



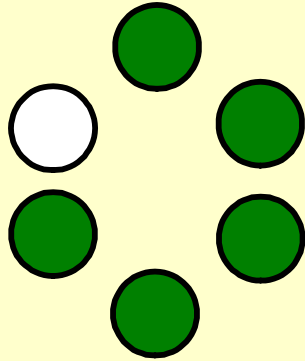
rr reuse

## **European waste policy: prevention a dream?**

Waste: the problem

EU Waste policy: general principles and summary of legislation

- ❖ Waste Framework Directive - 2008
- ❖ Waste Electr(on)ical Equipment – 2002 and review 2008
- ❖ Sustainable Consumption and production action plan



## Waste

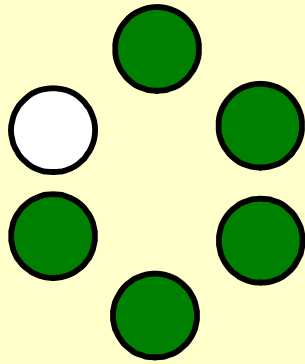
What is waste = surprisingly a very complex issue

Waste comes from all activities: household, commercial, industrial, agricultural, construction and demolition, mining,...

Waste is what we do not want anymore: so we throw it away  
Policy of « collecting to put it on one site » (disposal) is still mainstream in many countries with a shift towards incineration with energy-recovery

Every product becomes waste unless:

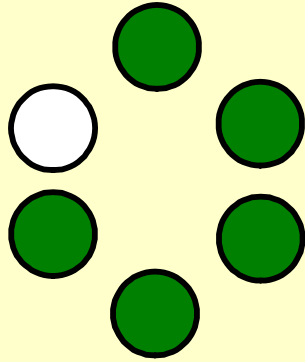
- We prevent it: e.g. not producing, not consuming,...
- We reuse it: prolonging life-time by cleaning, repairing, refurbishing...



# Waste is a serious problem

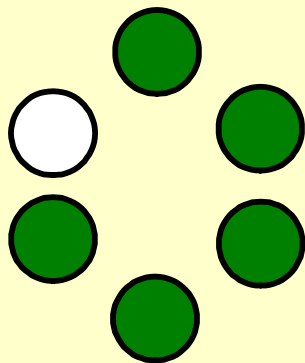
- **1: continued growth of waste amounts: overall quantity of waste is growing faster than GDP**
  - around 1300 Mt waste/year of which 70 MT hazardous and 200 Mt municipal waste/year
  - plus 700 Mt agricultural waste
  - projected increase of municipal waste of 25% in 2020 in comparison with 2005 (or per capita: 680 kg)
  - projected increase in end-of-life vehicles by 25% between 2005-2015 etc...
- **2: environmental impact through land space use, heritage of landfills, air, water and soil pollution and health impacts, resource loss, climate change...**

**Reducing waste should urgently become a main goal! Decoupling waste generation from economic activity is the minimum. A good waste policy is the key to improve the efficient use of resources thus minimising our impacts on climate.**



## Waste policy

- Waste (management) policy in EU countries: defined at European level  
However: scarcely any environmental policy field where national differences could be greater, than in the waste sector. Due to
  - strong cultural differences on how to deal with waste
  - waste issues are strongly associated with consumption behaviours and life-styles.
- Basis: **Waste Framework Directive** dating from 1975 (currently being reviewed: see later)
- Current EU-policy is laid down in the **6th Environmental Action Programme 2002** and in **Thematic Strategies** (containing the general objectives)
- EU-policy is put into regulatory legislation: directives and regulations



## 6th Environmental Action Plan

### 4 Objectives:

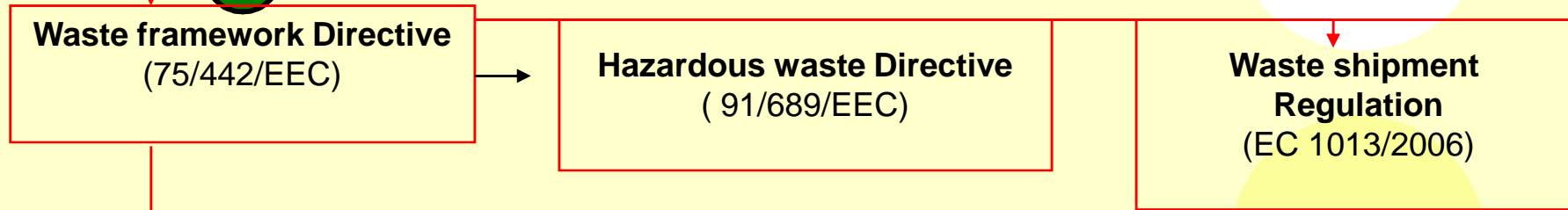
- climate change
- health and environment
- nature and biodiversity
- **resources and waste**

