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ASSOCIATION
OF CITIES
AND REGIONS
FOR RECYCLING
AND SUSTAINABLE
RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

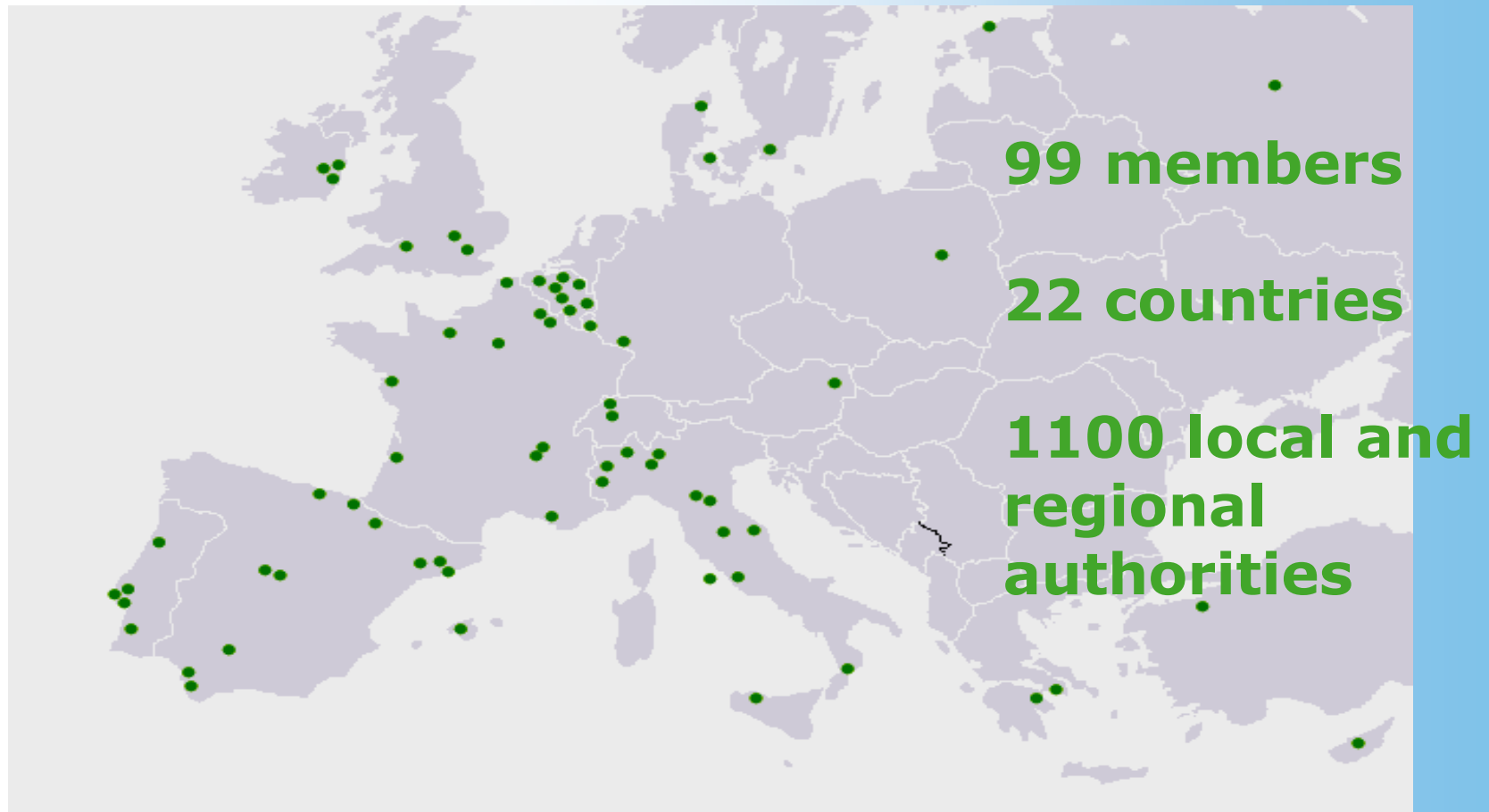
The Polluter Pays Principle as applied to waste

