

EU Waste Legislation: A wasted opportunity?

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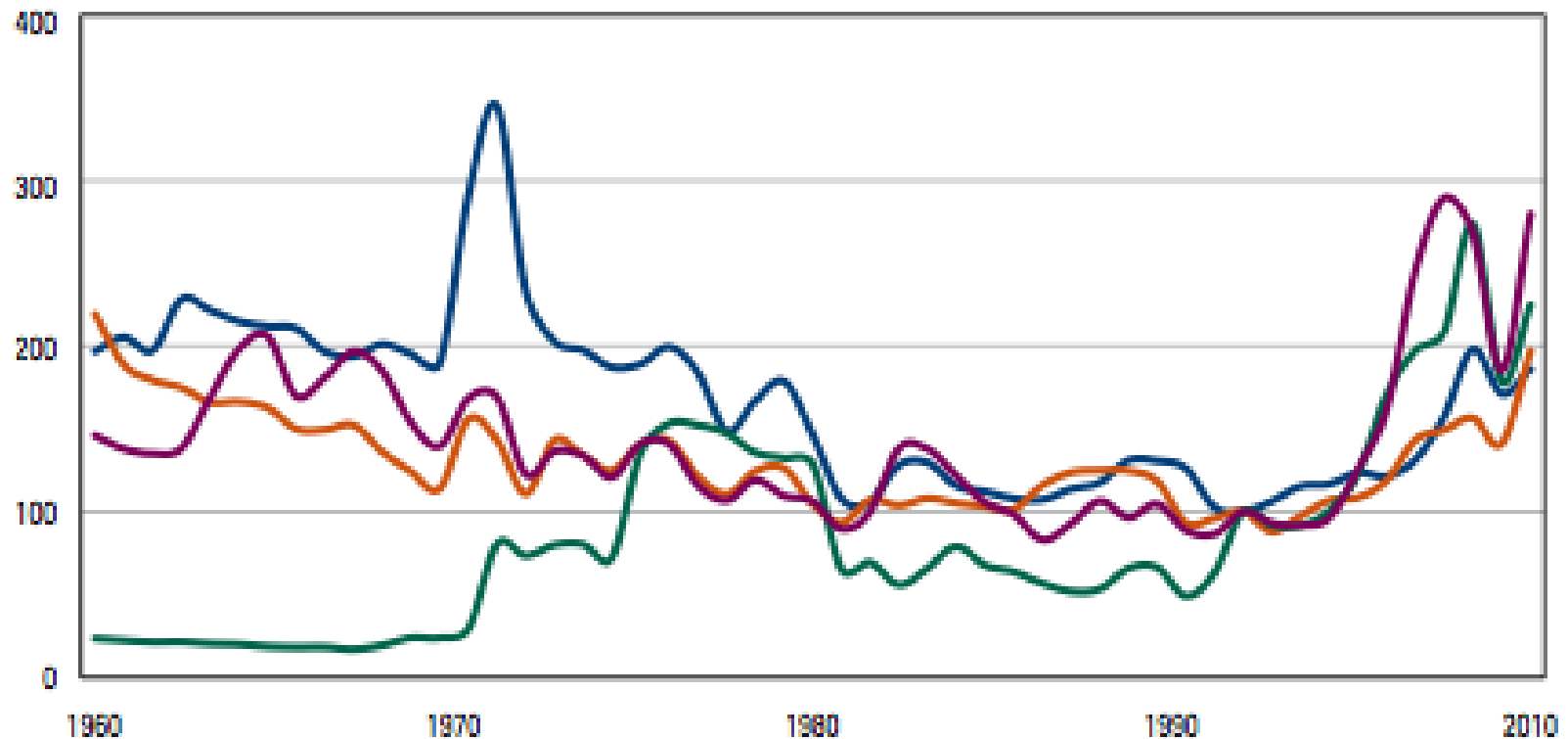
March 2013



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Price index
(real year 2000 US\$)
2000=100

