



# Product Environmental Footprint for the Poultry/Eggs sector

CDG ON ANIMAL PRODUCTION – POULTRY AND EGGS

*DG Environment, European Commission*

# A PEFCR for the egg sector?

## Comments from stakeholders:

- A number of countries using Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) to calculate the carbon footprint of eggs
- Different methodologies/assumptions chosen, making comparisons across the EU impossible and increasing inaccurate/unfair competition.
- The egg sector would like to work on a PEFCR (Product Environmental Footprint Category rules) for eggs.
- Costs associated with developing a PEFCR are currently too high (1 million euros)

## Questions to the EC:

1. How to develop a PEFCR for eggs? Is the PEFCR system currently being adjusted to make it more attractive for smaller product categories, like eggs.
2. Could the EU play a facilitating role in aligning the efforts currently made by individual countries to come to a PEFCR for the egg sector?

# Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)



Standardised by norms ISO 14040/44,  
LCA aims to avoid problem shifting

BUT



Same product



Different results

- background data
- impact assessment
- modelling (e.g. EoL)
- interpretation

- Harmonized rules and data are needed to ensure reliability and comparability of information

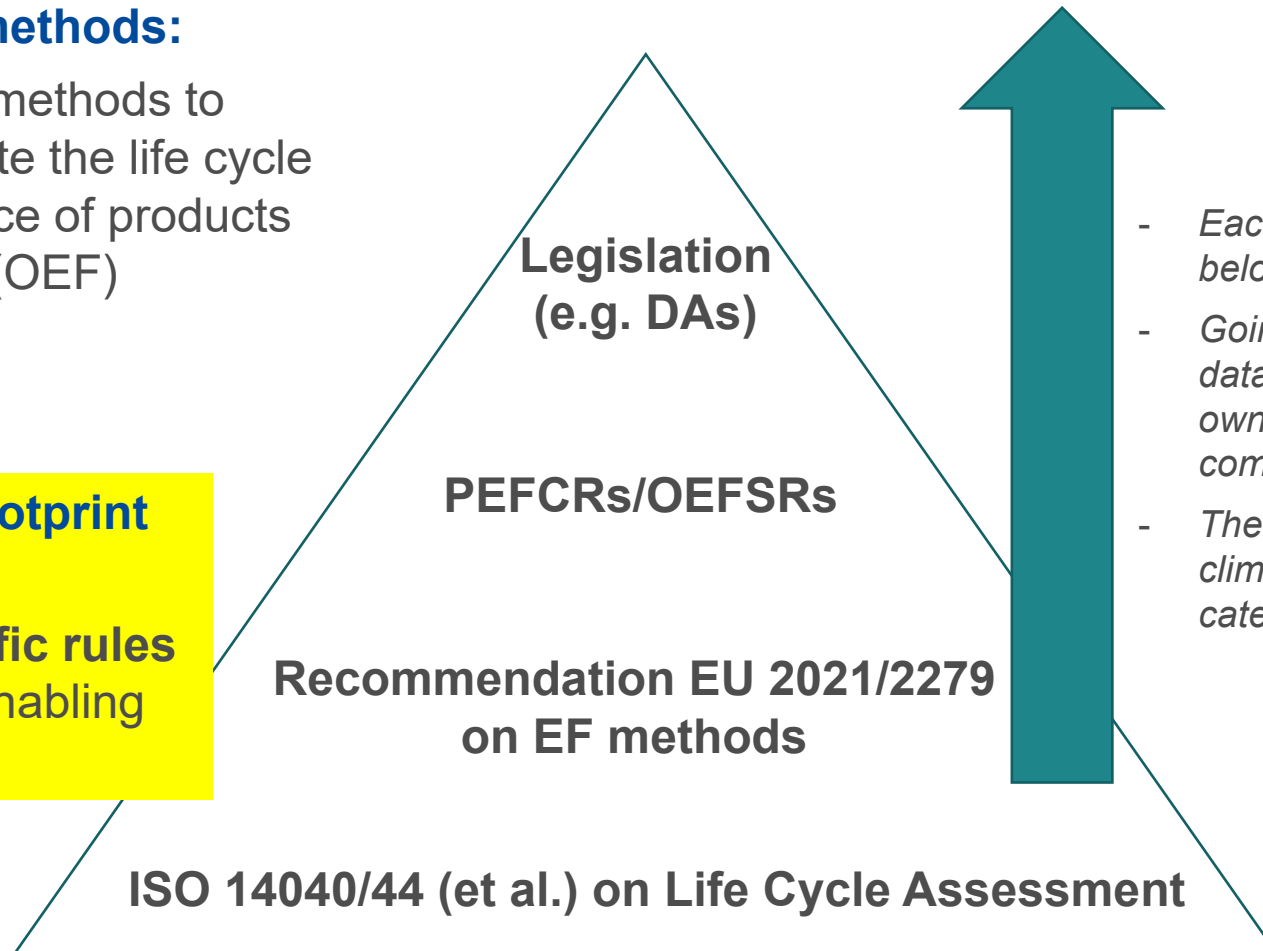
# A level-playing field with PEF/PEFCR

## Environmental Footprint methods:

- LCA-based, harmonized methods to measure and communicate the life cycle environmental performance of products (PEF) and organisations (OEF)

## Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules (PEFCR):

- Industry-endorsed, **specific rules per product category**, enabling reliable comparisons



- Each layer aims to build on the one below
- Going up, further methodological and data specifications leave less space for own assumptions and enhance reliability, comparability and verifiability of LCAs
- The current version of the EF cover climate change and other 15 impact categories

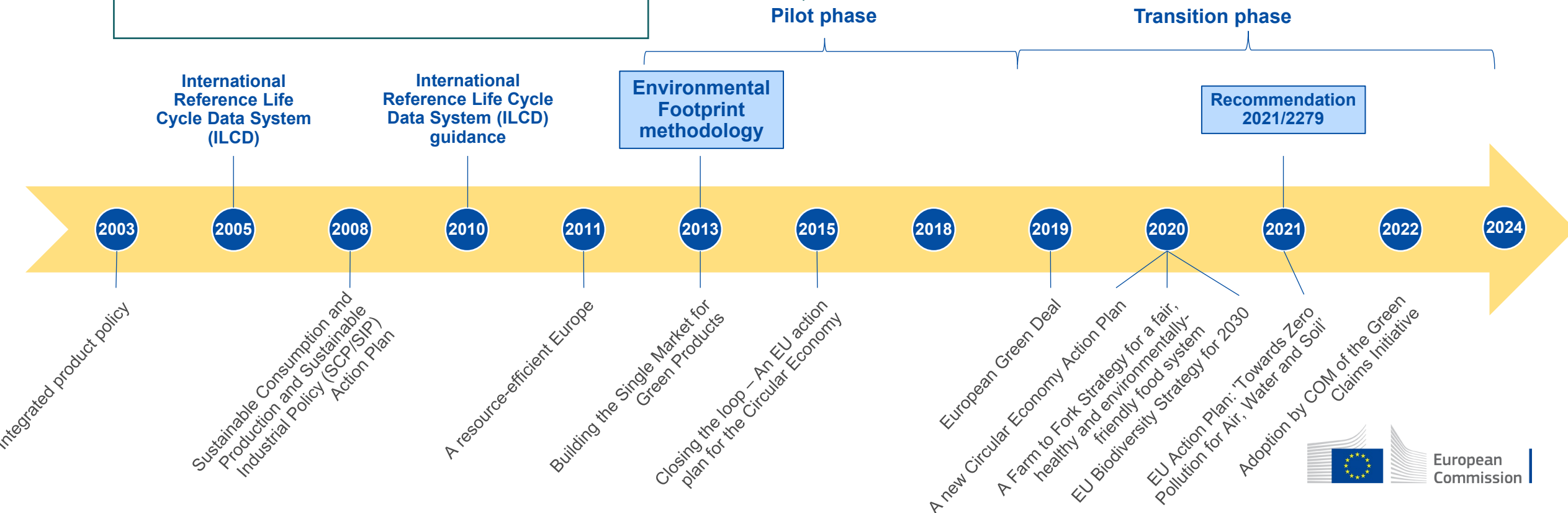
Uses: (i) analysis and reduction of impacts; (ii) communication of carbon/environmental footprints; (iii) EU policy support

