The renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy

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Defining Sustainable Development

**Brundtland**: Development that meets the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs
EU’s approach to SD

- **March 2000**: Lisbon strategy adopted
- **Jun 2001**: Adoption of Sustainable Development Strategy
- **Feb 2002**: A global dimension is added to the strategy
- **June 2006**: Review of the Sustainable Development Strategy
Actions taken since 2001

Priority Areas, ex:

- **Climate change**: emission trading, climate & energy package…
- **Health**: REACH proposal on chemicals…
- **Resources**: reform of the CAP and CFP, Natura 2000 (18% territory)
- **Transport**: Bio fuels Directive, Marco Polo programme (modal shift)

Better Policy Making, ex:

- Systematic **Impact Assessment** of all major initiatives
- 7 **Thematic Strategies**: integrated and participatory approach
- Minimum standards for **public consultation**
Progress

How successful have we been in curbing unsustainable trends?
Greenhouse gas emissions
Biodiversity - Birds

![Graph showing population index for farmland birds from 1991 to 2002.]
Electricity from renewables
Transport

Diagram showing the index of EU25 GDP and EU25 Freight from 1994 to 2003. The index is normalized with 1995 = 100.
Energy intensity
Current state of affairs

- Unsustainable trends are still there
- Instruments for policy coherence need improvement

European Council called for the adoption of a more ambitious strategy

=> Adopted in 2006
EU SDS: overview

• **Priority areas for action** *(2006)*
  - Climate change and clean energy
  - Sustainable transport
  - Sustainable Production and Consumption
  - Public health
  - Conservation and management of natural resources
  - Social inclusion, demography and migration
  - Global poverty and sustainable development challenges
EU SDS: overview

• Cross cutting policies
  – Education
  – R&D
  – Fiscal instruments

• Governance cycle
  – 2 year progress reports
  – Discussion at December Council
  – System of peer reviews of NSDS
Concluding remarks
Overcoming barriers to more SD

• But SD remains problematic
  – Ambiguity of the concept
  – Strong resistance of losers to change
  – Cost considerations

• Parts of the solution…
  – Promote social and economic progress while keeping the environment as limiting factor
  – Look for other measurements of progress than GDP
  – Involve people & share experiences
Thank you

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