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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL POLICIES

POLICY DEPARTMENT A
ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC POLICY

Economic and Monetary Affairs

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Proceedings of the Workshop 'Priorities for the 7th Environment Action Programme'

WORKSHOP

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2012

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR INTERNAL POLICIES

POLICY DEPARTMENT A: ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC POLICY

Priorities for the 7th Environment Action Programme

Brussels, 12 January 2012

Workshop

Abstract

This workshop report summarises the discussions on priorities for the 7th Environment Action Programme (EAP), which took place at the European Parliament in Brussels on 12 January 2012. The exchange of views between ENVI Members and experts from EU institutions and bodies, Member State authorities, NGOs and the business world was part of the process of preparing the ENVI own-initiative report entitled 'Review of the 6th Environment Action Programme and the setting of priorities for the 7th Environment Action Programme'.

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This workshop was requested by the European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

CONTRIBUTING EXPERTS

Karl Falkenberg, Director-General for the DG Environment
John Bæk Sørensen, Head of the Department, Ministry of the Environment, Denmark
Phil Hogan, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Ireland
Jacqueline McGlade, Director of the EEA, European Environmental Agency
Helen Mountford, Deputy Director of the Environment Directorate at OECD
Mans Nilsson, Deputy Director of the Stockholm Environment Institute
Jeremy Wates, Secretary General of EEB, European Environmental Bureau

RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATOR

Catherine Lauranson
Policy Department Economic and Scientific Policy
European Parliament
B-1047 Brussels
E-mail: Poldep-Economy-Science@europarl.europa.eu

SUMMARY OF THE WORKSHOP PREPARED BY

Catherine Lauranson
Policy Department Economic and Scientific Policy

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ABOUT THE ORGANISER AND EDITOR

To contact the Policy Department or to subscribe to its monthly newsletter please write to: Poldep-Economy-Science@europarl.europa.eu

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Chair, **Jo Leinen (ENVI Chair and rapporteur),** opened the workshop, welcoming all the participants and introducing the speakers on the panel. He also said that his draft report entitled 'Review of the 6th Environment Action Programme and the setting of priorities for the 7th Environment Action Programme' would be discussed in the ENVI committee at the end of January, following which the Commission was expected to present a proposal on the 7th EAP.

Mr Falkenberg (Director-General for DG Environment) started his presentation by stressing that we should learn from the 6th EAP in order to determine how to go further. While the Commission had published the final assessment of the 6th EAP in August 2011, the draft document setting out the priorities for the next EAP was not yet available. In his view, a 7th EAP should have a strong focus on improving implementation, since many of the agreed measures had not been implemented adequately – if at all – in the Member States. He considered the EU to be fairly well-equipped with a mature set of environmental policies or instruments. The Roadmap on Resource Efficiency had been published in 2011, and the proposal for a blueprint to safeguard Europe's waters was currently being drafted. As part of the follow-up to the Nagoya discussions, a communication had been tabled which set out measures designed to curb the loss of biodiversity by 2020. In general, the Commission wants to turn attention from past consumers attitudes to favour eco-design and life-cycle. In its view, there is a lot of potential in terms of job creation which goes hand in hand with sustainable growth. Mr Falkenberg stressed the need to link existing environmental policies more closely to other policy areas, and to overcome the former silo approach so that the 7th EAP could contribute to a coherent narrative. He also mentioned the need to streamline the different actors (EEA, JRC, Eurostat) in order to obtain a better, more sound peer review with a view to shaping policies. He emphasised the importance, in the 7th EAP, of establishing transparency and the sharing of information with citizens so that they could become better-informed and better support environmental policies. Mr Falkenberg also considered health as another important driver for improving the environment. As an example, more information was needed about issues relating to chemical policy, and in particular endocrine disruptors, with a view to better addressing the risks and convincing people of the necessity of action.

Mr Sørensen (Head of the Danish Environmental Department) stood in for Mrs Ida Auken, the Danish Minister for the Environment, to present the position of the current Danish Presidency in the field of environmental issues. He first highlighted the need to integrate the 7th EAP more fully into the EU 2020 strategy. The Danish presidency was counting on closer alignment and cooperation within the Council, notably between ministers of industry, energy and transport, and on close cooperation between the Commission, the Council and Parliament in order to set realistic targets for the 7th EAP. The Danish presidency would also help to implement the Roadmap on Resource Efficiency with a view to ensuring that the measures taken really led to a resource-efficient Europe. Denmark also intended to support the implementation of existing legislation in the EU. In the Danish Ministry's view, the forthcoming Blueprint for Europe's Waters should be integrated into the 7th EAP. Denmark would also push the Commission to propose an improved REACH regulation that took account of endocrine disruptors. Another matter for the Danish presidency was the need for financing initiatives in order to achieve the Nagoya biodiversity targets.

Mr Hogan, the Irish Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government took the floor, pointing to the achievements made under the 6th EAP with respect to improved quality of life. He outlined the actions that would be favoured under his presidency in the first half of 2013, notably the key task of establishing financing and setting priorities for the EU 2020 strategy. In his view, the 7th EAP should avoid duplication and find innovative tools in order to close the implementation gap. The 7th EAP should play a bridging role between environment and economy. Furthermore, the draft report on the 7th EAP should put special emphasis on the urban environment, so as to recognise the future key role of cities and of the regional level in promoting sustainable development. He pointed to the major EU challenge of decoupling economic growth from the consumption of resources. To take the example of food waste, he considered important to ensure better analysis of food production and consumption, to develop food management guidelines in order to improve the actual food chain, and to generate less waste.

Mrs McGlade (European Environmental Agency) **Mrs McGlade (European Environment Agency**) stated that environmental policies had delivered substantial results up till now but that improvements on the use of our natural capital will continue to depend on the financial resources allocated and on the appropriate level of governance chosen to address the issue. Importantly, she considered that one key element of the 7th EAP should be about continuing to pursue existing measures. According to Mrs McGlade, best practices on environmental protection in Member States need to be spread more rapidly. She stated that the most successful way to do this is through networked governance, in terms of infrastructure and indicators that can help to share information between MS more easily. She stated that Europe is a differentiated region from an environmental perspective and that climate change dynamics and environmental challenges between the North and the South in Europe vary significantly. Therefore she called for common outcomes using differentiated approaches to address the varying nature of the environment. Mrs McGlade also stressed the gaps in innovation and the lack of incentives to accompany the transition to the green economy.

Mrs Mountford (OECD) could not reach the EP owing to a train accident between Paris and Brussels. Her presentation is available in the annex.

Mr Nilsson (Research Director at the Stockholm Environment Institute) said that the fastest economic growth had shifted from OECD and EU countries to Asia and Africa. As a consequence, global competition for resources would increase rapidly, meaning that research on efficiency was needed. A successful approach to global environmental work was needed in order for the EU to keep being competitive. He also pointed out the challenge of urbanisation as a change in lifestyle, together with new technologies. He highlighted an internationalised vision of the future EAP, in which the EU took the lead in relation to innovative technologies and preventive measures. A truly global agenda would include low-carbon strategies in connection with transport for cities and regions, a demand change for solar and biomass energy, infrastructural change in electric power and energy systems, and completely new value chains. Secondly, working on bio-resources and innovation could open up opportunities for increasing resource productivity. Lastly, the next EAP must respond to this new global context and frame a coherent narrative for Europe's future environmental agenda.

Mr Wates (European Environmental Bureau) stressed that the 7th EAP should not omit certain areas, but that duplication should be avoided in respect of reporting mechanisms. The 7th EAP should be focused and concrete; however, it should be drafted in response to the available reports on the state of the environment. With regard to instruments, the greatest progress had been made when European decisions did not consist of voluntary commitments but of robust legislation, as was the case for regulations. To strengthen

implementation, he suggested a proposal for a directive allowing for on-site inspection in order to monitor enforcement within the Member States. He also referred to the Access to Justice Directive, which had been blocked since 2003 and should be revived in order to enable the public to trigger enforcement. In his view, a new action programme should have an influence on the EU's annual budgeting. As regards concrete measures, he mentioned, in particular, the removal of environmentally harmful subsidies and a broad energy tax directive. He concluded by pointing out the importance of empowering civil society, and argued for the EU to play a leading role in supporting a new, more ambitious Aarhus Convention.

Catherine Bearder (REGI MEP) emphasised the mainstreaming issue and that it was even more difficult, during the current crisis, to get the ministers in the Council to recognise environmental milestones. **Margrete Auken (PETI MEP)** emphasised civil participation, which was needed in order to ensure implementation in the Member States. In this connection, she pointed to the importance of the third part of the Aarhus Convention, which would give citizens access to justice. **Vittorio Prodi (ENVI MEP)** mentioned that a basic tool for facilitating policy implementation was the observation of the earth from satellites. In this connection, he considered it inadmissible that the GMES had been excluded from the Union's budget. **Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (ENVI MEP)** stressed implementation gaps and challenged the Commission's role in this area. He also asked the Commission's view on aligning the period of the 7th EAP with the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). **Karin Kadenbach (ENVI MEP)** spoke about the lack of awareness of environmental issues in the light of Eurobarometer results over the previous couple of years; the current statistics showed employment as the greatest concern, whereas the environment was no longer present. **Ewald Stadler (ENVI MEP)** mentioned problems in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the Urban Waste Water Directive. Given that 2012 was the Year for Water, he argued for effective implementation instruments in the Commission's forthcoming Blueprint for Europe's Waters. **Jo Leinen (ENVI chair)** also asked the Commission about the enforcement issue. With regard to mainstreaming, he pointed to the Stern report on climate economics as a positive example.

In response, **Mr Wates** reiterated the urgent need for a directive on access to justice to enable the public to support enforcement processes. **Mr Nilsson** said that the EU lacked a narrative on environmental issues which made it clear that sustainability measures were really about well-being in the long run. **Mr Hogan** suggested identifying enforcement measures in other policy areas that had an impact on the environment. **Mr Sørensen** said that it was vital to come up with clear win-win situations in connection with the EU 2020 Strategy, i.e. through resource efficiency, and to seize those opportunities so that the revenue generated could be beneficial for the environment. Lastly, he said that the Access to Justice Directive had been blocked for many years in the Council, and that the Danish Presidency would not spend its limited time on it unless there was a new proposal from the Commission. In this connection, **Mr Falkenberg** referred to the Court of Justice, which had stated that the Aarhus International Convention was not directly applicable. On the enforcement issue, he stressed the key problem that European legislation was often not perceived as common legislation but rather as legislation imposed from outside. Regarding the nature of the instrument in question, he added that a directive was an archaic instrument in comparison with a regulation, which was directly applicable and more transparent. The **Chair, Jo Leinen,** closed the workshop, thanking the speakers and saying that he had chosen to give his report the title 'Better environment for better life' in order to emphasise the need to combine the purely ecological aspects of the 7th EAP with social and health issues.

ANNEX I: PROGRAMME

Policy Department A-Economy & Science

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)

Workshop on the setting of priorities for the 7th Environment Action Programme

Thursday 12 January - 9:30 - 12:00

European Parliament, JAN 4Q2

The workshop will consist of an exchange of views between the ENVI Members and experts from EU institutions and bodies, Member State's authorities, NGOs and business. The workshop will be part of the preparation of ENVI own initiative report on the "Review of the 6th Environment Action Programme and the setting of priorities for the 7th Environment Programme.

The workshop is open to the public and the interpretation will be available in EN-DE-FR.

