



# The EU framework for Sustainable Construction

**Gunther Wolff**

Environment Directorate-General, European Commission



# Lead Market Initiative

## Demand-side measures

- Regulation
- Procurement
- Standardisation

Package  
= LMI

- R&D funding
- Equity support
- Fiscal measures
- ...

## Supply-side measures

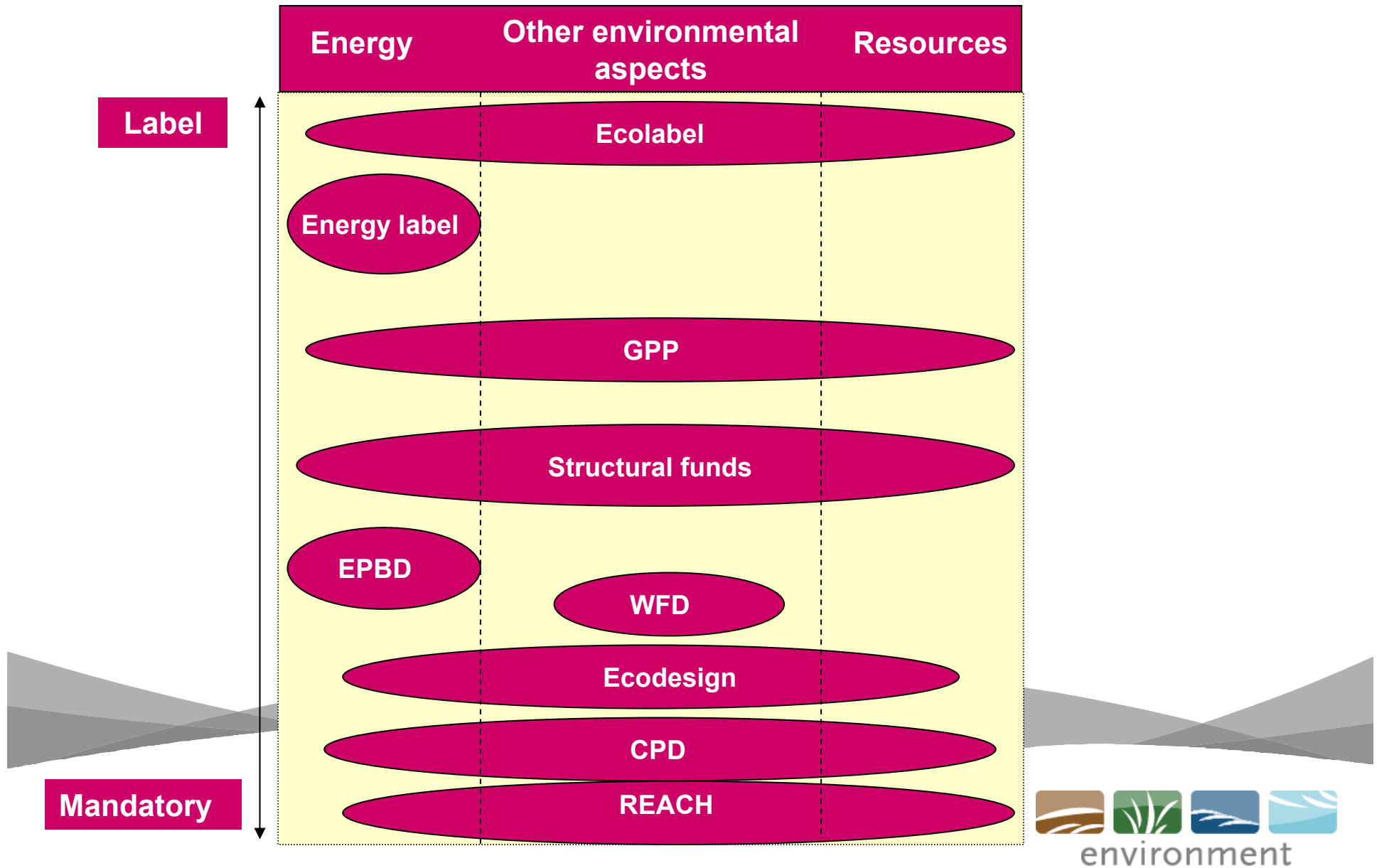
## Lead Market Initiative: aims

*Facilitate the uptake and diffusion of innovative products and services in the EU and in world markets*