Olivier De Clercq, ACR+

EAP Preparatory Hearing, EESC/IBGE, 10 November 2009,
Brussels



ACR+ : an international network of public bodies interested in waste management and sustainable consumption

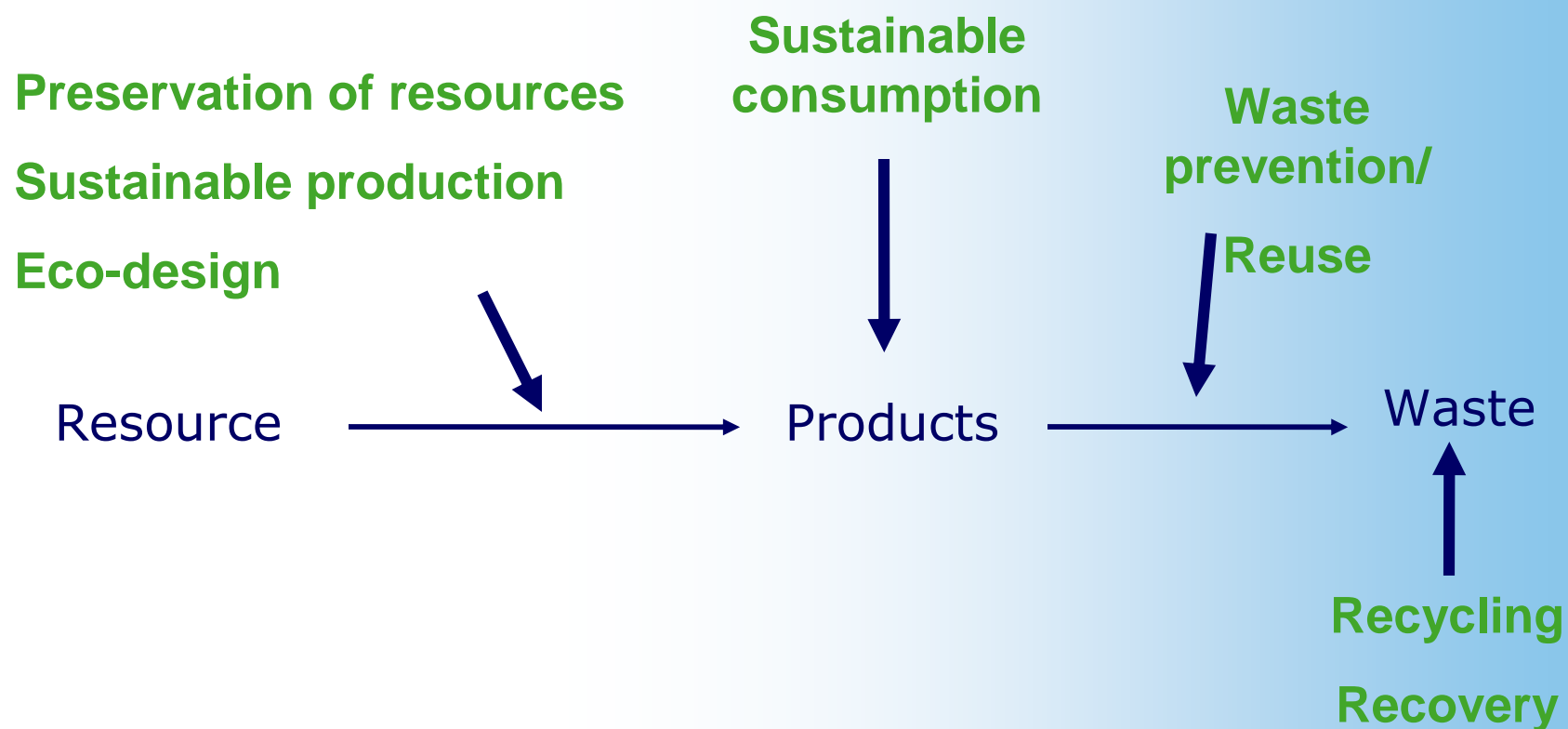


PPP in practice

- Restriction of some State aids to polluters
- Objective liability
- Taxes on raw materials and products (carbon content /ecologic footprint)
- Extended Producer Responsibility schemes (X) / Deposit-refund systems
- Taxes or fees for waste management / Pay-As-You Throw systems (X)
- Incineration/landfill taxes (X)

