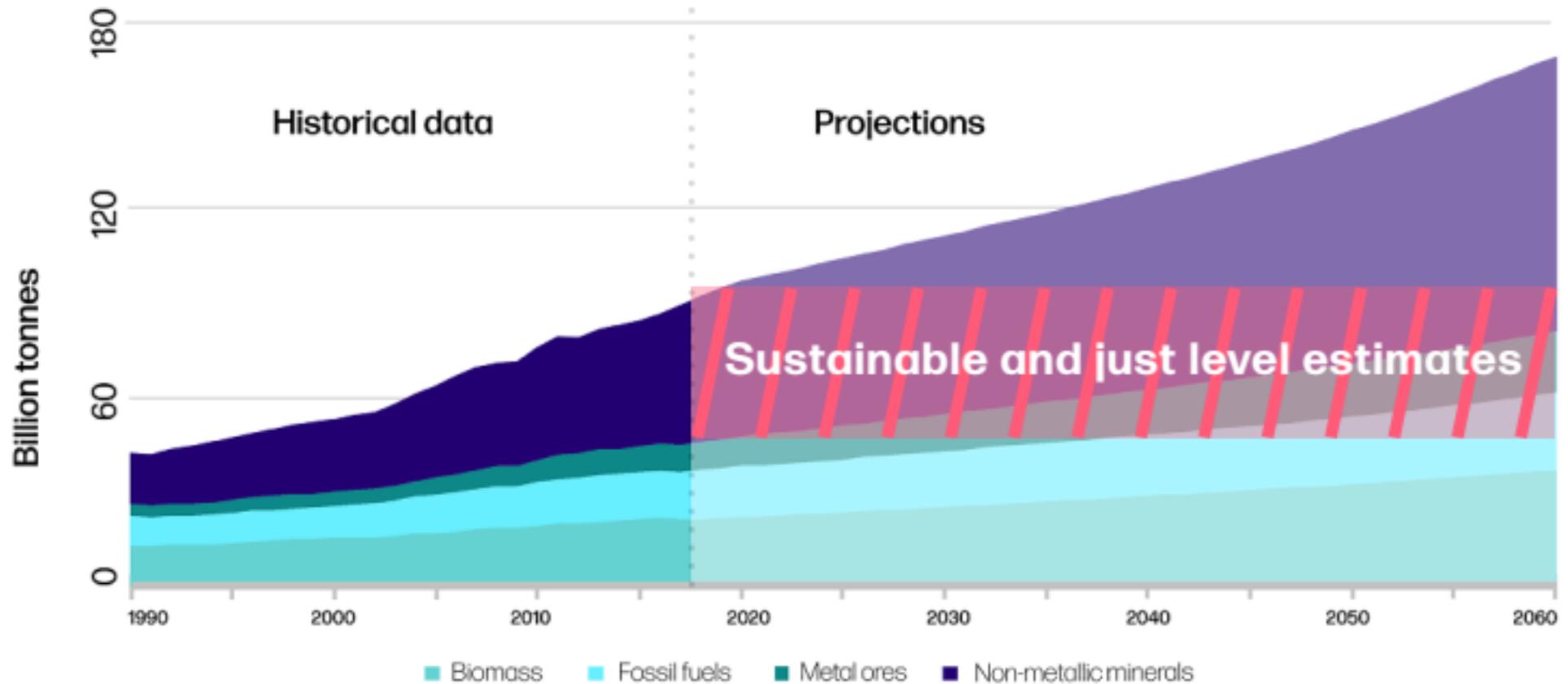


# 'Green mining' is a myth:

**The case  
for cutting  
EU resource  
consumption**

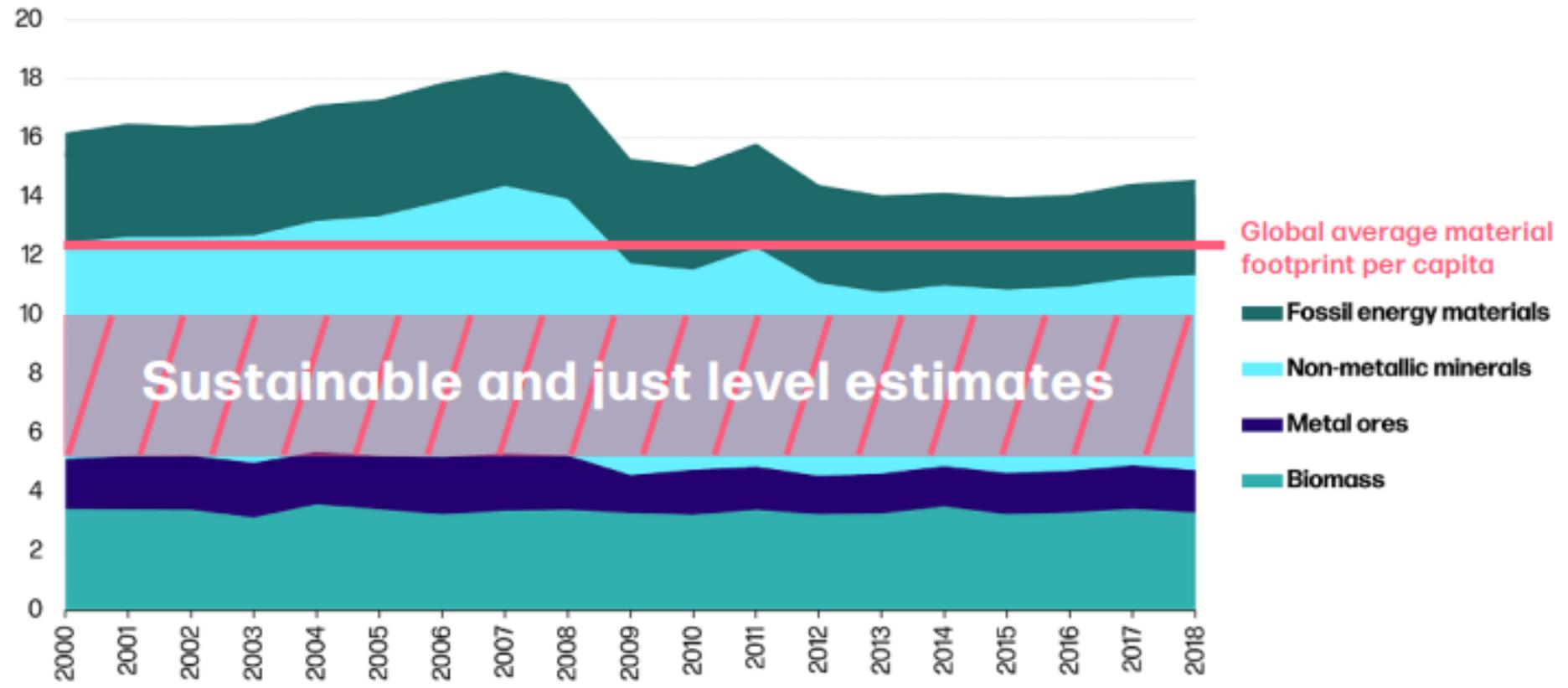
# 2060 projections for global and EU material consumption



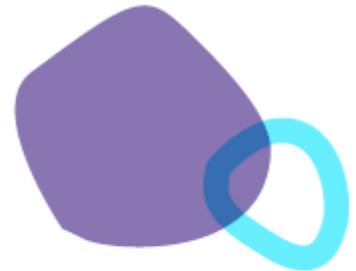
*Indicates projections for overall material demand following historical trends, current patterns of production and consumption, and excluding consequences of potential policy changes. If we continue on this path, global material use will more than double by 2060 – an increase of between 44% and of 55% increase per capita.*



# The EU's large material footprint



*Note: The material footprint is currently the most comprehensive and practicable method to measure material consumption. It measures the total mass of raw materials – biomass, fossil fuels, metals and non-metallic minerals – that are extracted along entire supply chains in order to produce the final products or services consumed in a country or region.*



