

# **EU environmental policy in wider international context - reflection of global and regional issues**

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# Globalization and the Environment

## EU as a key player

- **Challenge:** to reduce and stop degradation of ecosystems and ensure sustainable use of natural resources (e.g. water, soil, biodiversity, forests)
- **Multiple Crises:** food, energy, climate change, finance
- **EU - global ecological debtor**



# EU in global environmental policy

## Policy processes and instruments at global and regional levels

- UNGA, ECOSOC, UNEP, UN CSD, UN ECE, WTO, OECD etc.
- Legally binding instruments (MEAs)
- International good governance (IEG, SDG)
- coherence between the EU internal and international environmental goals and actions (e.g. 6th EAP, SDS, policies, EC legislation)
- EU benefits and costs



# Global environmental policy processes

## UN CSD & UNEP:

Main issues:

- chemicals management
- sustainable consumption and production
- green economy, Global Green New Deal
- transportation
- environmental law and IEG

## WTO & OECD

- environment + economy



# Environmental policy at regional level

## UN ECE

- **Process “Environment for Europe”** - effective instrument for strengthening dialogue between EU and EECCA countries
- **Interlinkages between EfE Process and ENP** including Eastern Partnership
- **Inter-regional cooperation** (Africa, Central and West Asia)
- **Linkages environmental policy, economic and social prosperity and competitiveness** and security to be promoted



# MEAs and their impact on future EU environmental policy

**Implementation and further development of major global conventions** – e.g. UNFCCC, UN CBD, UNCCD, Stockholm, Rotterdam, Basel, Ramsar, Vienna and Montreal Protocol,  
**of major regional conventions and protocols** – UN ECE (e.g. CLRTAP, EIA, SEA, PRTR)



# Impact of the Rio Conventions on future EU environmental policy

## UNFCCC, KP and post - 2012 negotiations

- The EU's objective and comprehensive position on the Copenhagen agreement were set
- Outcomes of the global negotiations to be reflected in future EU policy and actions

## CBD

- 2010 target not achieved despite all efforts at EU and global level
- COP 10 in October 2010 will adopt **a new Strategic Plan of the CBD after 2010 and its Multi-year Programme of Work (2010 – 2022)** - updated Biodiversity Target to be included



# UNCCD

- Ensure effective implementation of **the 10-Year Strategy (2008-2018)** through building partnerships
- EU response to global issues such as desertification/land degradation and drought needed:
  - **Reach a political consensus on Soil Framework Directive**
  - **Develop drought management plans**
  - Re-consider the need to develop new EU policy on droughts
  - **Global Challenge – new Protocol on Soil ?**



## Key challenge and messages for future

- **key challenge - synergistic approach** needed - **integration** of climate, biodiversity and desertification concerns to other policies
- **effective and efficient implementation**, enforcement and compliance
- **synergistic approach to science, research**, recommendations for policy-makers
- **simplification of indicators, of reporting** (users friendly)
- **predictable, reliable financing** and its efficient use (national, EU, global – GEF, AF, WB, etc.)



# UN ECE Conventions and Protocols and EC legislation

- **Regional instruments with global benefits:** e.g. Aarhus Convention, Espoo Convention, SEA Protocol (promotion of environmental democracy, access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters)
- **Ratification and implementation of existing UN ECE conventions helping EECCA and SEE countries to bring their environmental protection to the EC standards**
- **Transfer of the UN ECE know-how (and the EC) to other regions**
- **Challenges:** financing (from voluntary to mandatory), no need for new MEAs under the UN ECE as EC legislation stricter (only revision of existing - CLRTAP)



# EU key player in international environmental agenda

- **Role** in e.g. possible transformation of the UNEP and the UN system „Delivering as One“, synergies of MEAs after 2010, UN ECE 7th Ministerial Conference in Astana 2011, MDGs - environmental sustainability after 2015, Rio+ 20 in 2012 - SDG, work of UN CSD after 2017)
- **EU policy must be consistent and realistically ambitious** to reflect and influence international processes (role of the USA, major economies and emerging economies)
- **Environment seen in context of the EU overall policies** (e.g. social development – ILO standards, competitiveness and investments – WTO, CSR, international trade – fair trade, CAP, ODA)