(X) = FOCUS OF THIS PRESENTATION

Three main intervention levels





Three main targets

→ **producers**

→ **consumers**

→ **citizens**



Extended Producer Responsibility

(Art.8, Directive 2008/98)

Member States may take measures ...which may include:

- an acceptance of returned products and of waste
- subsequent management of the waste
- financial responsibility for such activities
- obligation to provide information
- the design of products



Extended Producer Responsibility

EU Directives

- Packaging
- Batteries & accumulators
- End-of-Life vehicles
- Electric & electronic equipment



Member States

- Packaging
- Batteries & accumulators
- End-of-life vehicles
- Electric & electronic equipment
- Paper
- Pharmaceuticals
- Textiles
- Tyres
- Waste oils
- Paints
- Building materials
- Pesticides
- Carpets



EPR for packaging in practice (financial aspect)



Sources : ARGUS + Cercle National du recyclage



Extended Producer Responsibility

Impact of the Packaging Directive (at EU15 level):

- Avoided the disposal of 30M°tons of MW /year
- Created links between producers and waste managers
- Generated new sources of financing
- Allowed for the creation of about 70,000 jobs
- Anchored selective collection as local WM practice
- Promoted awareness raising
- Boosted R&D on sorting and recycling technologies
- Contributed to transform waste into a resource



EPR: limits of the current implementation

- Lack of harmonization (scope/products, weak or no targets, fees huge variability, schemes variations, cost coverage,...)
- No true European playing field
- Too little waste recycling
- Too little impact on waste prevention



EPR: what to do at EU level?

- Permanent European observatory (data centre)
- Clarification of different modalities
- Harmonization (fees, collection targets, new products)

Objectives:

- to promote eco-design (sustainable production)
- to promote waste reduction (including reuse)
- to promote qualitative prevention (hazardous substances)
- to promote the waste hierarchy with 5 levels
- to internalise all the environmental costs and reduce the financial burden on municipalities (and the society in general)



PAYT

Main objectives :

- Pure application PPP (more waste you generate => more you pollute => more you pay)
- Covering actual costs
- Influence citizens behaviour and encourage:
 - ▶ prevention at the point of sale
 - ▶ participation to selective collection and recycling

