



Towards a circular economy: A zero waste programme for Europe

DG Environment

Minsk, 8 October 2014



Towards a circular economy for Europe: policy context

- **Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**
 - Resource Efficiency Flagship and Roadmap
 - Mid-term review: pressure on resources and environmental concerns identified as a key long-term trend affecting growth
 - Public consultation http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/public-consultation/index_en.htm
- **7th Environment Action Programme**
 - Thematic objective to turn the EU into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy

From a linear economy ...



Raw materials

The diagram illustrates a linear economy as a sequence of five stages, each represented by a right-pointing arrow. The arrows are colored in a gradient from light yellow to dark brown. The stages are: Raw materials, Production, Distribution, Consumption, and Waste. The 'Waste' stage is represented by a solid dark brown rectangle instead of an arrow.

Production

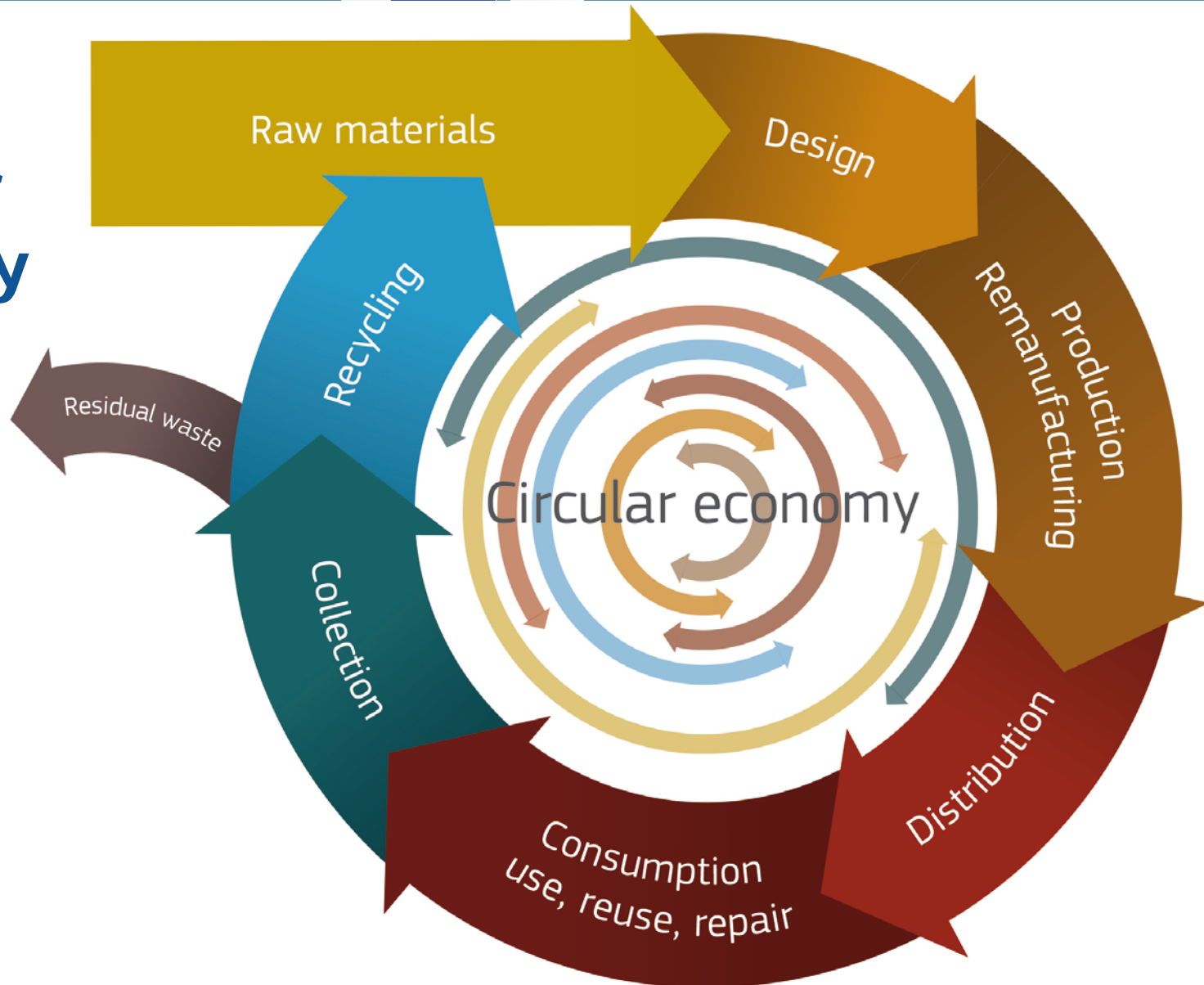
Distribution

Consumption

Waste



... to a
circular
economy



Circular Economy Package

Enabling Framework

Waste target review

Specific waste challenges

Resource Efficiency target

European Resource Efficiency Platform recommendations

- **Green Employment Initiative**
- **Green Action Plan for SMEs**
- Progress Report on RE Roadmap

