



Ecologic Institute

Science and Policy  
for a Sustainable World



# **‘A framework for Member States to support business in improving its resource efficiency’**

**Tentative project results as input to the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Expert Group Greening the European Semester**

**Brussels, 07 September 2015  
Dr. Martin Hirschnitz-Garbers**

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## Project aim and logic

- ▶ Identifying and analysing key support measures and their employment in different Member States
- ▶ Contributing to advancing implementation of EU and Member States' policy in this area.
  - Identifying 10 important support measures – *Desk research, client meetings*
  - Assessing their scope of application and identifying best practice examples in the EU Member States – *Desk research for pre-filling, survey among MS*

### A huge THANK YOU to all Member States respondents!

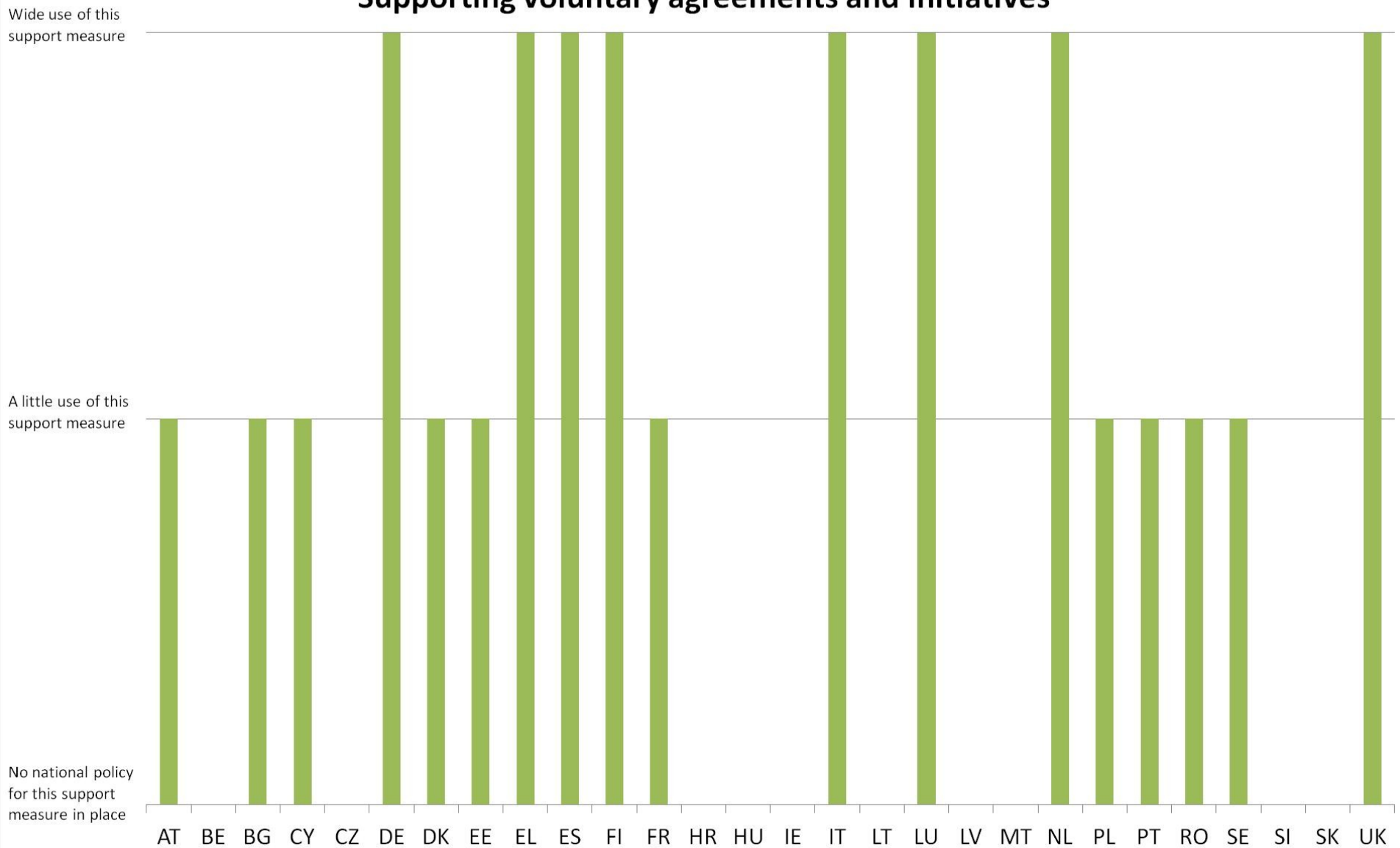
- Synthesising best practice cases and lessons learnt from measures' application – *Desk analysis, expert feedback and client meetings*

