CIRCULAR ECONOMY
A KEY DRIVER FOR DECARBONISATION

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EEB
European
Environmental
Bureau

EEB - WHO WE ARE

- Europe's largest network of environmental citizens' organisations
- around 160 civil society organisations… including a growing number of European networks
- …from more than 35 European countries
- Over 40 years of EU environmental policy expertise

THE PROBLEM OF EMBEDDED EMISSIONS

Circular economy is a no-regret option for policy makers

When it comes to emissions, it is not only about energy and agriculture.

Material production alone can result in the production of 900 Billions tons CO2eq , which is more than what IPCC has estimated as a total budget for this century (800 Billions tons CO2eq).

TARGET RESOURCE USE

Build back better and with more resilience

Raw materials: the driver should not be competition with China, rather sustainable sourcing.

A target or resource use is a priority.

Material footprint reduction targets for all product categories should be introduced

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

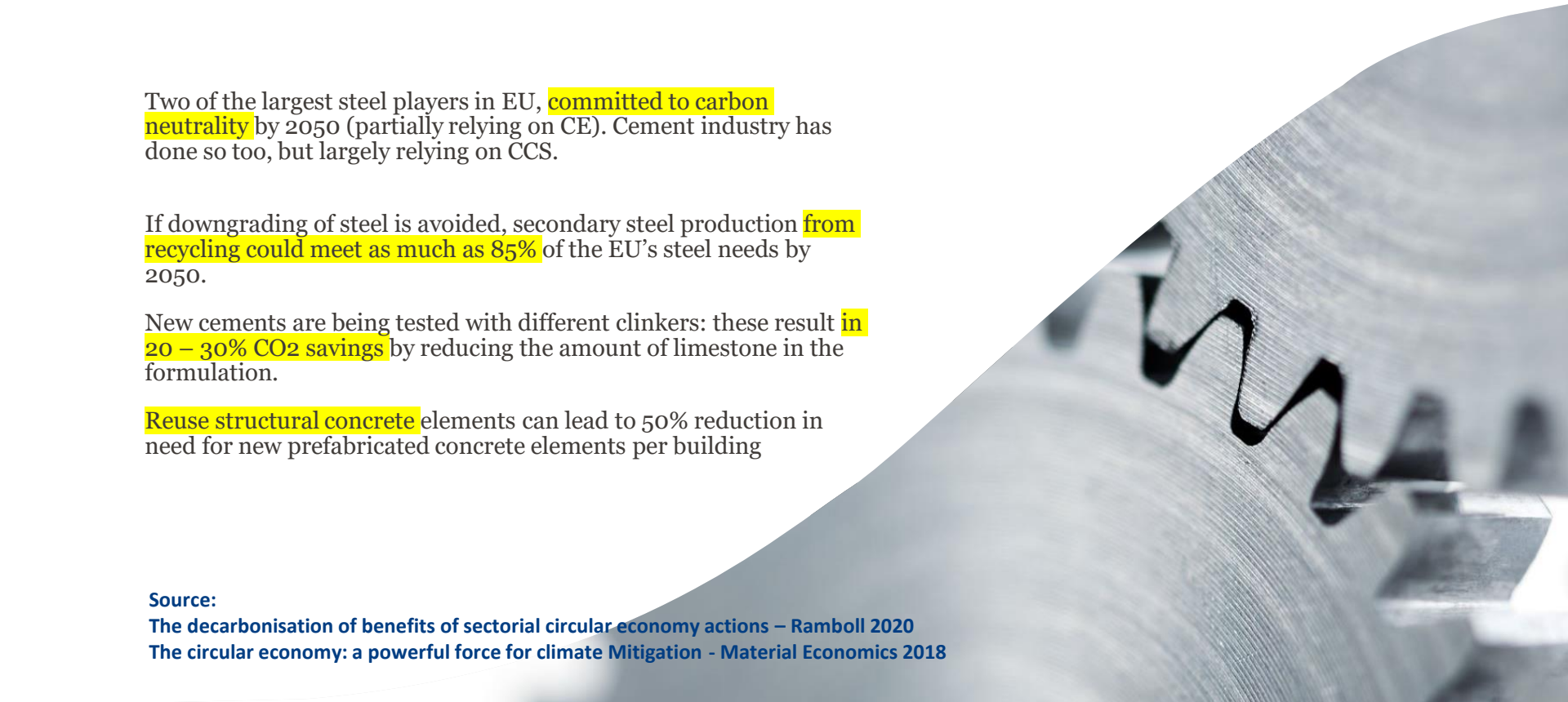
A key market to implement CE

Two of the largest steel players in EU, committed to carbon neutrality by 2050 (partially relying on CE). Cement industry has done so too, but largely relying on CCS.

