



EF Technical Advisory Board: 34th meeting of transition phase

Online event, 25 June 2025

DG Environment, European Commission

Housekeeping rules

- **Before the meeting:** accept/decline asap invitation sent via AGM (Note: inform us in case of change of contacts)
- **Recording of the meeting:** not shared, only for note-taking – Let us know if this is an issue
- **Minutes** will be circulated among participants and uploaded in [Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities](#)
- **Mute yourself** when you are not speaking
- **Raise your virtual hand** to intervene (indicate who you are representing <https://eceuropaeu.sharepoint.com/sites/WelcomeGuests>)
- **Be mindful** of time

Agenda for today

- 09:00 – 09:10** Welcome, adoption of the agenda, minutes (ENV)
- 09:10 – 09:40** Update on state of play of EF methods and LCA in EU policies (ENV)
- 09:40 – 12:00** Circular Footprint Formula – modelling aspects (JRC/expert)
- 12:00 – 13:30** Lunch break
- 13:30 – 14:10** Update on modelling and assessment of agricultural practices (JRC)
- 14:10 – 15:20** Normalisation, weighting and aggregation/integration of information (JRC)
- 15:20 – 16:00** DQR approach for EF studies (HD/JRC)
- 16:00 – 16:40** Update on latest developments on carbon accounting (JRC)
- 16:40 – 17:00** AOB and conclusion (ENV)

Minutes of past meetings

- 29th meeting (14/03/2025): shared – comments received and addressed
- 30th meeting (21/03/2025): shared – comments received and addressed
- 31st meeting (07/04/2025): work in progress
- 32nd meeting (16/05/2025): work in progress
- 33rd meeting (06/06/2025): work in progress

Minutes of 29th meeting – 14 March 2025

- Introduction on new EF TAB/subgroup mandates, rules of procedures and planning
- Update on review of EF methods: timeline and topics
- Update on EF4.0 database and modelling requirements
- Review of Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules to improve coherence and simplification
- Handling allocation and other modelling issues (1 comment received)

Mass balance:

- The following TAB members expressed in favor of allowing Mass Balance approaches in the EF methods: Recharge, BONSAI, RENEWABLE CARBON INITIATIVE, Tomas Ekvall, ~~CEFIC~~, BETA Technological Centre - University of Vic
- CEFIC underlined that integration in LCA of chain of custody methods is ongoing at other levels (e.g. ISO)
- EC concluded that based on the feedback from the TAB, some guidance should be included in the EF methods.

Minutes of 30th meeting – 21 March 2025

- Scrutiny of PEFCR for A/F (2 comments received)
- Scrutiny of PEFCR for beer
- Carbon modelling/accounting: foreground, EoL, case studies
- DQR for datasets
- (1 additional comment received)
- EURATEX (TAB) stressed the need to have one harmonised methodology at European level, but also the importance of the future revision of some elements of the PEFCR (e.g. physical durability, fiber fragmentation) within a revamped governance framework that is fair, inclusive and transparent. The transition phase would allow the PEFCR to be tested by companies on a voluntary basis and improved as needed.

Minutes of 30th meeting – 21 March 2025

- COTANCE, representing the A&F cluster in the EF SG (SG), reported that the members of the cluster were divided with regard to supporting or not the PEFCR. One part of the cluster (including representative organisations of the leather industry, some footwear industry representatives, the wool industry, the fur industry and some research organisations of the cotton industry representatives) does not support this PEFCR, as they say they considers that durability metrics adopted by the voting members of the A&F PEFCR – and in particular the default duration of service values PEF method - are it includes biased penalizing natural fibres/materials/products against synthetic fibres/materials/products. and other issues (FU definition, default duration of garments and footwear, too large sub-categories). Another part of the cluster (including representatives of the textile and clothing industry and sportswear industry, and other companies), instead supports the adoption of the PEFCR. The A&F cluster also asked for access to an open and free EF database, also considering the reduced capacity of SMEs, which is a limiting factor for the uptake of the PEFCR. TS stated clarified that every aspect was discussed and voted in the TS, which was refuted by COTANCE. :-

Minutes of 30th meeting – 21 March 2025

Member States:

Austria: Environment Agency

Belgium: Federal service for Health food chain safety environment

Denmark: Danish Environment Agency

Finland: Finnish Environment Agency

France: ADEME

Hungary: Institute of Agricultural Economics

Poland: Ministry of Economic Development and Technology

Portugal: Portuguese Environment Agency

Sweden: Swedish Environmental Agency

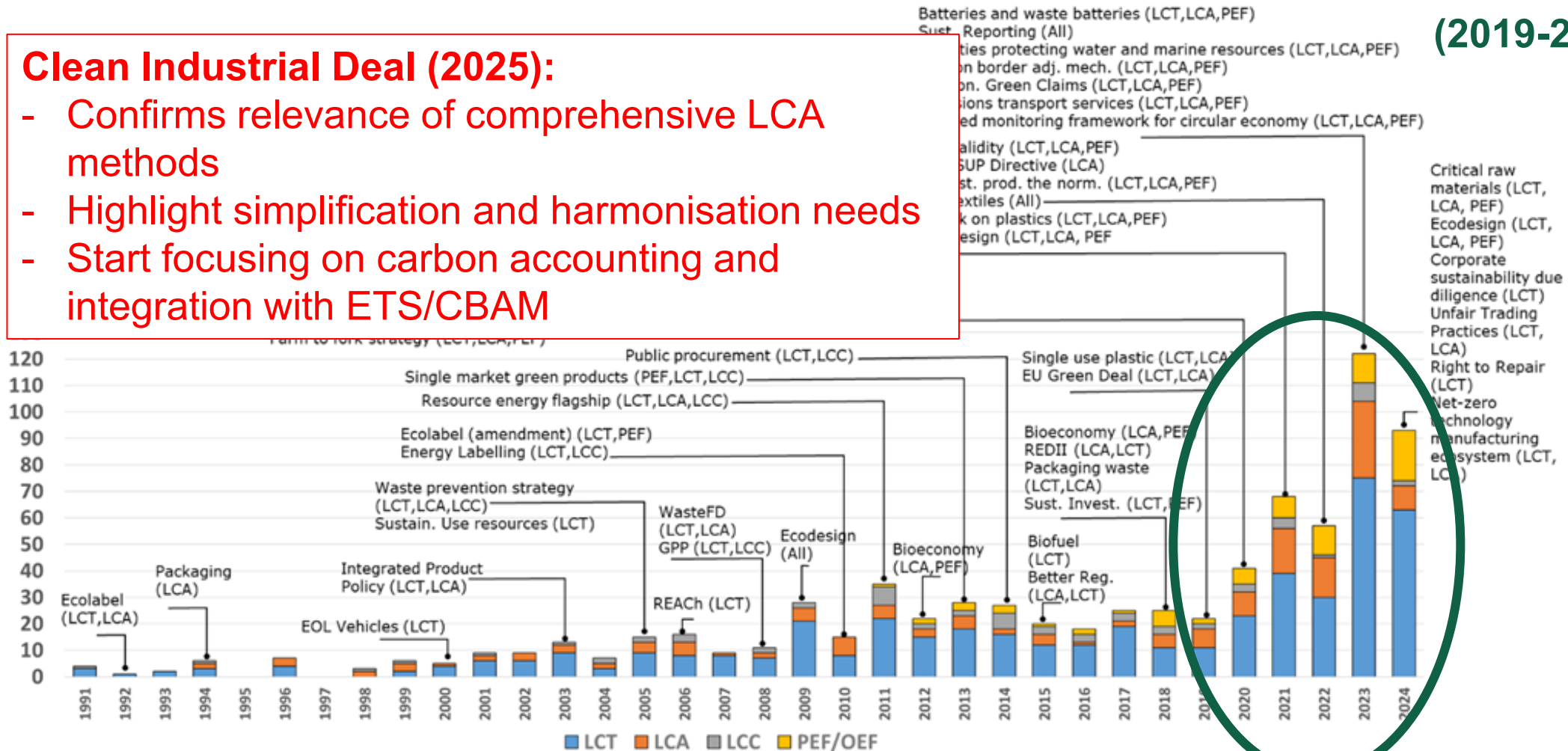
Update on state of play of EF methods and LCA in EU policies