# The EF journey

**21 PEFCR/OEFSRs** for certain products and organizations  
~300 organizations involved (mainly associations and large companies)  
~3,000 registered participants

## Developments:

- Mainstreaming EF methods
- Progress/finalisation of PEFCR/OEFSRs
- Review of EF methods & development of EF4.0 database
- Governance and engagement



# PEFCR/OEFSRs

## Current situation

### New official PEFCRs in 2024-2025

1. Aquaculture and marine fish
2. Apparel & Footwear (linked to ESPR)
3. **Cut Flowers and potted plants**
4. **Synthetic turf**

### Updates expected for 2024-2025

5. **Copper (OEFSR)**
6. Pet food
7. Feed for food-producing animals
8. Beer
9. Pasta
10. Dairy products
11. Batteries and accumulators

### Official PEFCRs from other EC services:

12. Aircrafts, drones and VTOL (EASA), 2024-2025
13. Tourism (GROW), 2025
14. Space (DEFIS), 2026

### Shadow PEFCRs:

- Developed by industry independently from EC
- Not to formally follow all EF procedures/rules → adaptations possible
- Can be resource for further developments, incl. EF processes and uses (when relevant)

# Development of official PEFCRs

- Adherence to Recommendation (EU) 2021/2279
- Technical Secretariat consisting of 50+% of the market and including relevant stakeholders
- Key tasks: drafting PEFCR, modelling of representative products, supporting studies and reviews requested, 2 public consultations + scrutiny by expert groups of the EC (EF TAB and EF SG)
- ~2.5years + 1 M EUR for making an official PEFCR for a product group with 2 representative products
- EC providing support (e.g. training, access to datasets and funding such as LIFE and Horizon).
- The cost of making PEFCR-compliant PEF studies expected to be lower than “equivalent” LCAs.
- Streamlined procedures and easier-to-access datasets expectable in future → significant cost reduction expected (from ~1 M EUR to 1 order of magnitude lower?)
- Sharing of costs if scope of PEFCR larger (e.g. eggs vs. poultry & eggs vs. agrifood products)

# PEFCRs for eggs: possible way forwards

- No call for the development of PEFCRs open at the moment
- Review of EF methods scheduled by end 2025, new EF4.0 database expected in 2026/2027
- Possible options for the potential development of a PEFCR for poultry/eggs:
  - A. The eggs sector starts working on a “shadow” PEFCR, to be formally aligned with PEF later
  - B. Formal project run by EC services (tbd)
  - C. “Wait” for the new EF methods and database (meantime: familiarise with EF methods, network within the agrifood sector)



# Thank you

***Circular economy:*** [Circular economy \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.eu)

***Environment Footprint methods:*** [Environmental Footprint methods \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.eu)

***JRC website:*** [European Platform on LCA | EPLCA \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.eu)

***Green claims:*** [Green claims \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.eu)



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# Take away messages – also based on recent discussions

1. **The Environmental Footprint (EF) is a robust method** to account for life cycle impacts of products and organisation in a harmonised way.
2. **Increased demand for LCA/EF methods** in policy and market applications, also at MS level.
3. **EF methods, data and tools being periodically updated**, to promote coherence/harmonisation with policy needs and scientific developments, and support streamlining and mainstreaming of EF.
4. **Transparency and engagement** with key experts and stakeholders fundamental element of EF (e.g. EF TAB and TAIEX-EIR event on 30/05/2024).

# Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)



- **Identify** hotspots
- **Monitor** environmental performances
- **Improve** performances by changing product or process design
- **Communicate** performances

Standardised by norms ISO 14040/44, LCA aims to avoid problem shifting (impacts, life cycle stages, geographic areas)

# From LCA towards Environmental Footprint (EF)

LCA (as based only on ISO standards) leaves too much freedom for application and it is not suitable for use in policy making



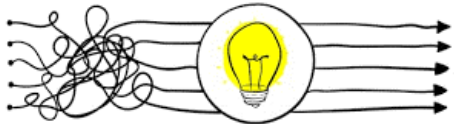
Same product

BUT



Different results

EC has been focusing on making LCA requirement more robust, as for: background data, impact assessment, modelling (e.g. EoL), and interpretation.



