

# **Problems & policy options: Sectors, pollutants and parameters**

E-PRTR Revision Impact Assessment

1<sup>st</sup> Stakeholder Workshop – 15 December 2020

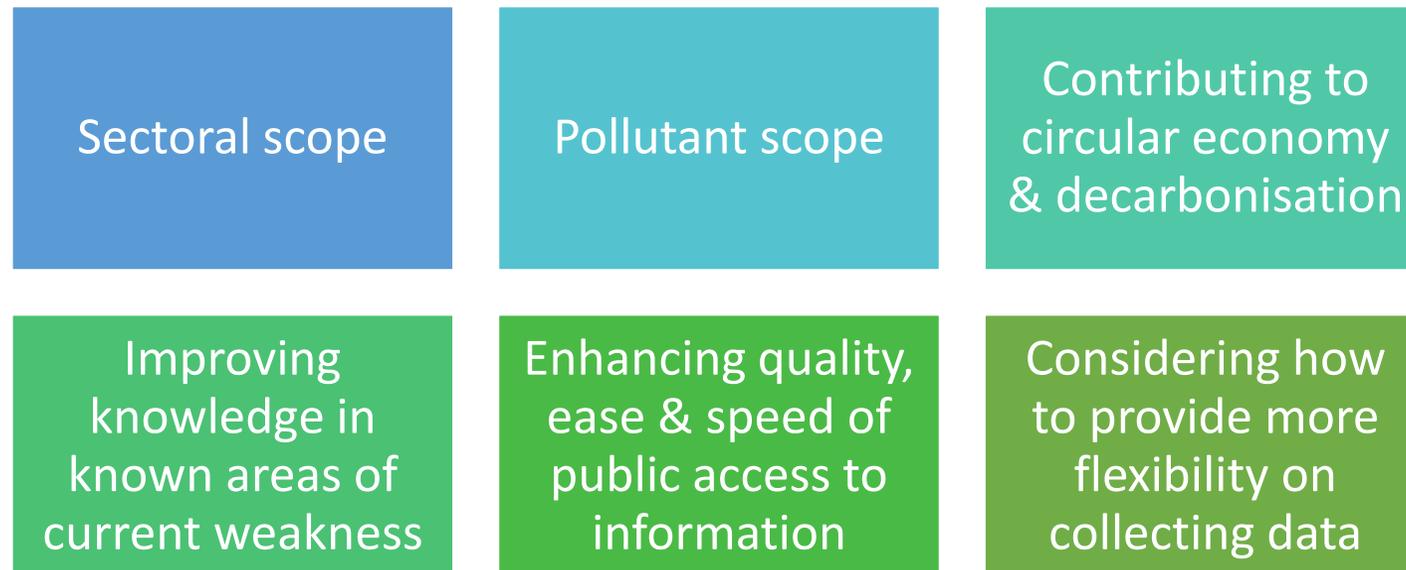
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# Agenda

- Introduction
- Inclusion of additional sectors
- Inclusion of additional pollutants and their thresholds
- Contribution to the circular economy
- Interaction with decarbonisation of industry

# Introduction

- 2017 evaluation of E-PRTR showed that the framework is fit for purpose... but a number of areas for improvement identified.
- Further investigated as part of 2020 review of E-PRTR implementation.
  - Reinforced by 2020 evaluation of the IED.



# Introduction

- Problems relatively well defined.
- Range of policy options to be considered – alignment with IED revision.

1. Sectors		2. Pollutants / parameters		3. Reporting modalities & access to information	
Existing scope	No change - baseline	Existing scope	No change - baseline	Existing approaches	No change - baseline
	Lower or no activity thresholds for specific sectors / groups of sectors		Lower or no reporting thresholds for specific pollutants / groups of pollutants	Top-down reporting	Selected sectors
New sectors	Different sectors	New pollutants / parameters	Different pollutants / parameters	Access to information	e.g. changes to website.
	Different activity thresholds		Different reporting thresholds	Other	e.g. advanced digital technologies

# Inclusion of additional sectors

- E-PRTR original aim → to capture 90% of industrial releases for each pollutant
- Some significant sources may not be covered by current scope in Annex I:
  - Not captured at all e.g. intensive cattle rearing (also linkages with IED revision).
  - Captured but with capacity threshold that may limit coverage e.g. combustion plants, UWWTPs
- Need for improved alignment with related EU policy – IED, MCPD, UWWTD.
  - Current scope (activities and thresholds), exact sector and sub-sector definitions e.g. magnesium oxide
  - Potential future scope – in particular, IED revision will look at wide range of activity scope extensions.

## • Policy options:

- Existing sectors – changes in activity thresholds
- New sectors – with or without activity thresholds

# Inclusion of additional pollutants and their thresholds

- Annex II of the E-PRTR largely in line with Annex II of IED
  - Reflects 2006 understanding of main environmental issues associated with Annex I activities → new pollutants and environmental issues have risen in prominence since then.
  - No provision for dynamic adaptation / updating of annexes.
- Other pollutants of interest are addressed by other EU environmental legislation and international conventions
  - Need for improving coherence with other EU legislation (e.g. IED BREFs / BATC, WFD, UWWTD).
  - Increasing in priority due to the European Green Deal, zero-pollution ambition and chemicals strategy for sustainability.
- Other issues identified related to pollutant grouping (e.g. PFCs), specific reporting thresholds (to ensure 90% capture).

# Inclusion of additional pollutants and their thresholds

- Reporting thresholds

- Thresholds originally defined in 2003.
- Analysis identified around half of pollutants have thresholds restrictive enough to capture 90% of emissions – sufficient data available to suggest that thresholds should be lowered for 11 air pollutants and 14 water pollutants.

- Policy options:

- Additional pollutants for inclusion (linkages to any extension of sectoral scope).
- Disaggregating existing pollutant groups.
- Lowering reporting thresholds to improve capture of industrial sources.
- Inclusion of a more dynamic mechanism to identify and include emerging pollutants of concern (“sunrise list”).
- Removing pollutants that are no longer relevant (“sunset list”).

# Contribution to the circular economy

- European Green Deal commits COM to revise EU measures to address industrial pollution:
  - Make them more consistent with climate, energy and circular economy policies.
  - Contributing towards zero pollution agenda.
- E-PRTR – in combination with related legislation e.g. IED – has untapped potential for contributing to the EU's CE objectives
  - May be benefit in reporting of additional data on resource consumption e.g. use of energy, water, raw materials.
  - Linkages with options under consideration in IED revision e.g. BAT-AEPLs related to resource consumption

## • Policy options

- Reporting of additional data on resource consumption, reporting composition of waste transfers

# Interaction with decarbonisation of industry

- No direct impacts that will decarbonise EU industry...
- But potential to contribute to wider decarbonisation efforts
  - Improved data availability
  - Linkages to potential reporting of energy and wider resource use
  - Establishment of agreed units and metrics for reporting production volumes (work ongoing) should help normalise the data and aid benchmarking of facilities

## • Policy options:

- Reporting of additional data on resource consumption.
- Disaggregated reporting of some specific GHGs (e.g. HFCs, PFCs) or CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.



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