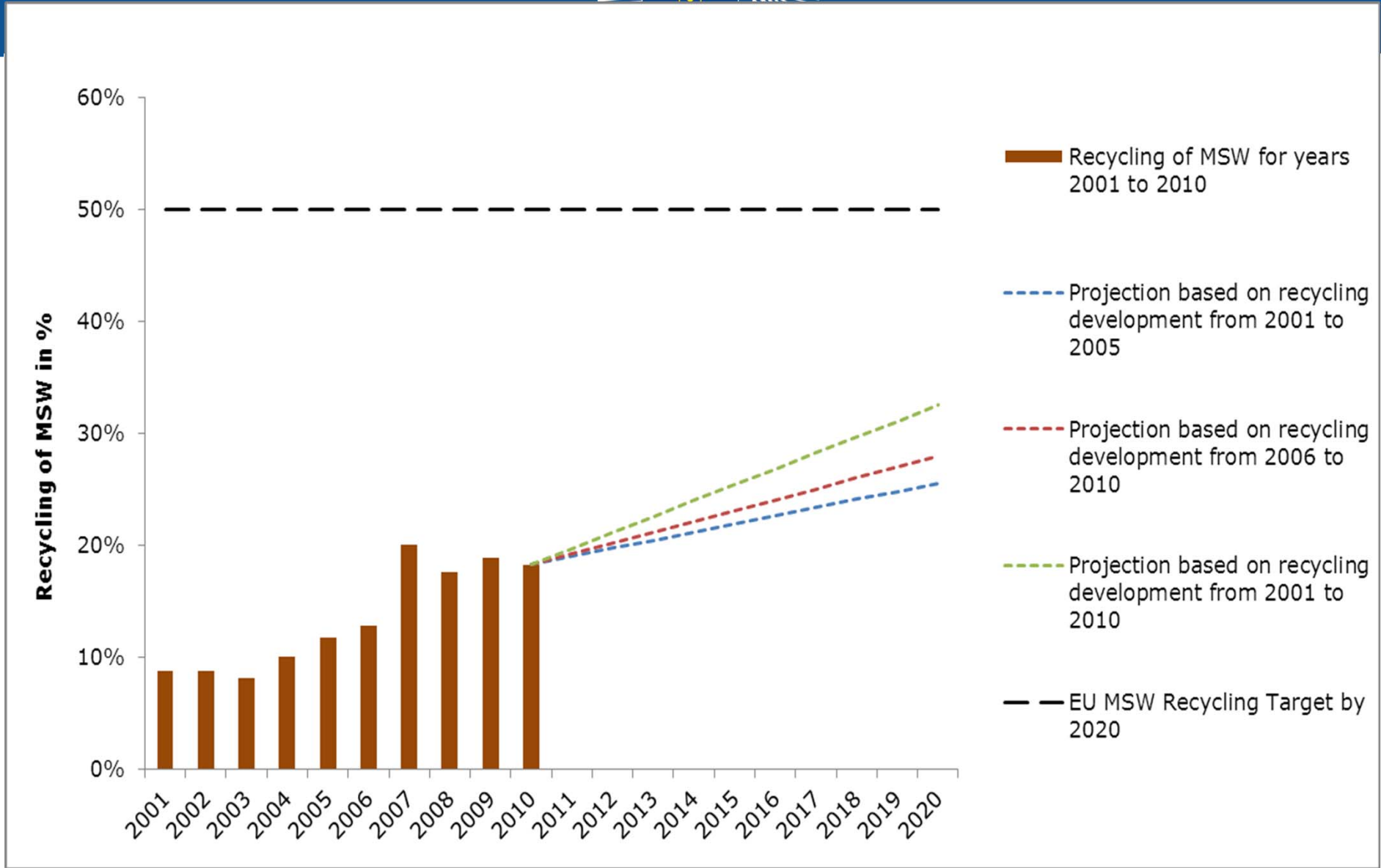


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Municipal waste in Greece by treatment