Agenda

9.30 *Welcome and chaired by Jo Leinen, ENVI Chair*

Presentation by the Commission: *Karl Falkenberg, Director-General for the DG Environment*

Position of the EU Presidency: *John Bæk Sørensen, Head of the Department, Ministry of the Environment,* **Denmark**

Phil Hogan, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, ***Ireland***

Jacqueline McGlade, Director of the **EEA, European Environmental Agency**

Helen Mountford, Deputy Director of the Environment Directorate at **OECD**

Mans Nilsson, Deputy Director of the **Stockholm Environment Institute**

Jeremy Wates, Secretary General of **EEB, European Environmental Bureau**

11.10 Q&A, open discussion

11:50 *Conclusions by Jo Leinen, ENVI Chair*

ANNEX II: SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF EXPERTS

Karl Falkenberg

Director-General, DG Environment, European Commission.

Karl Falkenberg has a long experience as a negotiator in the European Commission. He started his career in the Commission as textiles negotiator. In 1990, he served as foreign policy advisor to EU President Jacques Delors, with particular focus on the German unification process. From 1997 to December 2000 he was in charge of the coordination of all WTO issues. In 2001 he was appointed Director in charge of sectoral trade policies and bilateral trade relations with North America, Japan, the Mediterranean area and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and in 2002 Director for Free trade agreements, Agricultural trade questions, ACP. From 2005 to 2008 he coordinated all bilateral trade policies as Deputy Director General. In January 2009, he took up the position of Director General of the Environment, covering the EU's environmental policy in both its domestic and international dimensions. Karl Falkenberg is a trained economist and journalist.

John Bæk Sørensen

Head of Department for EU and International Policy, Danish Ministry of the Environment

John Bæk Sørensen has a long experience as EU environment policy adviser to the Minister for the Environment in Denmark. He was in charge of the coordination and management of the Danish Presidency of the Environment Council in 1993 and 2002 and now again in 2012. He is spokesman for the Ministry of the Environment in the EU-Committee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs preparing decisions to be taken by the Danish Government on EU-affairs. He is chairman of the Special EU Environment Committee for consultations and hearings of stake holders from civil society. He graduated in political science from University of Aarhus.

Phil Hogan

Irish Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government since March 2011.

Phil Hogan served as Minister for State in Department of Finance in the last Fine Gael government. He has worked for the region of Carlow and Kilkenny for over 21 years. As the Party's spokesman on Environment, Heritage & Local Government from 2007 to 2011, Minister Hogan put Local Government Reform at the head of his agenda. In Fine Gael, he has held a vast array of positions including Parliamentary Party Chairman, Director of Organisation, Enterprise Spokesman as well as Consumer Affairs, Regional Affairs and Food Industry positions. Phil Hogan served as a Senator from 1987 – 1989. He is a graduate of University College Cork.

Jacqueline M. McGlade

Executive Director of the European Environment Agency in Copenhagen, DK.

Following this appointment, she took leave from her post as Professor of Environmental Informatics in the Department of Mathematics at University College London. Professor McGlade is a leading marine biologist and environmental informatics professor. Her research focuses on the spatial and nonlinear dynamics of ecosystems, climate change and scenario development. Pr McGlade completed her BSc in Marine Biology, Biochemistry and Soil Science at the University College of North Wales, UK, in 1977. She obtained her PhD degree in 1980 on aquatic sciences and zoology from the University of Guelph in CA. In 1987, she obtained a MA degree from the University of Cambridge, UK.

Helen Mountford

Deputy Director of the Environment Directorate of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) since October 2010.

She joined the OECD in 1997 and was Head of the Division on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Development from 2006-2010. Her work at OECD has included a leading role in the preparation of the 2001 and 2008 OECD Environmental Outlook reports, as well as analysis of policies in the areas of water pricing, biodiversity incentive measures, market-based instruments, and reform of environmentally harmful subsidies. Prior to joining the OECD, she managed a local recycling company in the UK and worked for an environmental NGO in Australia.

Måns Nilsson

Deputy Director and Research Director at SEI, Stockholm Environment Institute.

Also visiting Professor (part-time) in Environmental Strategies Research at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm, SE. Nilsson specializes in policy analysis, institutional development, public sector management and strategic assessment with emphasis on climate, energy and development policy. He received his M.Sc. in Economics from the University of Lund, SE, and his PhD degree in Policy Analysis from Delft University of Technology, NL. Led projects in Sweden, Europe, Southeast Asia and Africa, gaining experience in the field of capacity building and long term projects. His clients comprise the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the EC, the Swedish government, bilateral development agencies, Swedish and international research foundations and the private sector.

Jeremy Wates

Secretary General of the European Environmental Bureau, Europe's largest federation of environmental organisations, since May 2011.

Jeremy holds an MA Honours Degree in Philosophy and Social and Political Sciences from Cambridge University, UK. In the 1980s, he founded and ran the environmental organization Earthwatch, the Irish member of Friends of the Earth International. During the 1990s led the campaign by the European ECO Forum to persuade governments to start work on a treaty on environmental democracy and subsequently coordinated civil society input to the official negotiations over the Aarhus Convention text. He served as Secretary to the Aarhus Convention with the Geneva-based UN Economic Commission for Europe for more than a decade. The Aarhus Convention is the world's most far-reaching legally binding treaty on access to information, environmental justice and public participation in decision-making.

ANNEX III: PRESENTATIONS

1. Position of the EU Presidency, speech by John Bæk Sørensen

My minister Ida Auken asked me to convey her greetings and best wishes for this important work shop. She would have appreciated to participate but she was asked by the prime minister to be present in Copenhagen at the official opening of the Danish Presidency and the meetings between the CION and the Presidency.

We - in the Danish Presidency -are pleased with the clear announcement from the CION that a proposal for a new 7th EAP will be presented. The CION has hereby complied with a clear call from Council

Unfortunately the Cion will not be able to table the proposal in due time for the Danish Presidency to open first reading negotiations on the proposal. Instead wee plan to have **council conclusions on the contents** of a new 7th EAP at the June council meeting expressing the Councils expectations with regard to a new 7th EAP. We hope to be able to do this in close co-operation with the CION. And we would very much like to have discussions with the ENVI group in the EP.

I will here to day try to give you a **brief presentation** of how we intend to proceed. Our starting point is the Environment Council conclusions from December 2010. Here the EU environment ministers invited the European Commission to present a proposal for a new 7th EAP by early 2012. They asked for an ambitious vision for a sustainable transition of Europe's economies to 2050 with realistic targets and timetables for 2020.

The Europe 2020 strategy and its subsequent implementation process points out the urgent need for an economic transformation towards a resource efficient Europe. The **7EAP** holds the potential of **building a bridge** between the Europe 2020 strategy and the environment policy underlining the close connection between the fundamental services that nature and the environment provides for the economy.

We should grab this opportunity. The Europe 2020 strategy has the full **attention of our heads** of state and government and in the current economic and financial crises in Europe it will be difficult - if not impossible - to attract their attention unless we manage to clearly demonstrate to them how nature and environment policy can contribute to their economic growth and job creation agenda. Just like what we did 10 years ago with the climate change policy.

And we **need heads of state and government**. The European Environment Agency's 2010 State of the European Environment and Outlook Report clearly showed – among other things - that too little progress has been made in **integrating environmental concerns in relevant sectoral policies**. We all know that integration and mainstreaming is crucial if we want to succeed in improving the state of the environment in Europe. This can **not be done by environment ministers alone**. We need to engage ministers of agriculture, fisheries, transport and energy. And it would be helpful if we could get the support of heads of state and government in doing this.

So my **first point** is that the 7th EAP should **focus on how to contribute** to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy in particular the environmentally related road maps such as the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe.

My **second point** is that by doing this we should <u>not</u> reduce the nature and environment policy to a driver for economic growth and job creation. We have to maintain that **nature and environment policy has a value in itself.**

The European Environment Agency's 2010 Outlook Report showed **that EU has come far in many aspects**. Reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, substituting fossil based energy production with renewable energy technologies; reducing water and air pollution; decoupling relatively the use of resources from economic growth.

So we are **not starting from scratch**. We have mature policies in a large number of areas such as for example climate mitigation, Water Framework directive, the waste framework directive, the REACH regulation etc. I am not saying that we do not need to amend or adjust this legislation in the future, but I find it difficult to see the added value of elaborating brand-new policies and regulations in these areas.

On the other hand the Outlook Report from the European Environment Agency also made it clear that Europe is faced with **remaining challenges**. We have not managed to meet our obligation to halt the loss of biodiversity and securing natural capital and ecosystem services; our consumption patterns continue to increase the pressure on the environment through depletion of natural resources and waste generation; and the overall structure and character of Europe's impact on global environmental trends continue to be negative.

Here there is a huge potential for adding new value to our nature and environment policy especially if we manage to take advantage of our new knowledge of the interactions and interlinkages between the main elements in a green economy.

A new 7th environmental Action Program should **focus on** how to **exploit the synergies** between nature and environment policies, economic policies and sectoral policies and turn those synergies into **a driver for the nature and environment policy.**

In the process of framing a new 7th EAP - that on the one hand can contribute to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy and on the other hand turn the synergies between the different policy areas into a driver for the nature and environment policy – we have **an excellent starting point** in the Commissions roadmap on resource efficiency.

The Commission has presented an overall vision and quite a number of milestones and initiatives that are necessary to get Europe on track towards resource efficient and sustainable growth.

We want during the Danish Presidency to have a discussion among ministers in the Environment Council and with the Commission on how to address the roadmap in a new 7th EAP.

Do ministers believe that an integration of **the vision** of the roadmap in a 7th EAP would be adequate and sufficient for the future nature and environment policy? The vision is focusing on the EU economy. Should it be supplemented by a quality of nature and environment perspective?

Do ministers believe that the proposed **milestones** are adequate and sufficient? Some of the milestones are actually already agreed targets and objectives – why turn them into milestones? Could we turn some of the suggested milestones into targets or objectives?

Do ministers believe that the announced **initiatives** are adequate and sufficient to reach the milestones? Should some of the initiatives be strengthened, made more concrete? Should they be supplemented by more initiatives?

Do ministers believe there are **areas not covered** by the roadmap that should be part of a new 7th EAP? Do ministers agree that besides resource efficiency we need to address

1. the implementation of the **Nagoya targets** on biodiversity in the EU and the question of financing and resource mobilisation,
2. **climate adaptation**, Water and the follow up on the Commissions Blue Print,
3. health and chemicals **beyond REACH** as for example the indocrine disrupters, the combination effect and the nanomaterials.

I will not try to come up with answers to all these questions to day. I think it would be wrong – representing the presidency – to anticipate the discussion among ministers in the council.

What the Danish Presidency wants to achieve is council conclusion in June, where the Council urge the Commission to present a proposal for a new 7th EAP that is focused on areas where clear added value can be achieved and where the Council spells out the contents it wants to see in a new EAP.

As already mentioned we hope to do this in close co-operation with the Commission and will be delighted to discuss it with the ENVI group to try from the very beginning to find common grounds that will facilitate a fast final adoption of the new 7th EAP.

We don't have time to waste.

2. Speech by Minister Phil Hogan, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government

Introduction

Thank you Chairman. I'm delighted to be here to participate in the debate on this interesting and challenging topic, the development of the 7th EAP. To chart a future course it's always instructive to take a look back. There can be no gainsaying the transformational change that has occurred since these Programmes commenced in the early 1970s. They have been a key vehicle for advancing environmental improvement in the European Union. Despite failures to achieve desired outcomes in some areas, the merits of the Programme approach are beyond question. In particular:

- The Programmes have provided essential strategic policy focus and direction.
- The actions identified in the Programmes have served to significantly advance the environmental and sustainable development agendas.
- And the environmental and quality of life benefits for European citizens have been real and significant.

