



# *Fitness Check of environmental reporting*

European Commission  
Directorate General for Environment  
Unit F.1 – Sustainable Development Goals, Green  
Finance & Economic Analysis  
Unit E.4 – Compliance & Better Regulation

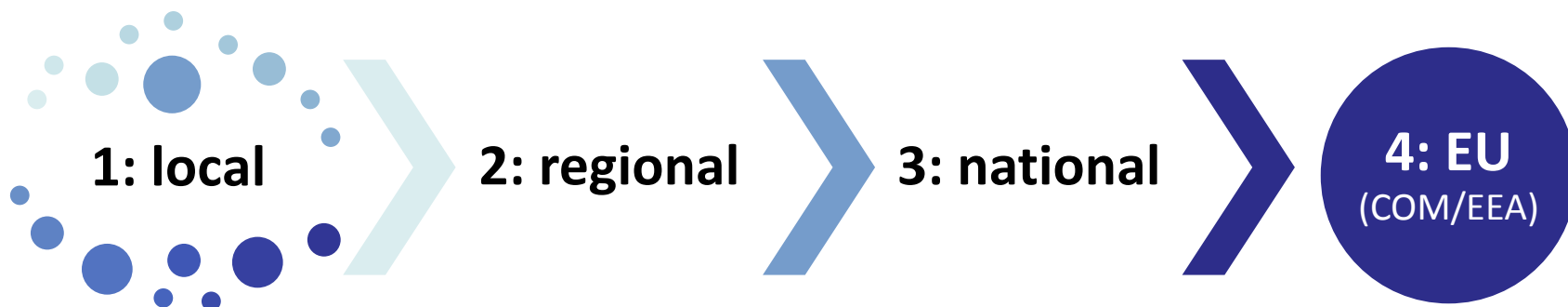


Information used to report...

To the public (active dissemination)

To international organisations (e.g. UN)

To European Parliament / Council



assessments (at national and EU level)

implementation of legislation

Information used to support ...

Monitoring  
(env. data at national level)