PAYT

Billing Parameters

- Volume
- Frequency
- Weight

Container dependent systems

- Bags : Stickers or pay-bags
- Individual bins : size or weight

Splitting of tariffs

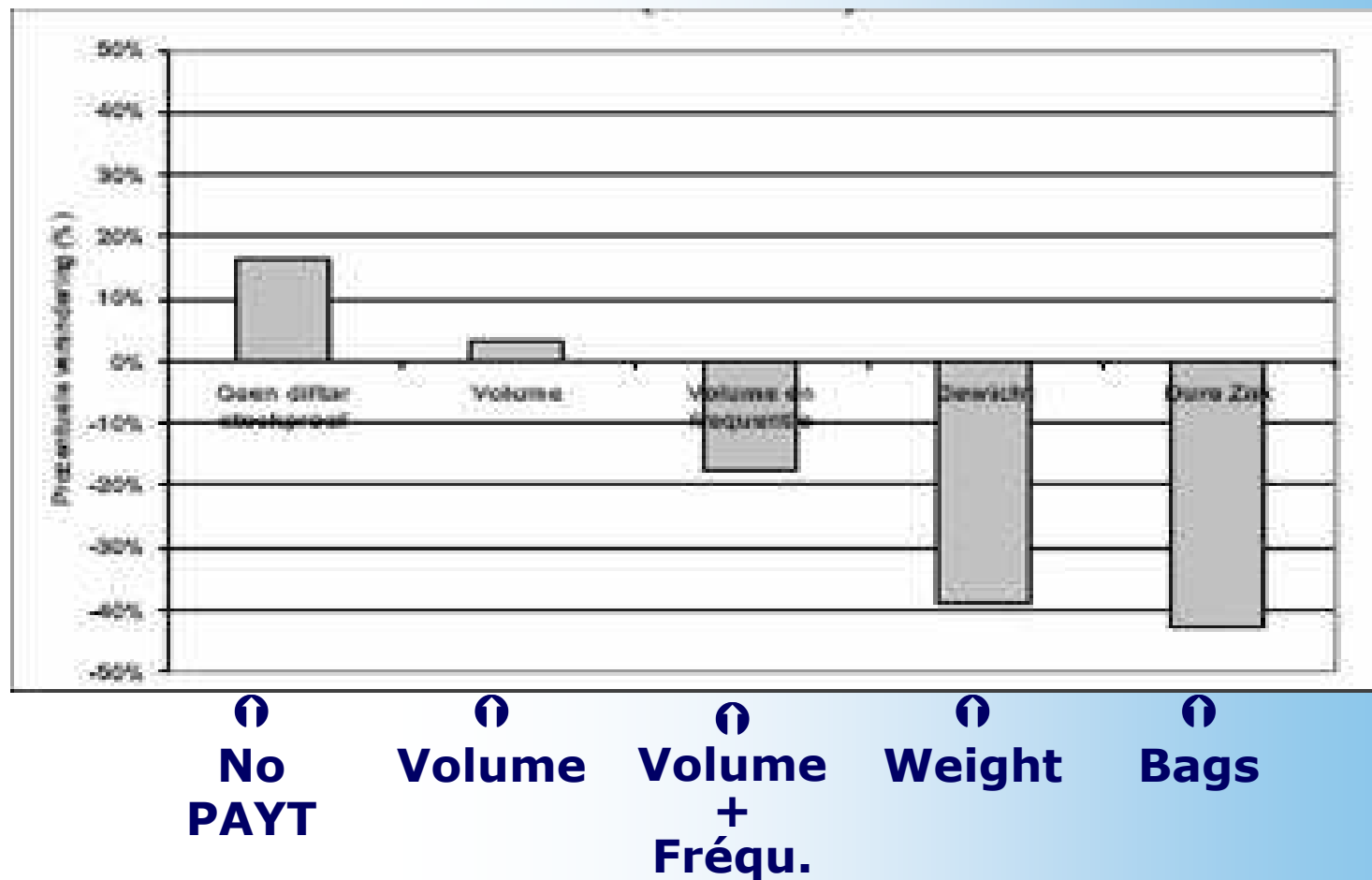
- Stable income
- Prevention adverse effects