The challenge we now face is to address the key gaps in our policy approach in a way that provides a solid basis for taking our environmental agenda forward in the decade ahead.

As the Final Assessment of the 6th EAP noted, that Programme - though contributing significantly to environmental improvement - suffered from a lack of focus, being somewhat overburdened by extensive lists of actions. Of course, we are now in a very different space – we are confronted by an economic and fiscal crisis of unprecedented proportions; and we face acute environmental and economic challenges arising from biodiversity loss, climate change, food and energy security and the future availability of materials required for economic growth.

Priorities

The next EAP needs to have a clear policy focus. It needs to be realistic about what is achievable in the context of the major economic challenges facing Europe. And, at the same, it must chart a path to the achievement of the paradigm shift that is now required. We need to identify a space where the new EAP can achieve real added value.

It could begin with a practical orientation regarding the kinds of innovative tools and instruments needed to close the implementation gap and to address policy coherence and integration. That will help us to focus attention on the unfinished business that we have yet to address to achieve full delivery on the extensive body of environmental legislation we have already put in place over the last 2 decades, in particular.

To avoid duplication, the 7th EAP's approach to resource efficiency should be focused on delivery mechanisms, setting out a range of measures and instruments to achieve a resource efficient economy. The setting of targets, milestones, broad policy goals or objectives should be dealt with in this context and unnecessary duplication of existing targets such as those contained in the Roadmaps should be avoided. We currently have national reporting cycles, EU reporting cycles, UN reporting cycles and OECD reporting cycles. There must be some potential for rationalisation.

Many policies have overlaps and there may be a role for the EAP to act as a bridge between the EU Sustainable Development Strategy and EU 2020, as well as other policies. This 'bridging' role could be particularly beneficial in supporting the development of coherent, cross-cutting approaches, providing policy orientation and operationalising key policies such as the Low Carbon and Resource Efficiency roadmaps, as well as in the areas of waste and water management. The 7th Programme can – indeed, I would suggest, must - build the profile of the Green Economy, drawing on the work of the OECD which clearly sets the environment at the interface with the economy. The two must go hand in hand if Europe is to have a sustainable economy into the future.

Implementation

I note and support the prioritisation of implementation in the draft report of the Environment Committee. I also want to acknowledge the work on implementation done by the Petitions Committee. Ireland supports the broad thrust of the emerging work of the Commission in this area.

One aspect which the Commission is looking at is potential for closer cooperation between the Commission and EU networks as part of a wider effort to involve expert networks in the implementation of environmental law.

As a Member State that has had its own compliance issues, issues which I'm glad to say are being addressed as a matter of priority, I would suggest looking at the Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE) in Ireland as a possible model. This office, which was established in response to a compliance case in the waste area, could, with a broader remit, serve as the type of national focal point envisaged by the Commission.

The OEE is independent of Government and has been crucial to the establishment of a strong enforcement network in Ireland, involving the various public bodies with responsibilities in this area. This network's role is to enhance the effectiveness of all participants by sharing information and adopting a co-ordinated approach to environmental enforcement. The OEE works with local authorities and other regulators to ensure efficient use of resources and coherent enforcement of environmental law, as well as dealing with complaints in relation to environmental protection. It is clear that given its current role which is independent of Government this model could provide a good fit for the type of structure envisaged by the Commission.

Urban Environment

I would concur with the suggestion in this Committee's draft Report that the next EAP should have a focus on the Urban Environment. I realise that there are issues in relation to subsidiarity and competency which may have impacted on progress following the publication of the Thematic Strategy under the last Programme. While issues of governance are important and we certainly need to strengthen this aspect at the EU, national and city levels, we must also recognise the key role that cities are going to play in advancing the sustainable development and resource efficiency agendas.

When looked at from an environmental perspective an initiative under this topic would cover all of the issues involved - energy efficient buildings, sustainable transport, climate change adaptation, air quality ….the list goes on. I suppose the question I would pose is this - what chance have we got of meeting any of the targets and goals that we have set unless we make real progress in the Urban environment where some 80% of the Union's population live? We have seen the development of successful city networks, Smarter Cities initiatives and so on. Notwithstanding whatever constraints might exist, there is a clear need for some leadership at the EU level on this issue and I am confident that there are ways in which this can be framed while at the same time respecting concerns on subsidiarity.

Consumption and the Environment

The decoupling of economic growth from the consumption of resources remains as a somewhat enduring challenge in the EU, as elsewhere. Ultimately, the reality is that the targets and objectives that we have set to transition our economy and society to a low carbon, resource efficient future will remain elusive unless we can achieve real changes in consumption behaviour.

I note Commissioner Potocnik's strong statement on this last month. I was struck by a statistic that was included in his statement that we waste 90 million tonnes of food waste every year, or 180 kilos per person. Specific measures on the prevention and beneficial use of food waste that could be usefully applied to the various sectors would include:

- The introduction of systems for the measurement and data management of food waste, so that the extent of food waste is fully realised as well as the reasons food waste is generated; this would enable sector specific food waste management plans to be developed and implemented;
- The provision of research and development programmes to analyse and understand the reasons underlying the generation of certain food wastes;
- The development of specific food waste management guidelines and advice for the various sectors;
- The development and provision of targeted training programmes on food waste;
- The development of social redistribution programmes for surplus food; and
- The provision of targeted food waste awareness programmes.

Communications and Timeframe

The 'bridging' role that I suggested earlier presents an opportunity to focus on some crosscutting, big picture areas which can involve greater engagement with EU citizens. A renewed effort at drawing up a coherent EU message aimed at altering the current unsustainable patterns of consumption seems crucial in advancing the EU SDS and EU 2020 agendas. The programme should look to build prominence and understanding of environmental measures and initiatives among the population at large, and address any remaining information gaps. The EAP is ideally placed to fulfil this role but it is a process that will require adequate funding in order to be successful.

As was noted in the Final Assessment of the 6th EAP, there is a need for better alignment of the EAP process with that of the EU budget. By the time the 7th EAP is adopted, decisions on the Multi Annual Financial Framework, including the CAP and Cohesion will have been decided for the period to 2020. This needs to be addressed in future as EAP actions will obviously influence budget decisions and we need to give some thought to this issue.

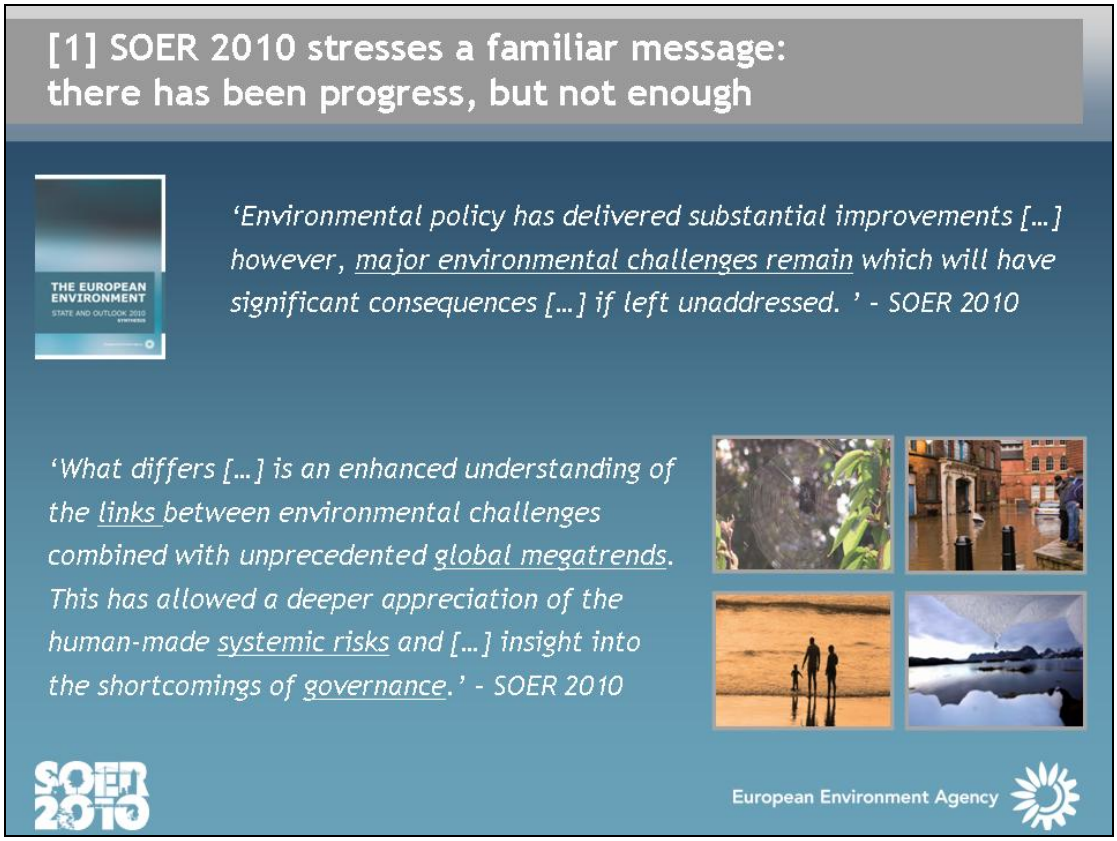
Irish Submission

My officials are currently preparing a submission on the 7th EAP which will elaborate in more detail on the priorities I've outlined and indeed on other areas. We hope to be in a position to finalise that next month. I want to commend the Danish Presidency for the priority they are giving to meaningful engagements on the 7th EAP; it is also great to see the Parliament so engaged on the issue at this stage of the process, with today's event being a clear demonstration of that. We need to make good use of the coming months as a period that can help to inform the work that the Commission is undertaking, ultimately culminating in a formal proposal on the 7th EAP later in the year. I can certainly assure you of active engagement by the Irish Presidency in taking that proposal forward during the first half of next year.

A well focused, clear-sighted EAP will have the potential to make a major contribution towards delivering a better Europe, with a better quality of life for all its citizens. We can't afford to get it wrong. I look forward to working with Commission, the Parliament and the other Member States to ensure that we get it right!

Thank You.