### 6th EAP 2002 called for Thematic Strategies on:

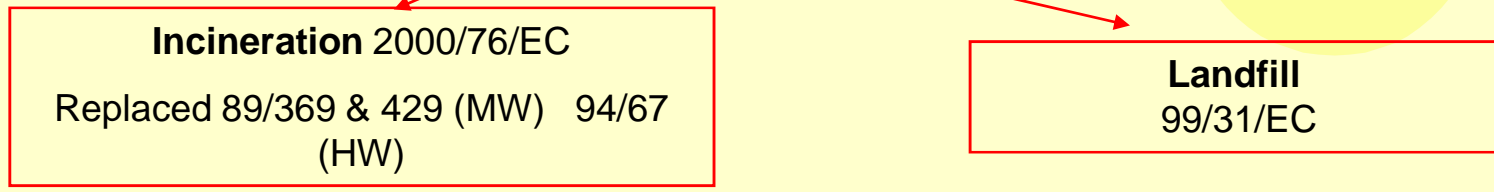
- Soil protection
- Urban environment
- Marine environment
- **Waste prevention and recycling:** Communication 2005
- **Sustainable use of natural resources:** Communication 2005
- Sustainable use of pesticides

**Policy, e.g. 6th EAP, Thematic Strategies**

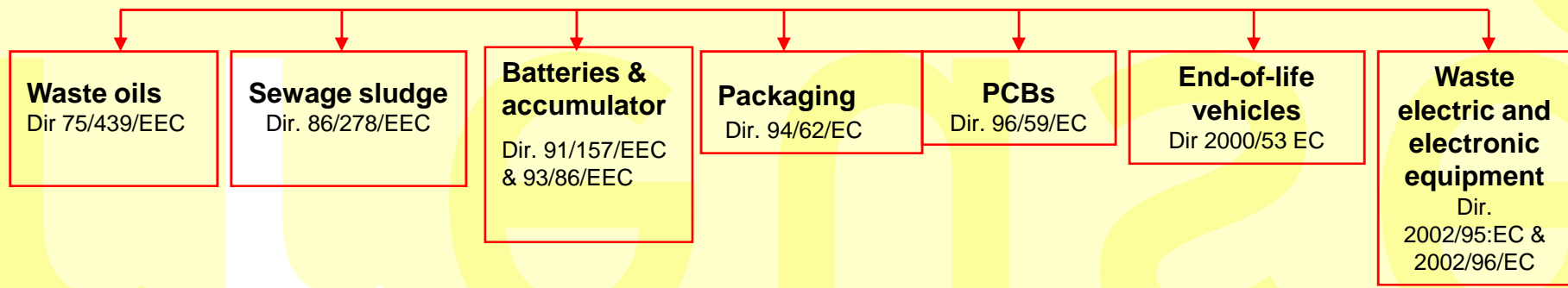
**Framework legislation**

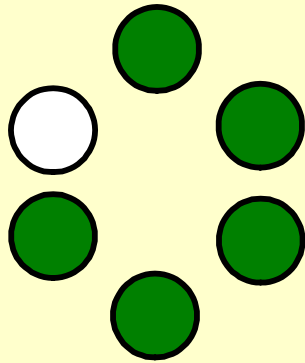


**Waste treatment operations**



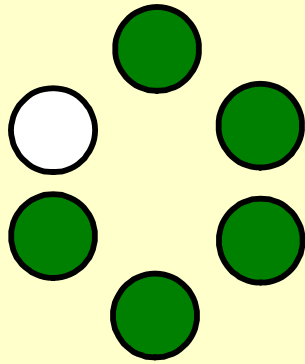
**Waste streams**





# Principles in EU waste legislation

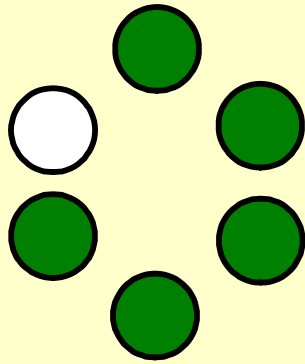
- **Sustainability principle:** « meeting the needs of the present without compromising ability of future generations to meet their needs »
- **Subsidiarity principle:** EU legislation only if it cannot be achieved by the MS individually and if action by EU guarantees higher efficiency
- **Precautionary principle:** lack of scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation
- **Polluter-pays principle:** polluters must bear the cost of remediating the damage they cause to the environment, or of measures to prevent imminent threat of damage
- **Producer responsibility principle:** the application of the PPP to producers ...
- **Proximity principle:** waste should generally be managed as near as possible to its place of production, mainly because transporting waste has a significant environmental impact
- **Self-sufficiency principle:** EU should be able to 'dispose' of its wastes, while the MS individually should also work towards that aim
- **Principle of cooperation and participation** (of all stakeholders)



## Prevention - reuse

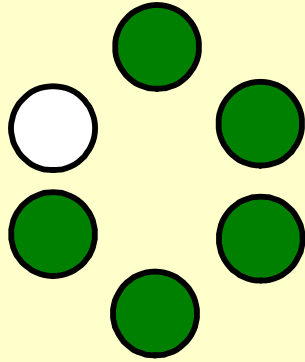
Waste Prevention: *means measures aiming at the reduction of the quantity and of harmfulness for the environment*

