

ACR+ : Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable management of Resources

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members

 **+1,100**
municipalities
represented

 **25**
years of
experience

in **25**
countries 

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www.acrplus.org

Key project examples

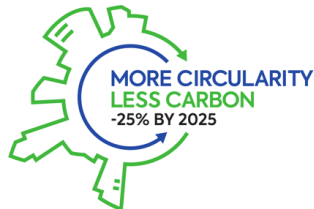


MORE CIRCULARITY LESS CARBON

Local circular strategies tackling climate change

Brussels | 19 November 2019 | Jean-Benoit Bel

| ACR+



The EPR Club



A European **multi-stakeholder platform** for discussion , exchange of information and good practices related to EPR created in 2012 by few ACR+ members

Objectives:

- Reference point for EPR issues in Europe
- Dialogue and exchange of information and experiences
- Policy recommendations

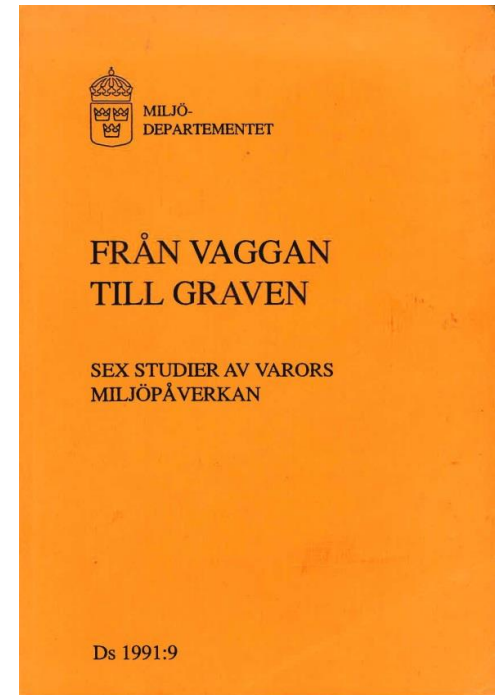
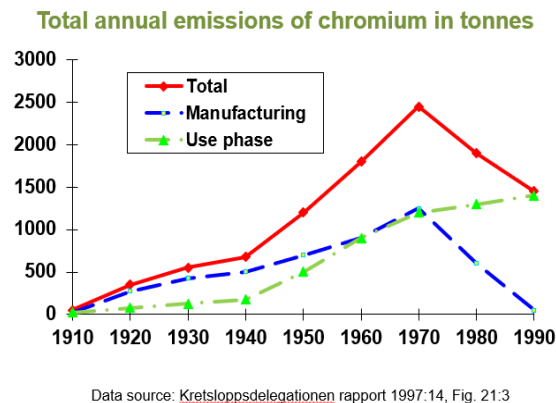
Activities:

- Regular lunch debates and conferences
- Online library

www.eprclub.eu

EPR: The Prelude

- Consumption society keeps on growing
- Waste problems are more in focus
- Increased interest for waste prevention – mainly for production waste and pollution
- Problems with toxics from products in landfills and incinerators
- Recycling results are overall not impressive



Situation in the mid-1980s:

Demand for improved waste treatment

Demand for more recycling



More effective systems for collection and recycling

More money for collection and recycling

Better products (design changes)

The Prelude

Principle coined in 1990 :