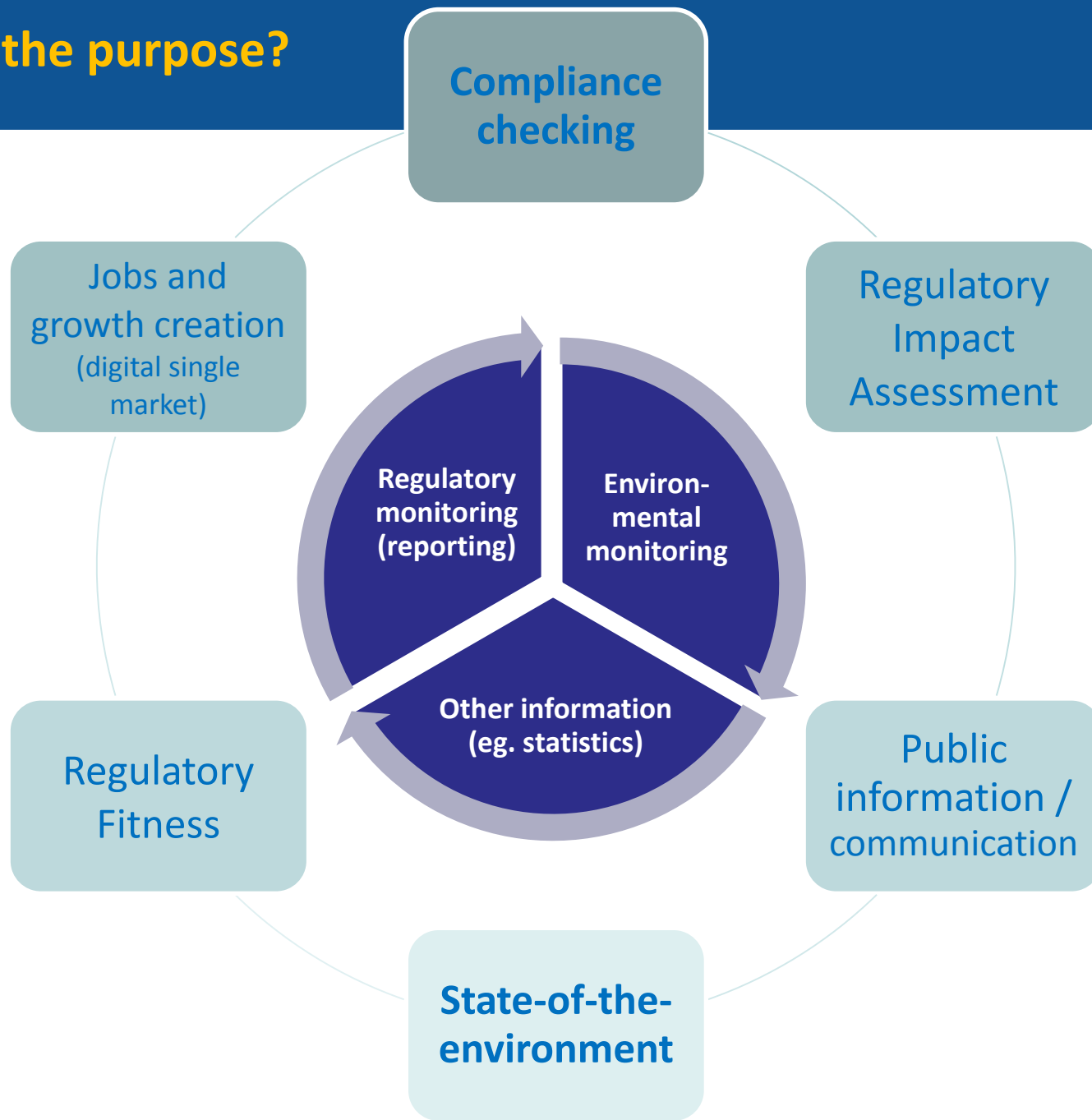
Reporting  
Scope of Fitness Check



Monitoring  
(regulatory at EU level)



# What is the purpose?





# Key numbers



**64**

**pieces of DG Environment legislation screened**

**58**

**pieces of environment legislation evaluated**

**181**

**reporting obligations identified**

**78**

**reporting obligations which result in  
a Commission report**





# Evidence base

## Support for the Fitness Check of Environmental Monitoring and Reporting -

Annex 1 - Final Inventory.xlsx - Microsoft Excel

File Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Developer

Clipboard Font Alignment Number Conditional Formatting Format as Table Styles Cells Editing

D14 Information on Ambient Air Quality

Screening inventory for monitoring and reporting obligations and processes in EU environment legislation

Please select the cells you want to sort:

- Sort by: A-Z, Z-A, Top values, Bottom values, Smallest to largest, Largest to smallest, Color, Cell icon, Cell background color, Cell text color, Cell font color, Cell font size, Cell font style, Cell font weight, Cell font italic, Cell font underline, Cell font strikeout, Cell font color, Cell font size, Cell font style, Cell font weight, Cell font italic, Cell font underline, Cell font strikeout.

Row	Column	Cell Content	Cell Background Color
1	A	Row 1, Column A	Light Green
2	A	Row 2, Column A	Light Green
3	A	Row 3, Column A	Light Green
4	A	Row 4, Column A	Light Green
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Guidance MAIN INVENTORY Summary statistics 1 Summary statistics 2 Statistics - COM reports Statistics - Delays Key Performance Indicators Overview of secondary leg. Secondary leg. AQD Secondary leg. IED Secondary leg. Nitrates D. Drol

Ready

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The benefits, such as improved and more targeted implementation and better public information, greatly outweigh the costs.



