

EU's sustainable development policy

International workshop
Regions and Sustainable Development
24 June 2010, Brussels

European Commission, Secretariat-General, D-2
Lea Vatanen

Sustainable development

- It is a fundamental objective of the EU.
- Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union:

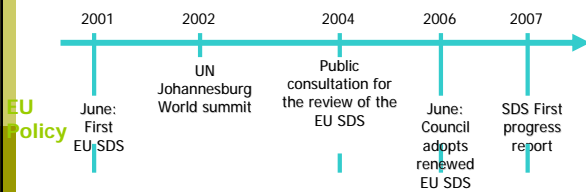
The Union shall establish an internal market. It shall work for the **sustainable development** of Europe based on balanced economic growth and price stability, a highly competitive social market economy, aiming at full employment and social progress, and a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment. It shall promote scientific and technological advance.

It shall combat social exclusion and discrimination, and shall promote social justice and protection, equality between women and men, solidarity between generations and protection of the rights of the child.

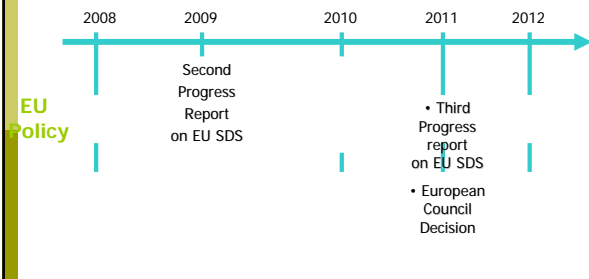
It shall promote economic, social and territorial cohesion, and solidarity among Member States.

It shall respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, and shall ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced.

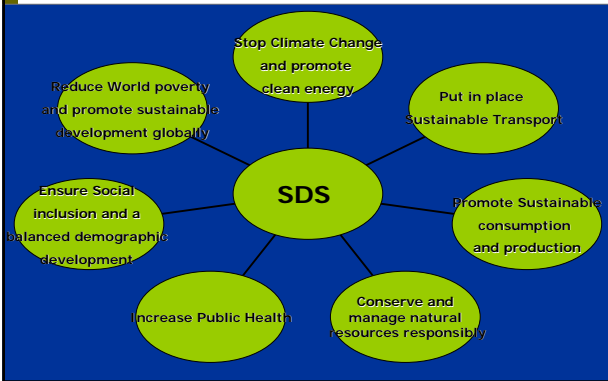
EU Sustainable Development Strategy Timeline (1)



EU Sustainable Development Strategy Timeline (2)



EU SDS: 7 key challenges for Europe



EU SDS: 4 Cross Cutting Tools

- Educate and train people to make sustainable choices
- Promote Research and Development in sustainable solutions
- Use economic instruments to promote a SD society
- Communicate, mobilise actors and civil society

Sustainable development












Actors (EU)

- EU institutions and bodies
- Member States
- Regional and local authorities
 - "With regard to the important role of local and regional levels in delivering sustainable development and building up social capital, it is the overall aim to build sustainable communities in urban and rural areas where citizens live and work and jointly create a high quality of life." EU SDS 2006
- Civil society
- Businesses










EU SDS – developments in 2009

- The Commission adopted the second progress report on 24.7.2009 – COM(2009) 400
 - Development of the concept of sustainable development
 - Policy progress at EU level
 - Input for reflection and debate on how to bring sustainable development into the future
- Eurostat monitoring report of EU SDS in November 2009 (pdf)
- European Council conclusions of 10-11 December 2009

Eurostat: Overview of headline indicators

SDI theme	Headline indicator	
Socioeconomic development	GDP growth per capita	
Climate change and energy	Greenhouse gas emissions (EU-15)	
	Consumption of renewables	
Sustainable transport	Energy consumption of transport and GDP	
Sustainable consumption and production	Resource productivity	
Natural resources	Abundance of common birds (19 MS)	
	Conservation of fish stocks (NE Atlantic)	
Public health	Healthy life years (EU-25)	
Social inclusion	Risk of poverty (EU-25)	
Demographic changes	Employment rate of older workers	
Global partnership	Official development assistance	
Good governance	No headline indicator	:

Eurostat: Public health (example)

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
 Healthy life years (EU-25, from 2005)	Health and health inequalities	
	 Deaths due to chronic diseases	 Suicides  Unmet needs for healthcare
	Determinants of health	
	 Production of toxic chemicals (EU-25, from 2004)	 Exposure to air pollution by particulate matter
		 Exposure to air pollution by ozone
		 Annoyance by noise (from 2005)
		 Serious accidents at work

EU SDS: European Council conclusions of December 2009:

- EU SDS provides a long-term vision and overarching policy framework
- Unsustainable trends require urgent action (climate change, energy consumption in transport, loss of biodiversity, natural resources)
- Stronger focus on the shift to a safe and sustainable low-carbon and low-input economy
- Priority actions should be more clearly specified in future reviews
- Governance should be reinforced for example through clearer links to the future EU 2020 strategy and other cross-cutting strategies

EU SDS – Next steps

- Next steps:
 - EU SDS foresees
 - Next progress report in 2011
 - At the latest by 2011 the European Council will decide when a comprehensive review needs to be launched
 - More information on EU SDS:
http://ec.europa.eu/sustainable/welcome/index_en.htm

Europe 2020 Strategy

- On 3 March 2010 the Commission proposed a new economic strategy for Europe, Europe 2020 (COM(2010) 2020) (preceded by a stakeholder consultation with about 1500 responses)
- June European Council adopted the strategy and confirmed the five headline targets.
- Three thematic priorities:
 - **Smart growth**: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation.
 - **Sustainable growth**: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy.
 - **Inclusive growth**: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.

Europe 2020 Strategy

- Five EU headline targets:
 - 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed.
 - 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D.
 - The "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right).
 - 20% energy efficiency improvement
 - 20% share of renewables in final energy consumption
 - 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels
 - Improve education levels, in particular by aiming to reduce school drop-out rates to less than 10% and by increasing the share of 30-34 year old having completed tertiary or equivalent education to at least 40%.
 - 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty and exclusion.

Europe 2020 Strategy

- Seven flagship initiatives in order to meet the targets:
 - Innovation Union
 - Youth on the move
 - A digital agenda for Europe
 - **Resource efficient Europe**
 - An industrial policy for the globalisation era
 - An agenda for new skills and jobs
 - European platform against poverty

- More information:
<http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020>

EU SDS and Europe 2020

- Reinforced sustainability dimension in Europe 2020 (compared to its predecessor Lisbon Strategy)
- There are overlapping areas
- **How to ensure smooth interaction and complementarity with Europe 2020?**