LCA/LCT in EU policies

EU GREEN DEAL (2019-2024)

Clean Industrial Deal (2025):

- Confirms relevance of comprehensive LCA methods
- Highlight simplification and harmonisation needs
- Start focusing on carbon accounting and integration with ETS/CBAM

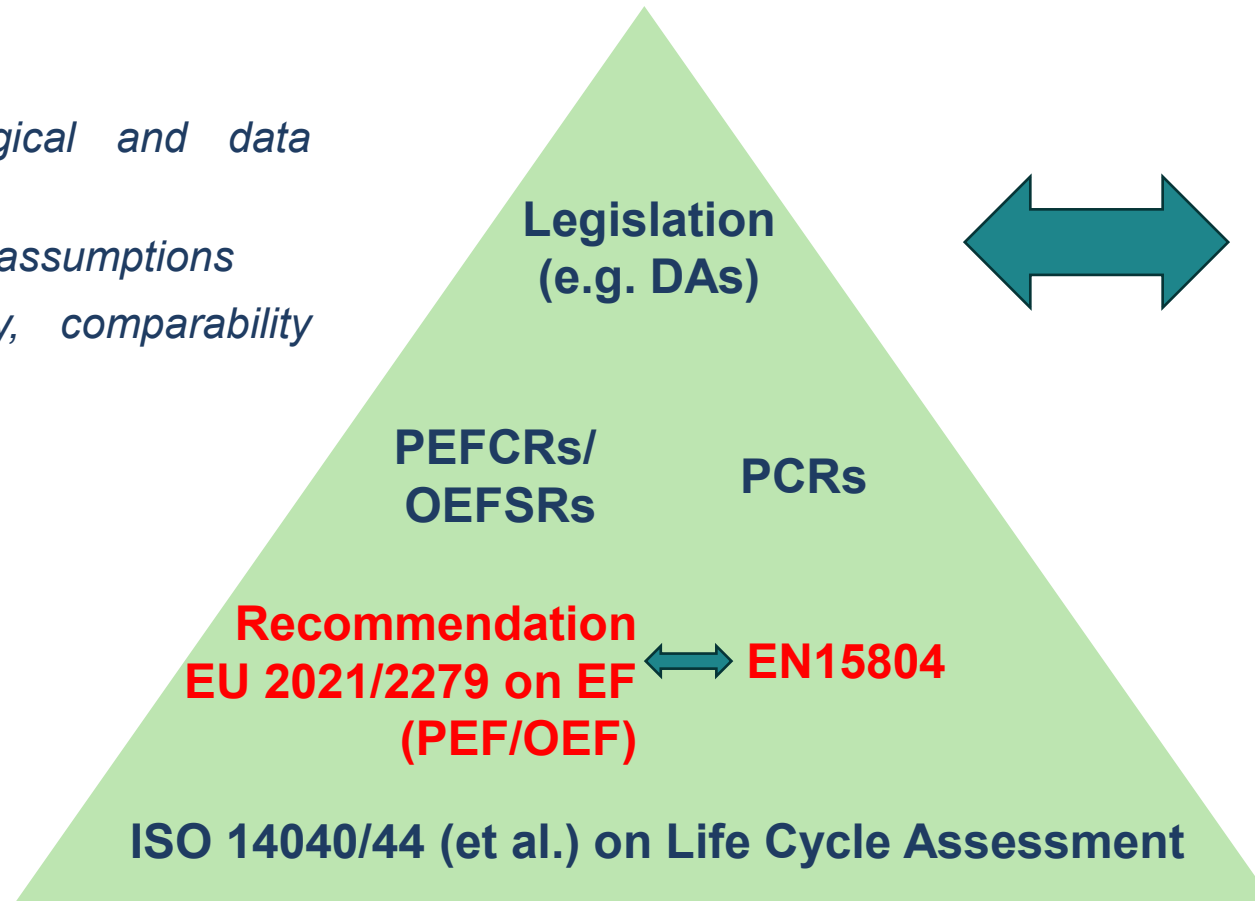


Updated from Sala et al. (2021). The evolution of life cycle assessment in European policies over three decades. *The International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment*, 26, 2295-2314.