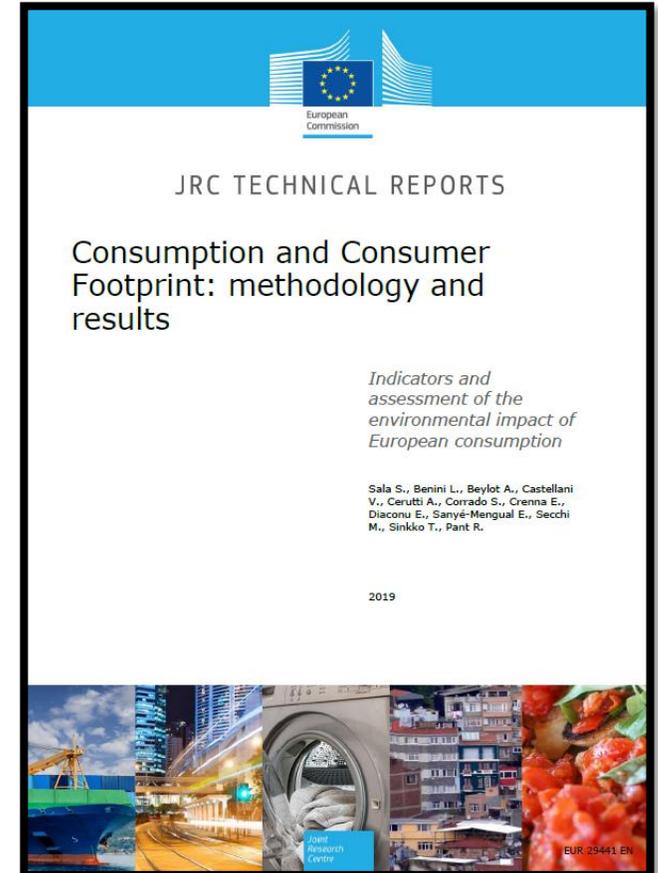
# Metals and minerals: consumption and projections

	Predicted values (tonnes per capita)			Predicted growth from 2017 levels	
	2017	2030	2060	2030	2060
<b>Total extraction</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>38.0%</b>
Biomass	2.9	3.0	3.6	4.2%	23.7%
Fossil fuels	2.0	2.0	2.4	Almost no increase	17.6%
Metals	1.2	1.4	2.0	17.6%	63.0%
Non-metallic minerals	5.9	6.6	8.4	12.3%	42.7%

- Metals – smallest by weight, but predicted to be the fastest growing material group
- Very high environmental impacts during extraction and processing
- EU is 6% of world's population, yet consumes 25-30% of metals produced globally

# Impacts of EU consumption outside safe operating space

- Environmental impacts of consumption of average EU citizen outside 'safe operating space' for humanity for nearly 40% of the impact categories investigated
- Impacts from resource use – EU uses between 70% and 97% of the safe operating space available for the whole world, leaving less than 30%, at best, for rest of world



# Concerns Over Mining Waste

- Demand for metals has been increasing as the ore grades of these metals have been decreasing, as a result, there has been a massive increase in the generation of mining waste, both process tailings and overburden waste rock.
- In the EU, mineral waste is already the second biggest waste stream, making up around 25-30% of all generated waste, a figure that will only increase if mining activities surge.



# Green Washing - Conflating the Climate Crisis



- Green mining erases the violent nature of extractivism
- Metals like copper, iron and aluminium are used overwhelmingly in construction and other sectors
- Many ‘green transition’ metals, like cobalt, lithium and rare earth elements also used significantly in military sector – sector is deeply tied to mining sites and resource extraction. Nation-states around the world are spending almost \$5 billion a day on war.

# The Expansion of the Extractive Frontiers



- 27% of the Republic of Ireland and 25% of Northern Ireland covered by exploration permits
- Spain: more than 2000 mining applications filed in 2018 alone
- Finland: approx. 11% of total land area reserved for mining exploration
- Norway: 626 active exploration permits
- Sweden: 586 exploration permits, including in Sapmí, the homeland of the Samí Indigenous People

# Conclusion - Policy Recommendations

- EU must reduce its material footprint by up to 65% (to five tonnes per capita) by 2050, from current consumption levels. Likely midterm targets could therefore include 30% reduction by 2030 and 50% by 2040.
- Communities must have the Right to Say No to mining
- 'No go areas' for extractive industries including Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites, Indigenous and community conservation areas, deep seas and Arctic
- For Companies:
  - Conduct robust and meaningful human rights and environmental due diligence in accordance with the UNGPs and OECD Guidelines.
  - Meaningfully engage directly with local communities and ensure their participation in the decision-making of all activities.
  - Transparency and participation in EIAs
  - Enact a 'zero tolerance' policy within supply chains for violations involving environmental and human rights defenders
  - Set up an effective operational-level grievance mechanism that is transparent about the number of complaints received and how they are addressed.
  - Economic operators must carry out due diligence throughout the entire value chain, not just supply chains.



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