



EU Sustainable Development Strategy review: Challenges and Opportunities in EU25

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OVERVIEW

- DG Environment's aims for the EU SDS review
- Risks and challenges
- Where things stand today
- Interplay between national and European SDS
- Conclusions



AIMS OF THE EU SDS

A. ADDRESSING UNSUSTAINABLE TRENDS IN 6 PRIORITY AREAS

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

B. NEW APPROACH TO POLICY MAKING

- *Increase policy coherence*
- *Increase public participation*
- *Science based / knowledge based approach*



POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS

- Major importance:
 - precedent for future reviews
 - Influence on future EU priorities
 - Sets the tone for mid-term review of Lisbon
- Aim for a comprehensive and full review to reinvigorate sustainable development
- Risks
 - Lisbon review may overshadow EU SDS review
 - Current economic and political climate



POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS (2)

- Look for a shared vision
- Accommodate competitiveness concerns ...
- ... but prevent 'race to the bottom' and rather lead 'race to the top'



KEY CHALLENGES

- Put a well argued case for environmental policy
- Highlight potential positive synergies
- Identify costs of inaction
- Be clear on what a shift towards sustainable development really implies
- Involve civil society



CURRENT SITUATION

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

A. PRIORITY AREAS

- *Climate change*: Ratification of Kyoto, Emission trading, Energy taxation Directive
- *Health*: REACH proposal
- *Resources*: CAP and CFP reforms, Natura 2000
- *Transport*: Bio fuels Directive, Marco Polo programme (modal shift)

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



WHAT MEMBER STATES CAN DO

- 19 of the 25 MS and AC have a NSDS
- Important challenges:
 - Turn ambitions into actions
 - Ensure effective policy coherence
 - Focus and prioritisation
- Implement and regularly assess Strategies
- Support an ambitious review of EU SDS



CONCLUSIONS

- Enlargement reinforces need for SD as EU's guiding vision
- Use the review to reinvigorate SD
- Mobilise sufficient political and societal support for SD