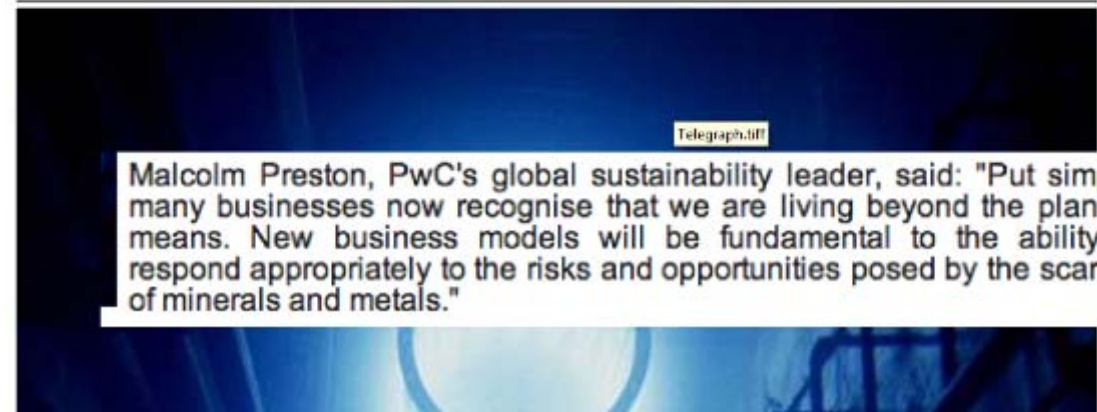
- Food
- Raw materials
- Energy
- Metals and minerals (including iron ore)



Source: World Bank Commodity Price Data (Pink Sheet), historical price data, available from <http://blogs.worldbank.org/prospects/global-commodity-watch-march-2011>

Rare earth metal shortage a 'ticking time-bomb'

A "ticking time-bomb" looms over several core manufacturing industries, experts have warned, due to a growing shortage of "rare earth" metals.



The corporate scramble for Africa

If it continues to be business as usual in Africa, it could set the stage for Resource Conflict 2.0.

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Bill Clinton: cutting use of natural resources would help US economy

Former president says US would recover faster from financial crises if more effort was made to use resources sustainably

Africa's mineral wealth hardly denting poverty levels, says World Bank

Report finds discovery of oil and mineral resources doing little to improve prospects for poor people, whose lot may even worsen

10.36 BST



Global fight for natural resources 'has only just begun'

Academics and business figures gave a grim warning at the Resource 2012 conference, but defended the Rio+20 outcomes

Fiona Harvey, environment correspondent
guardian.co.uk, Thursday 12 July 2012 16.52 BST

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Call for urgent action over burning and throwing valuable materials in landfill

Government urged to impose bans to stop waste of natural resources as survey finds UK dumps materials worth £650m