Harmonisation/Consistency needs

Going up:

- Further methodological and data specifications
- Less space for own assumptions
- Enhanced reliability, comparability and verifiability



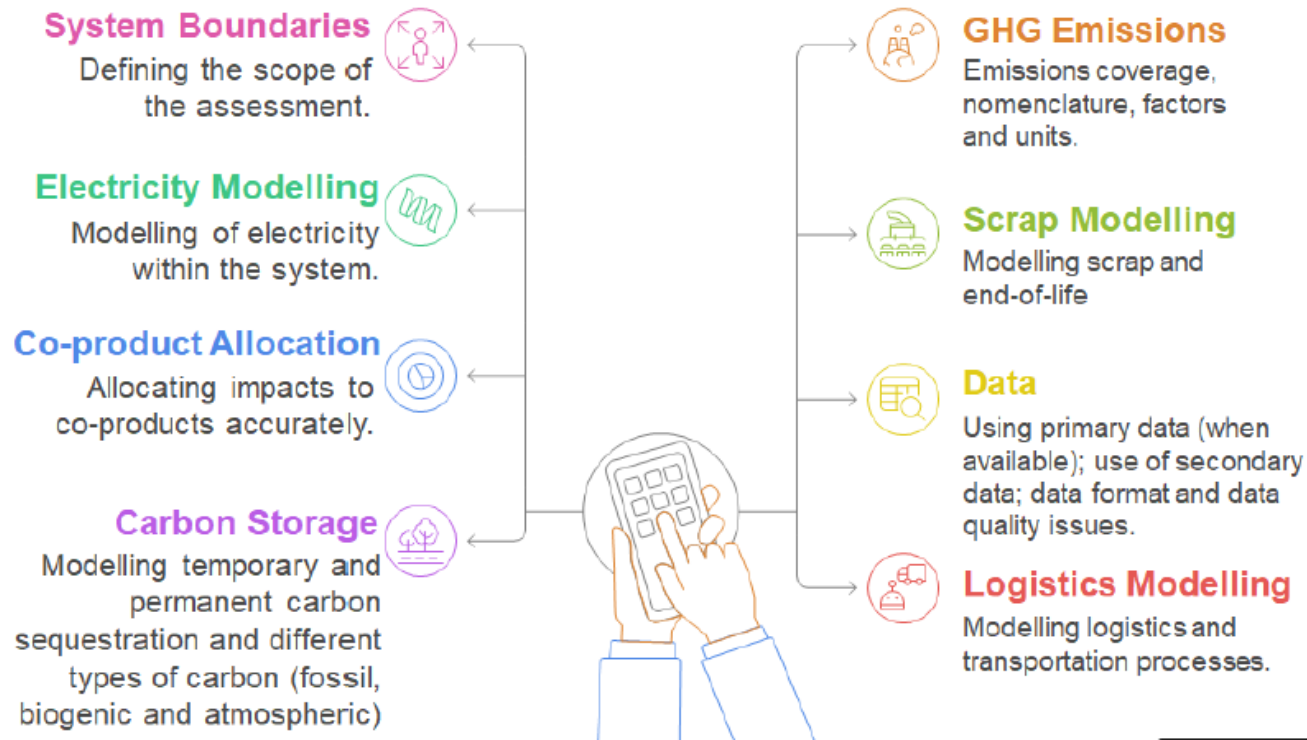
ETS
CBAM

ISG on simplification and harmonization of C accounting methodologies

- 25 March 2025: kick-off of the ISG on simplification and harmonisation of carbon accounting practices in EU policies, and launch of the stock-taking exercise
- 19 May 2025: 2nd ISG meeting to create Working Groups
- 23 June 2025: target date for preparation of consolidated mandates
- 9 July 2025 (tbc): 3rd ISG meeting to check progress and discuss first options
- by early/mid-September: final recommendations – for discussion at 4th ISG meeting