PAYT

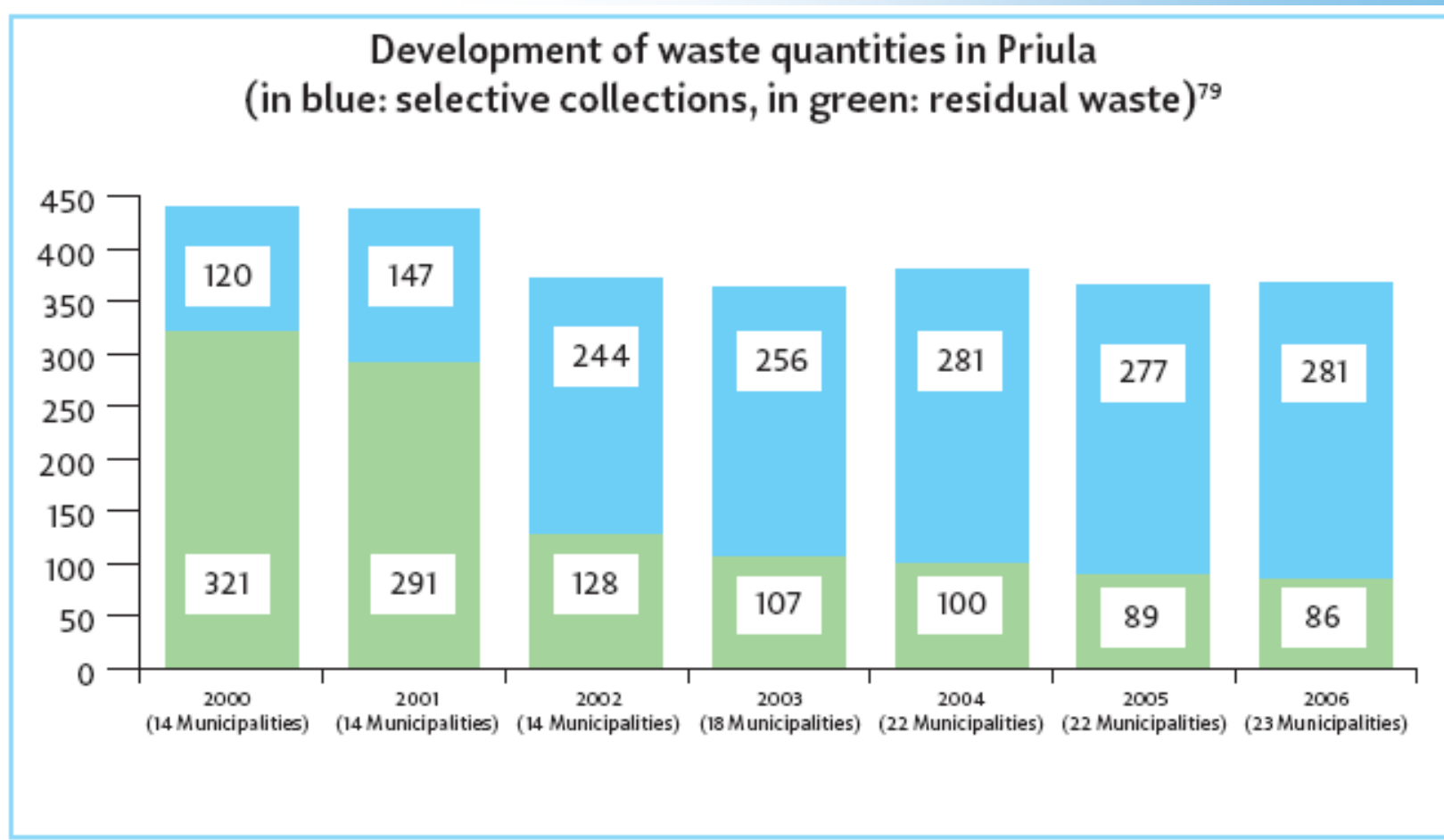
Example of The Netherlands

Evolution of residual waste between 1995 and 2001



PAYT

Example of Priula (IT)





PAYT

Effects of PAYT schemes:

- Reduction of residual waste: 8 – 72 % (home composting)
- Increase in sorting: 10-30 %
- *Reduction of total waste quantity: 5-10 % (up to - 43 % but also some examples of increase)*
- Limited adverse effects (fly tipping, waste tourism,...)

