



EU Environment Policy

Lense Strategic workshop
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The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author and may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the European Commission

Why does environment matter?

- **Future of life** on earth (threats to our support systems)
- Basis for **agriculture and industrial** activity
- Overuse/depletion of **non-renewable resources**
- Depletion/overuse of **renewable resources**
- Environment improvements outweighed by **economic and social pressures**; e.g. transport, energy, agriculture...

Short history in 3 chapters

- **Local**
 - 1960s/70s - local activism on air, water, waste and nature protection
- **European**
 - 1970s/1980s - recognition of need for European level solutions
 - 1972 EU environment policy begins
- **Global**
 - **1990s/2000 - global issues (climate, biodiversity)**
 - 1992 Earth Summit in Rio
 - 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development

Instruments of EU environment policy

- Successive **Environmental Action Programmes**, currently 6th EAP (2002-2012)
- **Legislation** (over 200 pieces)
- **Funding** – LIFE+ (2.1 bn € over 7 years), Regional and Agriculture Funds
- **Market based** – emissions trading, taxes and charges, targeted subsidies
- **Voluntary** instruments – Ecolabel, EMAS
- Voluntary **agreements** (CO₂ in car sector)

Sixth Environment Action Programme: Four main priorities

- Climate Change
- Nature and Biodiversity
- Environment & Health and Quality of Life
(incl. Chemicals)
- Natural Resources and Waste

Environment and the economy

- Environment is a **new “industry”**
 - Annual turnover of €227 bn (= 2.2% of GDP)
 - Over 3.4 m jobs in EU eco-industries
 - EU is a world leader in **eco-technologies**
- Environmental standards or economic instruments act as a strong dynamic for **innovation**
- Waste prevention and efficient use of resources **save companies money**
- High EU levels of protection are essential to maintain the integrity of the **single market** - avoiding eco-protectionism

Environment and the economy

- **Postponing action now will cost more in the future**
 - Health costs from air pollution still between €275 - 790bn p.a.
 - Recent costs of extreme weather events - \$27bn global insured losses in 2004. Total losses from climate-change related disasters more than € 86 bn.
 - Stern report expects cost of climate change in case of non-action to be 5-20% of world production. Action would cost 1%.

Working better with the market

- **Working with businesses** - action to assist SME's to comply with environment law
- **Putting a price on pollution** – Taxation - emission trading
- Encouragement **through Environmental state aid**
- **Helping producers and consumers to make informed choices** - ecolabelling
- Promoting **green public procurement**

Raise demand for green goods **The EC Green public procurement policy**

- **Political support**
National Action Plans
Communication – Targets – Criteria - monitor
- **Information - training**

The EC Green public procurement policy

- Public procurement = 16 % of EU GDP**
=> Greening will have huge benefits for
- **Environment**
 - **Economy**
purchasers - LCC
Huge market for eco-technologies
 - **Political - Example setting !**

GPP – the national action plans

- 13 Action plans => Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, Italy, Latvia, NL, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, UK
- Work on-going in 11 more Member States
- http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/national_gpp_strategies_en.htm

GPP – draft Communication

- Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy 2006 sets EU target for 2010
=> average level of GPP should be at current (=2006) level of best performing states
- Commission Communication 2008 => 50 % GPP by 2010

GPP – draft Communication

GPP = procedure where environmental considerations are included in

- **Technical specifications**
- **Selection criteria**
- **Award criteria**
- **Contract performance clauses**

GPP – draft Communication

- **Operational and legal guidance on costs and benefits of GPP - inclusion of whole-life costing at award stage - environmental management and GPP**
- **Process of cooperation with Member States and stakeholders to identify GPP criteria**
- **Examples of GPP criteria included in Annex**

GPP – draft Communication

- **Training programme based on GPP Training Toolkit (to be published early 2008) including**
 - **Strategic information: how to set up a GPP policy within an organisation**
 - **GPP criteria for priority sectors**

GPP – draft Communication

- **GPP Criteria based on EU ecolabel criteria**
- **Priority groups for GPP Toolkit (first tranche)**
 - 1. Paper**
 - 2. Cleaning products**
 - 3. Office machinery**
 - 4. Construction**
 - 5. Transport**

GPP – draft Communication

6. Furniture
7. Electricity
8. Food and Catering services
9. Textiles
10. Gardening services
11. Equipment used in health services

GPP – Capacity building

- Capacity building
 - GPP EUROPA website
 - <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/>
 - Examples of GPP strategies
 - Life cycle cost information
 - Continuous upload of good practices
 - Links to environmental databases

GPP – Capacity building

- Handbook on GPP
in all EU languages
Copies on GPP website:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/guideline_en.htm
- Workshops material: <http://www.iclei-europe.org/index.php?id=gppworkshops>

Ecolabel



- Voluntary EU Scheme to encourage businesses to market products and services that are kinder to the environment and for European consumers - to easily identify them
- Currently studying the potential to establish ecolabel criteria for construction products
- http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/index_en.htm

Ecolabel

Household appliances (4)	Portable computers
Detergents (4)	Televisions
Bed mattresses	Light bulbs
Textiles	Tissue paper
Footwear	Copying paper
Indoor paints & varnishes	Tourist Accommodation
Hard floor coverings	Campsites
Soil improvers	Lubricants
Personal Computers	Heat Pumps
Soaps and Shampoos	

Eco-design for energy using products

- **Framework Directive aimed at establishing mandatory requirements for market access for energy using products – through implementing measures based on impact assessment studies**
- **May be extended in the future to cover also non energy using products – construction products (uncertain yet)**
- **http://ec.europa.eu/energy/demand/legislation/eco_design_en.htm**

Energy Performance in Buildings Directive

- common methodology to calculate the energy performance of a building - taking account of local climatic conditions
- minimum energy performance standards to be determined by Member States
- building certification to inform owners and users of energy use
- Regular inspection of boilers and air conditioning systems (energy efficiency and GHG emissions)
- http://ec.europa.eu/energy/demand/legislation/buildings_en.htm

Further information

Website of DG Environment:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/index_en.htm