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## The ten support measures identified

1. Support for industrial symbiosis
2. Incentivising external audits to support resource efficiency
3. Improving financing
4. Supporting voluntary agreements and initiatives
5. Providing targeted resource efficiency information and advice to companies
6. Building resource efficiency related skills and capacity within a company/business
7. Improving company accounting and reporting practices
8. Development of non-legal standards for products and services
9. Measures supporting extended producer responsibility (EPR) for materials/ products
10. Other non-legislative support measures promoting Circular Economy/resource efficiency

# Supporting voluntary agreements and initiatives

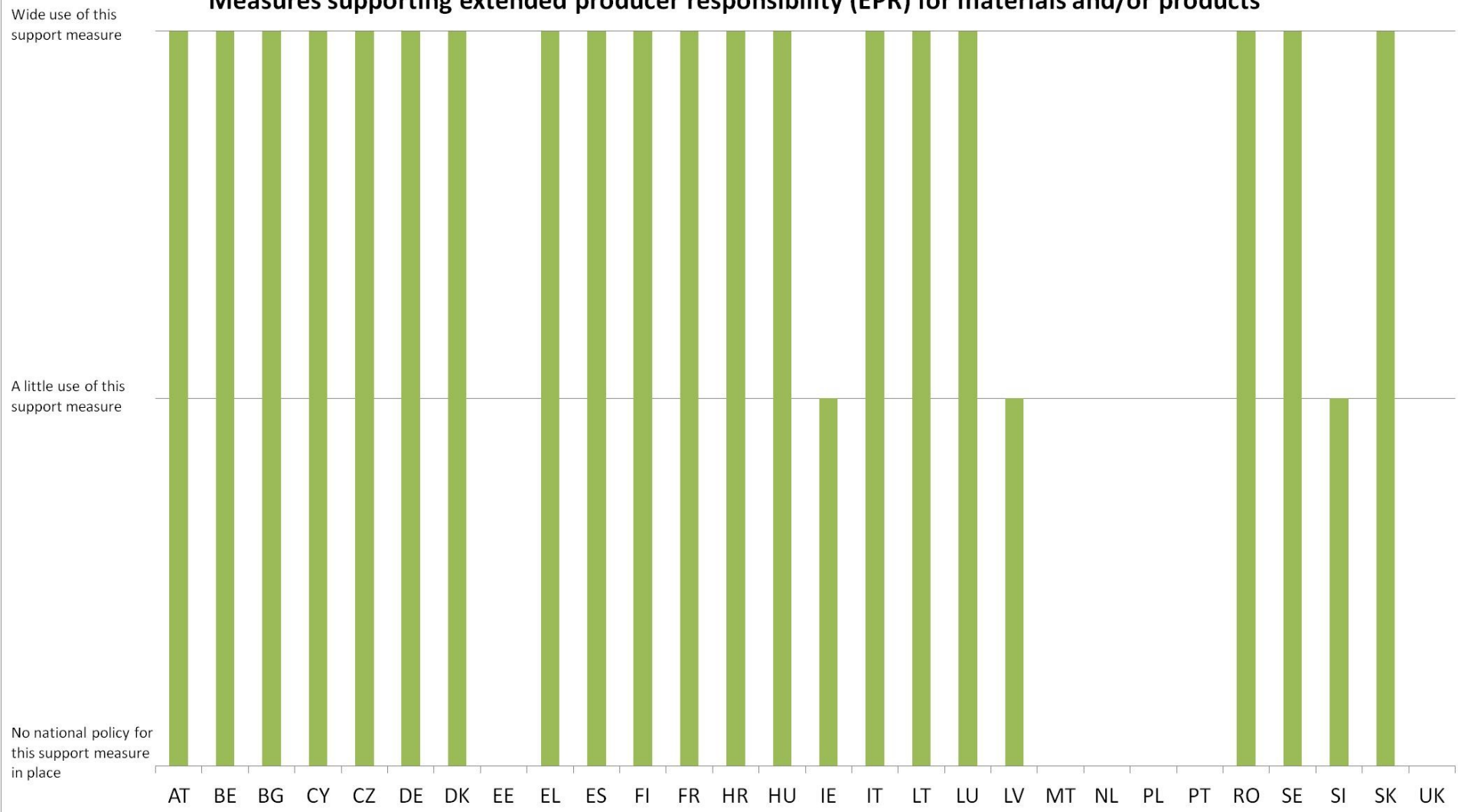


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## Tentative findings - Supporting voluntary agreements and initiatives

- ▶ Potentially interesting case examples from 18 Member States
- ▶ Dutch Green Deals policy (since 2011)
  - Green Deals are agreements between the Dutch government and other parties (companies, civil society organisations and other public authorities), aimed at removing non-financial barriers such as regulation and permits in the fields of energy, climate, water, raw materials, biodiversity, mobility, bio-based economy, construction and food
  - By the end of 2013 around 160 Green Deals had been concluded; 679 actors participated in those deals (67% companies and industry associations); Green Deals did contribute to more recycling (bottom ashes, textiles) and to using alternative bio-based materials

# Measures supporting extended producer responsibility (EPR) for materials and/or products



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## Tentative findings – Measures supporting EPR for materials and/or products

- ▶ Potentially interesting case examples from 22 Member States
- ▶ “Prevent and Save” initiative in Ireland (since 2005)
  - Led by industry funded organization Repak to facilitate and increase packaging recycling
  - Provision of free Packaging surveys to Repak Member companies
  - Confidential report then compiled and submitted to the Member company with recommendations outlining the main target areas for Packaging Optimisation