- **Process related WP:** reducing waste arisings through technology, substitution,...
- **Product related WP:** allowing repeated use of products, extending product life (making it easier to repair), change design (less material, less harmful)
- **Service oriented WP:** replacing products by services, repair and reuse,...
- **Consumption related WP:** changing life style and consumption behaviour



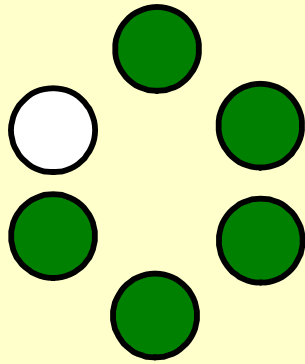
## Barriers to prevention

- **Socio-economic barriers for consumers:** no real interest, lack of willingness to invest time and money, lack of information
- **Socio-economic barriers for producers:** lack of experts, lack of trust in reusing parts or products
- **Economic and market barriers:** no internalisation of environmental costs, potential profit from WP comes later or is for someone else
- **Legal barriers:** sometimes WP in conflict with other objectives of public policy
- **Technical barriers:** technology not yet mature, lack of space,...



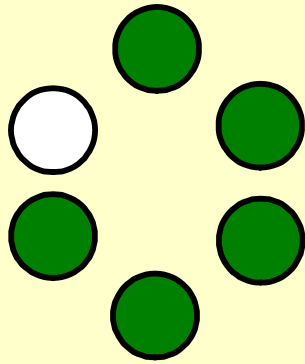
## Product barriers to reuse

- Rapid pace of technologies and **changing design** (e.g. software in computers)
- **Composition** of recent products: plastic products more difficult to repair than metal ones
- Product design making **repair/reuse impossible**
- **Decreasing quality** and lifespan of new products (e.g. textile, consumer electronics)
- **Scarcity of knowledge** about the products



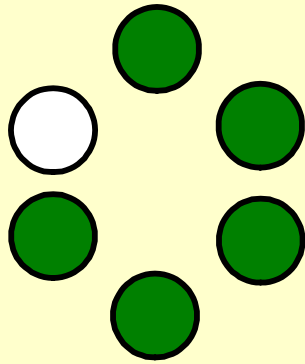
## Policy barriers to reuse

- **Lack of policy support** from Member States or local authorities
- **Producers hinder** and marginalise reuse as they see it competing on new sales
- **Labour costs:** repair often exceeding costs of new products (*made in emerging economies*)
- **Overregulation:** reuse is not same as waste treatment center



