Eurometaux

METALS: AT THE HEART OF EUROPE

Conflict and Opportunity:
Chemicals Management the Circular Economy & Precious Metals

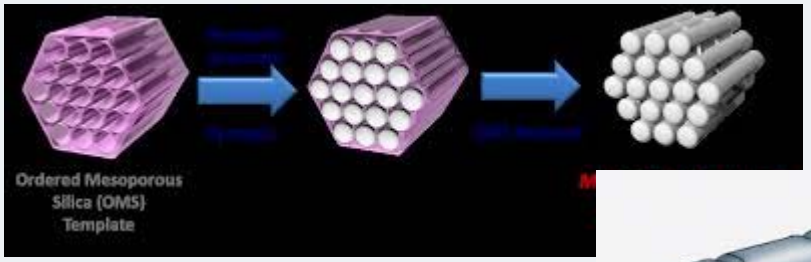
5 December 2018

By Hugo Waeterschoot

Precious metals…not only precious because of their price…

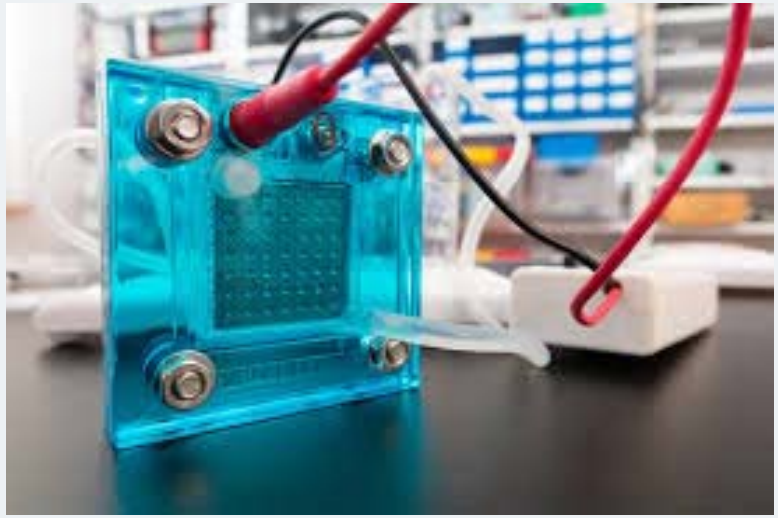
But also because of:

- Their chemical catalyst function:



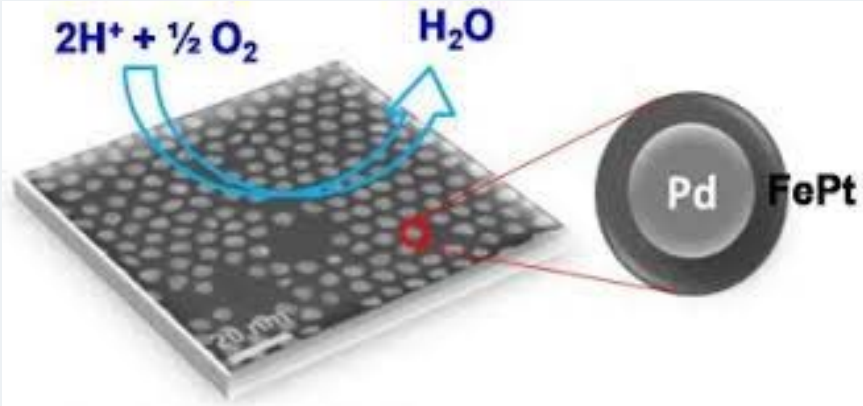
- “Value” promotes recycling

Precious metals…not only “precious” because of their price…



But also because of:

- Their key role in **future breakthrough technologies** for a more sustainable economy: key role for *fuel cells*



Megatrends and what they may mean for Precious Metals (PMs)