Source: Ademe, 2005

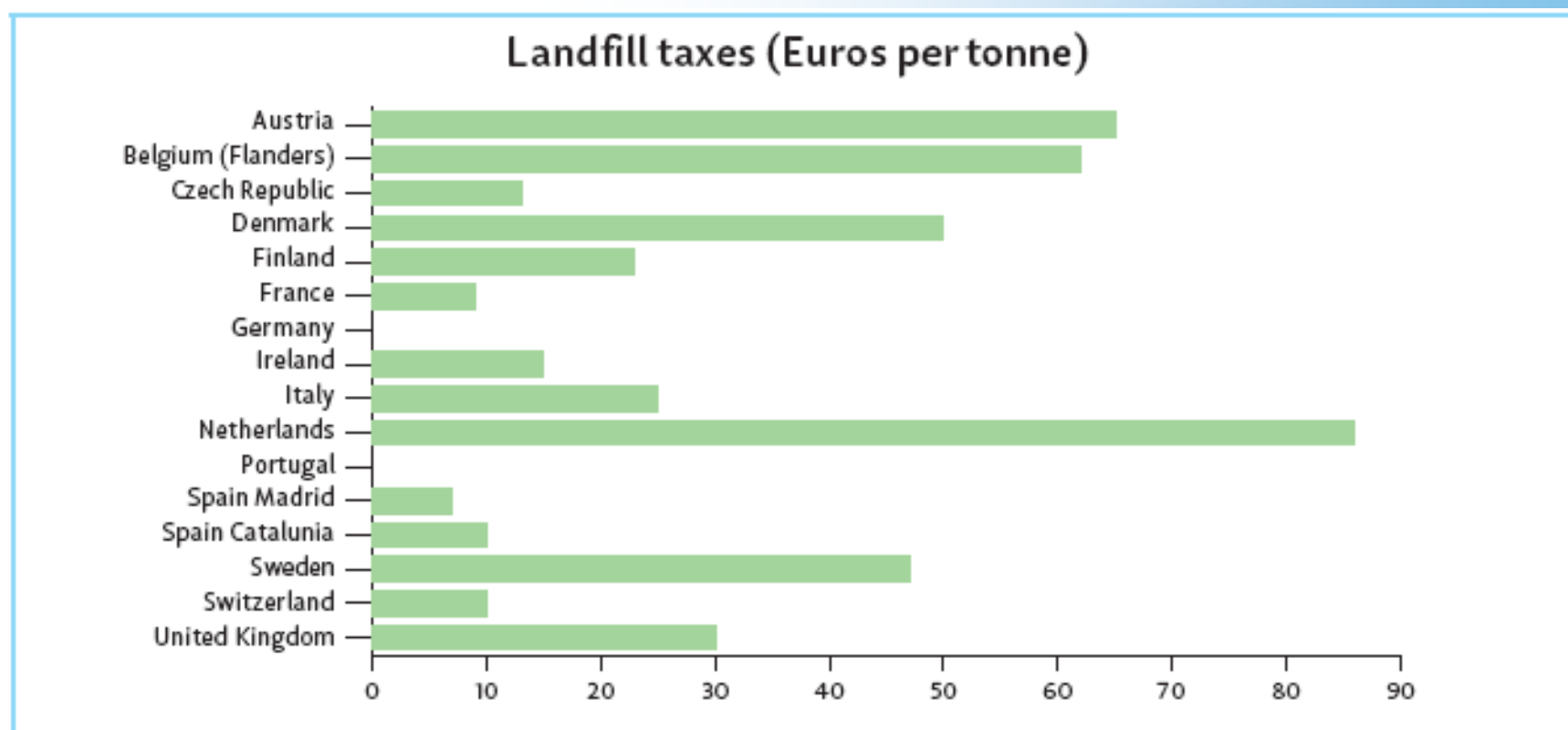


PAYT: what to do at EU level?