- **Legislative proposal**
- Impact assessment
- Fitness check (packaging)

- **Sustainable buildings Communication**
- Sustainable food – incl. impact assessment
- Marine litter

- Analysis of an EU target for Resource Productivity



An enabling framework

- ***Design and innovation***

Horizon 2020: large scale innovation projects, skills development, market application and partnership; a coherent product policy, Eco-design; cascading use of biomass

- ***Unlocking investment***

Environmental taxation, innovative financial instruments, accounting rules, fiduciary duties; resource stress tests, potential of the bonds market, GPP and European Funds

- ***Harnessing the role of business and consumers***

Building on the Environmental Footprint pilots, broad stakeholder cooperation under Horizon 2020, action on SMEs and green employment

- ***Towards a recycling society – waste as a resource***

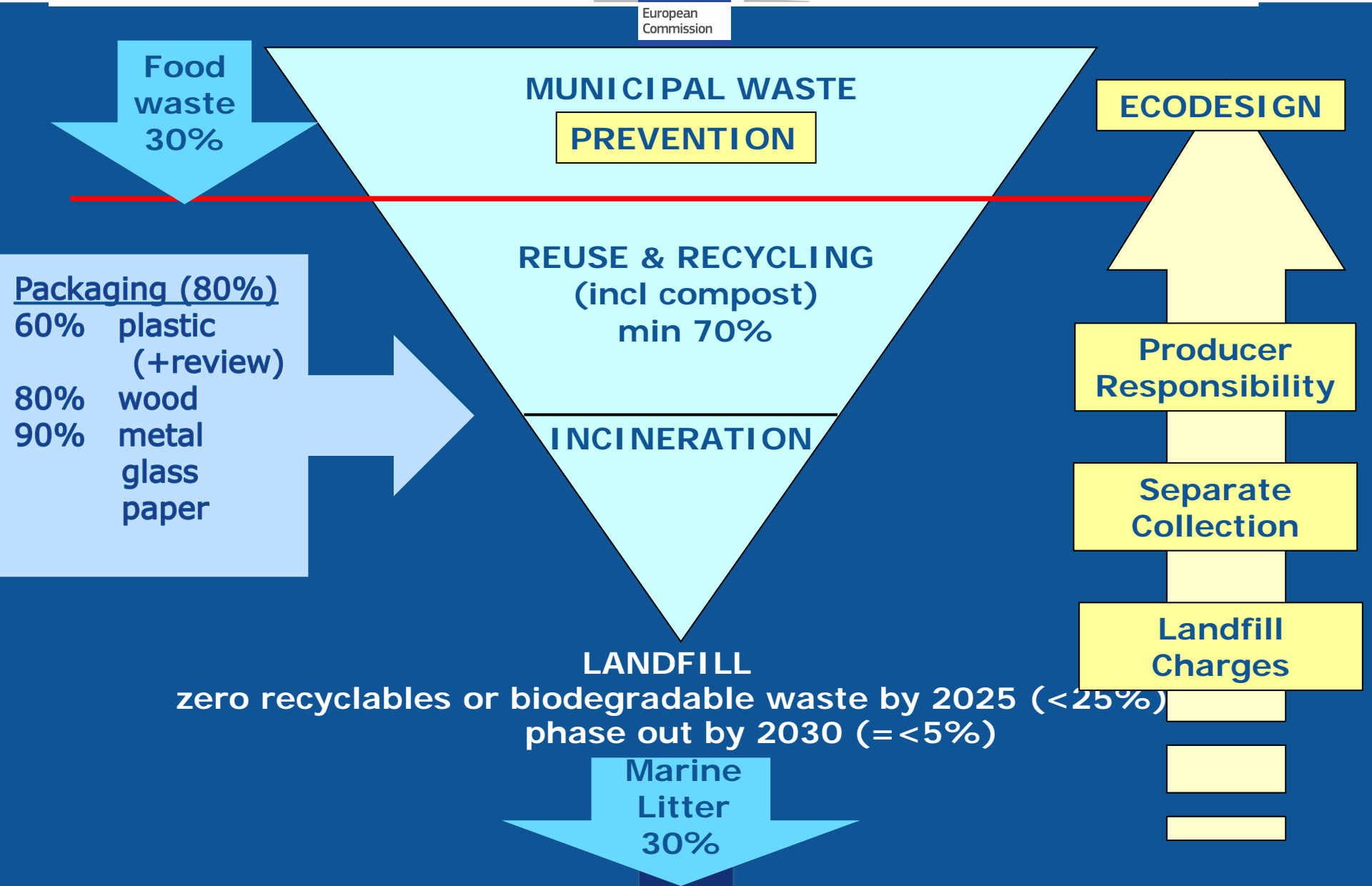
Waste targets review, phasing out landfilling of recyclable waste, work with Member States on implementation, extended producer responsibility, marine litter, food & construction waste

