**SMEs and the Circular economy: Facts from the Eurobarometer**

While significant shares of SMEs are taking actions to become more resource efficient, they are generally less likely to do so than large companies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>SMEs</th>
<th>Large companies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>are minimising waste</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recycle by reusing waste within the company</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>design products that are easier to maintain, repair or reuse</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sell scrap material to other companies</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AND THE TYPES OF ACTIONS SMEs ARE TAKING DIFFERS CONSIDERABLY...**

For example, the share of SMEs that are minimising waste ranges from...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>SMEs</th>
<th>Large companies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SMEs generally rely on their own resources and expertise to implement resource efficiency actions, but among those who rely on external support...

- 60% claim to receive advice or other non-financial assistance from private consulting and audit companies
- 58% rely on its own technical expertise
- 60% rely on its own financial resources
- 22% rely on external support
SMEs and the Circular economy

WHICH CIRCULAR ECONOMY MEASURES BENEFIT COMPANIES MORE? THIS IS WHAT THEY THINK:

- Demonstration of new technologies or processes to improve resource efficiency (22% SMEs, 23% Large companies)
- Better cooperation between companies across sectors so that new processes to re-use waste and by-products can be developed (20% SMEs, 15% Large companies)
- Clearer rules on the use of secondary raw materials (9% SMEs, 9% Large companies)

HOW DO RESOURCE EFFICIENCY ACTIONS AFFECT PRODUCTION COSTS

- Increased costs: 53% (SMEs), 20% (Large companies)
- Decreased costs: 27% (SMEs), 18% (Large companies)
- No change: 10% (SMEs), 23% (Large companies)
- Don't know: 18% (SMEs), 10% (Large companies)

Results show that investing in resource efficiency pays off!

When setting up resource efficiency actions, SMEs in EU28 are more likely than their counterparts in the US to report difficulties with:

- Complexity of administrative or legal procedures: 17% (SMEs in EU28), 33% (SMEs in US)
- Adapting environmental legislation to their company: 14% (SMEs in EU28), 22% (SMEs in US)

While SMEs in the US are more likely to report a lack of:

- Supply of required materials, parts, products or services: 21% (SMEs in EU28), 14% (SMEs in US)
- Demand for resource efficient products or services: 24% (SMEs in EU28), 17% (SMEs in US)

SMEs are implementing low cost measures to better use their resources

To be more resource efficient...

- 30% say they invest none of their turnover
- 25% say they invest less than 1%

Comparing EU and US SMEs shows that companies in the US are more likely to invest at least 1% of their turnover on resource efficiency actions (45% vs 35%)

Source: Eurobarometer, Kantar Public FL456 “SMEs, resource efficiency and green markets”