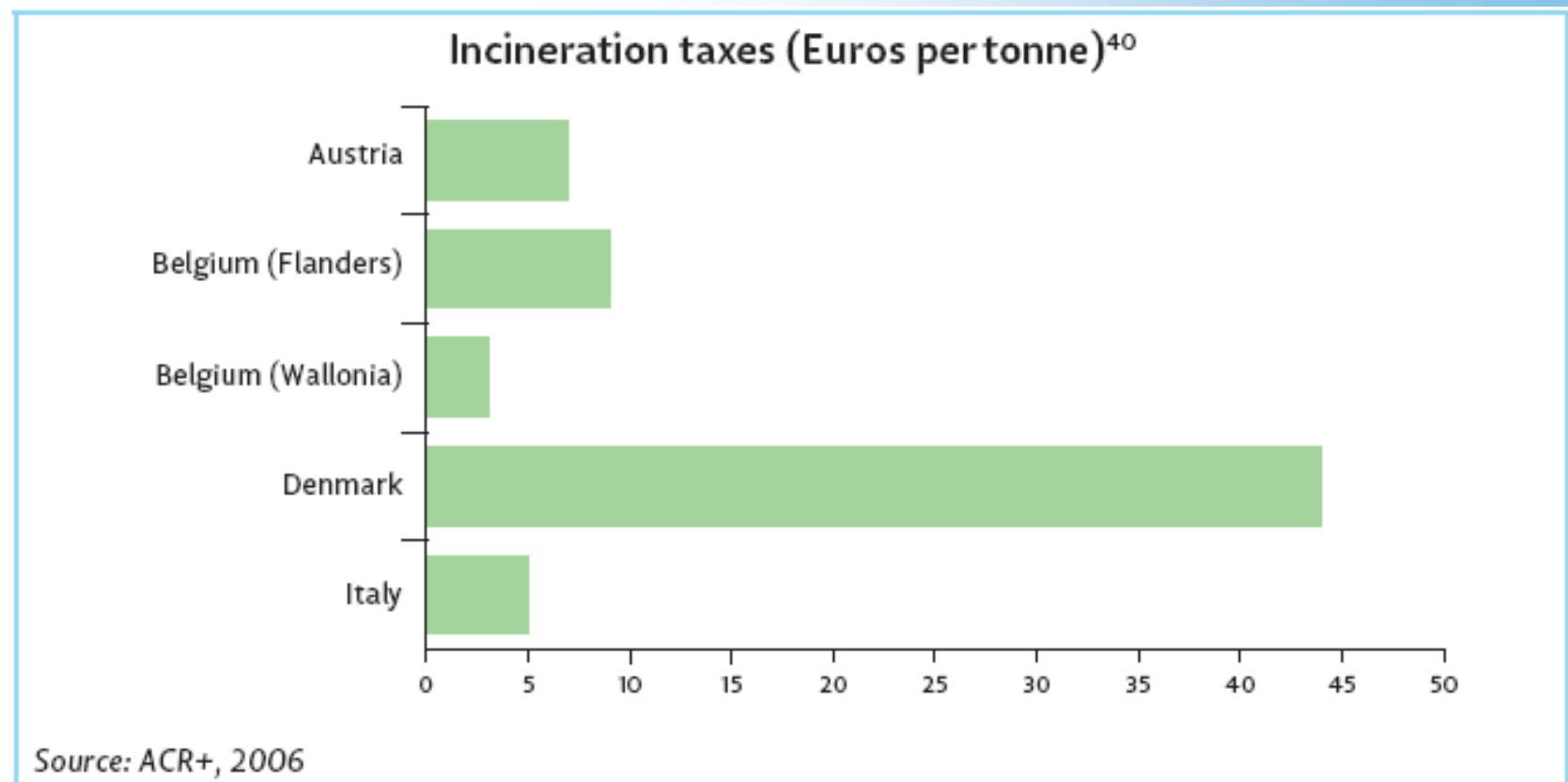
Cf. EC proposal in the first Thematic strategy about waste prevention and recycling (2005)

- Support data collection and benchmarking activities
- Support standardisation
- Support Training of Local-Regional Authorities and guidelines

Taxes on waste disposal



Taxes on waste disposal



Taxes on waste disposal

What to do at EU level ?

Cf. EU proposal of thematic strategy about waste prevention and recycling

- Exchange of information
- Observatory

Conclusions

Countries where it exists:

- PAYT
- strong EPR schemes
- high rates of landfill/incineration taxes

PERFORM BETTER

Country	Eurostat 2007 source (in %)	AEE 09 source (in %)
Germany	64	66
Belgium	62	60
Netherlands	60	50
Norway	-----	48
Sweden	49	47
Austria	59	43
Luxembourg	28	43
Denmark	41	41
Ireland	36	36
Finland	36	32

Conclusions

NEW INITIATIVES AT EU LEVEL ARE NEEDED:

- To implement and to improve the European Recycling Society
- To change production and consumption patterns
- To create new economic opportunities and employment
- To favour a sustainable financing model for waste and resource management
- To participate in the fight against climate change



THANK YOU!

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