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IPP: Launching the Stakeholder Debate

I: Economic Instruments

● **Market failures**

- ☐ difficult to find good case studies but transport pricing issue
- ☐ more empirical data needed to be able to quantify

● **Experiences so far with economic instruments**

- ☐ positive: packaging in DE: better resource recovery and use
- ☐ negative: UK packaging tax based on weight, led to replacement of heavier recycled material by lighter virgin material
- ☐ companies often have to act with incomplete information



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● **Impact of reduced VAT rates:**

- ☐ price not only criterion for consumers. Product properties key
- ☐ need to inform consumers: good image for green products
- ☐ thresholds of price difference needed to have an impact
- ☐ VAT has no impact on B2B transactions

● **Other ideas/examples for market-based instruments**

- ☐ Many examples on the process side with a clear link between producer and environmental impact. Transferable to products?
- ☐ Support for services to change behaviour: lower VAT for repair



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● Further areas for producer responsibility

- ☐ Idea to influence producers already at design stage and for efficient management after use
- ☐ Consumer responsibility would not have same impact
- ☐ Potential examples: tyres, lightbulbs

● Issues linked to State aid guidelines

- ☐ Guidelines still leave wide margin of interpretation
- ☐ Important to check whether any of the rules might have environmentally perverse effects



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II: Public Procurement

- Impacts on the market
- Make it transparent
- Make it possible
- Make it easy
- Awareness raising and exchange of information



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III: New Approach and Standardisation

● Standardisation in General Main Issues:

- ☐ Deficits of Integrating the Environmental Dimension
- ☐ Political Chapeau on integrating environmental aspects in Standards
- ☐ Resources for civil society involvement
- ☐ Reform of internal procedures controversially discussed
- ☐ Reform Efforts of EHD widely welcomed



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● Use of New Approach within IPP

- ☐ New Approach worth pursuing in principle under certain conditions
- ☐ Clearer Definition of Essential Requirements
- ☐ Clear cut distinction between political and technical levels
- ☐ Pass-fail criteria or procedures only
- ☐ New Deliverables under New Approach Impossible



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IV: Environmental Labelling

- Agreement on the use of environmental labels (ISO Types I, II, III)
- Prepare suitable analysis ex ante in order to get an ex post evaluation



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- Regarding the different environmental labels:
 - ☐ Type I...
 - ☐ Type II...
 - ☐ Type III...
- Single issue labels only suitable for major environmental issues e.g. energy



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- Aware of proliferation of product information (quality, safety)
- Other instruments for promotion of benefits
 - insufficient clarification
- Other Matters
 - ☐ include food products in IPP
 - ☐ more resources for IPP within Commission



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V: Eco-Design and LCA

● Life Cycle Information

- Complexity, quality, gaps
- Transparency
- Purpose: Understanding
- Continuous Improvement, not standards
- Education: Meaning and limitation of LCA



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● SMEs

- Significant area
- Characteristics: reactive, resource limited
- Needs: People information, sector support, shared research advice

● Eco Design

- Guidelines: Simplicity masks complexity
- Drivers: Demand
- Competitiveness
- Education



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VI: Stakeholder Participation

Stakeholder Involvement

- Depends on the objectives, products, etc.
- Role of public authorities needs to be clarified
- An open and transparent process is key to gain confidence and real involvement by stakeholders
- Resources
- EC/EP should 1) set overall priorities and framework 2) build confidence and commitment and 3) link IPP to other strategies



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Product Panels

- Product chain and front-runners must be involved
- Mixed feelings at European Level
- Products must be carefully considered for pilots
- Promote innovation, not stifle it
- Links to health issues, ethical issues, etc.