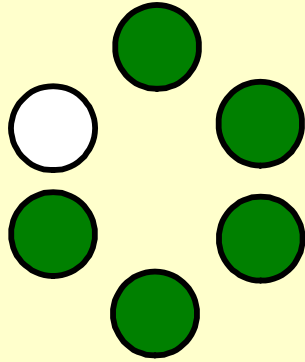
## Current hot topics

- 1. Waste Framework Directive:** final agreement probably in June 2008
- 2. Revision of WEEE directive:** Commission proposal expected end of 2008
- 3. Sustainable consumption and production action plan:** proposal expected may 2008



## Waste Framework Directive

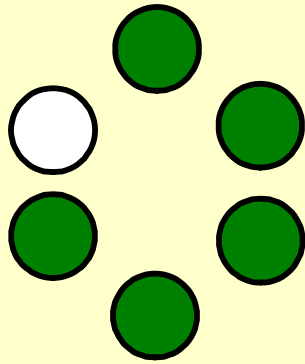
- Original Commission proposal for a new Waste Framework Directive: COM(2005)0667
  - EP 1<sup>st</sup> reading: February 2007
  - Council Common Position: June 2007
  - EP 2<sup>nd</sup> reading: started in February 2008, vote in environment committee on 8 April and informal conciliation with Council before the final vote in plenary of the EP. Agreement in June 2008?



# Waste Framework Directive

WFD = **umbrella** for all waste legislation

- It defines what waste is, end-of-waste criteria, reuse, recycling, lays down general requirements for permitting waste installations...
- It would be best place to have EU targets for prevention, reuse and recycling
- Commission proposal:
  - *flat 3-step waste hierarchy*
  - *focus on rebranding incineration as recovery (with energy-efficiency formula)*
  - *introduced obligation for MS to have prevention programmes*
  - *lack of prevention, reuse or recycling targets*



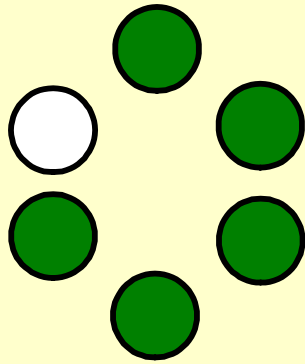
# Waste Framework Directive

## EP 1st reading

- ✓ 5-step binding waste hierarchy
- ✓ Binding waste stabilisation target (2012) and further objectives for 2020
- ✓ Promotion of reuse and establishment of reuse-centres
- ✓ Min. reuse and recycling rate (50-70% in 2020)
- ✓ Incineration is not recovery

## Council Common Position

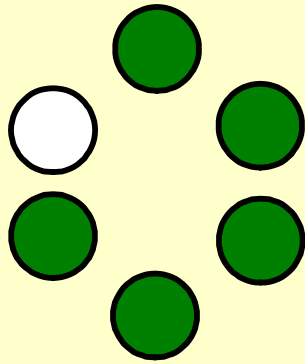
- ✓ 5-step WH – guiding principle
- ✓ No prevention targets, only MS programs in 2013
- ✓ Optional in WP programs
- ✓ No recycling targets
- ✓ Incineration is recovery if energy-efficient



## Waste Framework Directive

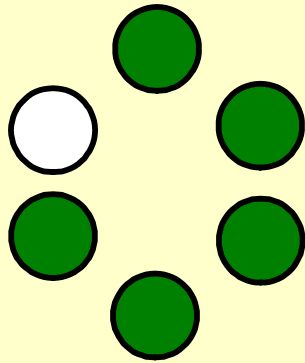
*Will we get an EP-Council agreement in June?*

- Prevention targets are unmentionable in Council, except for few countries!
- EP wants to give up incineration - recovery debate in exchange of having prevention, reuse and recycling targets in!



## Revision of WEEE-directive

- WEEE-directive (2002) is the first to recognize the importance of reuse and clearly asks for prioritization of it
- Revision of the WEEE-directive in 2008
  - EU Commission ordered 3 studies on implementation, producer responsibility and options for revision
  - Current tendency: industry do not want reuse targets
  - public consultation
  - EU Commission revision proposal expected at the end of 2008



## WEEE: Design for reuse

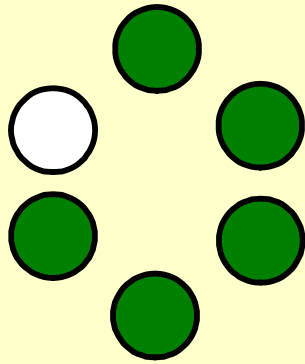
### ➤ WEEE Directive

- «Member States shall encourage the design and production of EEE that facilitates (...) in particular the reuse and recycling either of the whole appliance, their components or materials. Producers should not prevent WEEE from being reused by specific design features or manufacturing processes, except if they present overriding advantages, regarding environment and/or safety requirements» (art. 4)

