WFD amended to set framework conditions for waste streams and criteria – minimum standards

Commission runs studies and consults to determine first wave of waste streams and draft criteria

Comitology – Commission proposal, followed by procedure and a Commission Decision

Decision adopted – waste streams and criteria placed in annex of WFD

Implementation in national law - waste materials that match fitness for use and environmental criteria cease to be a waste at that point
**KEY ASPECTS**

### Objectives of provision
- Set a high environmental standard
- Distinguish between clean + dirty recycled products
- Regulatory relief for low risk products
- Facilitate the internal market

### Framework conditions
**Governing:**
1) Objective of system
2) Type of waste streams that can be included
3) Type of criteria necessary
4) Cut off level for criteria

### Waste streams eligible
- Low environmental risk
- Potential environmental benefit
- Genuine barrier
- Solid market for recycled product

### Type of criteria
- Environmental: leaching, contamination and so on
- Fitness for use: Meets market standards (possibly from CEN or similar)
Revising the recovery definition

• Ideally we would not use the term recovery for different purposes, i.e. target setting and shipment
• This is not possible in the short term → need to find a pragmatic solution
• Main objectives of the revision are to:
  – Give legal clarity
  – Reflect environmental issues better
A definition with two corrective mechanisms

• Primary definition: recovery is or leads to substitution of natural resources in the economy
  – Objective not subjective
  – Includes intermediate operations
  – Lists only play a secondary role

• Corrective mechanisms (TAC)
  – Classify as disposal if not environmentally desirable
  – Set efficiency ratios for grey areas
Recycling to recovery: a continuum of processes

Mechanical recycling

Polymer to polymer

Polymer to monomer

Cracking

Blast furnace

Energy recovery

Substitution of materials

Substitution of energy
Two paths to revising the definition of recycling

- Revision in WFD plus packaging, ELV and WEEE Directives without looking at the targets
- Revision in WFD only followed with a reconsideration of the targets in the product Directives based on the new definition