If downgrading of steel is avoided, secondary steel production from recycling could meet as much as 85% of the EU's steel needs by 2050.

New cements are being tested with different clinkers: these result in 20 – 30% CO_2 savings by reducing the amount of limestone in the formulation.

Reuse structural concrete elements can lead to 50% reduction in need for new prefabricated concrete elements per building



Source:
The decarbonisation of benefits of sectorial circular economy actions – Ramboll 2020
The circular economy: a powerful force for climate Mitigation - Material Economics 2018

POLICIES CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

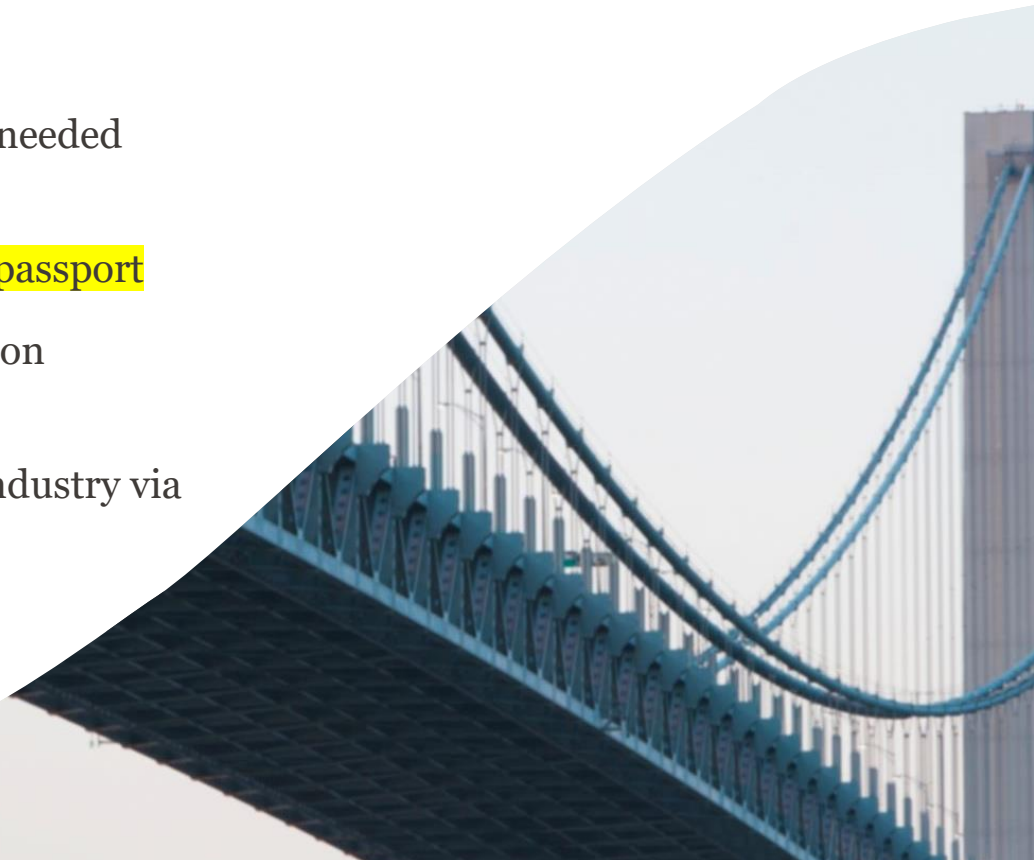
Regulating the market to drive chance

Carbon footprint of products is another needed tool

It's a needed component of the product passport

It's needed for setting emissions targets on products

It's a key driver for decarbonisation of industry via Circular Economy



MAIN CONCLUSIONS

Reducing demand for products via extended lifetime is a priority

Largest gains from design-phase. But regulatory measures from the market-side are needed

Industry should be embedding this into their business model for the future.

Closed loop recycling to prevent downgrading of materials (steel)

R&D needed especially in cement (clinker reduction and Recycling) and Steel (quality uptake and full use of secondary steel

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