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

African Saying
Thank your for your attention!

Contact:

Elisabeth.Freytag@lebensministerium.at
Rita.Trattnigg@lebensministerium.at
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

Christoph.Mueller@bka.gv.at
Christoph Müller
Federal Chancellery