

EU Environmental Footprint final conference – the future of environmental footprint 25 April 2018

Outcome and way forward

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Photo : A. Bouissou/Terra



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Outcome and way forward (OEF)

- Experiment was difficult and complex, only few OEFSRs
- Lack of operational feedback, but lot of conceptual and engineering feed back
 - Capitalize more on existing approaches (e.g. ISO standards, national regulations and methods, current practices such as the GHG protocol and UN Env. Recommendations)
 - Better link PEF and OEF approaches
- A lot still needs to be done if OEF is to be used in public policies but OEF does offer a potential in public policies, eg :
 - EMAS (life-cycle approach better integrated since last revision)
 - Extra-financial reporting

Outcome (PEF)

- Good overall **credibility**:
 - Science-based, robust overall approach
 - Significant investment by private and public actors
- **PEF Guidance & PEFCRs**: a necessary step towards harmonization
 - **PEF Guidance/ Guide**: a step beyond ISO, with innovative progress on several methodological aspects (Functional Unit, Representative Product, Benchmarks, Data Quality, etc.)
 - **PEFCRs**: still an overall heterogeneous quality, a first step towards harmonization
- **Common understanding Building**: for a certain number of sectors and countries not yet involved in such approaches, the EF pilot allowed a great capacity and awareness improvement. Good sector and cross-sector cooperation.
- **Communication**: some interesting tests, need for a lot more
- **Verification**: the proposed process is very demanding. Still needs to be tested to know more about its costs, its feasibility for SMEs, etc.



The way forward for PEF

- Given the significant investment by private and public actors in EF pilots, we expect for a pay back :
 - Continue PEF development
 - Use PEF in public policies

- Continue PEF development. Improvements needed in order to make PEF a key tool for EU SCP policies :
 - Improvement of the database and its governance
 - Need to increase the scope of products / sectors covered by PEF-OEF
 - Need to make PEF accessible to SMEs

The way forward for PEF

- France willing to help and continue to contribute (on-going pilot in France with 5 voluntary sectors : textile, furniture, retail/food, electric and electronic, hotels)
- PEF rules should remain open up to a certain point : pioneers should be able to remain a driving force, but expecting standardization.
- No need to wait for PEF to be comprehensive or « perfect » to start using it for upcoming EU policies developments (for instance, test it in upcoming EU Ecolabel revisions when valid PEFCRs are available)
- PEF can become a key instrument for products environmental information in EU with possible applications in existing and / or new policies (EU Ecolabel, green claim control, green public procurement, Ecodesign directive, ...)



THANK YOU



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