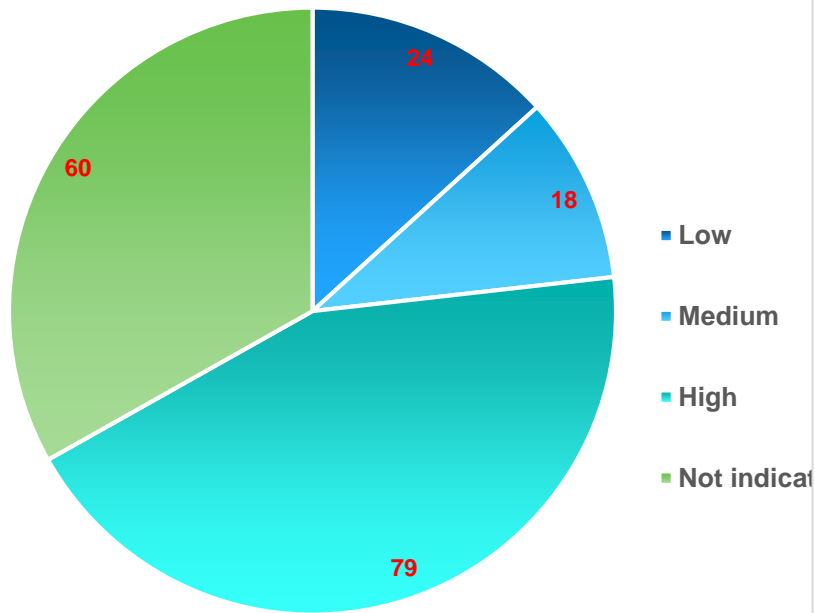


# Usefulness of reporting

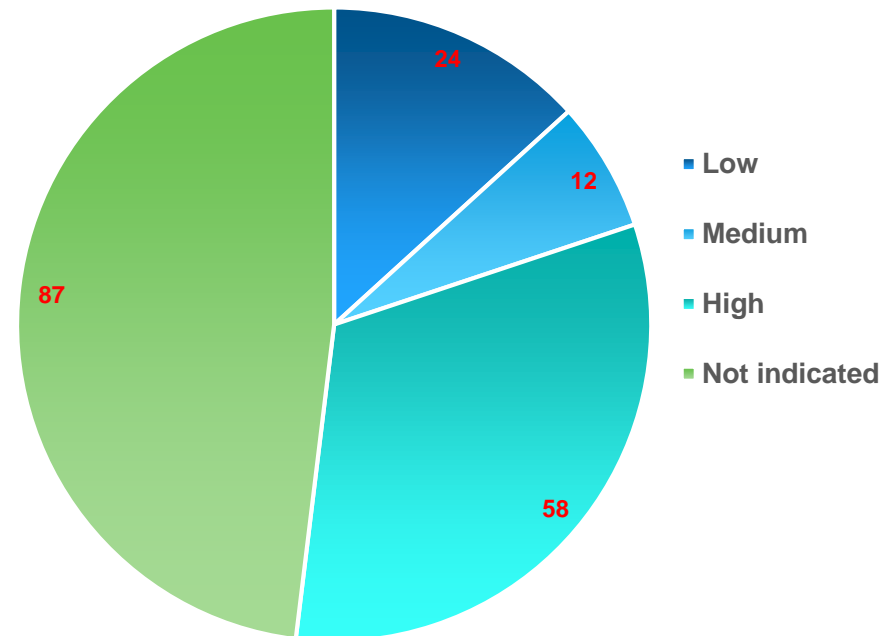
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- Usefulness of some reports questioned
- Outdated nature of reports as one of the reasons
- Some COM proposals address these issue to some extent