Exploiting the urban gold mine – a comparison

Re

Primary production

≈ **5 g/t Au** in ore

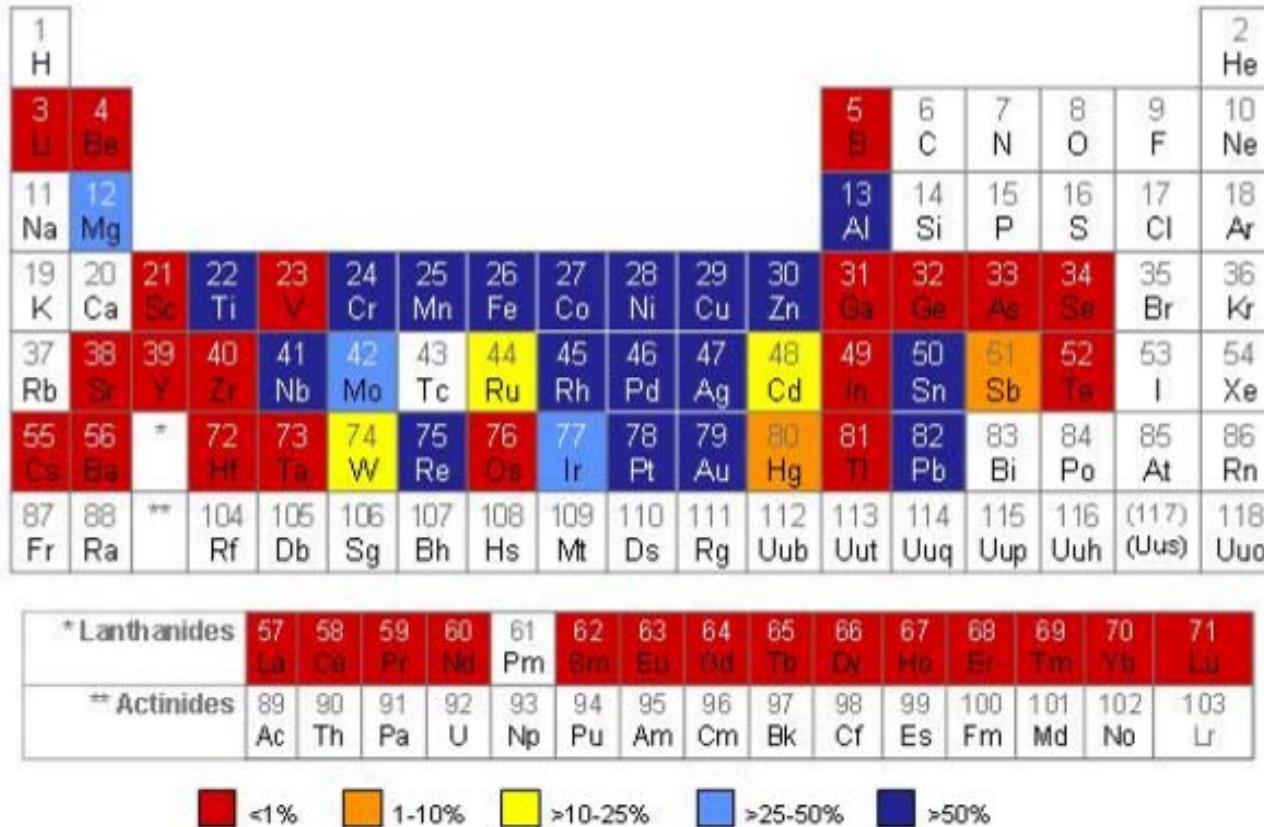


Secondary production

≈ **250 g/t Au** in computer circuit boards



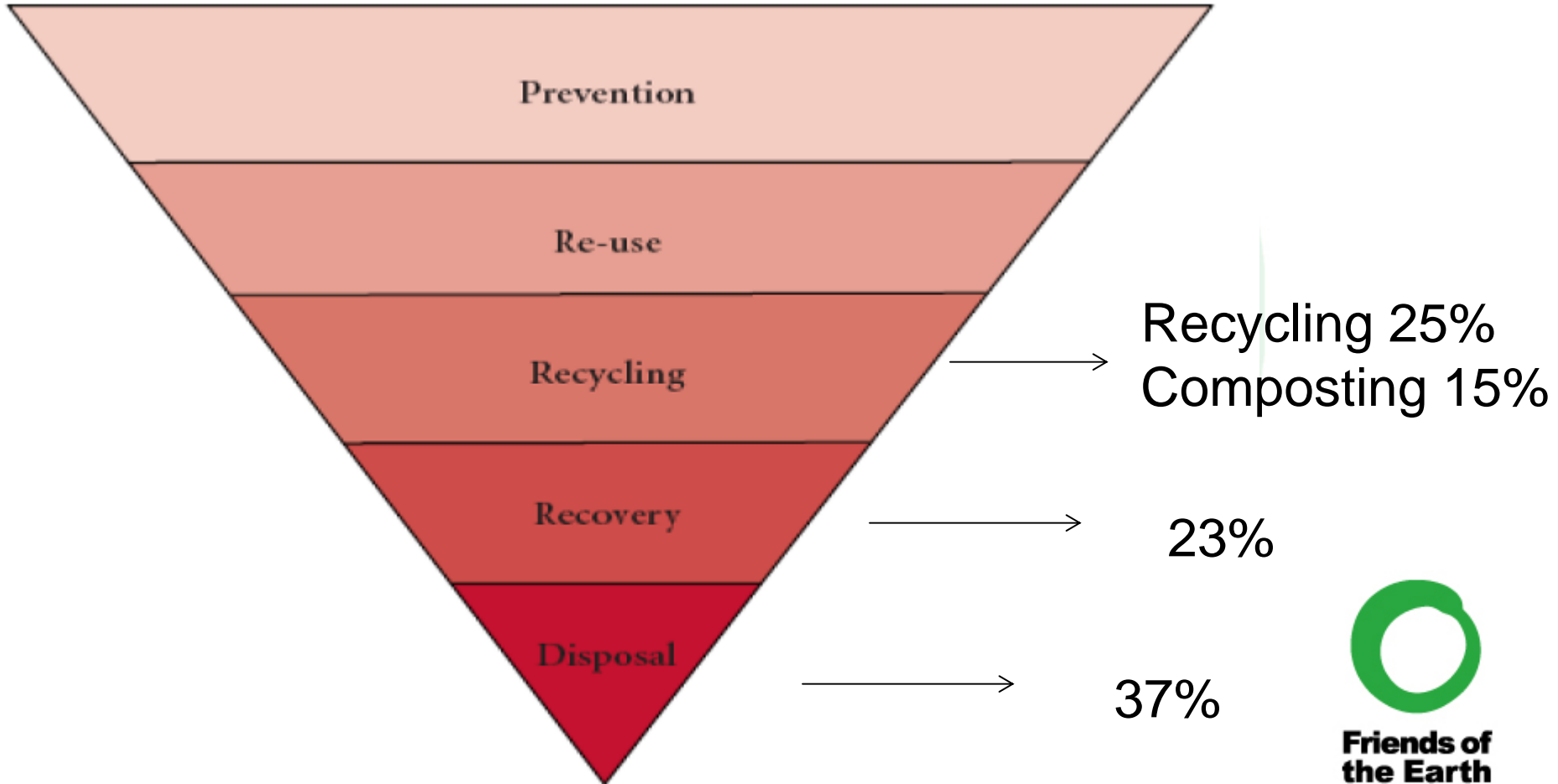
Average end-of-life functional recycling



Source: UNEP, 2011



Municipal waste treatment EU27, 2011



Source: Eurostat, 2013

What are the OPPORTUNITIES at the EU level?

○ **Roadmap to a resource-efficient Europe**

- Ongoing debate – final policy recommendations before summer
- European Resource Efficiency Platform

○ **7th Environmental Action Plan (7EAP)**

- Currently in Parliament
- Plenary vote in June

○ **Revision of the Waste Framework Directive in 2014**

○ **Revision of Packaging Directive in 2014**

○ **Programming of EU Funds, 2014-2020**



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We need to move up the waste hierarchy

○ Prevention and preparation for reuse targets

- Flanders 150kg per person target

○ Recycling targets

- Time for an increase!
- Include biowaste
- Quality of recycling

○ Waste prevention plans

- Not only municipal waste
- Top down meet bottom up



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Stop landfill and incineration by 2020

- **Introduce a landfill and incineration ban for non-recyclable materials by 2020**

