



Strategic Perspectives for the Future of EU Environment Policy

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PRINCIPLES OF EU ENVIRONMENT POLICY

■ Art. 174 EC/ 6th Environment Action Programme environment policy principles:

- ➔ Preventive action principle
- ➔ Precautionary principle
- ➔ Polluter-pays principle
- ➔ Principle of rectification of pollution at source

■ Other principles: integration principle, public participation principle



6th EU ENVIRONMENT ACTION PROGRAMME

- 10 year time-frame (2002-2012)
- 6th EAP identifies four priority areas:
 - Climate change;
 - Nature and biodiversity;
 - Environment, health and the quality of life;
 - Natural resources and waste.
- Two cross-cutting aspects:
 - international co-operation;
 - strategic approaches to policy-making (policy implementation, co-operation with business...)
- In total, the 6th EAP contains some 156 actions



SEVEN THEMATIC STRATEGIES

The **Sixth EU Environmental Action Programme (6EAP)**, covering 2002-2012, required **Thematic Strategies** covering seven areas:

- **Air Pollution** (adopted 21/09/05)
- **Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment** (adopted 24/10/05)
- **Prevention and Recycling of Waste** (adopted 21/12/05)
- **Sustainable Use of Resources** (adopted 21/12/05)
- **Urban Environment** (adopted 11/01/06)
- **Soil** (adopted 22/09/06)
- **Sustainable Use of Pesticides** (adopted 12/07/06)



6th EAP – Mid-term Review

● State of the environment

- EU environment policies have improved peoples' **quality of life** (air, water, structural funding..)
- considerable progress has been made in **some areas** (water, climate change, waste..);

But:

- **magnitude** of certain environmental challenges is increasing (consumption >> waste volume);
- EU is not yet on a path towards a **sustainable development** (economic, environmental and social balance).
- **Implementation** of EU environment legislation by Member State authorities is uneven (infringements)



6th EAP – Mid-term Review – Conclusions

- The 6th EAP remains a **valid framework** for EU environment policy-making up to at least 2012;
- For the remaining 6th EAP period, the Commission is committed to applying the four perspectives for **better policy-making**;
- Despite progress made, **EU is not yet on a path towards sustainable development**: many environmental pressures are increasing –further political commitment is needed.