3. Presentation by Jacqueline McGlade, Director of the EEA, European Environmental Agency

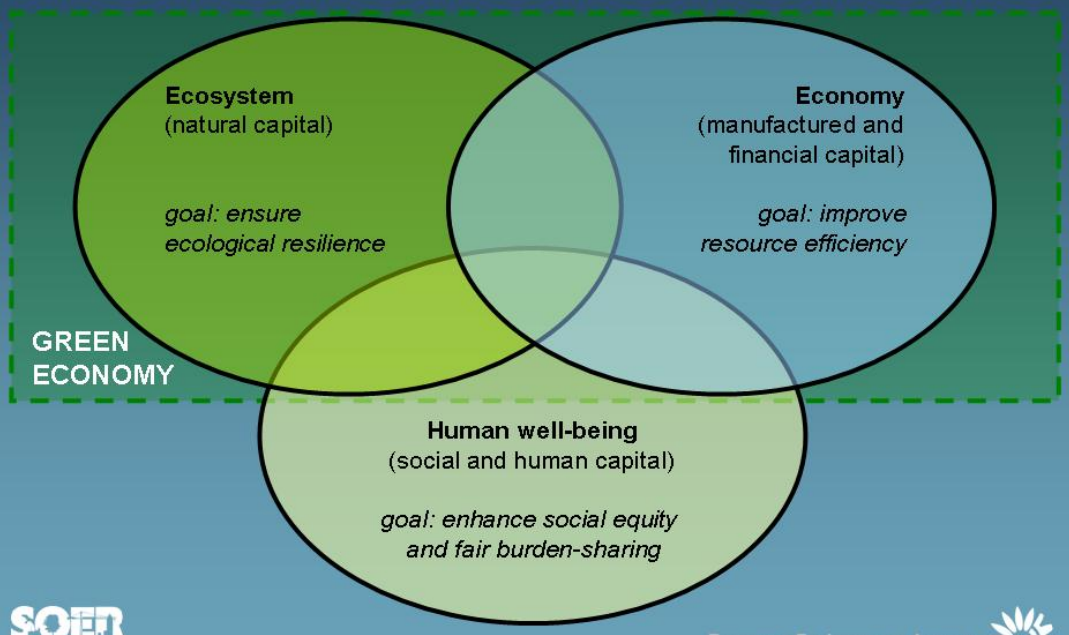


[2] SOER 2010 reflects on future environmental priorities

- Better implementation and further strengthening of current environmental priorities
- Coherent integration of environmental consideration across the many sectoral policy domains
- Dedicated management of natural capital and ecosystem services (and increasing resource efficiency and resilience)
- Transformation to a green economy that addresses the long-term viability of natural capital within Europe and beyond

SOER 2010 European Environment Agency

[3] Transformation towards a green economy: improving resource efficiency and ensuring resilience



SOER 2010 European Environment Agency

[4] Implementation and integration: progress towards selected resource efficiency related targets

	Environmental issue	EEA 38 - trend?	EU 27 target / objective - which?	EU 27 - on track?
Biodiversity	*Not available*		*Not available*	
Climate Change	**Greenhouse gas emissions**	↘	To reduce greenhouse gas emissions; by 20% by 2020	☑
Climate Change	**Energy efficiency**	↗	To reduce primary energy use; by 20% by 2020 vs. BAU	☐
Climate Change	**Renewable energy sources**	↗	To increase energy consumption from renewables	☐
Air	**Transboundary air pollution** (NO_X, NMVOC, SO_2, NH_3, primary particles)	↘	To limit emissions of acidifying, eutrophying and ozone precursor poll.	☐
Water	**Water pollution** (point sources, bathing water quality)	↘	To comply with bathing water quality, urban waste water treatment	☑
Materials & waste	**Decoupling** (resource use from economic growth)	↗	To decouple resource use from economic growth	☐
Materials & waste	**Waste generation**	↗	To substantially reduce waste generation	☒
Materials & waste	**Waste management** (recycling)	↗	Several recycling targets for different specific waste streams	☑

SOER 2010

European Environment Agency

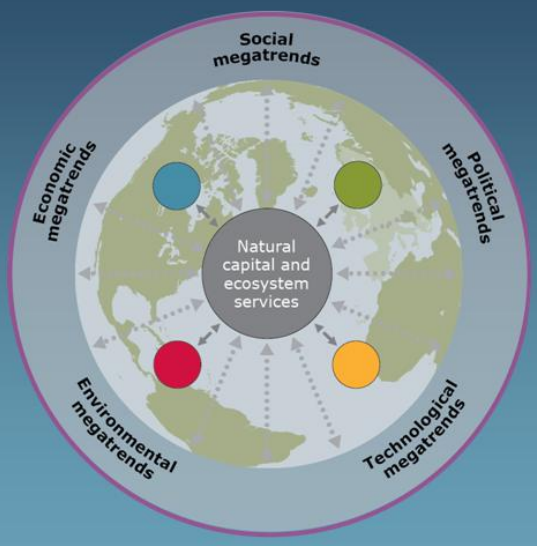
[5] Implementation and integration: progress towards selected environmental state / resilience related targets

	Environmental issue	EEA 38 - trend?	EU 27 target / objective - which?	EU 27 - on track?
Biodiversity (terrestrial)	**Pressure on ecosystems** (from air pollution)	→	Not to exceed critical loads of eutrophying substances	☒
Biodiversity (terrestrial)	**Conservation status** (safeguard habitats & species)	→	To achieve favourable conservation status …	☐
Biodiversity (terrestrial)	**Biodiversity loss**	↘	To reverse negative species abundance trends	☒
Biodiversity (marine)	**Biodiversity loss**	↘	To reverse negative species abundance trends	☒
Climate Change	**Global mean temperature change**	↗	To limit increases to below 2°C globally	☒
Air	**Air quality in urban areas** (particulate matter and ozone)	→	To attain levels of air quality that do not give rise to neg health impacts	☒
Air	**Water stress** (water exploitation)	→	To achieve good quantitative status of water bodies	☐
Water	**Water quality** (ecological and chemical status)	→	To achieve good ecological and chemical status of water bodies	☐
Materials & waste	*Not available*		*Not available*	

SOER 2010

European Environment Agency

[6] Links between environmental challenges: managing of natural capital and ecosystem services in a global context



Links between issues highlight that how and where we use natural capital and ecosystem services matters.

Global megatrends bring additional risks and uncertainties -- many outside Europe's control

Environment policy priority areas
- Climate change
- Nature and biodiversity
- Natural resources and waste
- Environment, health and quality of life

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European Environment Agency

[7] Making strategy actionable: four 'i' that offer tools

i_1 *instruments*

Precaution & Prevention
Rectification at source
Polluter pays
...

i_2 *information*

Access to information
SEIS (i.e. shared information)
Environmental accounting
...

i_3 *investments*

Green technologies
Green infrastructure
...

i_4 *innovation*

Research & development
Eco-innovations & eco-design
Life-cycle approaches
...

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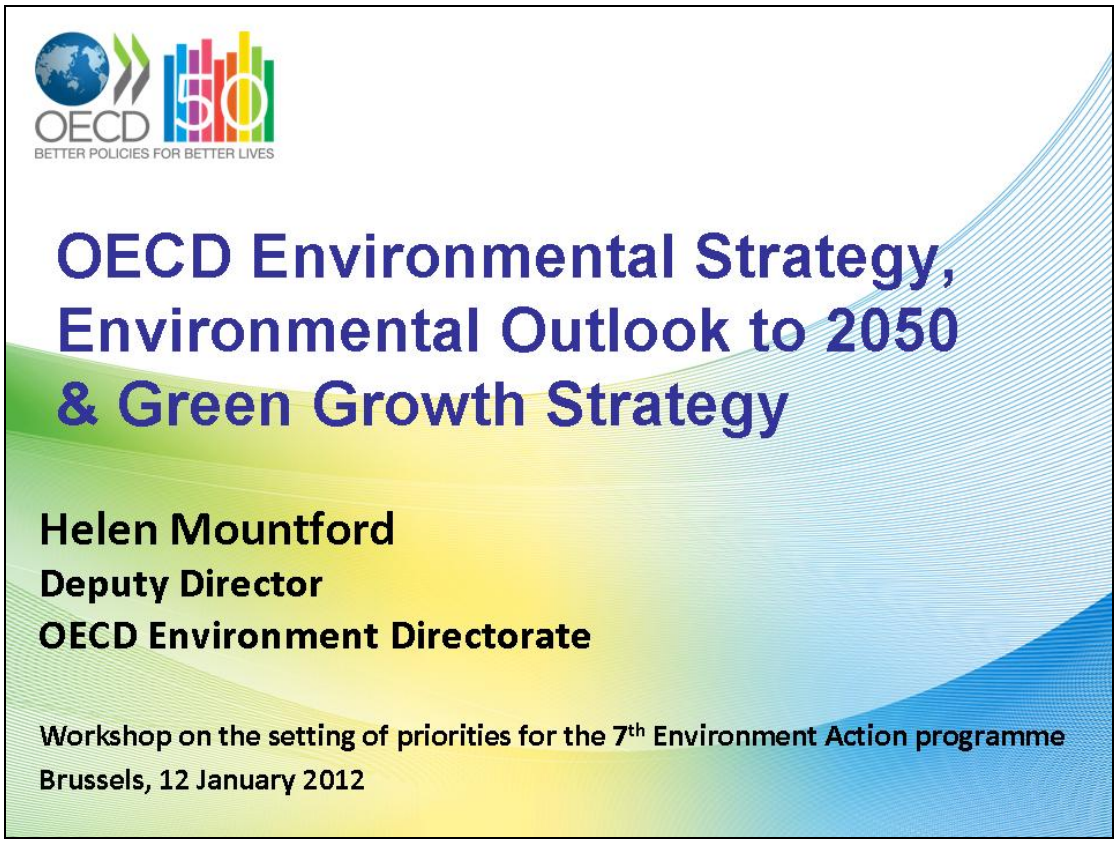
4. Presentation by Helen Mountford, Deputy Director of the Environment Directorate at OECD



What is the OECD Environmental Strategy?

- **5 objectives** and the **key challenges** under each
  - Maintaining the integrity of ecosystems through the efficient management of natural resources
  - Decoupling environmental pressures from economic growth
  - Improving information for decision making: Measuring progress through indicators
  - The social and environmental interface: Enhancing the quality of life
  - Global environmental interdependence: Improving governance and co-operation
- **71 national actions** for countries to achieve by 2010.
- **55 items of OECD work** to support countries.

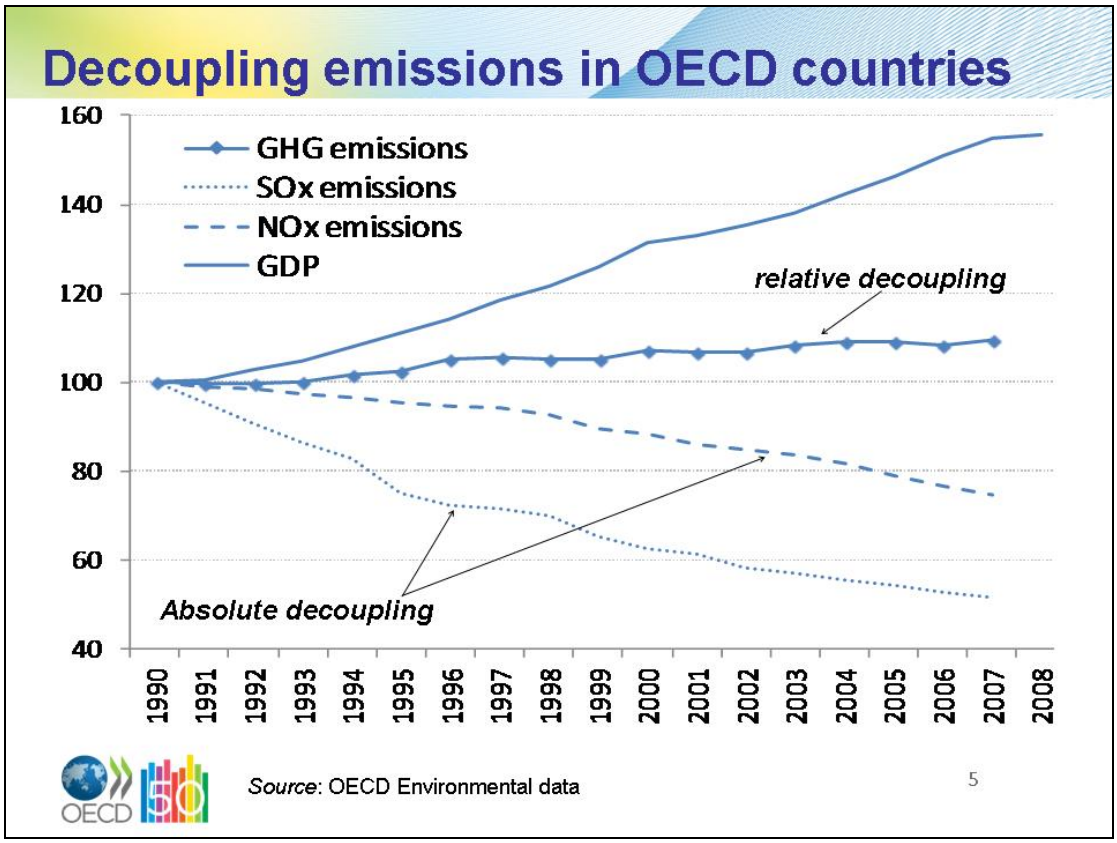
What progress has been made?