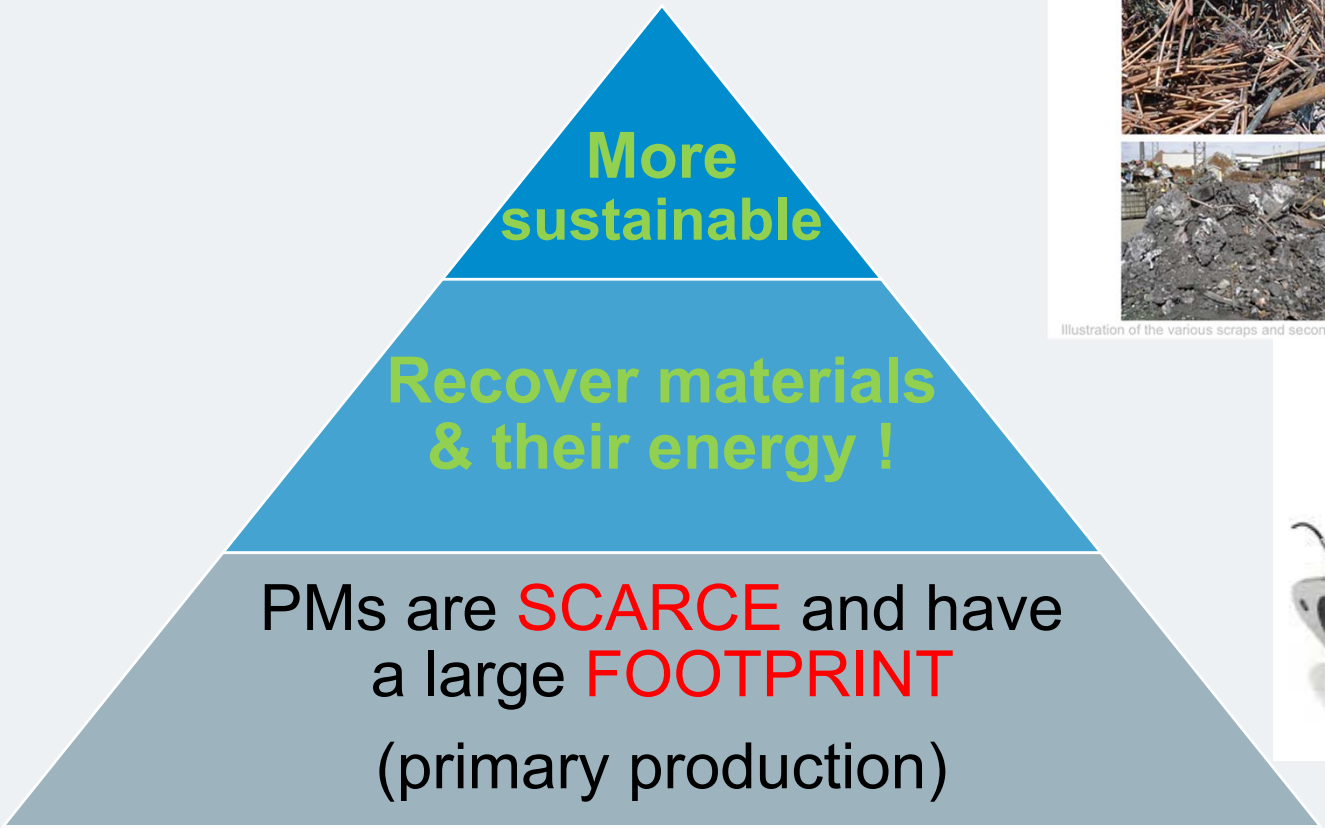
Trends dixit PWC…

Demografic changes	Moving of the economic power	More people in the cities	Climate & prim. Mat shortage	Technology changes

Main expected trends in respect to PMs:

- Technological breakthroughs:
  - Fuel Cell
- Economic breakthroughs:
  - Do more with less
- Societal breakthroughs:
  - Safe products & Circular economy