Extended = More than before

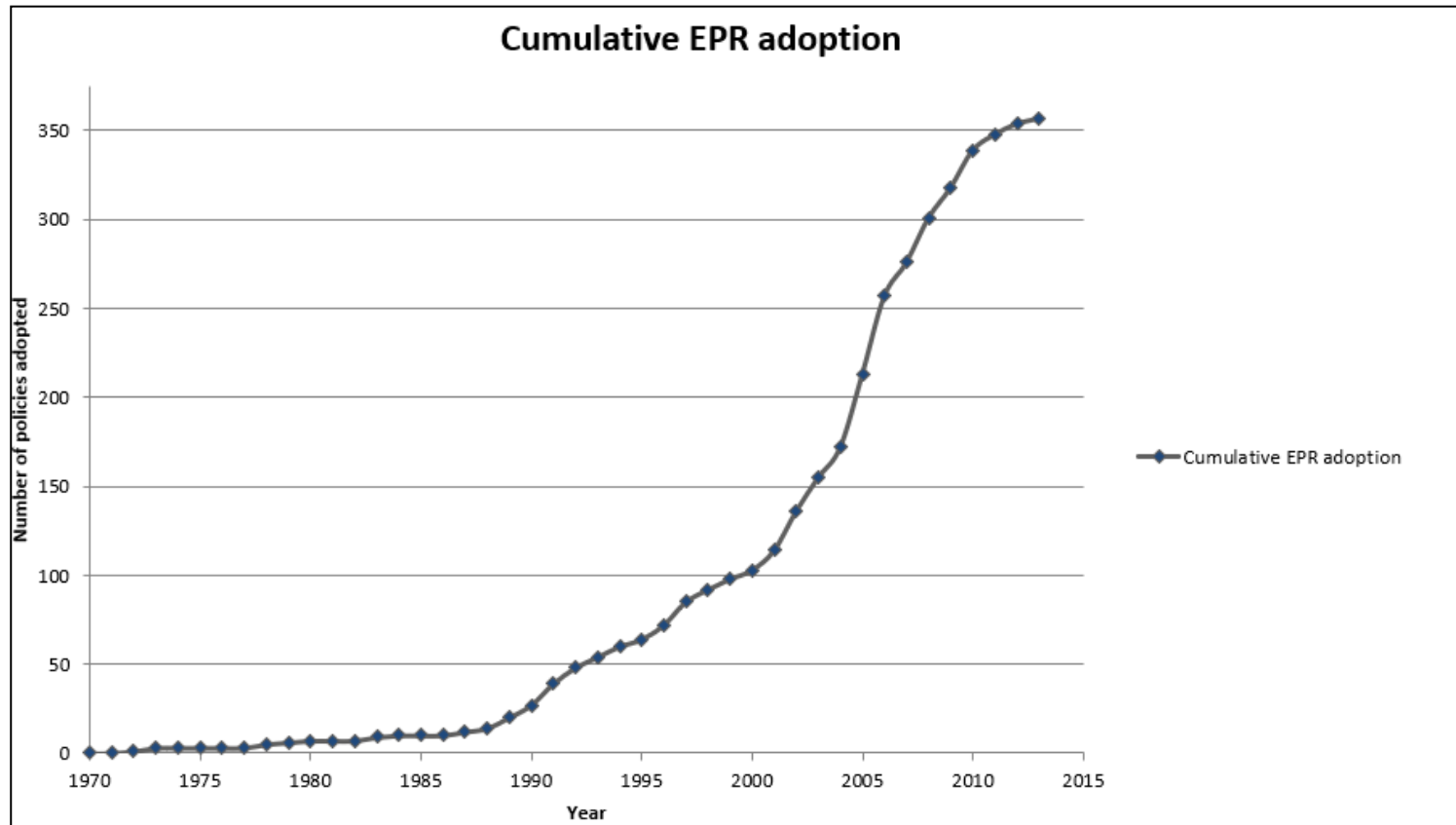
Producer = From municipality to businesses

Responsibility = Financial (who pays) Physical (who organises)

Why EPR?

- From limited recycling to making re-use and recycling the main option
- Prevent and facilitate recycling through design improvements
- Fairer cost allocation: burden on those who produce waste
- A need to create new incentives for market actors and in particular manufacturers

