

# Product Carbon Footprinting in EU Environmental Policy

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# EU Climate Change Policy

## Domestic Action

- **Objective: 20% reduction of EU GHG emissions by 2020**
- **Main instruments: ETS and the effort sharing mechanism**
- **Complementary instruments: car emissions, energy efficiency measures, etc.**

## International action

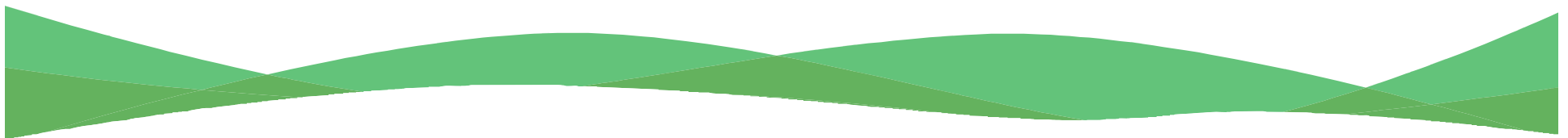
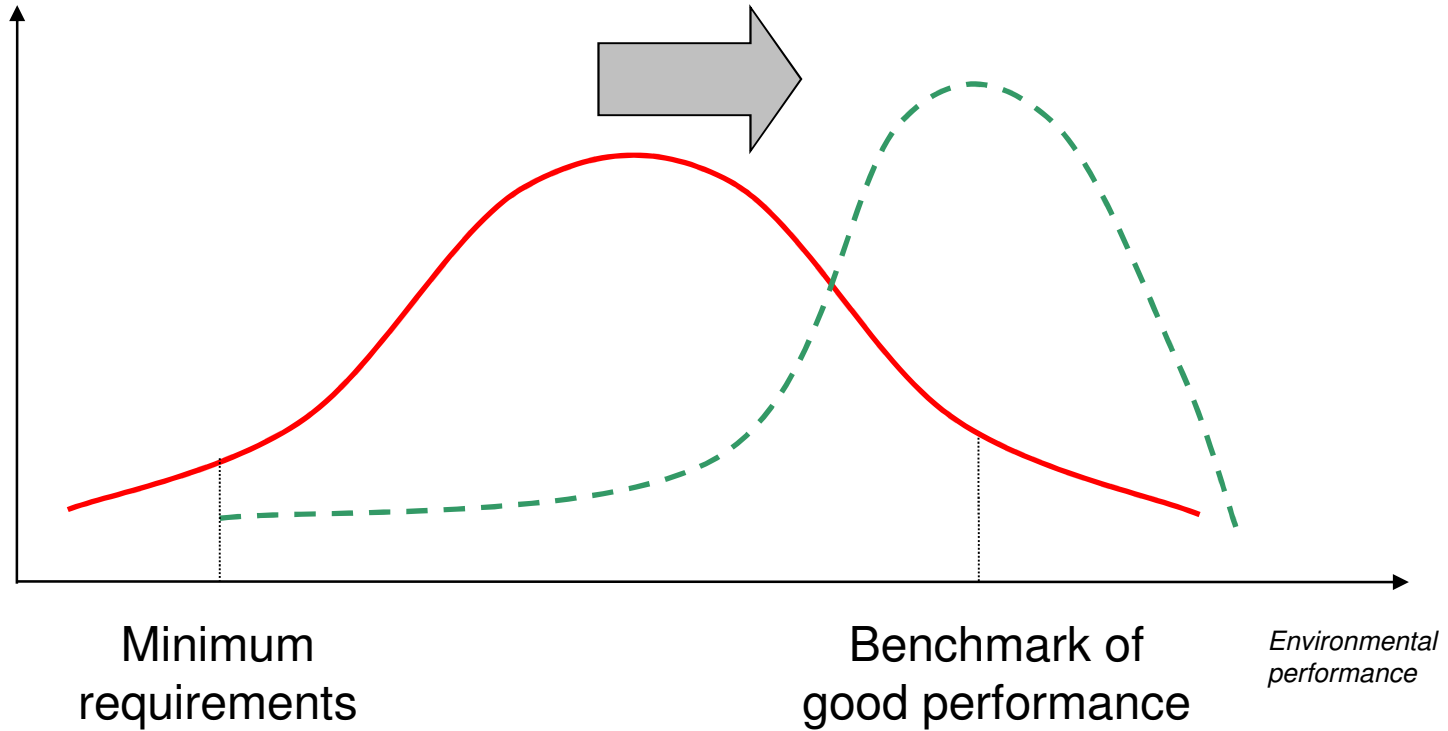
- **Further reduction commitments for developed countries**
- **Limitation of GHG emissions from developing countries**
- **International action on adaptation**
- **Cooperation and technology transfer**
- **Raise funds to tackle climate change**

**Underlying principle - focus on GHG emission produced on a nation's territory => production perspective**

# Sustainable Consumption & Production Policy

- **EU SCP Action Plan adopted in June 2008 (COM(2008)397)**
- **Objective: limit the overall environmental impact of consumption (consumption perspective)**
  - **Better Products** -- Improving the environmental performance of products/services throughout the whole life cycle
  - **Smarter Choice** – Change consumption patterns – choose better products, satisfy needs differently
- **Environmental impact of consumption is not limited to climate change**

# Better Products



# What role for Carbon Footprinting in SCP?

- **Carbon Footprint**



- A good proxy for energy, resource use/depletion and photochemical ozone creation
- Does not capture i.a. water use, human toxicity, eco-toxicity, land use changes and the impact on biodiversity

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**Carbon Footprint could be a key indicator complemented with indicators related to water, toxicity and biodiversity**

**Carbon footprint can be used as a performance indicator in all product related policy instruments – ecodesign, GPP, incentives and ecolabels**



# Carbon Footprint initiatives in EU Member States



## United Kingdom

- Voluntary system
- Carbon Reduction Label by Carbon Trust
- PAS 2050 methodology
- Carbon Trust certifies the data communicated to consumers

## France

- Grenelle II law: Mandatory environmental labelling from 2012 (currently in the pilot, voluntary phase)
- AFNOR BPX30-323 methodology
- Format of the label is not agreed yet, companies experiment with different forms
- ADEME provides for calculation tools and data
- Certification requirements included in the rules



## Germany

- Integration of life-cycle carbon emission analysis in the existing Blue Angel scheme
- Voluntary participation
- Label licence is obtained after the producer proves the product meets stringent criteria
- Verification by the Blue Angel governing body

# Implications of the current fragmented approach to Product Carbon Footprinting

- Numerous incompatible methodology resulting in incomparable results
  - Private initiatives without verification => results are not reliable, risk of misleading consumer information
  - Unnecessary burden to companies to comply with multiple labelling requirements
  - Confusion of consumers confronted with a plethora of labels
  - Risk of burden shifting?
  - Trade barriers?
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- Harmonisation of methodologies
  - Quality control/verification
  - Clear rules on communication of carbon footprint

# What needs to be done?

**ILCD** handbook  
International Reference Life Cycle Data System



[ict.jrc.ec.europa.eu](http://ict.jrc.ec.europa.eu)

- **Mapping of the situation: comparative study on existing methodologies and national approaches**
- **Development of a robust PCF methodology**
  - EC: Development of a technical guide on PCF and recommendation for Member States
- **Development of LCA data to support PCF calculations**
  - EC: International Life Cycle Data Reference System (ILCD)
- **Integration of Carbon Footprint into the existing policy instruments**
- **Possibly: adoption of new policy instruments to avoid fragmented national approaches, trade barriers and confusion of consumers**



**Thank you for your attention**

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