  - On average during 2005-2013, each successive year saw approximately 11,000 tonnes of packaging being prevented by Repak’s members;
  - Almost 520,000 tonnes of packaging prevented

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## Preliminary conclusions – Diversity and up-scaling potential

- ▶ Many interesting examples found for several measures
  - Most for Providing targeted advice, Supporting voluntary agreements, Development of non-legal standards (mostly ecolabels), Improving Financing
  - Least for Improving company accounting, Incentivising external audits
  - Support for EPR primarily through national legislation transposing Directives
- ▶ Interesting examples regardless of (wide) scope of application
- ▶ Likely potential for up-scaling, but still to be investigated; e.g. systematic adoption appears promising for
  - Financially supported on-site advice/checks/audits
  - Web platforms and online-markets for secondary raw materials



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## Next steps and invitation for feedback

- ▶ **Receiving your views, feedback and additions today and to the input-paper until 18 September 2015**
- ▶ Synthesis of lessons learnt per and across measures
- ▶ Compilation of conclusions and recommendations
- ▶ Draft Final Report by 25 September 2015
- ▶ **Receiving your views, feedback and additions to the Draft Final Report until 06 October 2015**
- ▶ Final project meeting with Commission services
- ▶ Final Report until mid October 2015

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## Questions to the participants

- ▶ Are the correct ten support measures for improving business resource efficiency identified? Is there value-added in exchanging information on them?
- ▶ The study cannot be comprehensive, but have we missed good practice examples?
- ▶ Is the level of detail provided on different measures appropriate?
- ▶ Is the scoring (no national policy in place; a little use of this measure; wide support of this measure) useful?

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# Thank you for your attention!

## Any questions?

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