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# COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION

## of the EU pilot programme on Environmental Technology Verification (ETV)

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Environmental Technology Verification is designed to help innovative environmental technologies access the market. In ETV, the assessment of a technology's performance is based on results of quality-controlled tests. This should help developers to prove their claims and buyers to identify innovations that suit their needs.

The EU ETV pilot programme is implemented by 15 accredited organisations in seven Member States and covers three technology areas: water treatment and monitoring; materials, waste and resources; and energy technologies.

This evaluation considers the results of ETV between 2013 and 2017. These include 254 initial screenings, 107 verification contracts, 49 specific verification protocols, 27 full reports and statements of verification published on the ETV website[1].

The evaluation followed a published roadmap[2]. It was supported through an external study and wide-ranging stakeholder consultation, involving 200 people in total.

Considering its limited scope, the evaluation has overall confirmed the relevance and consistency of ETV and the pilot operational settings. However, it also identified scope for simplification and for more efforts to communicate the scheme to the market.

The main conclusions per evaluation criteria are the following.

**Effectiveness:** there is only a limited set of quantitative evidence, but a majority of stakeholders indicated that **EU ETV provides a robust and credible system, acceptable to the market and generally recognised for rigorous procedures and quality.** More communication efforts are needed to reach appropriate levels of awareness and recognition.

**Efficiency**: the average fee for companies (without testing) was €14,583. **Based on sales estimated for the small number of technologies verified, the pilot programme seems to provide value for money.**

**Relevance:** Policy priorities and market demand suggest a continuous need for third-party environmental technology verification. **The main role for ETV is in helping SMEs to differentiate their products on European and global markets.** In terms of environmental sectors, the needs are larger than the pilot scope.

**Coherence:** There is a high degree of internal coherence. There are also substantial links with relevant EU policies and **complementarity with other technology assessment tools, including certification.**

**EU added value:** national ETV schemes appear to complement the EU pilot rather than compete with it. **A majority of stakeholders have a clear preference for ETV to be developed at EU level**. Compared to standard certification or test reports, the added value also lies in the EU framework, including the accreditation of Verification Bodies. **Regarding the new ISO standard on ETV, ensuring the compatibility of EU ETV makes a lot of sense**, whereas having a separate scheme for the ISO standard in the EU could jeopardise the quality and comparability of ETV results.

Any future development of ETV in the EU should aim at:

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoap/etv/verified-technologies_en

[2] http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/roadmaps/docs/plan_2017_871_evaluation_environmental_technology_en.pdf

- simplifying the ETV process as far as possible, without endangering its quality and robustness;
- protecting the independence and added value of ETV as an EU scheme, while integrating it in a larger framework of tools supporting innovation and SMEs;
- broadening the range of technologies covered by the scheme to cover the identified market needs and expanding ETV to cover the EU as a whole;
- strengthening the communication on ETV in order to reach out to technology users;
- developing stronger links with EU and Member State environmental legislation and policies.