30 years later in the OECD countries



30 years later in the EU

EPR has been developed in many countries for many products

EU directives

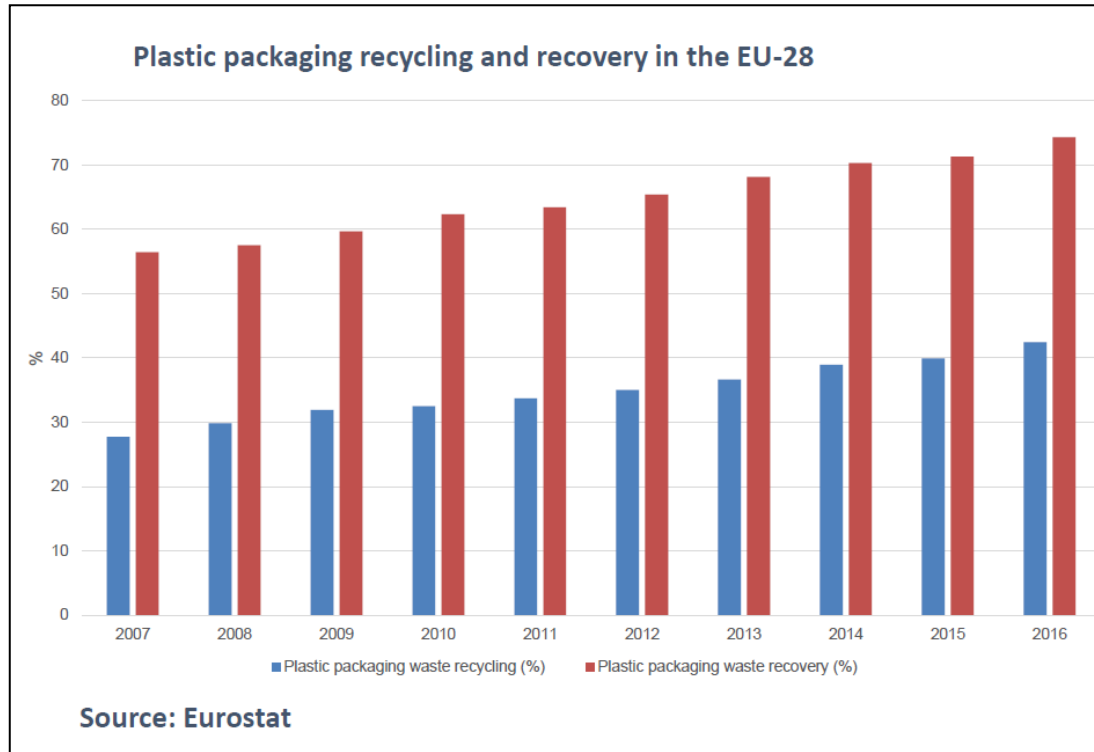
- End-of-Life vehicles
- WEEE - Waste Electric & electronic equipment
- Batteries
- Packaging
- SUP (2019)



Member States

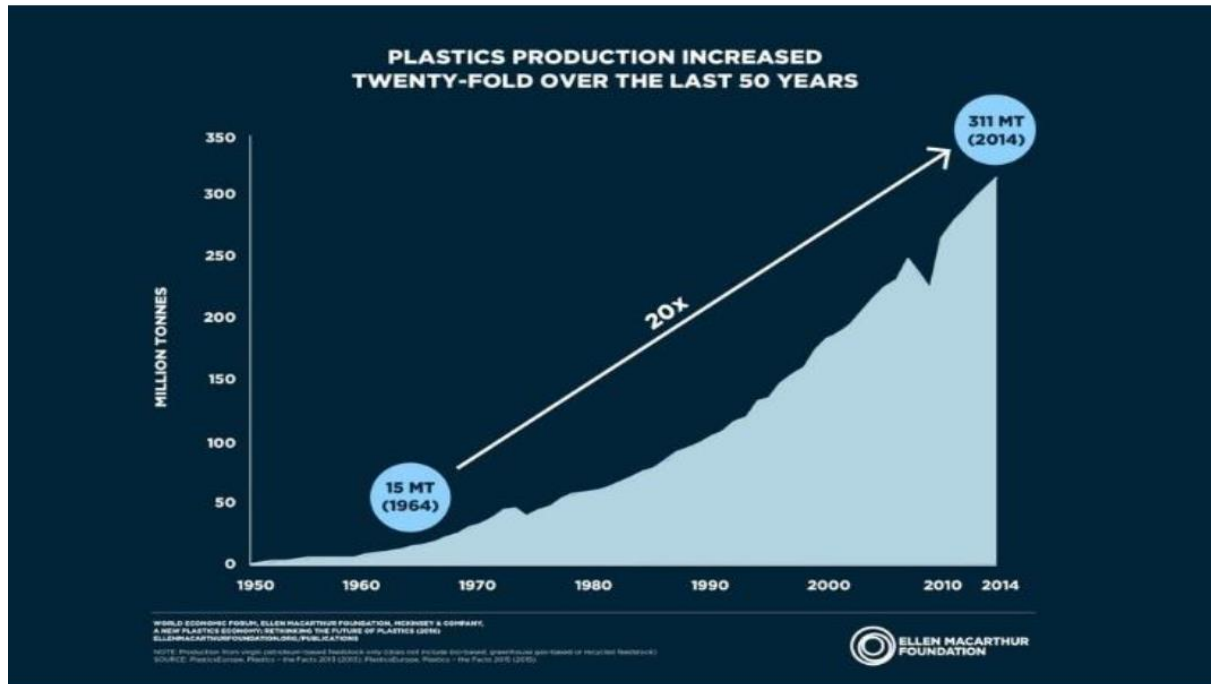
- End-of-life vehicles
- WEEE
- Batteries
- Packaging
- Tyres
- Graphic Paper
- Oils
- Medical wastes, old/unused medicines
- Agricultural film
- Furniture
- Textile
- Mattresses
- Toys and sport articles
-