### ➤ Practice

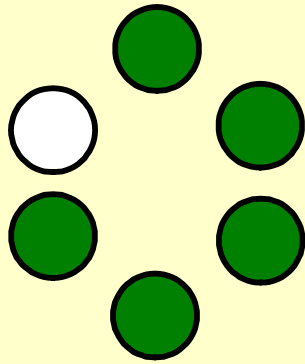
- Producers rarely design EEE taking into consideration reuse of products or components (few exceptions, e.g. photocopiers)

→ **REVIEW** and other legislation: stronger focus and obligation to increase reusability and reparability of EEE



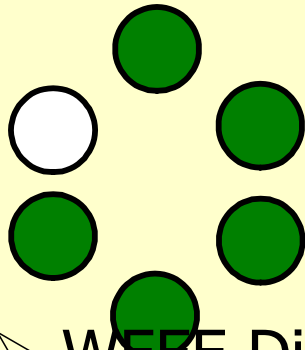
## WEEE: selection for reuse

- WEEE-directive (2002)
  - «Collection and transport shall be carried out in a way which optimizes reuse and recycling of those components or whole appliances capable of being reused or recycled» (art. 5.4)
  
- Practice
  - Take-back systems concentrate on low-cost recycling in centralized plants endangering existing local or regional reuse centres
  - Rarely selection on reusable EEE on municipal collection sites or after collection by retailers
  
- **REVIEW**: obligation of selection of reusable WEEE in all collection sites at the earliest stage needed



## WEEE: Reuse targets

- WEEE Directive (2002)
  - «Member States shall give priority to the reuse of whole appliances»
  - But also «until december 2008 reuse shall not be taken into account for the calculation of the recycling and recovery targets»
  
- Practice
  - No incentive for producers to promote reuse
  - Implementation in MS not in favour of priority reuse
  - Improper data collection by the Commission regarding reuse
  
- **REVIEW**: introduction of targets for reuse of whole appliances needed



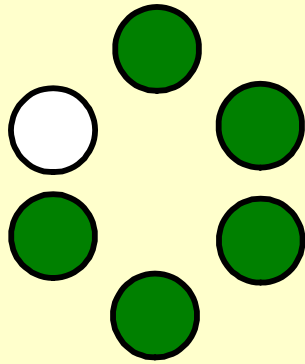
## WEEE: Financing of reuse

### ➤ WEEE Directive

- «Producers provide at least for the financing of the collection, treatment, recovery and environmentally sound disposal of WEEE from private households deposited at collection facilities, set up under Article 5(2)» (art. 8.1)
- Thus producers or (due to transfer of obligations) the collective schemes are legally obliged to
  - ensure reuse and bear the costs for collection of reusable appliances too (not only for part collected going to treatment plants)
  - bear even the costs of organising reuse, as reuse is the first priority

### ➤ Practice: this is not the case for the moment

→ **REVIEW:** clarification and obligation of producers' financial responsibilities regarding collection and reuse are needed



## WEEE: Information for reusers

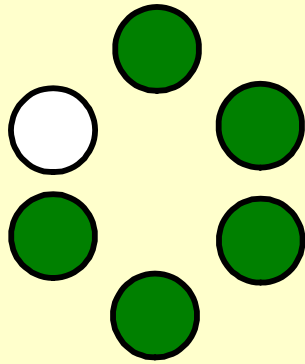
### ➤ WEEE-Directive (2002)

- Requires, in order to facilitate reuse, that producers provide reuse and treatment information for new EEE put onto the market (art. 11.1)

### ➤ Practice

- Information difficult or impossible to be obtained (sometimes very expensive)

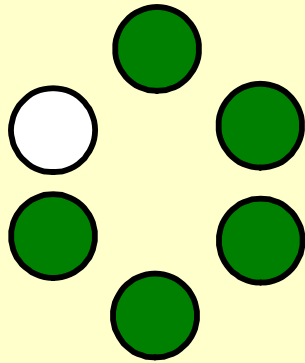
→ **REVIEW**: should oblige producers for providing all information on all products to accredited reuse-centers