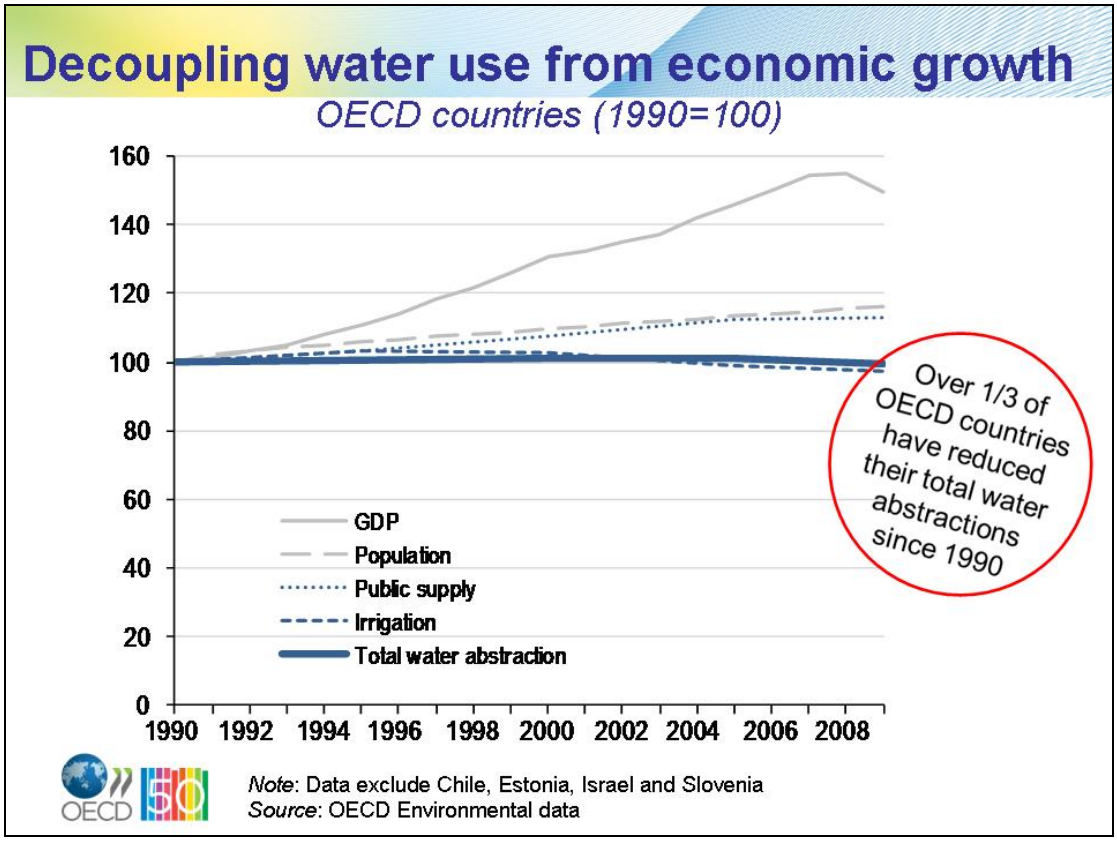
Progress:

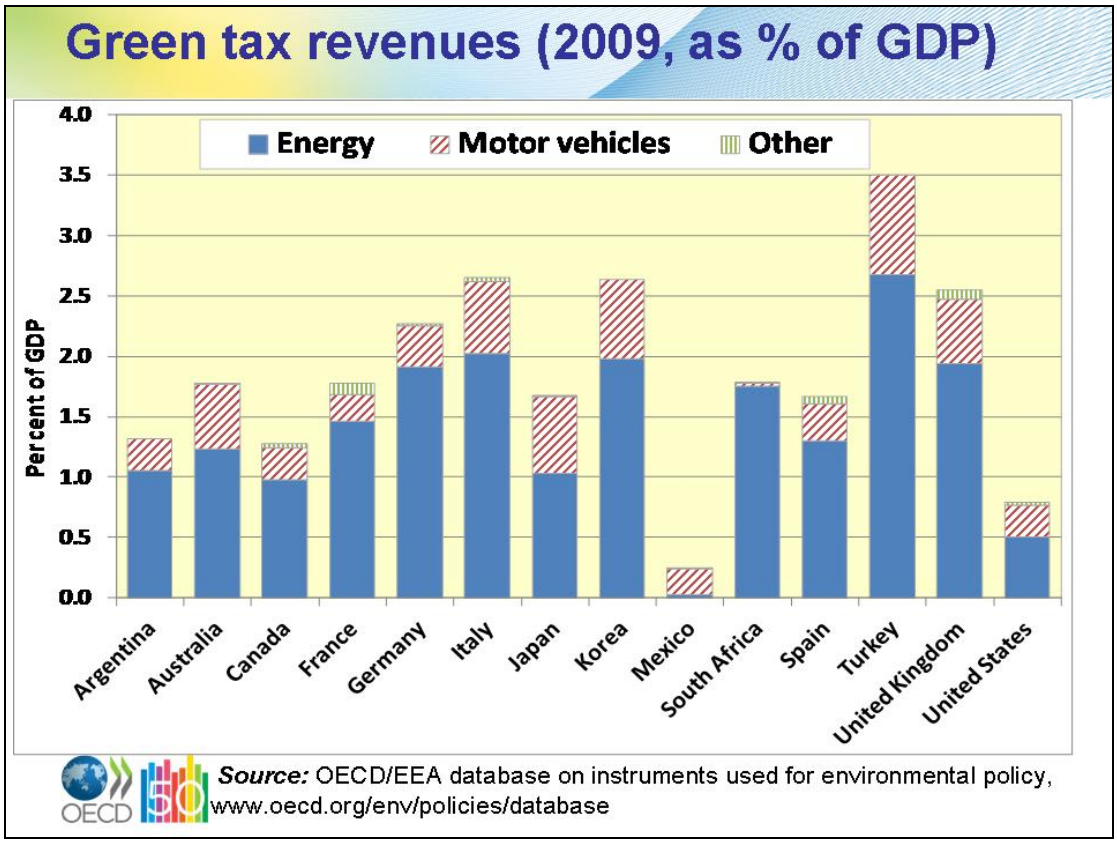
- More cost-effective policy instruments (eg carbon markets)
- Reduced SO2, NOx & black carbon; damage to ozone layer reversing
- Improved inland water quality
- Relative or absolute decoupling for GHG emissions & water use
- ODA to environment; global governance on chemicals & marine env
- Initiatives by cities & private sector; better informed citizens

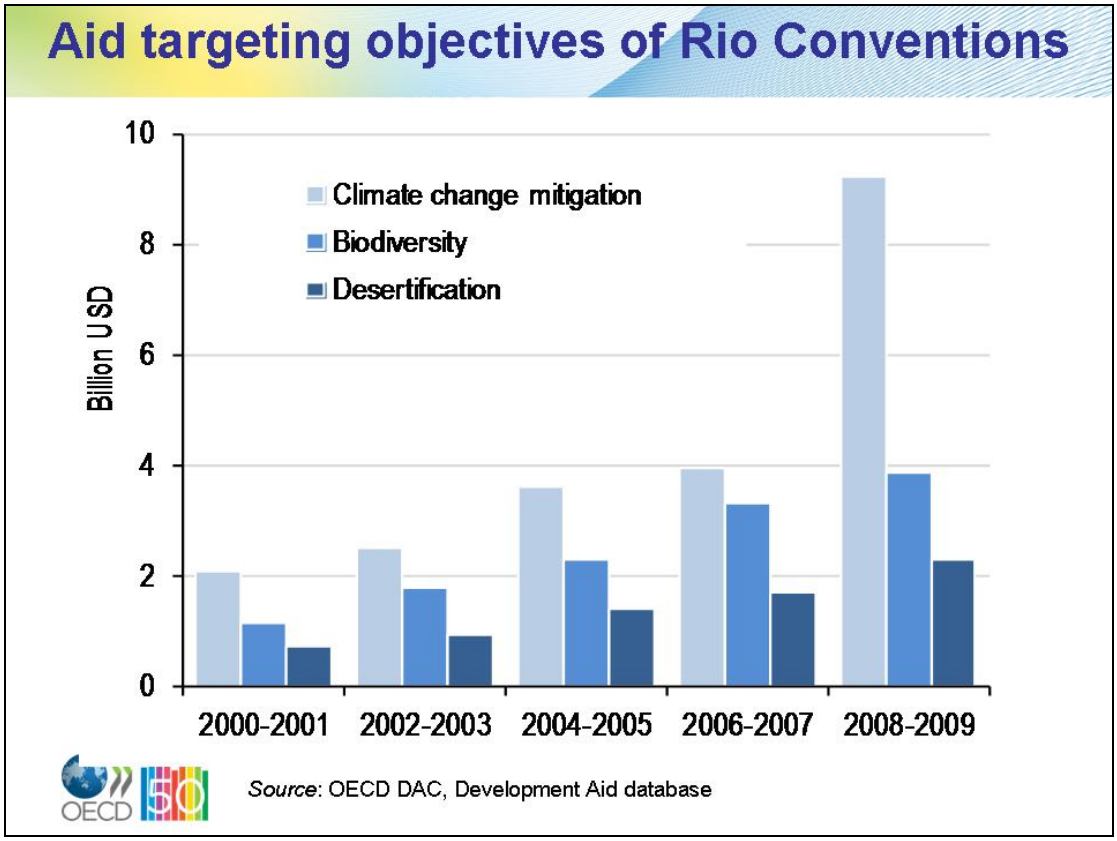
Remaining challenges:

- Not on track to limit average global temperature to 2C rise; energy mix in OECD remains 80% fossil fuel reliant
- Scale of consumption and production outstrips efficiency gains
- Urban air quality poses risk of premature deaths
- Increasing risks of non-linear changes in ecosystems; increasing number of endangered species
- Diffuse sources of pollution; declining quality & quantity of groundwater


Decoupling emissions in OECD countries
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
GHG emissions
SOx emissions
NOx emissions
GDP
relative decoupling
Absolute decoupling
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
OECD
Source: OECD Environmental data
5


Decoupling water use from economic growth
OECD countries (1990=100)
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
GDP
Population
Public supply
Irrigation
Total water abstraction
1990
1992
1994
1996
1998
2000
2002
2004
2006
2008
Over 1/3 of OECD countries have reduced their total water abstractions since 1990
OECD
Note: Data exclude Chile, Estonia, Israel and Slovenia
Source: OECD Environmental data