ISG on simplification and harmonization of C accounting methodologies

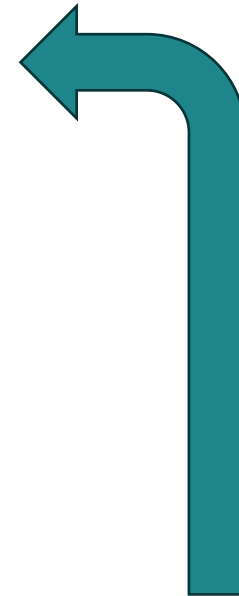
Priorities from stocktaking exercise



- WG1 – Electricity modelling
- WG2 – EoL/Scrap/Allocation
- WG3 – Data Strategy

Tentative timeline (updated) for EF methods review

Q3/Q4 2025	Finalisation methodological/rule refinements with TAB
Oct 2025	Updated Recommendation on EF methods - draft 1
Dec 2025	Updated Recommendation on EF methods - draft 2
Q1/Q2 2026	Targeted stakeholder consultation
	Inter-service consultation on draft recommendation
	Formal adoption of new EF recommendation
Dec 2026	Delivery of EF4.0 datasets



ISG on simplification and harmonisation of C accounting in EU policies:

- WG1 on electricity modelling
- WG2 on scrap, EOL, allocation issues
- WG3 on data

Tentative planning of next EF TAB meetings

- 30 September – 1 October
- 6 November
- 20 November
- 4 December
- 15 December

EF3.1 database and validity of PEFCR/OEFSR

Option	Pros	Cons
No action	Consistent with current EF methods	End of PEFCR/OEFSRs Industry did not pay-off the investments done so far
Allow use of commercial datasets: TS decide the replacement datasets	PEFCR/OEFSR still valid Comparability of results will be ensured	Additional work to decide the replacement datasets to be carried out by the industry End users will need/pay for the use of datasets Current rule of using up to 10% of non-EF compliant datasets needs to be waived
Allow use of commercial datasets: End user decides the replacement datasets	PEFCR/OEFSR still valid	Comparability of results is not guaranteed End users will need/pay for the use of datasets Current rule of using up to 10% of non-EF compliant datasets needs to be waived

AOB and conclusions

- Next steps
- Update on data

Thank you



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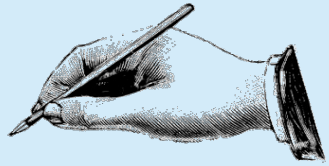


New EF TAB/subgroup

- Mandate
- Rules of procedure
- Planning

Governance of EF methods & development of PEFCRs

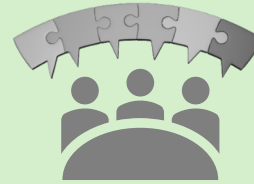
TS



Technical Secretariats

1 per PEFCR/OEFSR
Develops sector rules
Manages the project

TAB & SG



**Technical Advisory Board
(+AWG/DWG) + Steering
Group**

Provides advice for EF develop.
and implementation



European Commission

Guardian of the method
Final decisions
Support



Helpdesk

Provides technical
support to stakeholders



Stakeholders

Follow developments
Comment, Input on
public consultations

New EF TAB/subgroups (DWG/AWG): renewal procedure

- [Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities](#)
- Type A, B, C, D and E members (see ToR)
- Cont. open call launched in Jun 2024 for **renewal of type A/B/C members (max. 50 for TAB)** – parallel **update of type D/E members**
- 110+ applications; 1st eval. round results communicated in Jan 2025:
 - Appointed members
 - 50 seats filled for the TAB
 - 27 members for DWG; 37 members for AWG → **experts needed, possibly to apply!**
 - Observer status
 - Alternate members – possible for the EC to replace appointed member
 - Rejections
- 2 meetings per year (one in-person hybrid meeting, e.g. Q2 2025, tbc)

New EF TAB/subgroups: mandate, rules and outlook

- TAB → overarching technical/scientific input informing the development and implementation of EF methods
- DWG/AWG (2020-2025):
 - Work on data and agricultural modelling issues of relevance for EF methods
 - Tasks/Milestones
- Short-term (indicatively until Jun 2025): feeding the review of Recommendation (EU) 2021/2279 – Only EF TAB and DWG active (DWG → DQR approaches)
- Set the ground to longer-term developments of EF methods
 - Activities tbd
 - Merge DWG/AWG
- **ToR and RoP describing mandate and operational rules: comments?**

