



Brussels, 27 March 2018

## **High-level Conference to discuss results of Environmental Footprint pilot phase**

**What is the environmental footprint of a smartphone battery, pasta or dairy products? Consumers, businesses and investors have a growing interest in the environmental performance of products they buy, produce, and finance. A conference in Brussels on 23- 25 April 2018 discusses how to generate reliable, and comparable information to make this happen.**

The [Environmental Footprint Final Conference](#) will discuss the results, experiences and lessons learned from the pilot phase to develop a harmonised method for calculating the environmental footprint of products and organisations. Participants will discuss the challenges and opportunities linked to such a tool: common rules for measuring impacts, reducing companies' costs, and stimulating fair competition.

Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries will open the event.

Other high-level speakers include:

- Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the European Commission
- Jef Colruyt, CEO of Colruyt Group
- Jason Kibbey, CEO of the Sustainable Apparel Coalition
- Dr Richard Mattison, Chief Executive Officer of Trucost.

The European Commission has worked together with more than 260 volunteering companies and other organisations on 26 pilots. The results presented at the conference will be relevant to agriculture (animal feed), food and drink (dairy, pasta), raw materials (copper production), high-tech consumer products (solar panels, batteries for smartphones and e-cars) and many other sectors.

Discussions will also cover potential applications of the environmental footprint methods in existing or new policies and instruments in the wider context of the circular economy. This topic will be discussed in detail at a stakeholder workshop in Brussels on 26 April and will be subject to stakeholder consultation in the coming months.

### **Background:**

In 2013, the European Commission published and recommended common methods for the calculation of the environmental footprint of products and organisations. The **Product Environmental Footprint** (PEF) and **Organisation Environmental Footprint** (OEF) methods take account of the whole products life-cycle, from the extraction of raw materials to the disposal of products as waste. They provide a reliable way to quantify and compare environmental impacts and open the door towards new opportunities for a more circular economy.

The method provides companies with standard measurements they can use to establish their products' green credentials in different markets.

Over the past 5 years, the European Commission, together with volunteering organisations, tested the development of product-and sector-specific calculation rules, and approaches to verify and communicate the results.

### **For more information:**

Registration for the conference

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eusds/smgp/EFconference\\_2018.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eusds/smgp/EFconference_2018.htm)

Registration to the stakeholder workshop

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/43208af1-84ce-b7e3-c4b1-470a500af648>

Environmental Footprint pilot phase and its background

<http://www.ec.europa.eu/environment/eusds/smgp/index.htm>

Environmental Footprint information

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eusds/smgp/communication/product\\_information.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eusds/smgp/communication/product_information.htm)

Policy background

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eusds/smgp/policy\\_footprint.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eusds/smgp/policy_footprint.htm)

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm)

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/banking-and-finance/sustainable-finance\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/banking-and-finance/sustainable-finance_en)

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-topic/consumers/unfair-commercial-practices-law/unfair-commercial-practices-directive\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-topic/consumers/unfair-commercial-practices-law/unfair-commercial-practices-directive_en)

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