Usefulness of reporting requirements



Usefulness of the COM report

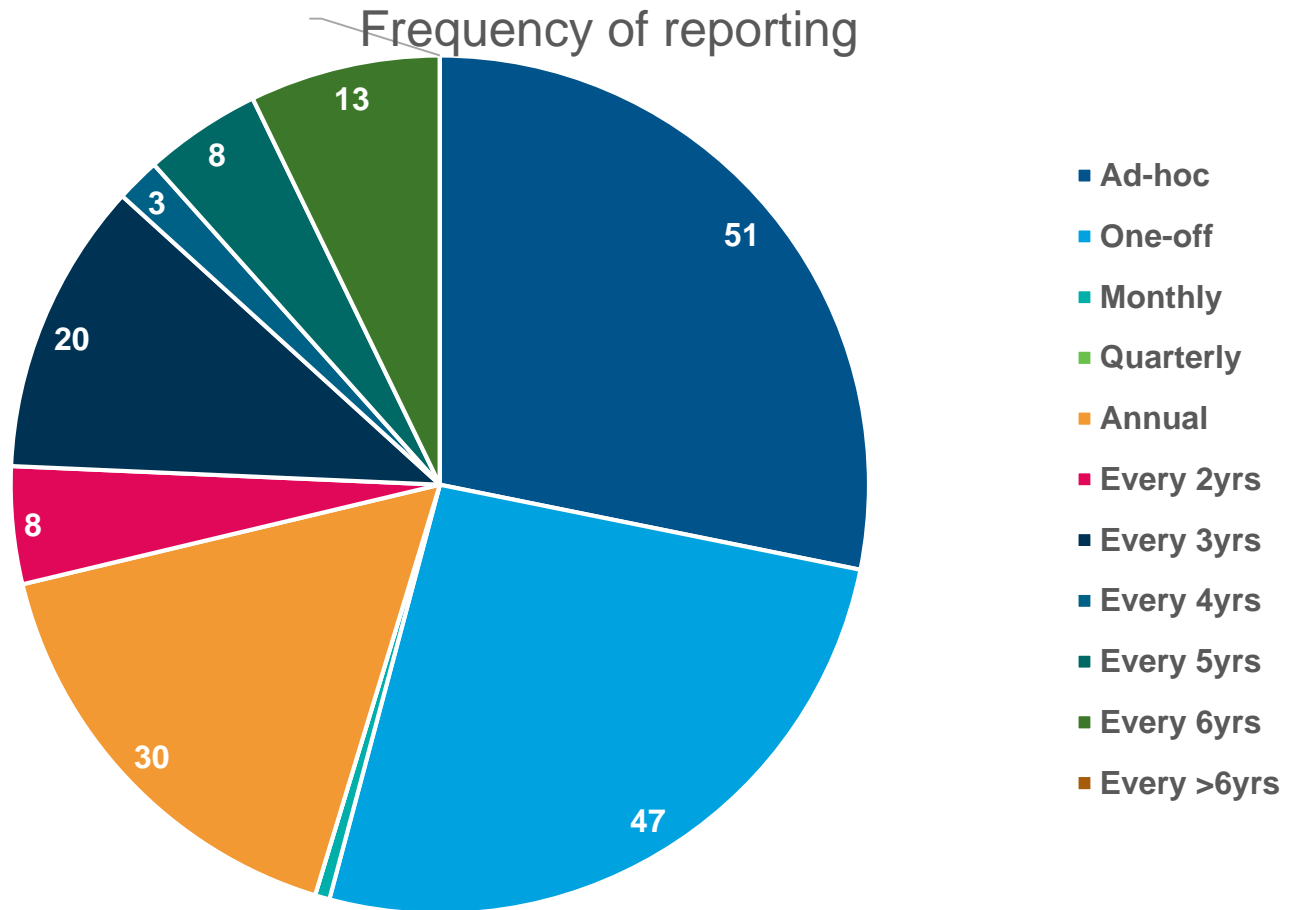




# Inventory results: timing of reporting

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- **83 ROs** required the Member States to **regularly** report to the Commission while **98** of the ROs were either **one-off or ad-hoc requirements**.

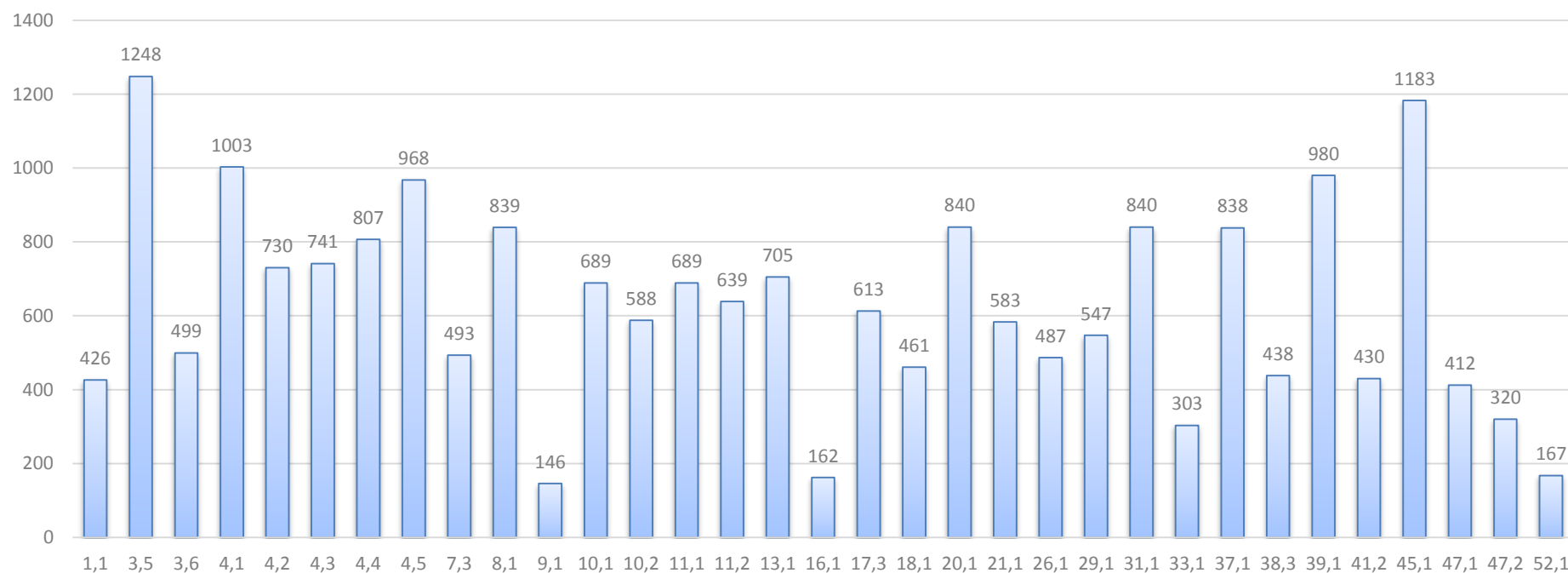




# Inventory results: ROs linked to EC reporting (continued)

- For 33 ROs (out of the 78) information was available on the dates of the most recent Commission report and the deadlines of those Member State reports on which these Commission reports were based on. With these figures the number days that elapsed between these two dates were calculated.
- The **average time was 630 days**.
- Caveats: MS reports delayed, complexity of information, additional analysis by EC.