Review of EF methods: timeline and topics

The EF journey

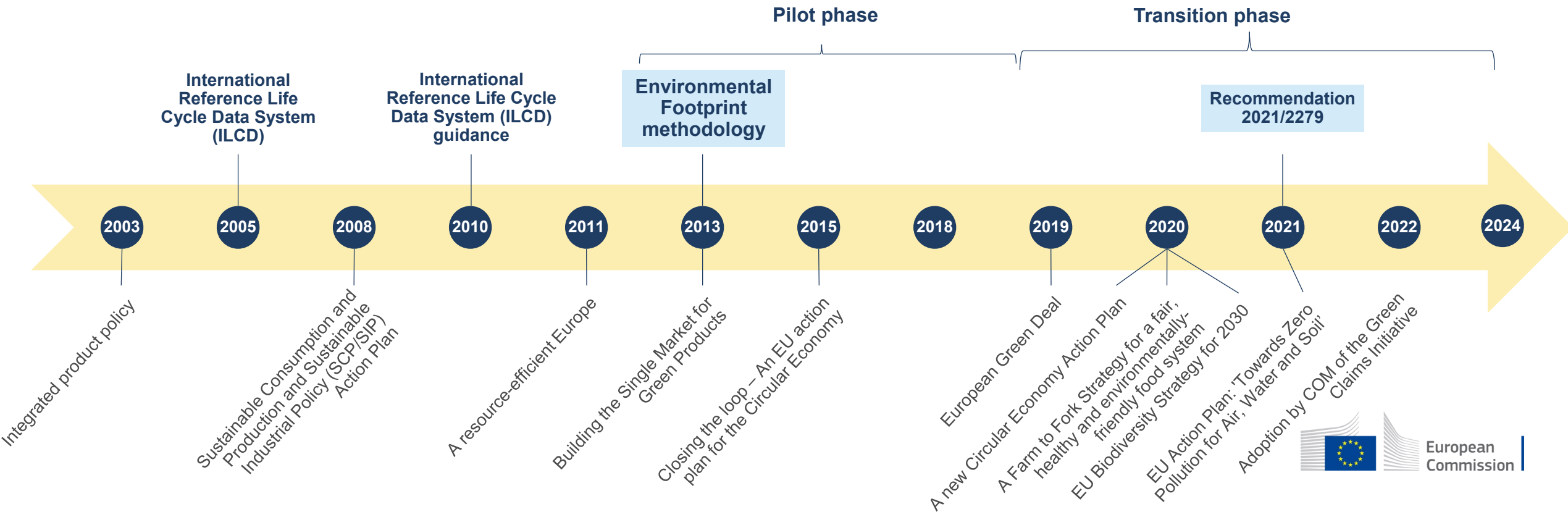
21 PEFCR/OEFSRs

~300 organizations involved (mainly associations and large companies)

~3,000 registered participants

Developments:

- Progress / finalisation of PEFCR/OEFSRs
- Monitor and mainstream implementation
- Scientific developments & EF4.0 database
- Governance and engagement



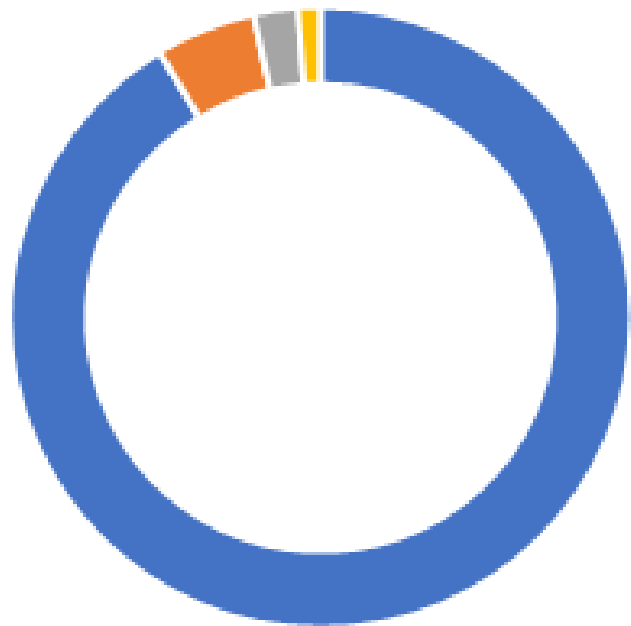
Strategic priorities for the future of EF methods