Providing detailed guidance to **simplify** the implementation (limiting some freedom for interpretation)



Promoting the **reliability** of environmental information (against greenwashing)



Providing harmonised rules and data for a fair comparison (allowing a **level playing field** for companies)

## *EF – added value*

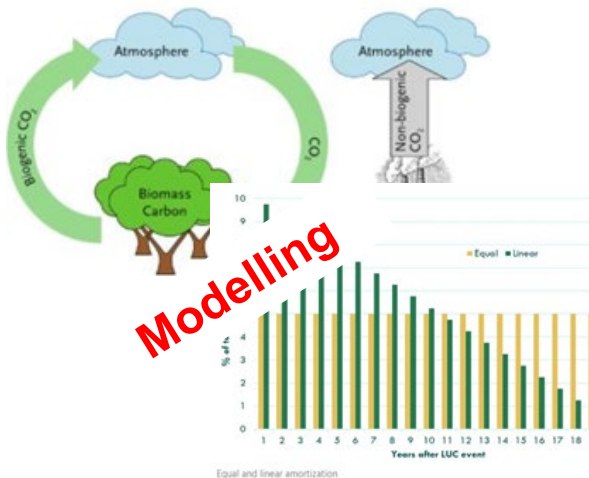
- Harmonised method for obtaining coherent, reliable information
- Reduction of costs possible
- Transparency, verification and credibility
- Broad engagement of experts and stakeholders

# EF – Recent scientific developments



**Advancement in the impact assessment (in line with comments received from different policies) as:**

- Biodiversity (inclusion as new impact category )
- Strengthen of some existing categories (e.g. water scarcity)
- Revision of existing indicators (e.g. climate change, land use, toxicity impacts)
- Adjustment of weighting (for the single score)
- Guidance for additional information (e.g. microplastics, fish stock, etc.)



**Advancement in key modelling aspects (on-going) as:**

- (Biogenic) carbon accounting
- Guidance on End-of-life (CFF)
- Modelling of agricultural practices



## Outlook for EF methods

- Transition period to be closed by 2025 – review of EF Recommendation (text, procedures, methods (*e.g. C modelling, biodiversity impacts, microplastics, fish-stock depl.*))
- New EF4.0 database (2026-2027)
- Review of governance (*e.g. update of EF TAB via Register of Commission expert groups*)
- Finalisation of PEFCRs and WP for future years
- Support to harmonised applications of EF methods across EU polices, *e.g.*
  - *Preparation of eco-design rules for specific product groups*
  - *Substantiation of green claims*

# Uses of EF methods

1. **Communication of the environmental footprint (\*)**
2. **Analysis and reduction of environmental impacts of products and organizations**
3. **Development, implementation and evaluation of policies and initiatives**