Number of days elapsed between COM report and deadline for MS report





## Some aggregated findings



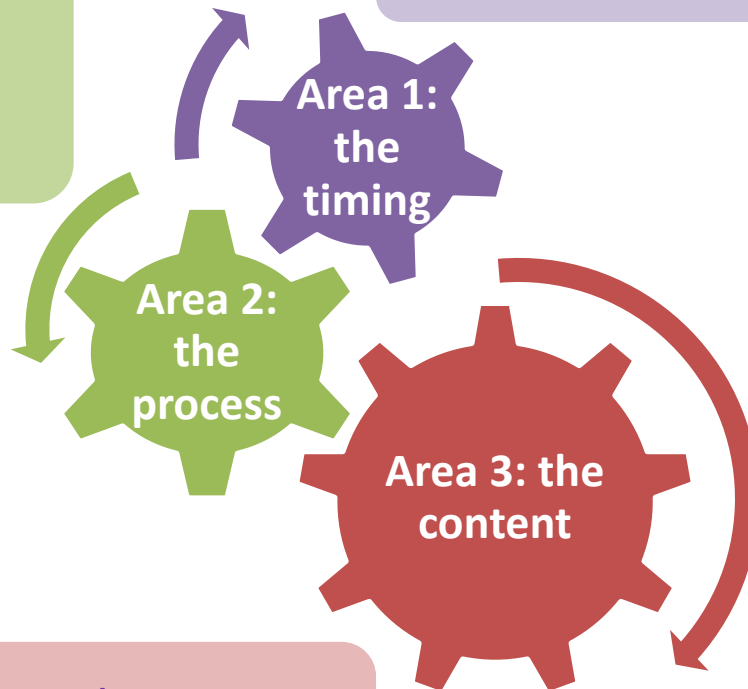
Issue	Percentage
<b><u>Amendment of legislation already proposed</u></b> by the Commission which streamlines reporting (linked to legislation)	16 %
Reporting issues were identified which <b><u>may require legislative amendments</u></b> (linked to legislation)	12 %
Reporting which includes <b><u>best practice examples</u></b> (linked to legislation)	19 %
Reporting which is considered of <b><u>high usefulness</u></b> (linked to reporting obligations)	39 %
Reporting which is considered of <b><u>low usefulness</u></b> (linked to reporting obligations)	9 %
Reporting where the <b><u>use of indicators</u></b> could be improved (linked to legislation, based on screening analysis)	86 %
Reporting which relies mainly on <b><u>textual information</u></b> (linked to reporting obligations)	76 %
Reporting where <b><u>external coherence</u></b> could be improved (linked to legislation, based on stakeholder feedback)	29 %
Reporting where the <b><u>delays are significant</u></b> (linked to 78 reporting obligations which are linked to Commission reports)	27 %



