



## WORKSHOP 2D

# ECONOMIC INCENTIVES: EPR SCHEMES AND THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES



## OVERVIEW

### Workshop description

While Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes are increasingly used across Member States to finance proper waste management, it is essential to ensure that EPR contributes efficiently to the transition towards a more circular economy. The workshop discussed takeaways, benefits and shortcomings of EPR schemes, in order to focus on the various improvements. Particular emphasis was placed on the role played by eco-modulation of fees.

### Panel participants

- Silvija AILE – Deputy Head of Unit, DG Environment, European Commission
- Timothy GLAZ – Head of Corporate Affairs, Werner & Mertz
- Emmanuel KATRAKIS – Secretary General, EuRIC, president of the Leadership Group on Economic Incentives
- Marco MUSSO – Policy Officer on Fiscal Reform for Circular Economy and Carbon Neutrality, EEB
- Joaquim Quoden – Managing Director of EXPRA
- Cynthia REYNOLDS – Founder & Systems Architect of Circular Regions for "Interactive exchange for stakeholder input on data points for mapping EPR schemes"
- Arthur ten WOLDE – Executive Director of Ecopreneur.eu, Moderator of the panel discussion

### Relevant SDGs

- (8) Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- (12) Responsible Consumption and Production
- (13) Climate Action

## KEY MESSAGES

- For the European Commission, EPR is a very effective tool for improving waste management performance in the EU. The Commission is gradually revising the waste acquis to bring it into line with circular economy principles and this provides the opportunity to revise certain EPR rules. Such changes should focus on improving the governance and efficiency of the schemes as well as aligning them with circular economy principles, notably waste prevention objectives.
- EPR can and must play a crucial role in supporting the transition from a throw-away culture to a circular and low-carbon economy.
- EPR means passing responsibility to industry. Industry must be given the necessary level playing field so that they can make the necessary investments. Follow proven good practices!
- The good practice of mapping circular initiatives, including EPR, requires shared intelligence and common data sets.
- Additional EPR measures to create a level playing field (e.g. Plastic Tax on virgin plastic) should be considered.
- Effective eco-modulation of fees is essential to incentivise investment in better product design prioritising waste prevention, product recyclability, the reuse of recycled content in production and value retention.
- To incentivise more circular products and implement the polluter pays principle, EPR requirements and eco-modulation must be better aligned with the waste hierarchy. EPR fees must cover all real end-of-life costs as well as the product's social and environmental costs. The current focus on product regulation is utterly insufficient to create a circular economy.

## NEW CHALLENGES

- Filling the finance, knowledge and good practices gaps for EPR.
  - Making sure that the Member States implement the Waste Framework Directive minimum requirements for EPR.
  - Using EPR to level the playing field for circular value chains. Effective eco-modulation of fees is essential to ensure that EPR schemes support waste prevention, product recyclability and the use of recycled content in products.
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