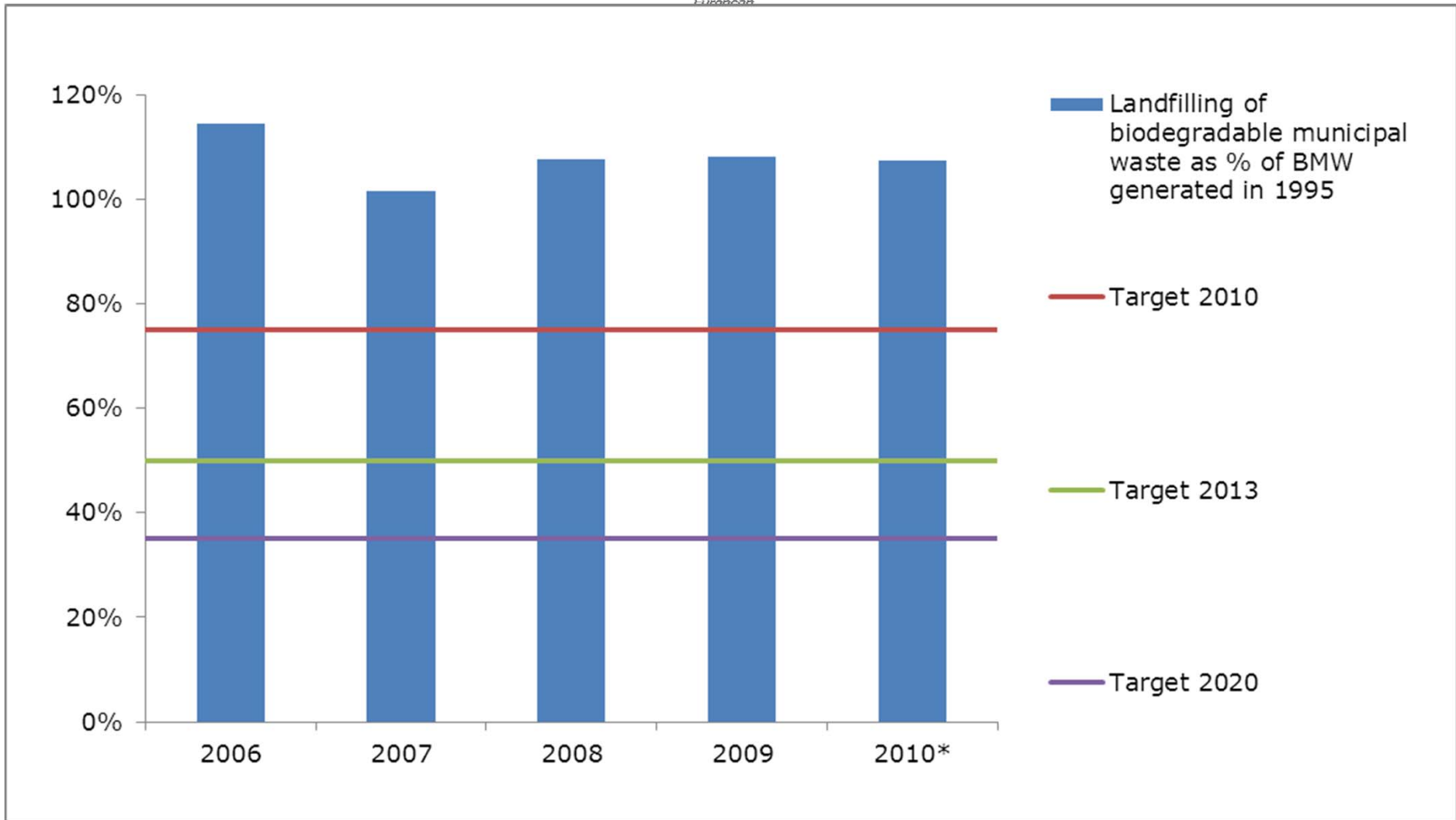


Source: Eurostat, 2013



Source: [EEA 2012] Waste Implementation Project, Ex-post MSW analysis, GR, Final draft





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What are the main barriers? (1/2)

