



EU AT



Renewing the EU Strategy on Sustainable Development

State of Play and Negotiations under the AU Presidency



What is at stake?

EU has to face several unsustainable trends (**climate change, transport, health, poverty, social exclusion etc.**), which have not been reversed or stopped yet...

...therefore substantial renewal of the 2001 Göteborg EU Strategy on Sustainable Development (EU SDS) was needed



What is at stake?

✓ “European way of life”:
Quality of life and well-being of European citizens –
in connection with values like
welfare, sound environment,
health, social cohesion,
solidarity (+ with next
generations), equality,
democracy ...



What is needed?

- ✓ Show Credibility of European Union as driving force on SD also in global context – facing globalisation
- ✓ Bridge the gap “FROM WORDS TO ACTION” – create new modes of governance; responsibility and ownership (all political levels; stakeholders, civil society)
- ✓ Strengthen trust in EU institutions – visibility of EU as “role model” for other actors like municipalities (show how to face the challenges)

How to create an effective EU SDS?

- Try to answer the question: How do we want our future to look like? (vision)
- Give orientation (objectives) and show clear directions (targets); Intensify efforts (key actions)
- Measure progress (indicators)
- Open up new perspectives (governance)



European Council December 2005

VI. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

13. The European Council notes the presentation of the Commission's Communication on a renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy for the next 5 years. The European Council looks forward to adopting in June 2006 an ambitious and comprehensive strategy, comprising targets, indicators and an effective monitoring procedure; which should integrate the internal and external dimensions and be based on a positive long-term vision, bringing together the Community's sustainable development priorities and objectives in a clear, coherent strategy that can be communicated simply and effectively to citizens.

Aims of the AU Presidency

- ✓ stimulate broad political discussion about SD at EU level (involvement of 10 Council formations)
- ✓ show that SD provides chances rather than obstacles – SD as precondition for long-term competitiveness
- ✓ involve highest political level: adoption of EU SDS at European Council in June 2006

Adoption of a SINGLE, COHERENT and READABLE DOCUMENT

The institutional set up at Council level

- ✓ Installation of Council working group “Friends-of-the-Presidency” (all Member States and Commission)
- ✓ Political debates in 10 Council formations
- ✓ Involvement of other EU institutions (like EP); stakeholder discussions (EEB, Economic and Social Committee etc.)

Negotiation process

EC Communication (Dec 05) as good basis for negotiations

Friends-of-the-Presidency-Group (FoP):

Phase I February-March: First general debate, governance cycle, questions for Council formations

Phase II April-May: negotiations on text for renewed EU SDS proposed by the AU Presidency

March-June: 10 Council formations

15th/16th of June: European Council, Heads of State and Government

Crucial points in the negotiations (1)

- level of ambition: how to create more ownership and effectiveness in the implementation ?
- how to include all contributions?
- relationship Lisbon & EU SDS: both strategies important; make value added clear; mutually supportive (difficulty in Governance cycles!)
- how to create more visibility for EU SDS (also in relation to Lisbon?)



Crucial points in the negotiations (2)

- question of targets (new vs. implementation of existing ones) + inclusion of targets from Annex 2
- inclusion of list of indicators
- how to define/find the “right” key actions?
- added value of EU SDS via Lisbon in “social dimension of SD” (e.g. education for SD is more than to strengthen the workforce of people)
- show interconnectedness of issues!
(e.g. transport, environment and health THE PEP)

Structure of EU SDS

- Introduction: “Our commitment to SD”
- “Declaration on SD” (European Council June 05)
- 7 Key Challenges (new: Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns): overall objective, targets and measures
- Cross Cutting Policies contributing to the knowledge society (education, research and development)
- Financing and economic instruments
- Communication & mobilising actors
- Implementation, monitoring and follow-up



7 Key challenges

- Climate Change and clean energy
- Sustainable transport
- Sustainable Consumption and Production (e.g. Green Public Procurement target)
- Management of natural resources (e.g. resource efficiency target)
- Public Health
- Social inclusion, demography and migration
- Global poverty and sustainable development challenges

“Governance cycle” (1)

- ✓ Existence of follow-up mechanism very important: Commission progress report every two years, peer reviews...
- ✓ national contribution/progress at national level (technical focal points in Member States)
- ✓ European Council will discuss about SD (December every two years): give “guidance for Lisbon”
- ✓ SD-indicators!



“Governance cycle” (2)

- ✓ Important role of National SD strategies
- ✓ Local/regional levels: delivery of SD (Local Agenda 21)
- ✓ Advisory Councils on SD (multi-stakeholder)
- ✓ Role of ESDN network (to be defined ! = chance)
- ✓ Intensify dialogue with economy and civil society



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„Many people at many different places doing many little things have the power to change the image of the world.“

African Saying





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Thank you for your attention!

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