## Revision should

### 1. Lead to increased REUSE QUANTITY

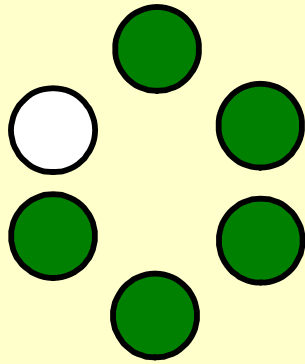
- Create overall **target for reuse** of whole appliances: 10% of collected WEEE
- **Collect data** to introduce reuse targets per product group in a later phase
- Oblige **selection of reusable WEEE** in all collection sites at the earliest stage
- Make reuse activities visible in **monitoring** and reporting systems covering the entire WEEE stream
- Support research, project development and **initiating reuse networks** in new member states



## WEEE: Revision should

### 2. Lead to increased REUSE QUALITY

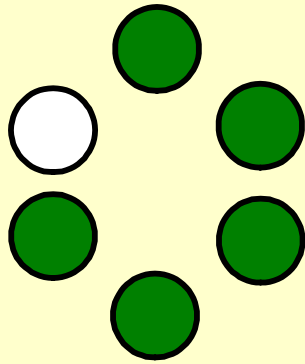
- Recognize fully the social aspects and importance of **social economy** in repair and reuse of WEEE
- Establish **quality criteria** for reuse and accreditation for reuse centres
- Establish easy and clear criteria and ensure **inspection** in order to tackle illegal waste exports 'for reuse'
- Oblige producers to provide for free all necessary **information** of all available products on the market to authorized repair and reuse centres
- Describe **clear treatment technologies** to make the most environmentally friendly dismantling and highest component reuse possible



## SCP Action Plan

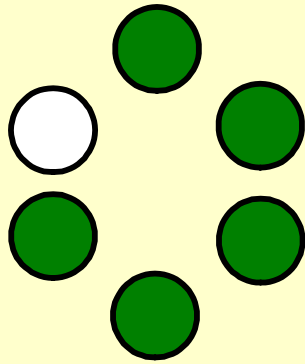
- EU strategy for sustainable development adopted in 2001, revised in 2006
- Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan (SCP) in combination with a Sustainable Industrial Policy (SIP)
  - public consultation in aug-sep 2007
  - publication of SCP-SIP AP expected in may 2008

UNEP



## SCP Action Plan

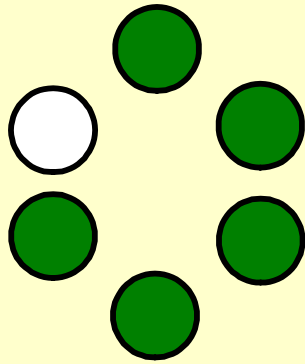
- Communication on the SCP Action Plan will contain:
  - Description of the problem; general philosophy of EU action in this field;
  - Concrete list of (new or reinforced) actions
  - Description of how existing policy instruments all link together
- Annexes: three individual actions will probably be announced in the Action Plan itself
  - Legislative proposal to revise the **Eco-label Regulation**
  - Legislative proposal to revise the **EMAS Regulation**
  - Communication on **Green Public Procurement**



# SCP-SIP

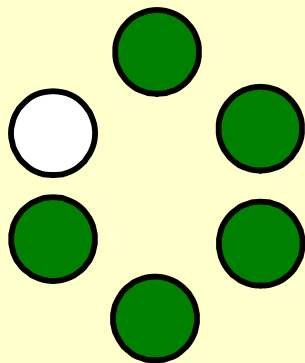
## Key challenges

- **Leveraging innovation:** stimulating low carbon, energy and resource efficient technologies, products and services
- **Better products:** dynamic internal market for 'better performing' products: e.g. enhanced use of eco-design instruments (revision EuP)
- **Leaner and cleaner production:** increasing efficiency of EU production: e.g. review EMAS
- **Smarter consumption:** changing behaviours: revision eco-label, green procurement
- **Global markets:** exploiting first mover advantages and levelling the playing field for industry worldwide



## **SCP Action Plan RREUSE comments**

- Lack of focus on durability of products
- Need of consumer information on durability (label)
- Need for strategy to reduce consumption level
- Social aspects should be taken into account
- Concrete targets needed
- National and concrete action plans to be developed



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