THE EU SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (SDS) – an environmental perspective

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OVERVIEW

1. WHAT IS THE EU SDS?
   - Policy context
   - SDS related documents / strategies

2. AIMS OF THE EU SDS?

3. WHAT IS THE CURRENT SITUATION?

4. WHAT ARE THE FUTURE CHALLENGES?
   - SDS review

5. LINKS TO THE MA
1. WHAT IS THE EU SDS?

- Not a single document
- Result of a multi-layer process

**RELEVANT POLICIES**

- Cardiff (1998) environment integration
- Lisbon (2000) social and economic objectives to 2010
- Commission COM (2001) 264 (internal)
- Gothenburg (2001)
- Commission COM (2002) 82 (external)
- WSSD Johannesburg (2002)
- COM (2003) 829 on WSSD+1 and EC reports to major events Monterrey, Doha
- March 2003 Spring Council
2. AIMS OF THE EU SDS

- Overall aim: Brundtland definition

INTERNAL – COM (2001) 264 + Gothenburg conclusions

A. ADDRESSING UNSUSTAINABLE TRENDS IN 6 PRIORITY AREAS

1. Climate change 4. Sustainable transport
2. Public health 5. Aging population
3. Natural resources 6. Social exclusion

B. NEW APPROACH TO POLICY MAKING

- Improve policy coherence (IA)
- Get prices right (MBI)
- Improve communication and mobilize citizens and business
- Invest in science and technology for the future (ETAP)
AIMS OF THE EU SDS


– Harness **globalisation** – ensure **trade** supportive of SD
– Fighting **poverty** and promote social development, MDG target to halve extreme poverty by 2015
– Promote sustainable management of **natural and environmental resources** (Climate change, Energy, water, biodiversity, desertification, transport, fisheries, monitoring (GMES), sust prod+cons, CSR,…)
– Improve **coherence** of EU policies
– Ensure better **governance** at all levels (national, regional, global)
– Ensure **financing** for SD (Monterrey, 0.7-0.33%, HIPC, Untying of aid, global public goods)
3. CURRENT SITUATION

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

A. INTERNAL PRIORITY AREAS

- **Climate change**: Ratification of Kyoto, Emission trading, Energy taxation Directive
- **Health**: REACH proposal
- **Resources**: IPP, CAP and CFP reforms, Natura 2000, Review of EC-BSAP (Malahide Message), Soil Strategy, Marine Strategy, Sustainable use of Natural Resources Strategy, CSR, ETAP
- **Transport**: Bio fuels Directive, Marco Polo programme (modal shift)
- **Enlargement**

B. NEW APPROACH TO POLICY MAKING

- Sectoral integration (Cardiff process) - CAP and CFP reforms
- 7 Thematic Strategies (6th EAP): integrated and participatory approach
- **Aarhus – transparency**
3. CURRENT SITUATION

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

C. EXTERNAL

- Communication COM(2003)/829 on WSSD+1
- EUWI EU Water for Life initiative
- EUEI EU Energy for Poverty Eradication and Sust Dev initiative and JREC (Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition)
- FLEGT EU action plan of forest law enforcement, governance and trade
- WTO DDA, STIC (Sustainable Trade and innovation Centres), SIA Trade agreements
- Review of Development Cooperation programmes
- Green Diplomacy Network
- Everything but Arms, HIPC
- 10 MS achieved 0.33% ODA/GNI objective 2003
3. CURRENT SITUATION

SUMMARY OF CURRENT SITUATION...

- **SOME positive results**
  - Organic farming, air emissions, Climate Change, ODA, WSSD Initiatives...

- **But, in general, UNSUSTAINABLE TRENDS ARE NOT REVERSED**
  - Biodiversity loss, ghg emissions, renewables, fisheries, transport decoupling

- **INSTRUMENTS FOR POLICY COHERENCE STILL NEED TO DELIVER**
  - Slow progress in Cardiff integration process, e.g. insufficient mainstreaming of env in DEV policies
  - Insufficient vertical integration of national, EU and international strategies

EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE BUT PROGRESS STILL INSUFFICIENT
4. FUTURE CHALLENGES

- **CHANGING POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES**
  - Recent focus on growth and competitiveness

- **ENLARGEMENT**
  - Cohesion + Structural funds

- **KEEP ENVIRONMENT HIGH ON THE AGENDA (LISBON VS SDS / GOTHENBURG)**
  - Mobilise political and societal support for SD
  - Highlight SD concerns in new financial perspectives

- **TAKE A POSITIVE APPROACH**
  - Win-Win, Environmental Technologies
FUTURE CHALLENGES

• Review of the SDS Strategy
  – start now with stakeholder questionnaire, new communication in early 2005
  – Integration of SDS into Lisbon Agenda
  – Merging of internal and external part
  – Integration of recent global developments

• Make the link between MDGs and WSSD/MEA targets, be ready for UN Major Event Sept. 2005
5. LINKS TO THE MA

• Help basing decisions on sound scientific knowledge – provide part of scientific base for external aspects of SDS review
• Make the case for biodiversity / MDG link
• Demonstrate local-national-**regional**-global cause effect relationships
• Highlight EU’s impact on SD in third countries and ways to reduce negative impacts
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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