Green tax revenues (2009, as % of GDP)
Energy
Motor vehicles
Other
Percent of GDP
4.0
3.5
3.0
2.5
2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
0.0
Argentina
Australia
Canada
France
Germany
Italy
Japan
Korea
Mexico
South Africa
Spain
Turkey
United Kingdom
United States
OECD
Source: OECD/EEA database on instruments used for environmental policy, www.oecd.org/env/policies/database

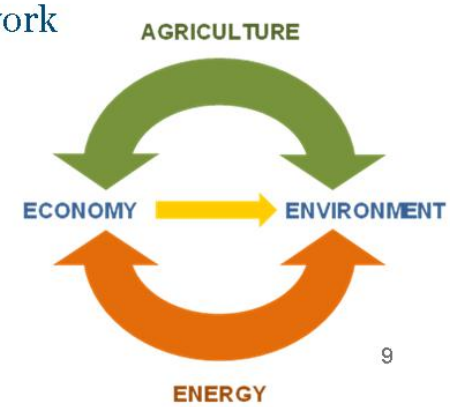

Aid targeting objectives of Rio Conventions
Climate change mitigation
Biodiversity
Desertification
Billion USD
10
8
6
4
2
0
2000-2001
2002-2003
2004-2005
2006-2007
2008-2009
OECD
Source: OECD DAC, Development Aid database

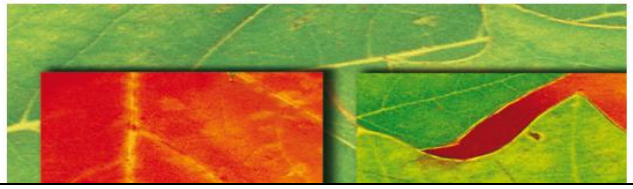
OECD Environmental Outlook to 2050

- March 2012 – input to Environment Ministerial Meeting
- 4 key issues: climate change, water, biodiversity & health-environment

Linking economic and environmental modelling:

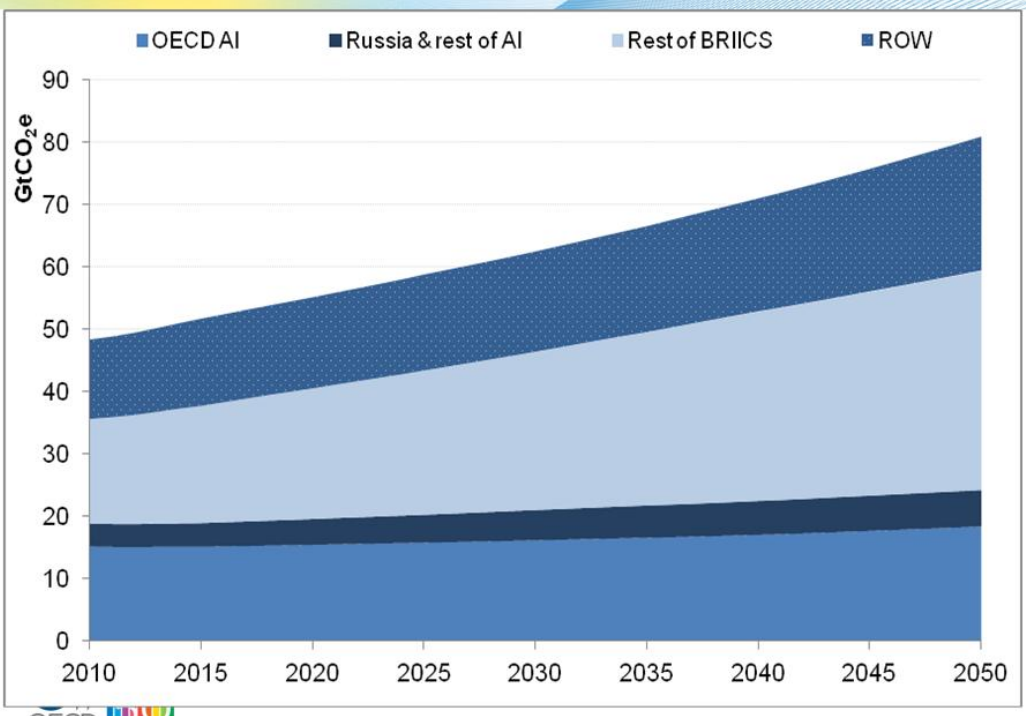
- general equilibrium economic modelling framework (ENV-LINKAGES at the OECD)
- environmental modelling framework (IMAGE suite of models at the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency)





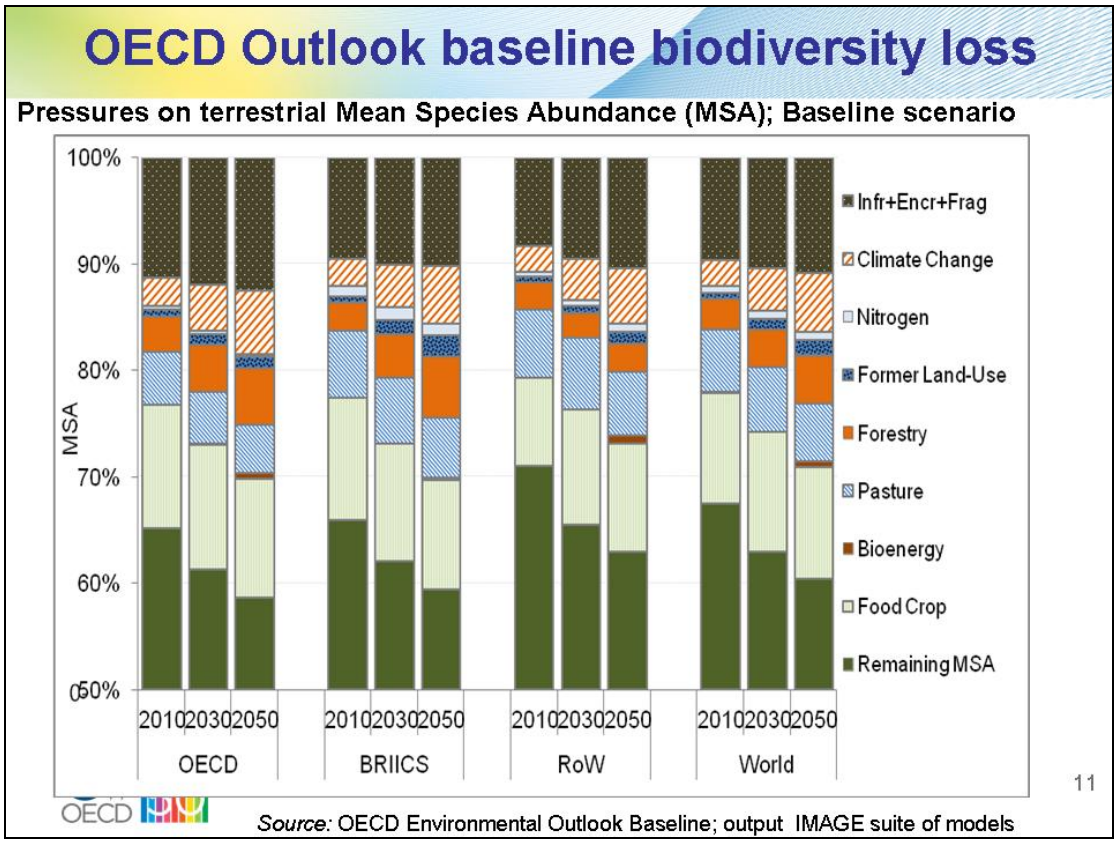
9

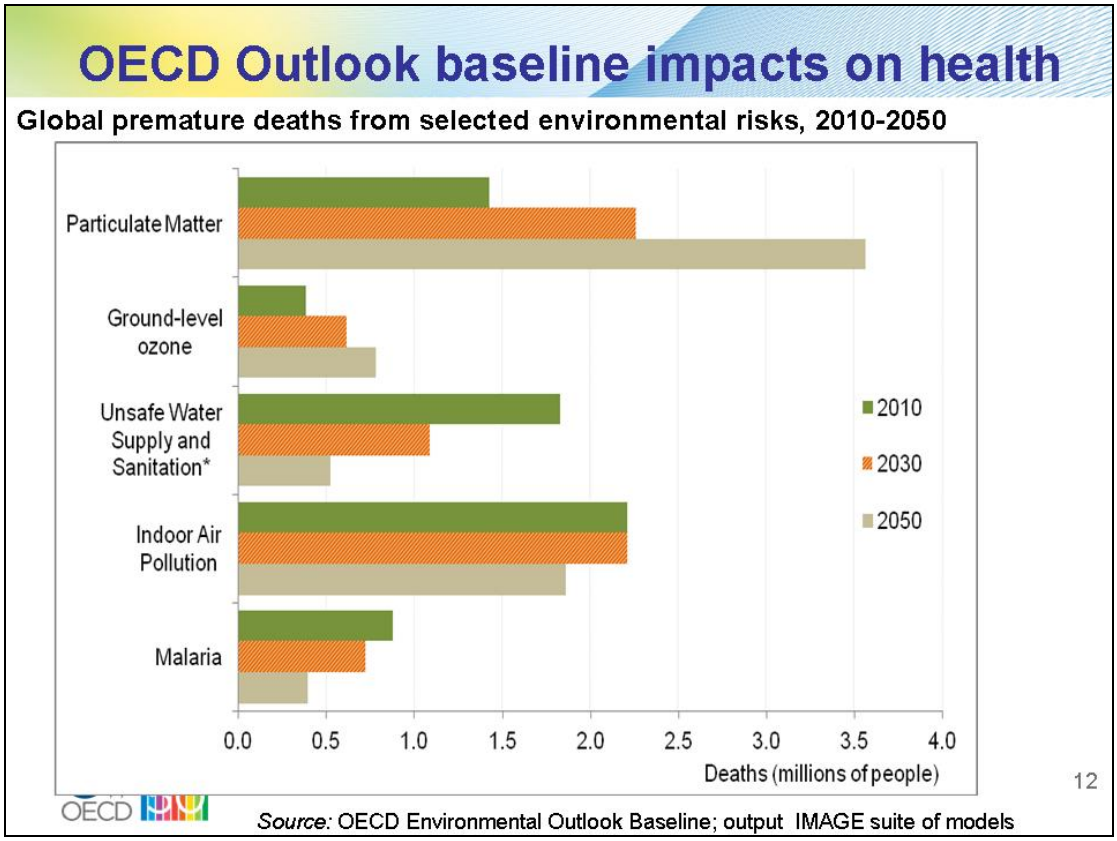
OECD Outlook baseline GHG emissions



10

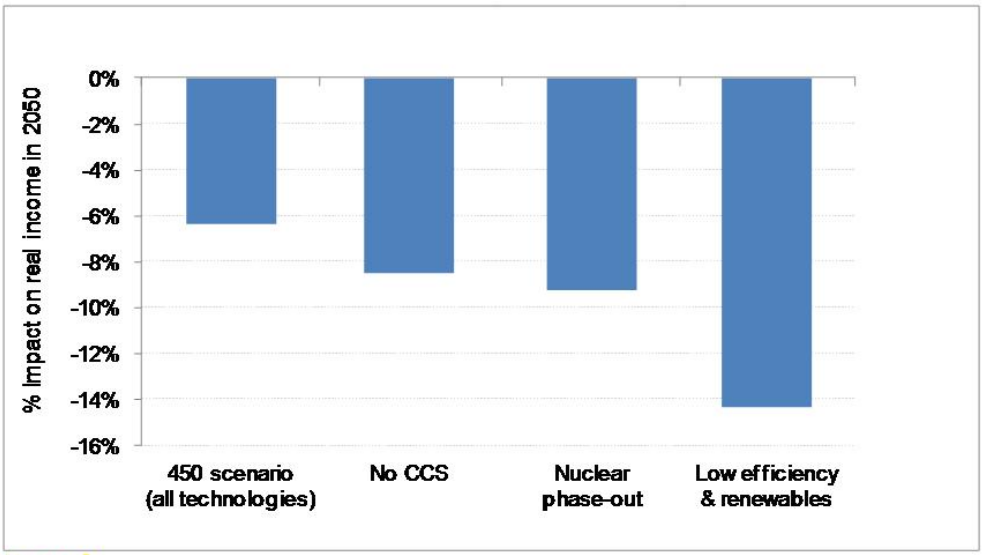
Source: OECD Environmental Outlook Baseline; output from ENV-Linkages