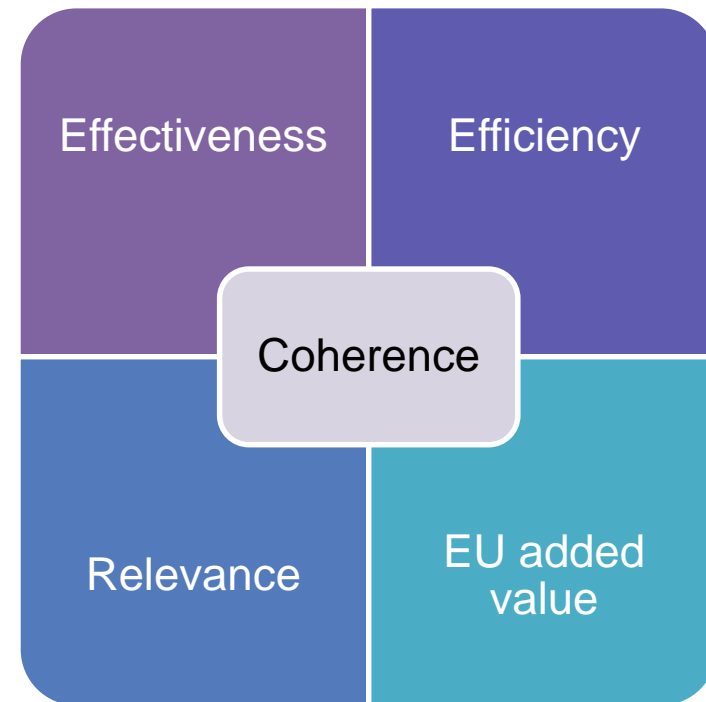
Efficiency gains through

- automisation
- harmonisation
- centralisation

- Lower frequency of reporting
- Better synchronisation

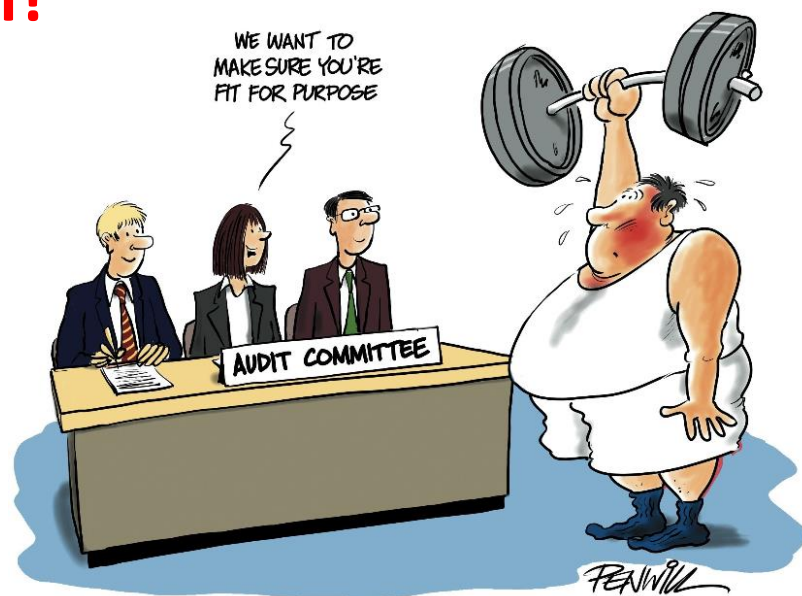


- Less data requested
- Ensure key performance Indicators
- Less text more automatised data





Overall fit-for-purpose but....  
improvements possible  
through a more **common approach**  
building on **best practices** – **what do we  
need and when?**





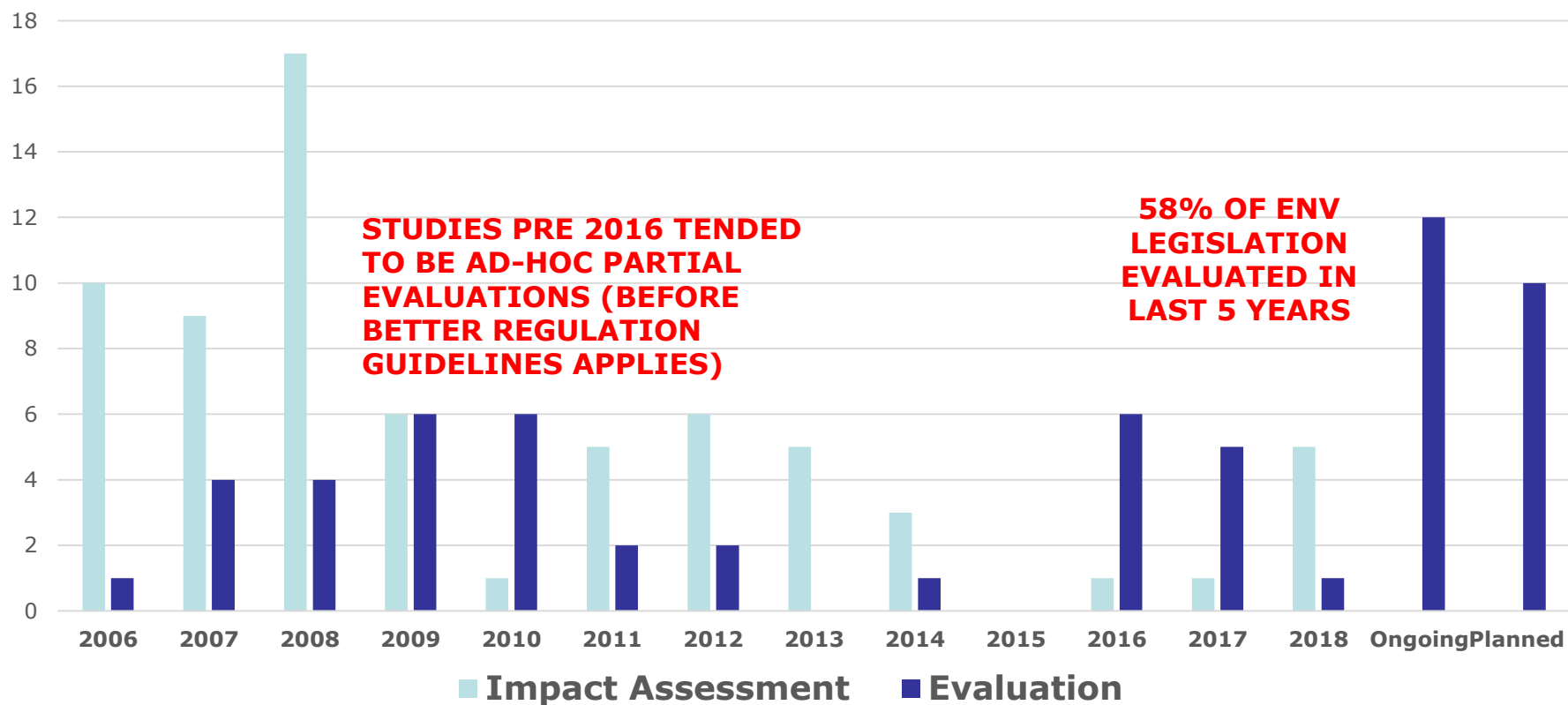


- **Member States happiest to share data eg on state of environment**
- **Member States less willing to share data on costs and benefits**
  - **don't know costs and benefits of their own policies?**
  - **won't share it?**