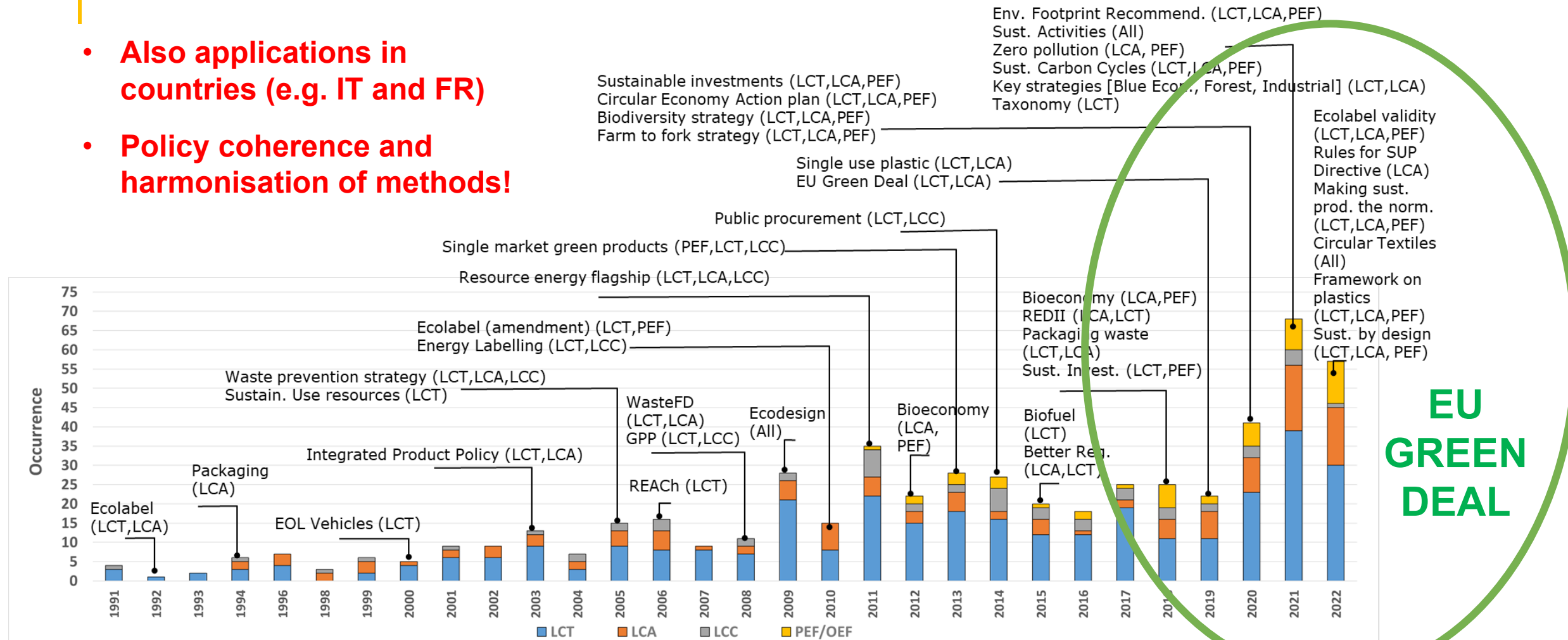
(\*) **European Green Deal – 12/2019:** Reliable, comparable and verifiable information also plays an important part in enabling buyers to make more sustainable decisions and reduces the risk of ‘green washing’

(\*) **Circular Economy Action Plan – 3/2020:** The Commission will propose that companies substantiate their environmental claims using Product and Organisation Environmental Footprint methods



# Increasing use of LCA/EF methods in EU policies

- Also applications in countries (e.g. IT and FR)
- Policy coherence and harmonisation of methods!



Updated from Sala et al. (2021). The evolution of life cycle assessment in European policies over three decades. *The International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment*, 26, 2295-2314.

# *Focus on EU policies (1)*



- **Batteries Regulation and revision of PV ecodesign regulation**
  - Carbon footprint calculation based on PEF
- **Critical Raw Materials Act**
  - Proposal for environmental footprint declaration for CRMs entering the EU market, focus on most relevant impact categories based on PEF
- **Green Claims Directive proposal**
  - PEF is an appropriate method to comply with the requirements of GCD
  - Empowerment for the Commission to adopt delegated acts with product category rules

# *Focus on EU policies (2)*



- **EU Ecolabel**

- PEF/LCA used to identify criteria areas

- **Regulation on Eco-design for Sustainable Product**

- Introduction of mandatory ecodesign requirements (information/performance) beyond energy-efficiency (circularity)
- Ecoreport tool and PEF amongst the reference methods for setting ecodesign requirements for products and developing carbon/environmental product declarations

- **Construction Products**

- Carbon and environmental footprint requirements under CPR relying on EN15804 (further alignment with PEF being discussed)
- Energy Performance of Buildings Directive - introduces calculation of whole life-cycle CO2 emissions based on Level(s) which refers to EN15804 and PEF

# *Focus on EU policies (3)*



- **Taxonomy Regulation**
  - Definition of criteria and carbon footprint thresholds for sustainable activities
- **CSRD**
  - ESRS for climate change, pollution, water, biodiversity&ecosystems, circular economy
- **Chemicals safe and sustainable by design**
  - PEF used to evaluate environmental impacts of chemicals
- **EU Space Law proposal**
  - PEFCR preparation envisaged
- **Consumption footprint indicator (EU CE monitoring framework)**
  - PEF as underlying methodology