Another way of looking to it… for Precious Metals



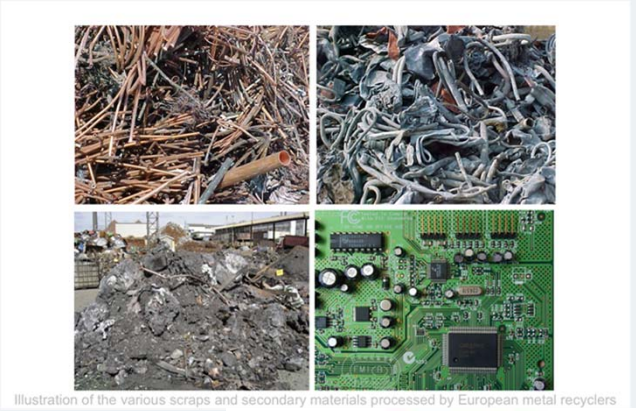
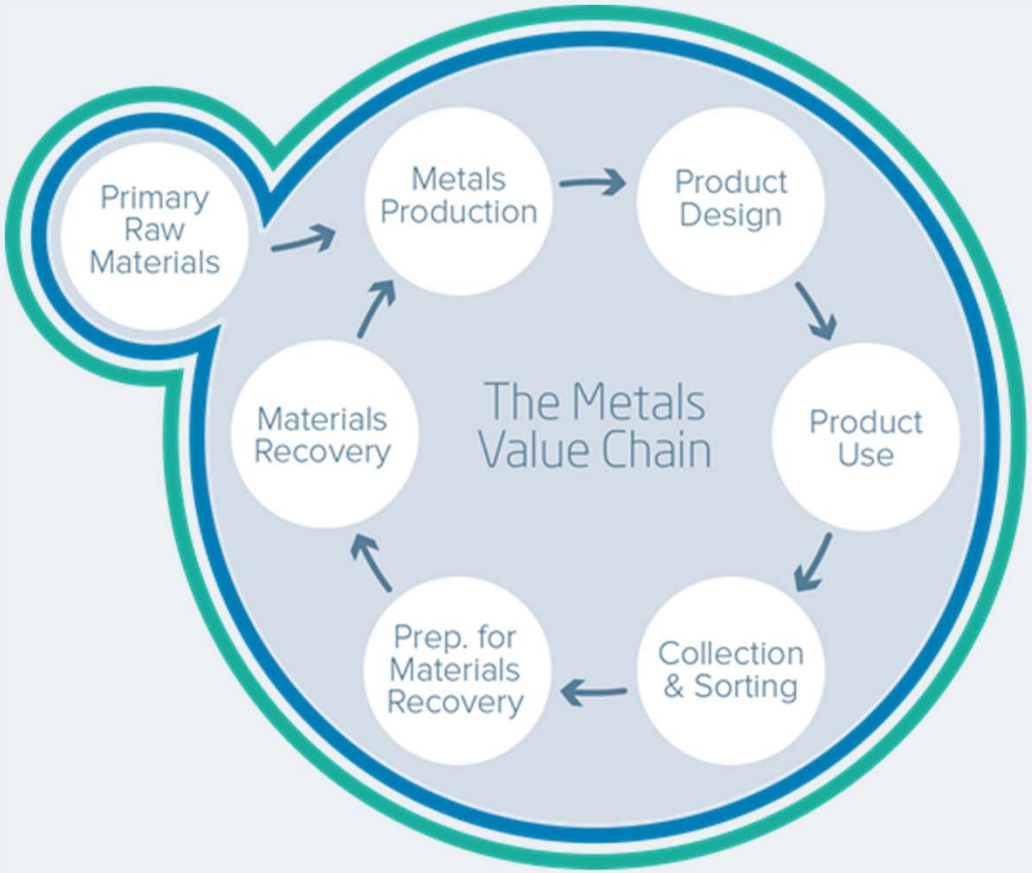


Illustration of the various scraps and secondary materials processed by European metal recyclers

Circular Economy (recycling) vs Chemicals Management (REACH)

Not always best friends…..