- ***A resource efficiency target***

2030 –



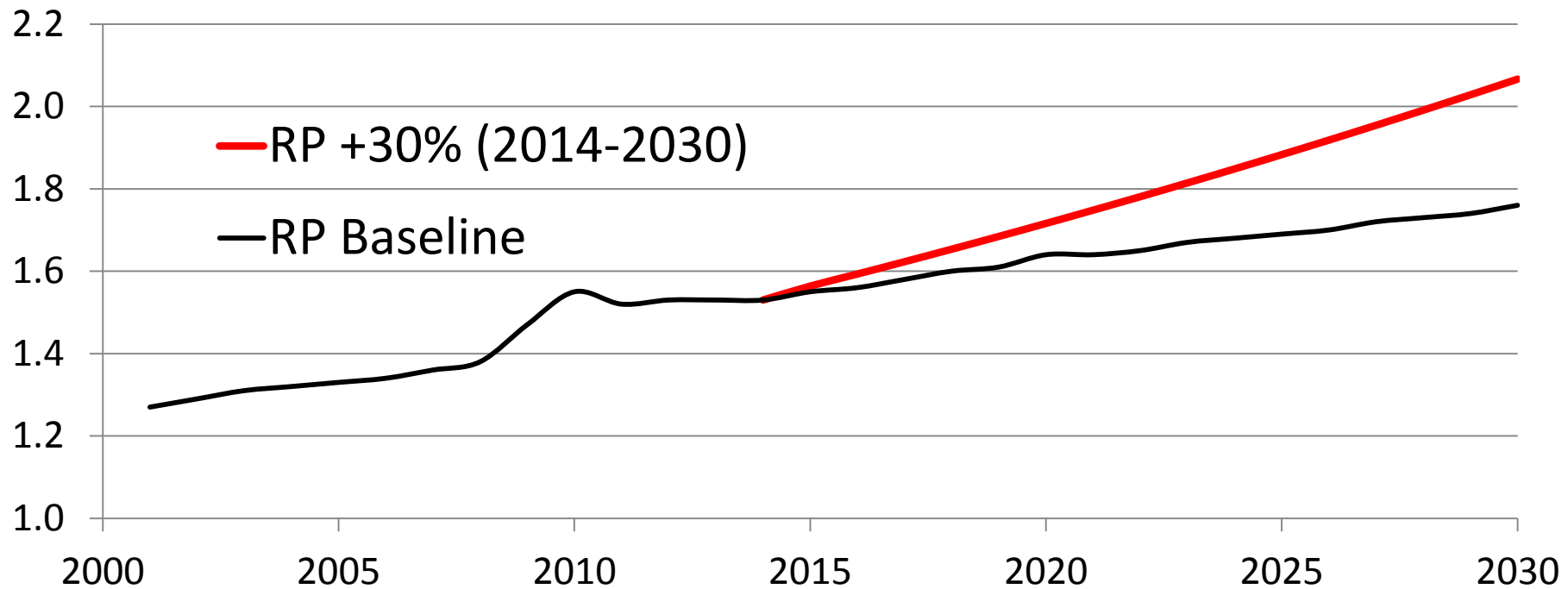
Waste Targets



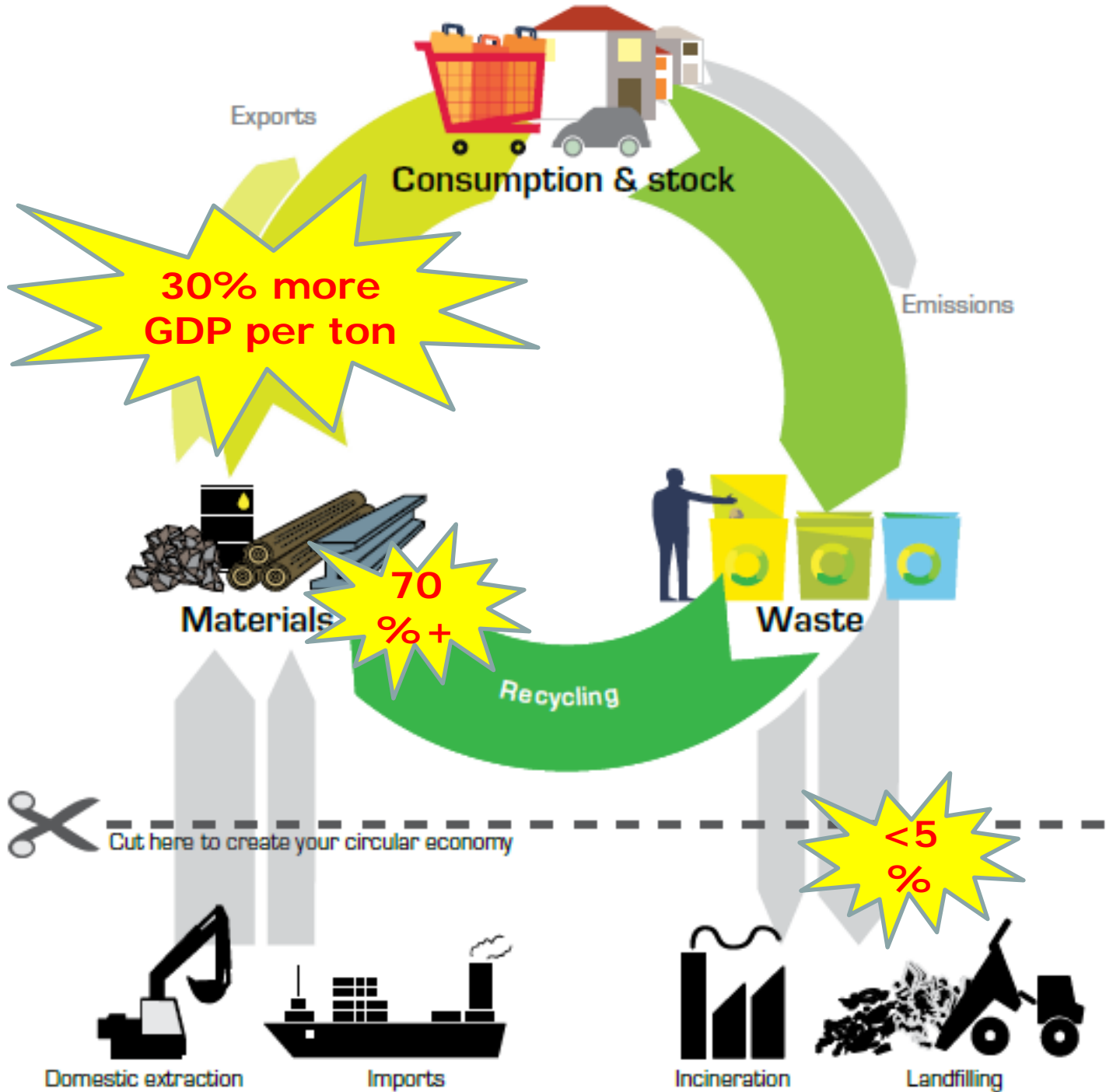
Setting a resource efficiency target

- 7th EAP: "A long-term and predictable policy framework ... will help to stimulate the level of investments and action needed to fully develop markets for greener technologies and promote sustainable business solutions. Resource efficiency indicators and targets underpinned by robust data collection would provide the necessary guidance ..."
- European Resource Efficiency Platform (EREP), 2014: "secure at least a doubling of resource productivity as compared with the pre-crisis trend ... equivalent to an increase of well over 30% by 2030"

A possible EU resource efficiency target



- ✓ Improving resource efficiency by 30% can create 2 million jobs and boost GDP by 1% vs. business-as-usual (+15%)
- ✓ Potential gains for businesses of between 3 and 8% of turnover by using resources more efficiently





A New Commission: a new Agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change

- Environment and Maritime Affairs and Fisheries to reflect the twin logic of "Blue" and "Green" Growth
- "Ensuring the sustainability of our environment, the preservation of our natural resources [...] are key policy objectives requiring action at all levels. [...] Protecting the environment and maintaining our competitiveness can go hand-in-hand, and environment policy also plays a key role in creating jobs and stimulating investment"
- Contribute to projects coordinated by the Vice-Presidents for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness and for Energy Union

=> A focus on Green Growth and a sustainable future



CIRCULAR ECONOMY
saving resources, creating jobs

Thank you for your attention!

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm