The role of National Councils for Sustainable Development

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National Councils for Sustainable Development: typical features

- Members from different parts of society
- Some experts; some generalists
- Close to Government - privileged access
- Independence, to varying degrees
- Modest resources
Added value

- Assembling different viewpoints
- Potentially wide outreach
- Ability to cross policy boundaries and integrate
- Ability to tackle long term issues
- Seeking to achieve environmental, social and economic goals together
Sustainable Development Strategies

• Natural territory for NCSDs
• NCSDs can contribute on framework, on detailed content, on process, and on implementation and monitoring
• NCSDs’ main focus national, but can also help at local and European levels
NCSD contributions

• Clarifying principles and objectives
• Commenting on targets and indicators
• Commenting on measures (actual or proposed) and their effectiveness
• Helping to mobilise different actors and integrating their contributions
Some key issues for SD strategies

• Live topics such as energy/climate change, transport including aviation, waste management and recycling, sustainable consumption and production

• The roles of different social partners: regional and local government; business and trade unions; the educational and scientific communities; NGOs etc

• Process issues: eg consultation/participation
What NCSDs can do together

• Learning from each other and sharing best practice between countries
• Joint studies on key issues
• Collective input into the European SD Strategy (development, implementation and reporting); and the interaction of European Institutions with national strategies