CHEMICALS POLICY

Focus on handling materials safely

- Safe use
- Safe manufacturing
- Safe recycling
- Article legislation

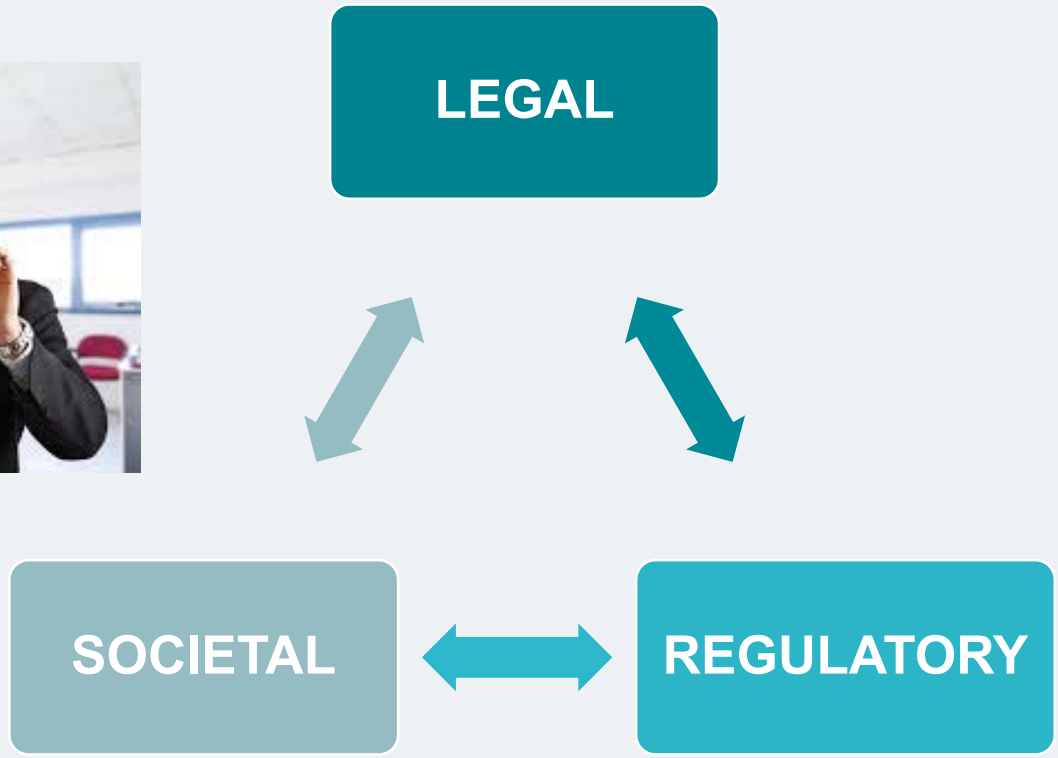
CIRCULAR ECONOMY POLICY

Focus on keeping materials in the loop

- Industrial Symbiosis
- Ecodesign
- Waste management
- Secondary raw materials markets

CONFLICT and OPPORTUNITY: CE⇔REACH

What type of “challenges” form barriers for a Safe Product use in a Circular Economy?

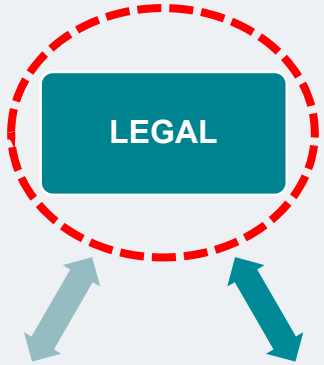


CONFLICT and OPPORTUNITY: CE⇔REACH

LEGAL

- DON't make RECYCLING LEGALLY

  (Close to) IMPOSSIBLE



By:

- Implementing too strict impurity management

N.B.: PMs are only a small fraction

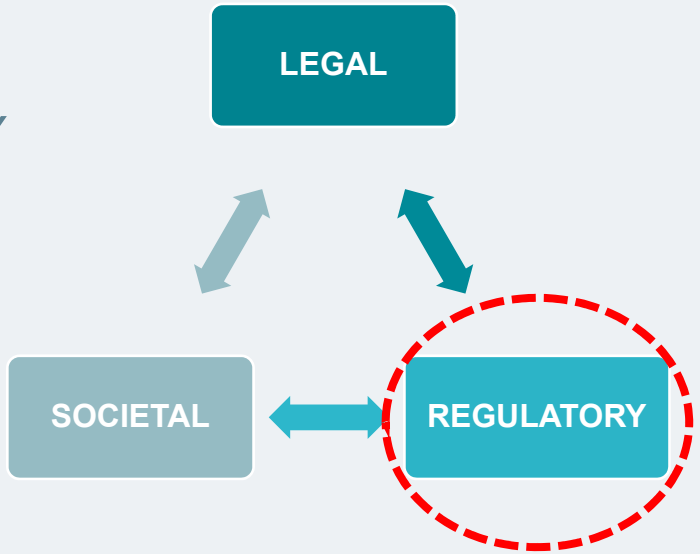
of the recycled materials

but the most valuable part

CONFLICT and OPPORTUNITY: CE⇔REACH

REGULATORY

- Risk Management of Impurities is KEY
- SURE… :
  - But PMs are the small concentration
  - Others are the driver for regulatory action

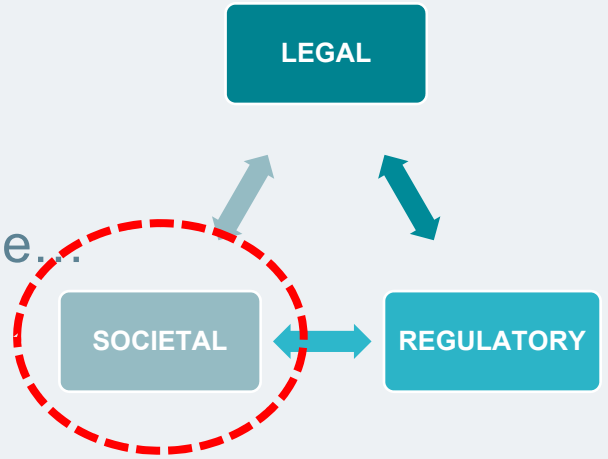


CONFLICT and OPPORTUNITY: CE⇔REACH

SOCIETAL

Recycle as much as possible

- PERFECT if recycled materials are available…
- But Recycling needs Technology



CONFLICT and OPPORTUNITY: CE⇔REACH

CONCLUSION

for today

How can we reduce / eliminate the barriers to promote a Circular Economy for (Precious) Metals while ensuring safe manufacturing, use and recycling?

THANK YOU

More information, contact:

Verougstraete@eurometaux.be
Waeterschoot@eurometaux.be

@Eurometaux

www.eurometaux.eu

Avenue de Broqueville 12 | B-1150 Brussels | Tel: +32 (2) 775 63 11 | eurometaux@eurometaux.be