## DG Environment: Shift to evaluation





## *Streamlining Actions (1)*

**Getting the right information in the right form at the right time**

**Action 1: Legislative amendments to reporting obligations**

**Action 2: Assess and change reporting obligations as part of a rolling programme**





## *Streamlining Actions (2)*

### **Streamlining the reporting process**

- **Action 3: Modernise eReporting including through a more advanced Reportnet**
  - **Led by European Environment Agency**
- **Action 4: Develop and test tools for data harvesting at EU level**

### **Promotion of active dissemination of environmental information at national level**

- **Action 5: Develop guidance and promote best practices for European and national environmental information systems including better access to data in easy-to- understand ways**
- **Action 6: Promote full implementation of the INSPIRE Directive, giving priority to datasets most relevant for the implementation and reporting of EU environmental legislation**
  - **INSPIRE Work Programme 2017-2020 addresses these issues (through eReporting action 2016.5)**





## *Streamlining Actions (3)*

### **Exploiting other data sources and alternative approaches complementing environmental reporting**

- **Action 7: Making better use of data generated through the Copernicus programme**
- **Action 8: Promote the wider use of citizen science to complement environmental reporting**

### **Improving coherence and cooperation**

- **Action 9: Improve cooperation in the sharing and use of data**
- **Action 10: Strengthen cooperation with relevant international organisations to streamline reporting and information management between the EU level and the international level**





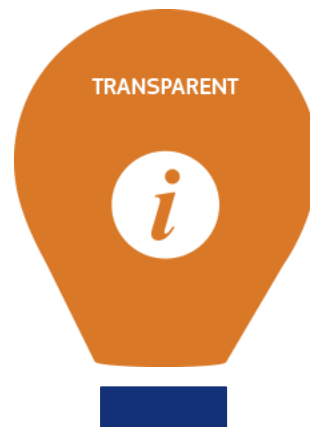
Results of the Fitness Check published at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/reporting/fc\\_overview\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/reporting/fc_overview_en.htm)





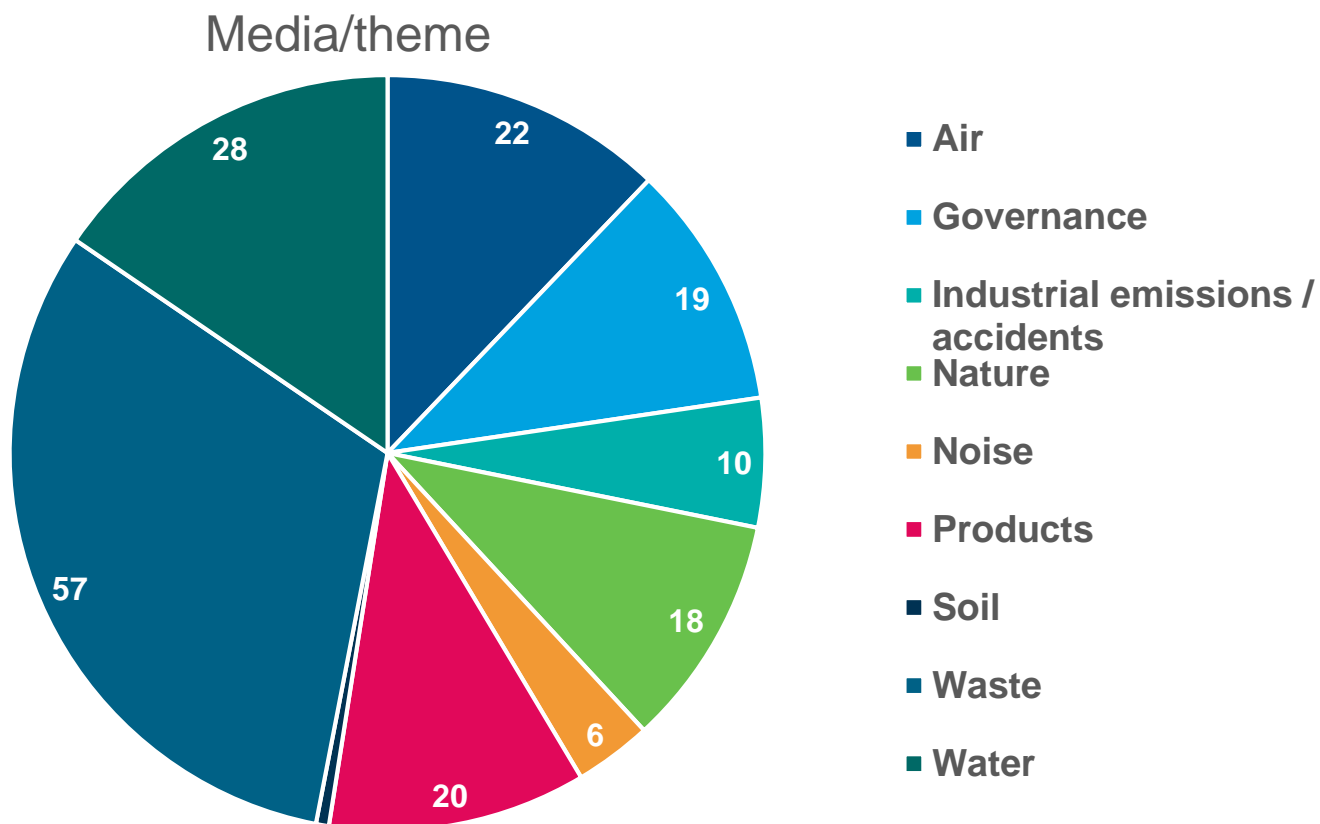
**Additional slides in case of questions**