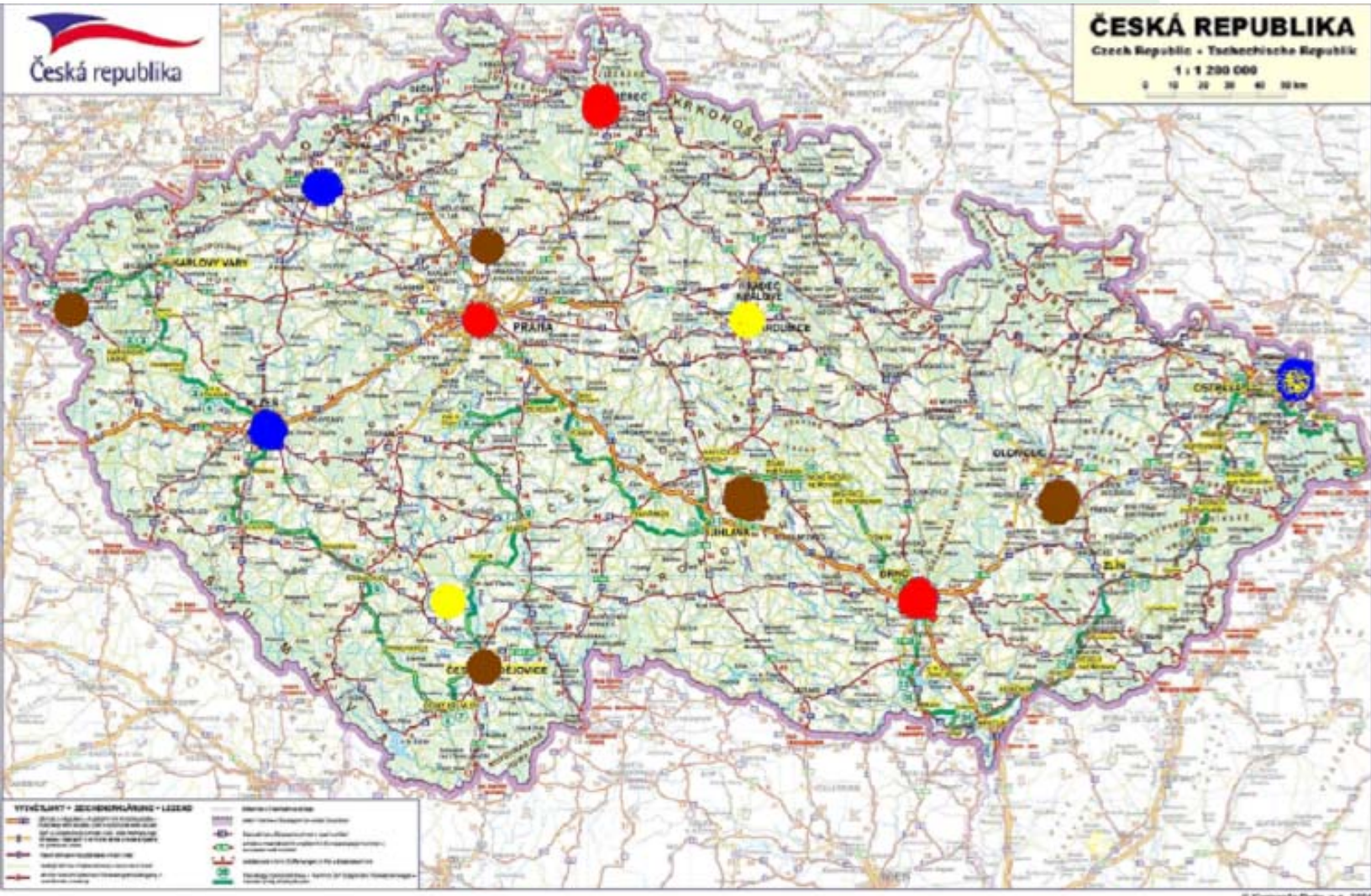


Picture: Greenpeace



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Stop funding incinerators with EU money



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Priorities for European legislation

- **Move to a Resource-Efficient Europe - operate at the top of the waste hierarchy**
- **We have a current legislative framework that is not allowing us to do that – see latest Eurostat figures**
- **BUT we have some opportunities ahead**

What are we waiting for?



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Thank you

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