OECD Outlook baseline biodiversity loss
Pressures on terrestrial Mean Species Abundance (MSA); Baseline scenario
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
MSA
2010 2030 2050
OECD
BRIICS
RoW
World
Infr+Encr+Frag
Climate Change
Nitrogen
Former Land-Use
Forestry
Pasture
Bioenergy
Food Crop
Remaining MSA
11
OECD
Source: OECD Environmental Outlook Baseline; output IMAGE suite of models


OECD Outlook baseline impacts on health
Global premature deaths from selected environmental risks, 2010-2050
Particulate Matter
Ground-level ozone
Unsafe Water Supply and Sanitation*
Indoor Air Pollution
Malaria
2010
2030
2050
0.0
0.5
1.0
1.5
2.0
2.5
3.0
3.5
4.0
Deaths (millions of people)
12
OECD
Source: OECD Environmental Outlook Baseline; output IMAGE suite of models

Economic impact of technology choices

Leaving out any technology will make the costs of action higher



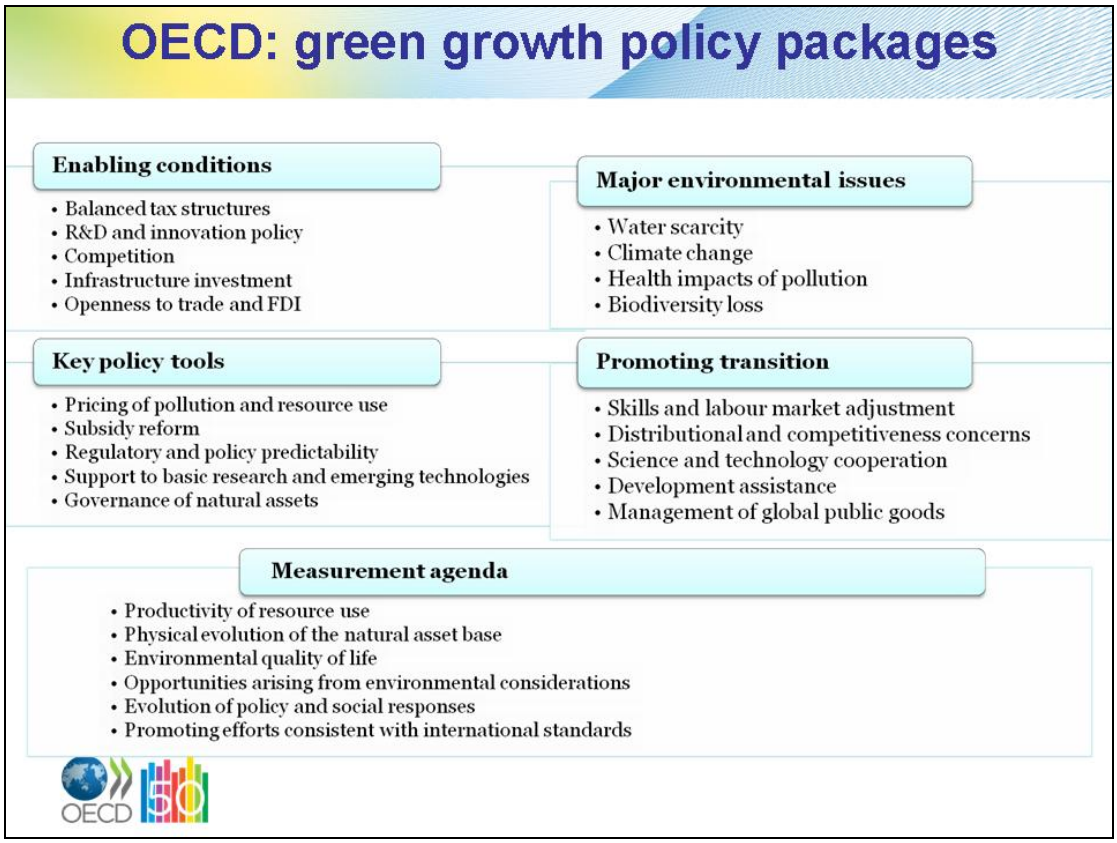
Source: OECD Environment Outlook policy projections; ENV Linkages model

The OECD Green Growth Strategy

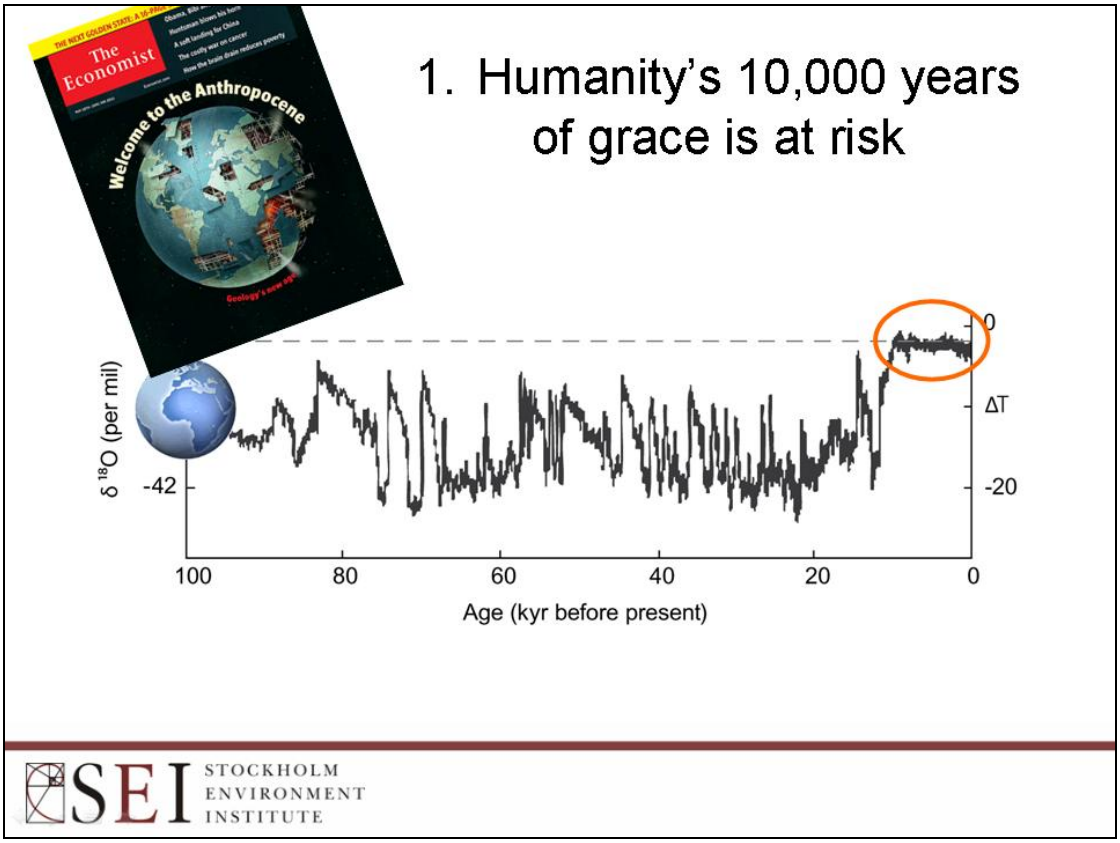
Green growth means fostering economic growth and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies. Catalyses investment and innovation underpinning sustained growth and gives rise to new sources of growth.

- Multi-disciplinary inter-governmental process:
  25 OECD Committees (Ministries of Finance, Environment, Agriculture, Development Co-operation, Industry, etc.)

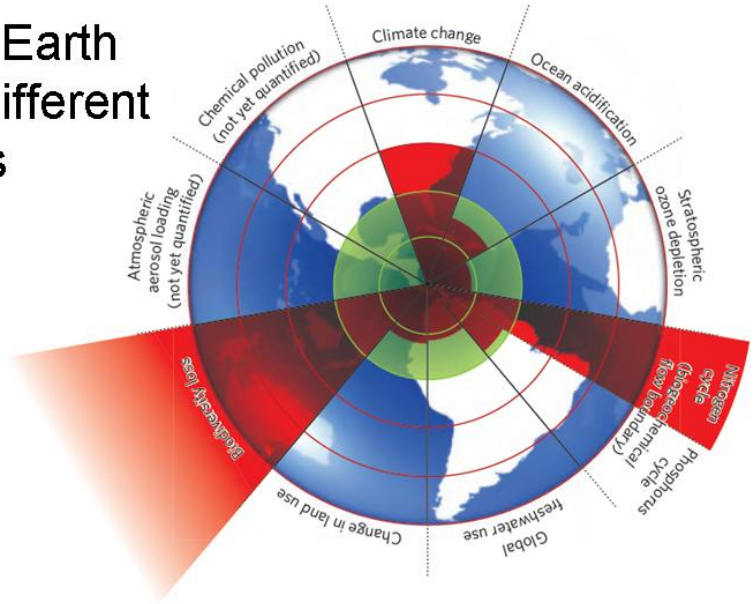
We need growth and it needs to be green


OECD: green growth policy packages
Enabling conditions
• Balanced tax structures
• R&D and innovation policy
• Competition
• Infrastructure investment
• Openness to trade and FDI
Major environmental issues
• Water scarcity
• Climate change
• Health impacts of pollution
• Biodiversity loss
Key policy tools
• Pricing of pollution and resource use
• Subsidy reform
• Regulatory and policy predictability
• Support to basic research and emerging technologies
• Governance of natural assets
Promoting transition
• Skills and labour market adjustment
• Distributional and competitiveness concerns
• Science and technology cooperation
• Development assistance
• Management of global public goods
Measurement agenda
• Productivity of resource use
• Physical evolution of the natural asset base
• Environmental quality of life
• Opportunities arising from environmental considerations
• Evolution of policy and social responses
• Promoting efforts consistent with international standards
OECD

5. Presentation by Mans Nilsson, Deputy Director of the Stockholm Environment Institute



Interacting Earth systems at different scales



Rockström et al. 2009 Nature, 461 (24): 472-475

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2. Shifting global economic and political power

2001-2010	(IMF, The Economist)	2011-2015	(IMF (Forecast)
Angola	11.1	China	9.5
China	10.5	India	8.2
Myanmar	10.3	Ethiopia	8.1
Nigeria	8.9	Mozambique	7.7
Ethiopia	8.4	Tanzania	7.2
Kazakstan	8.2	Vietnam	7.2
Chad	7.9	Congo	7.0
Mozambique	7.9	Ghana	7.0
Cambodia	7.7	Zambia	6.9
Rwanda	7.6	Nigeria	6.8

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3. New lifestyles and technologies