*Quicker return on R&D & innovation investments, leading to more investments*

→ Sustainable Construction = 1 of the 6 Lead Market areas

# Sustainable Construction: EU Initiatives



# Sustainable Construction: EU Policies

- **Construction activities underpin most other activities in society: economic, social, environmental, safety & health (infrastructure, buildings, plants, hospitals, schools..)**
- **Construction sector can significantly contribute to sustainability**
- **Applying the sustainability principle to Construction:**
  - **Economic aspects:**
    - provide the benefits of the construction projects at affordable cost
  - **Environmental aspects:**
    - Use less energy during construction and use
    - Use less raw materials
    - Cause less pollution and less waste
  - **Social aspects:**
    - Provide safe workplaces with good social conditions

# Sustainable Construction: EU Policies

- **Policy initiatives (guidelines) like developing common frameworks for Life-Cycle costing and the Lead-market Initiative for Sustainable Construction**
- **Green Public Procurement**
- **Many EU Directives concern sustainable construction**
  - **Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2002/91/EC)**, Buildings are the No. 1 energy consumer in our societies with a large potential for energy savings - EPBD
  - **Construction Products Directive (89/106/EEC) – CPD**
  - **Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) - WFD**

# Sustainable Construction: EU Policies

## Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2002/91/EC) – EPBD

### Objective:

- Improve energy performance of buildings (new and existing) taking into account outdoor conditions, indoor climate requirements and cost-effectiveness

### Measures:

- Common methodology for calculating energy performance of buildings
- Minimum standards for energy performance of new buildings and buildings that are subject to major renovation
- Energy certificates for new and existing buildings
- Regular inspection of boilers and central air-conditioning systems
- European Standards developed

### Action Plan for Energy Efficiency (October 2006)

- Overall energy saving: 20% by 2020, with a focus on buildings
- Readily available technology
- **Revision of the EPBD**

→ Minimum performance requirements for new buildings (2009) incl. for key products like windows

→ Promote low energy or passive houses

# Sustainable Construction: EU Policies

## Construction Products Directive (89/106/EEC) – CPD

### ■ Objective:

- achieve EU internal market for construction products.
- Remove technical barriers to trade through technical harmonization

### ■ Measures:

- In place for 18 years = Well-established system
- elaboration of European technical specifications, harmonised European standards and European technical approvals
- implementation of the specifications in all Member States
- Attestation of conformity by Producers or Notified bodies (product type)
- application of CE marking to construction products complying with the specifications
- National regulations may not impose other marks
- Market surveillance in Member States
- Requirements defined for the construction works not the product

# Sustainable Construction: EU Policies

## Green Public Procurement – GPP

### ■ Definition:

- GPP = Procedure where environmental considerations are taken into account within the procurement process

### ■ Objective:

- Promote the use of public procurement as a means of fostering the market for eco-innovative goods and services

### ■ Measures:

- COM to provide guidance and tools for public authorities to "green" their procurement practices: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/toolkit\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/toolkit_en.htm)
- COM to set indicative targets based on the best performing MS
- COM + MS to identify and agree upon common GPP criteria for products and services for endorsement in national action plans
- Criteria for product groups being developed (incl. construction)

# Sustainable Construction: Waste issues

- **Approx. 450 M t/a in the EU**
- **Approx. 55% of CDW are recycled**
- **Uncertainty about data:**
  - Lack of reliable statistics
  - Diverging definitions
- **Diverging recycling rates in the EU:**
  - D, B, NL, DK > 80%
  - E, P, GR < 20%
- **Conclusion: significant waste stream, recycling rates can be increased**