❑ Issues related to governance

- In some MS, lack of administrative capacity and coordination between local/regional and national competences
- *(lack of **political will**/ understanding of the potential benefits)*
- **Lack of economic incentives** and Sub optimal EPR schemes
- Inappropriate use of Regional funds

❑ Monitoring Issues

- Uneven **quality of statistics**
 - **Late reaction** in case of risks of non-attainment
- 



Roadmap for Greece

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/framework/support_implementation.htm

- 1. Introduce a landfill tax and progressively increase the landfill tax to divert waste from landfill. Use revenues to support separate collection and alternative infrastructure.**
- 2. Update the national and regional WMPs including specific policy measures how to achieve the targets set by the WFD.**
- 3. Implement the bio-waste strategy including specific measures to divert biodegradable waste from landfill.**
- 4. Extend and improve the cost-effectiveness, monitoring and transparency of existing EPR schemes and eliminate free-riding.**
- 5. Establish and control separate collection infrastructure and schemes. Implement door-to-door separate collection as soon as possible.**
- 6. Extend and enforce PAYT scheme. Provide incentives and support for households to participate in separate collection.**





What are the main barriers? (2/2)

□ Issues related to the EU legislation

- Lack of mid-term targets leading to **sub optimal investments**
- Unclear definitions, obsolete requirements
- Overlaps in targets, ambiguous measurement methods
- Complex reporting obligations for MS
- Administrative burden notably for SME's





What is the Commission doing...

- ❑ Compliance promotion initiative - monitoring of developments in the 10 MS (with extension to further MS)
- ❑ Assessment of Waste Management (and Prevention) Plans;
- ❑ Better link of EU cohesion funds to country performance and waste hierarchy:
 - *Conditionality criteria (waste prevention and management plan, measures to achieve 2020 recycling targets, including financial instruments)*
 - *No more financing of landfills, problematic financing of non-recycling operations*





Target Review

Background and objectives,



Target Review

Objective: 'translate' Roadmap and 7th EAP aspirational targets into legislation- Move towards a "circular economy" by re-injecting into the EU economy of valuable resources

Scope: Review clauses in 3 Directives (Landfill, Waste Framework and Packaging)

Timing: – Stakeholder consultation in 2013. Impact Assessment in spring 2014, Proposal in July 2014





Roadmap on Resource Efficiency (2011)

2020 "aspirational" objectives:

- Full implementation** of the EU waste acquis
- Waste generation per capita in decline
- Recycling and reuse** are economically attractive and at '**max feasible level**'
- Energy recovery limited to non-recyclable materials
- Landfilling virtually eliminated**





7th EAP (2013) – 2020 objectives

- ❑ Absolute waste generation and waste generated per capita in decline;
- ❑ Strategy to **combat food waste and increase composting/biomethanisation**;
- ❑ Energy recovery limited to non-recyclable materials;
- ❑ **Phasing out landfilling** (limited to non-recyclable and non-recoverable) waste, taking into account existing time derogations
- ❑ Use of market based instruments, **full implementation** of the legislation





How new targets were proposed?

Basis = Orientations approved in the 7th EAP

- ✓ Upgrade targets but avoid completely new targets
- ✓ No target without clear measurement method
- ✓ Only achievable targets and deadlines (based on experiences from MS)





Supporting measures

- More precise and alignment of definitions
- Remove obsolete/useless requirements
- Simplify reporting obligations and improve statistics
- Minimum conditions for EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) schemes
- Anticipate problems of implementation – early warning mechanisms





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Conclusions



Conclusion

With the proposed package:

- More jobs
- Less GHG, Air pollutant emissions
- Better access to raw material
- Direct savings
- 100% clarity on where we go

It will require:

- Better governance/**political will** needed
- **Involvement of the civil society**
- Best practice dissemination





Thank you for your attention !

Additional sources of information:

DG ENV "waste" website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/index.htm>

Study on Economic Instruments:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/use.htm>

Additional study on EPR: <http://epr.eu-smr.eu/>

Public consultation on target review:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/waste_targets_en.htm