In Europe : the « plastic packaging succes »

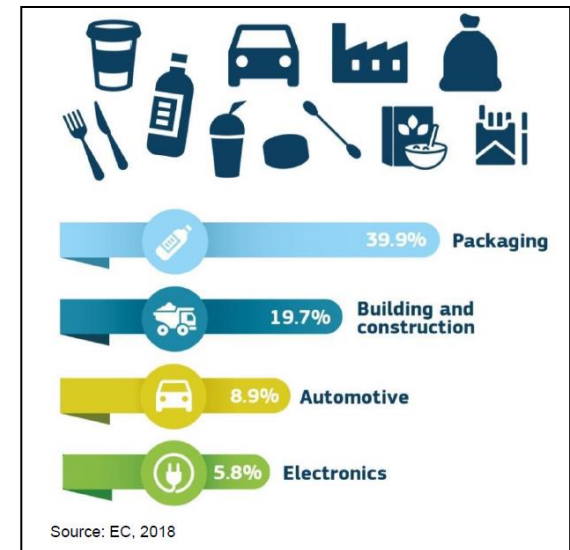


BUT ...30 years later: where are we?

Despite EPR schemes...



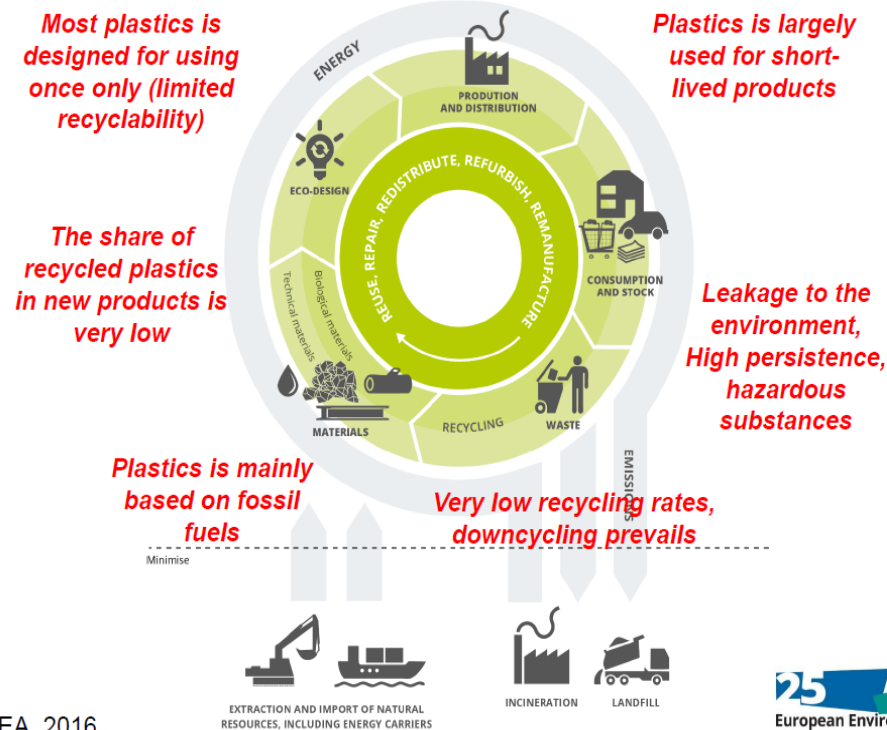
Source: Ellen Mc Arthur foundation



BUT ...30 years later: where are we?

Despite EPR schemes...

2019-20: Plastics in the circular economy (EEA report)



Source: adapted from EEA, 2016

30 years later: where are we?

EPR gives good results in terms of:

- collection and recycling rates
- Cost coverage

EPR schemes often suffer from a lack of transparency, a lack of governance

EPR schemes have few “eco-design measures” (eco-modulation of fees applied in several packaging EPR schemes) but no strong results in term of eco-design

30 years later: Hopes in the EU...

The Waste Framework Directive sets an obligation for collective schemes to modulate the financial contributions paid by producers for their individual products or groups of similar products, taking into account their **durability, reparability, re-usability** and recyclability and the presence of hazardous substances, **thereby taking a life-cycle approach.**



- the 'eco-modulation' of producers' fees paid to EPR schemes with the view to rewarding producers designing electrical and electronic equipment which can be easily dismantled and recycled;
- The new **Battery directive** includes a **complete product life cycle approach**
- The SUP directive includes **“prevention policy” cost** to be beared by EPR schemes

30 years later: where are we?