# The new Waste Framework Directive

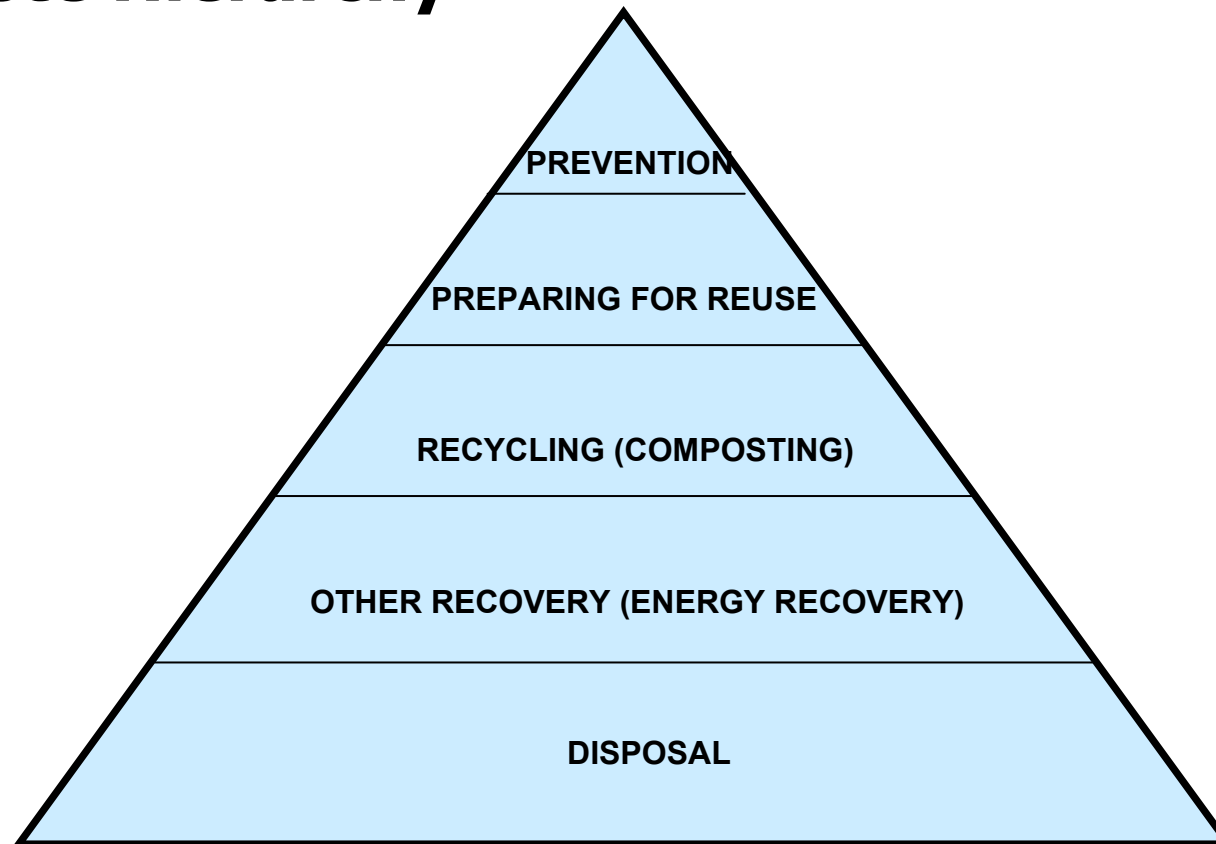
## Timeline

- Directive published on 22 November 2008, entered into force on 12 December 2008
- Deadline for MS transposition 12 December 2010
- Old WFD 2006/12/EC, Directive 75/439/EEC on Waste Oils and Directive 91/689/EC on Hazardous Waste still binding until 12 Dec 2010

## Principles:

- Minimise the negative environmental impacts
- Waste prevention
- From cradle to cradle
- Waste as a valuable resource
- Waste hierarchy

# Waste Hierarchy



# Waste Framework Directive - Scope and Objectives

## ■ New environmental objective:

- incorporates life cycle thinking in waste policies in and enhances their cost-effectiveness

## ■ Precise scope:

- The following wastes are excluded from the scope:
  - Unexcavated contaminated soil and immovable property
  - Excavated uncontaminated soil and naturally occurring material
  - Sediments relocated inside waters

## ■ Recycling target:

- **by 2020**, the preparing for re-use, recycling and other material recovery,
  - **including** backfilling operations using waste to substitute other materials, of non-hazardous construction and demolition waste
  - **excluding** naturally occurring material defined in category 17 05 04 in the list of waste
  - shall be increased to a minimum of **70 % by weight**.

# Waste Framework Directive - New dimension of prevention

- **New requirements concerning prevention:**
  - MS to establish waste prevention programmes
  - Programmes to set out prevention objectives, describe prevention measures, determine qualitative and quantitative benchmarks or targets for waste prevention;
- **Indicators to be developed by the Commission**
- **Commission is working on the creation of a system for sharing information on best practice regarding waste prevention and develop guidelines for MS**

# Implementation of the WFD

- **Monitoring the transposition into MS legislation**
- **Technical end-of-waste criteria for certain waste streams**
  - Compost
  - Metal scrap
  - Aggregates
  - Slags
  - Ashes from coal fired plants
- **Review of the List of Waste and the hazardous waste criteria**
- **Specification of the energy efficiency formula**

# Implementation of the WFD

## Commission actions

- **Study: Impacts and policy options for C&DW**
  - Background: Commission to examine 70% recycling target by 2014
  - Objectives:
    1. Information on generation and mgt of CD&W
    2. Economic, social, ecologic and health effects
    3. Assess the need for additional measures
    4. Definitions and statistics
  - Study started in November 2009, 12 months
  - Stakeholder consultation planned: input from the industry is welcome

**European Commission – DG ENV.G.4  
Sustainable Consumption and  
Production  
Avenue de Beaulieu 5  
B-1160 Brussels**

**Thank you for your  
attention**

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