# Inventory results: media/theme

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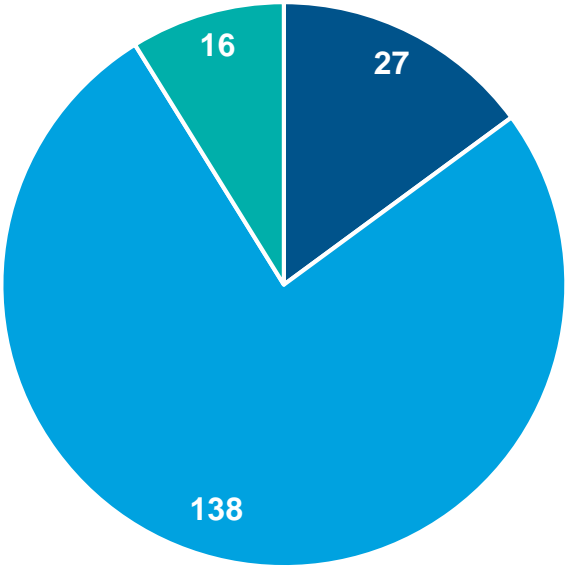
■ **Note on media/theme:**

- Largest category relates to waste, water is second.



# Inventory results: information type and DPSIR category

Type of information

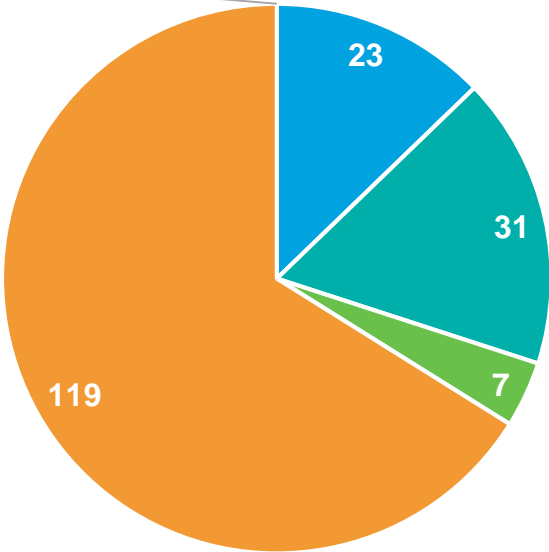


■ Numerical ■ Text ■ Geospatial

- **Note on primary DPSIR category:**
  - EEA’s DPSIR framework was used.
  - To simplify, for each RO we assigned a primary DPSIR category.

- **Note on format requirements:**
  - For the majority there is no format requirement but for some ROs information was not available on this (see ‘not indicated’)

Primary DPSIR category



■ Driver ■ Pressure ■ State ■ Impact ■ Response

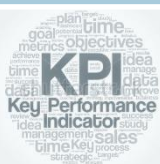


# The ideal reporting?



## Better results

- Define products at the start (eg. maps, indicators, tables, statistics, etc.)
- Reduce textual information



## Better indicators

- Output, outcome and impact indicators
- Two tier approach -risk based reporting



## Efficient process / less time

- Use streamlined process (if possible EEA services)
- Reusable tools and solutions, e.g. dashboards



## More country knowledge (at EU level)

- Produce country fiches
- Link to national information systems



## Better national (regional and local) information

- Encourage national authorities to publish more data
- Enforce INSPIRE directive (list of priority datasets)