EPR is not about putting moral blame on producers

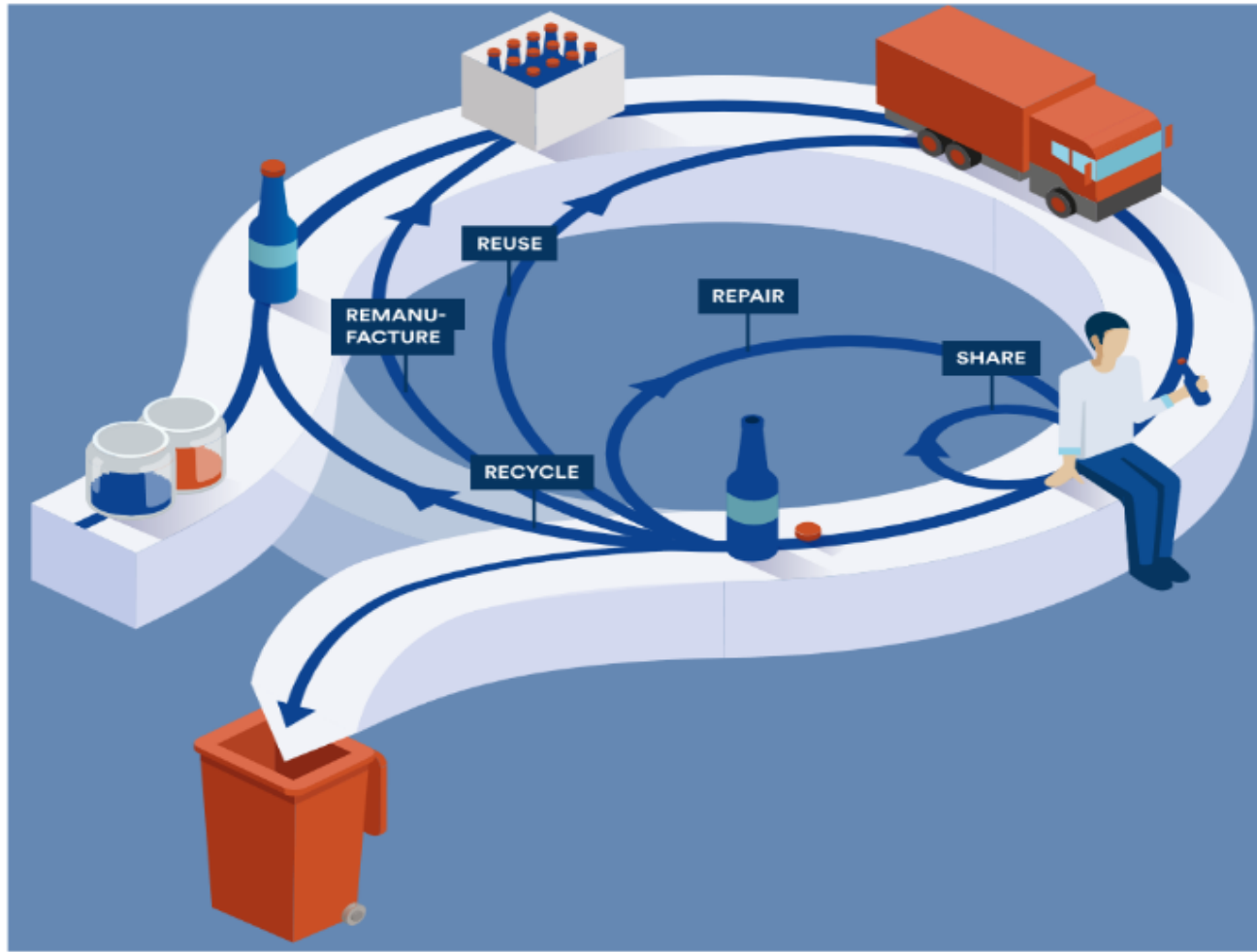
EPR is about finding effective and efficient solutions to problems

Responsibilities should be allocated so that problems are addressed in the best way

The **one who can change** should be given responsibility (= **producers**) and incentives for change