Urbanization

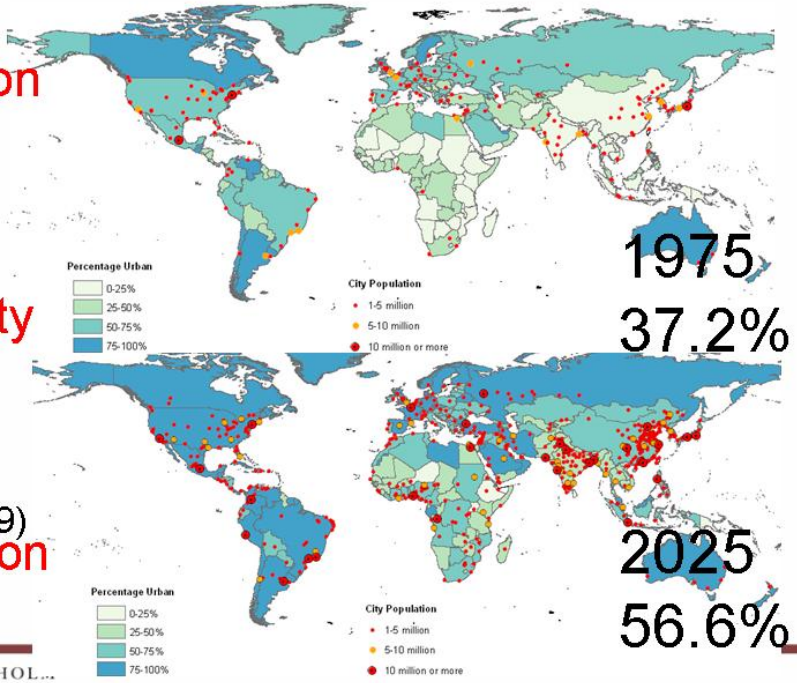
Education

Connectivity

Affluence

UNDESA (2009)

Globalization



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Source: UNDESA (2009)

5

B. What are the implications?

-Moving from remediation to prevention requires moving from environmental media to economic strategies that cu across these

-Improving the state of the environment requires internationalization of EAP

-Securing commitment and political will requires a focus on Europe's competitive advantages

→ thematic areas combining these aspects

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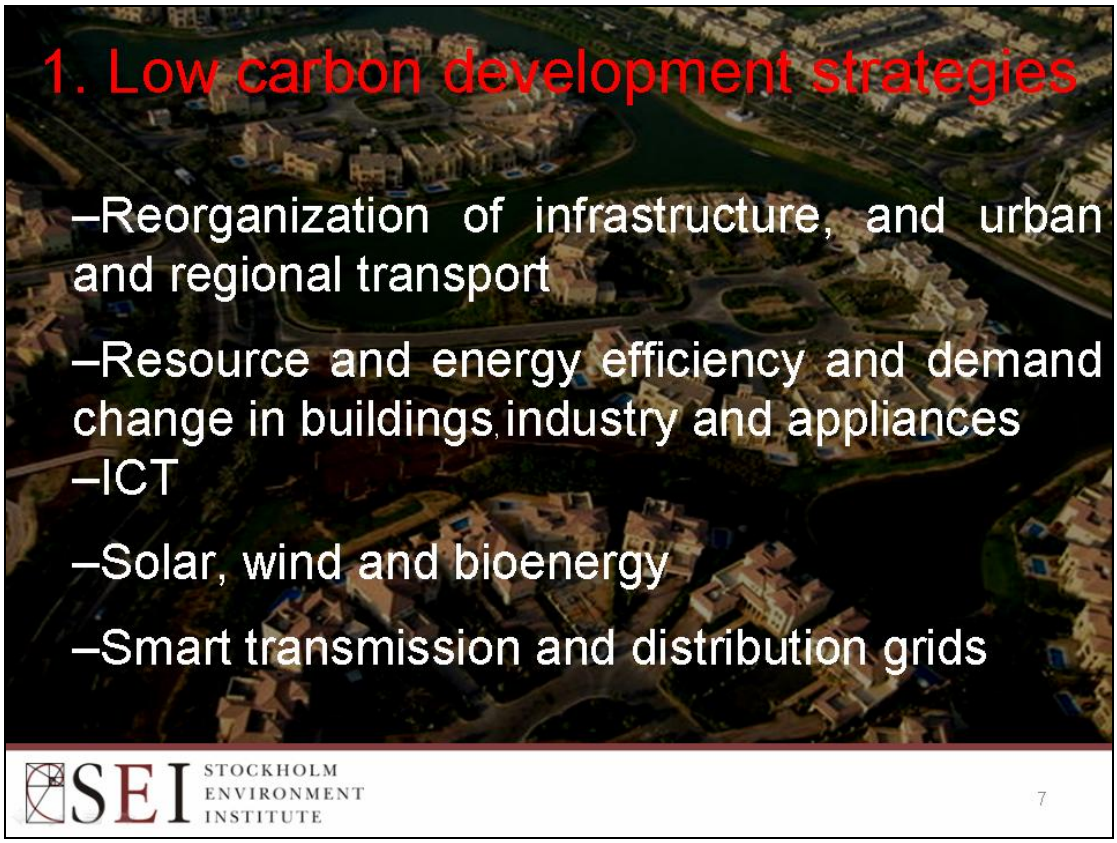
1. Low carbon development strategies
–Reorganization of infrastructure, and urban and regional transport
–Resource and energy efficiency and demand change in buildings industry and appliances
–ICT
–Solar, wind and bioenergy
–Smart transmission and distribution grids
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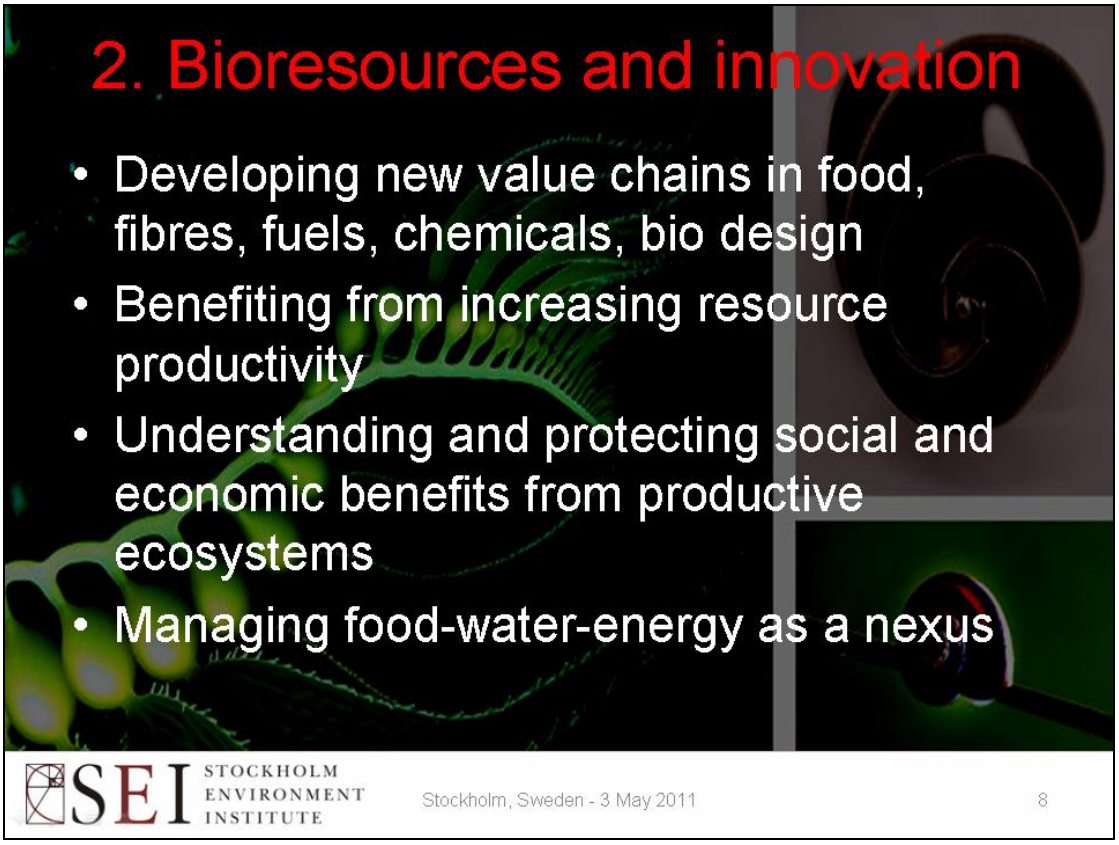
2. Bioresources and innovation
• Developing new value chains in food, fibres, fuels, chemicals, bio design
• Benefiting from increasing resource productivity
• Understanding and protecting social and economic benefits from productive ecosystems
• Managing food-water-energy as a nexus
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8

6. Presentation by Jeremy Wates, Secretary General of EEB, European Environmental Bureau

WORKSHOP ON SETTING PRIORITIES FOR THE SEVENTH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PROGRAMME

Jeremy Wates, Secretary General,
European Environmental Bureau

* * *

European Parliament, Brussels, 12 January 2012

TOWARDS AN AMBITIOUS 7EAP

- The goal: environmental sustainability

→ substantial reduction in 'ecological footprint'

→respect for planetary boundaries

→high environmental quality

- Science-based with precautionary principle
- Concrete medium term targets coupled with longer-term vision

2

SCOPE

- **Comprehensive**: duplication is not problematic, omission is
- 'Focused' must mean **targeted**, with indicators; not incomplete
- Response to **SOER**
- **6EAP priority areas still valid**: nature and biodiversity, environment and health, natural resources and waste, climate change, international issues (new issues like nano-technology fit in old categories)

3

EXTENDING LEGISLATION

- **Legislation works!** (more than voluntary measures…)
- **Filling in gaps**, e.g. soil, environmental inspection, access to justice, certain air and water pollutants
- **Progressive strengthening** of legislation, such as REACH (e.g. to better cover EDCs), eco-design directive, WEEE and other waste legislation

4

BETTER IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT

- Strengthening **inspection and enforcement** capacities at both EU and Member State levels
- Enabling the public to trigger enforcement through improved **access to justice**
- Using **technology** to monitor implementation and compliance

5

ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRATION

- Extending EIA and SEA
- From environmental assessment to environmental approval
- Environmental/SD advisory councils
- EU Sustainable Development Strategy

6

FINANCING AND MARKET-BASED INSTRUMENTS

- **EU budget**
- **National budgets** (new treaty, European semester)
- **Greening the tax base**: expanding beyond ETD to broader and deeper taxation of resource use, waste and pollution
- Removing **environmentally harmful subsidies**

7

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

- Stimulating sustainability-oriented research
- Minimizing risks, making trade-offs

8

THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

- Principle of **international solidarity**
- **Robust defence of EU's green practices** (e.g. inclusion of airlines in ETS)
- Applying relevant outcomes of **Rio+20** (e.g. SDGs)

9

EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY

- Access to information, public participation, access to justice: **going beyond Aarhus**
- **Education and awareness-raising**
- Enhancing **consumer pressure** e.g. through improved labeling, mandatory corporate sustainability reporting

10

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL POLICIES

POLICY DEPARTMENT A
ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC POLICY

Role

Policy departments are research units that provide specialised advice to committees, inter-parliamentary delegations and other parliamentary bodies.

Policy Areas

- Economic and Monetary Affairs
- Employment and Social Affairs
- Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
- Industry, Research and Energy
- Internal Market and Consumer Protection

Documents

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