Transition period to be closed by 2025:

- **Methodological developments** to fulfill policy needs (e.g. Green Claims Directive proposal)
- Pursue policy **coherence and harmonization** (e.g. carbon footprint)
- **Streamline the implementation** (methods, data, SME support)



Affiliation of the participants



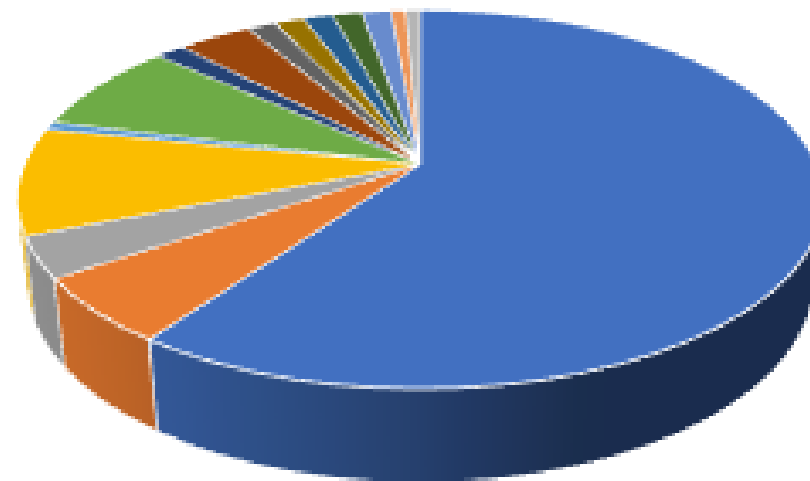
■ Industry ■ academia / research ■ MS ■ NGO

**Total number of participants
in the EU Survey: 175**

Participants from the textile industry: 85

Participants from all other sectors: 90

Break down of participants within the industrial sector



■ textile ■ metal ■ cosmetics & hygienic products
■ chemicals ■ sport goods ■ food and beverage
■ packaging ■ electronics ■ paints
■ slaughterhouses ■ forest ■ batteries

Highlights

- 1. Simpler, coherent, broader PEFCR/OEFSRs**
- 2. Lighter review and verification processes by accredited verifiers**
- 3. Enhanced guidance on goal/scope & interpretation/communication**
 - Intended uses (incl. cradle-to-gate studies)
 - Communication, uncertainty and comparison of results
 - Data sampling and variability between the same set of product models
- 4. Methodological aspects**
 - Guidance to handle water use impact results when using EF secondary datasets
 - Review the allocation procedures
 - Enhance the circularity assessment
 - Mass balance approaches
 - Electricity modelling

Review in Recommendation (EU) 2021/2279

- **Methodological developments (modelling rules and impact assessment)**
- **PEFCR/OEFSR-related procedures**
 - Streamline the PEFCR/OEFSR development
 - Reduce time and administrative burdens (e.g. public consultations, reviews, deliverables. Current figures, indicatively: 2.5 years, EUR 1 Million
 - Scope and comparability rules among product categories
- **Text**
 - Size, redundancies, inconsistencies: from ~400 to ~200 pages
 - Enhanced sections on EF use, interpretation and communication

Life Cycle Impact Assessment



Normalisation



Weighting



Single score

+
Additional
environmental
information

Methodological developments (1)

Review based on scientific progress, experience in application, input of experts/stakeholders, incl:

- **End of life modelling and circularity aspects**
- **Harmonisation of Carbon Footprint methods**
- **Biogenic vs. fossil C accounting**, linked to LULUC and CRCF
- Revision of **other impact categories** and addressing **regionalization** (e.g. water scarcity, soil quality)



Methodological developments (2)

Review based on scientific progress, experience in application, input of experts/stakeholders, incl:

- **Biodiversity impacts**
- **Normalization, weighting and aggregation**
- **Enhanced modelling rules for agrifood systems**
- **Integration of additional and/or non-LCA-based information (e.g. microplastics, fish stock depletion)**