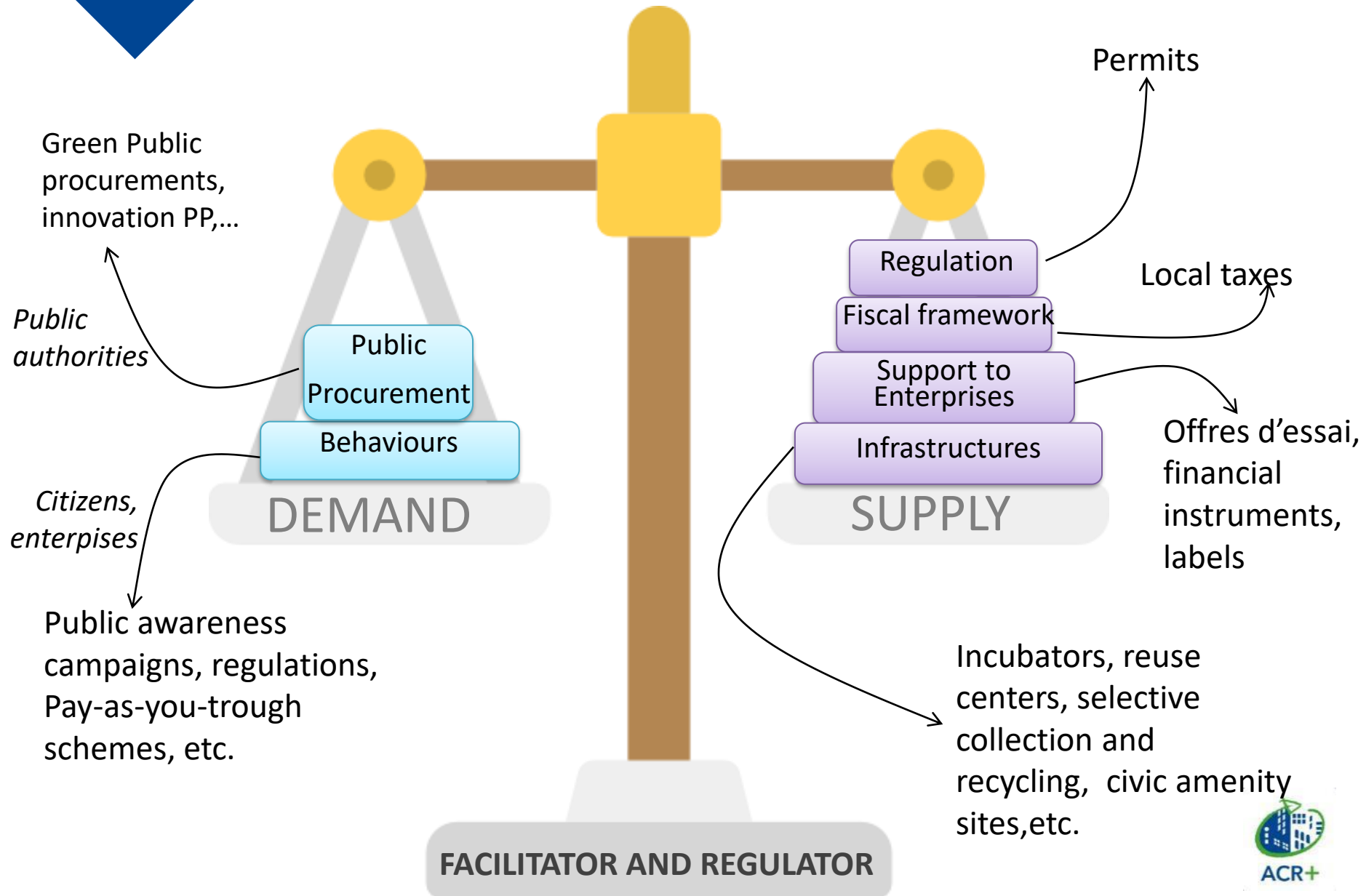
→ The Green Deal and the new CEAP focus on an **EU sustainable product policy**

H2025/2030: towards sustainable products



EPR principle which is an application of the “polluter pays principle” must be the driver, supported by a diversity of measures including bans of toxic content, right to repair, to reuse...

Decentralised authorities and circular economy: Which role ?



Which role for LRAs: fruit for thought

Take the lead (to ensure sustainable consumption and production)

Ensure the right Governance and regulatory framework with long term strategies

Make citizens / consumers to care and participate

Make prevention THE priority of your strategy

Make recycling and recovery more attractive than landfilling and incineration



Thank you!

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