

The European environment – State and outlook 2005





European improvements, local choices, global impacts

- ⚙️ EU legislation on environment works when properly implemented
- ⚙️ Most success achieved for easily managed point sources of pollution
- ⚙️ Diffuse sources of pollution from economic sectors now the major challenge
- ⚙️ Land use, consumption and trade patterns most threaten environmental progress
- ⚙️ Our “footprint” from consumption and trade is more than double our biological capacity





Increasing urbanisation, abandoning land

- ❁ Urbanisation in EU25 increased by an area 3 times the size of Luxembourg between 1990 and 2000. EU cohesion funds played a role – lessons for 2007-2013?
- ❁ Urban sprawl is unduly increasing pressure on ecosystems (eg wetlands) in surrounding areas.
- ❁ Tourism development is putting additional pressure on already stressed coastal areas
- ❁ Low price of agricultural land makes redevelopment of already developed land unattractive
- ❁ Lack of access to services in rural areas and ageing farmers contributing to rural land abandonment



Sprawl of urban and other artificial land development, 1990-2000





Climate change is here

- ☀ Temperatures in Europe could rise by 2-6 °C this century (against 0.95 °C last century, and global average of 0.7 °C).
- ☀ Expected impacts include water shortages, more extreme weather, marine species migrations and economic losses.
- ☀ Short term Kyoto targets may be met – longer term aims to 2020 and beyond will be harder to achieve
- ☀ The transport-sector is a main factor. Transport demand outstripping fuel efficiency gains. Aviation emissions to double by 2030.





Slow progress on energy demand management

- ⚙️ Energy demand still rising, though slower than GDP growth.
- ⚙️ A low emissions future can be achieved through less energy use, more renewable energy and improved energy efficiency. But needs long term, coherent actions
- ⚙️ Many opportunities for improving efficiency are under-used especially in transport, household and service sectors
- ⚙️ Investing in a low-emissions future can be more cost-efficient (estimated at 45Euro/person/year compared with the estimated socio-economic costs of inaction of 300-1500 Euro/person/year)





We are healthier, but exposure to pollutants remain

- ☀ Europe has been successful in reducing smogs and acid rain
- ☀ Even so, urban air pollution mainly from transport still causes health problems in many cities (particulates & ozone)
- ☀ Cleaner transport technology combined with better urban planning can contribute to improvements
- ☀ The use of market based instruments such as congestion charging that change behaviour can also be effective





What can we do?

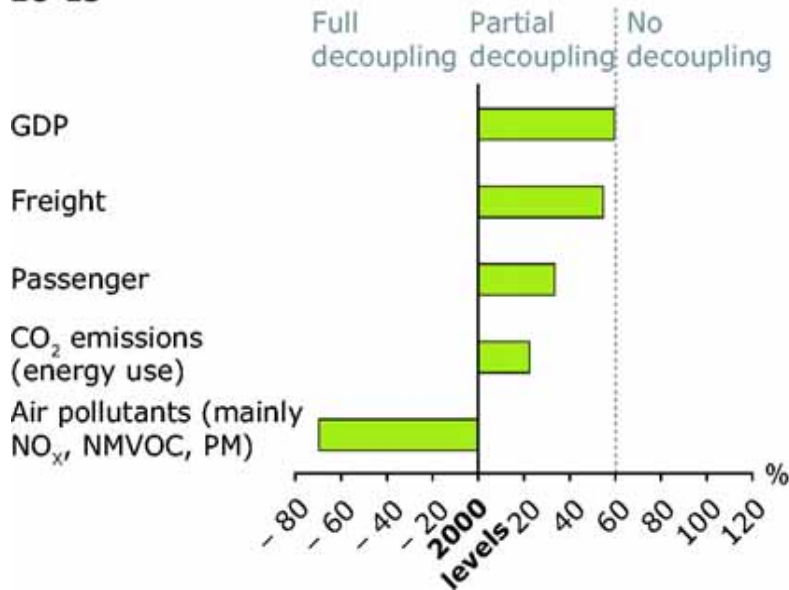
- ⚙️ Europe's economy can become more materials and energy efficient – EU-10 has the scope to improve efficiency by a factor of 4 to EU-15 levels.
- ⚙️ Technology transfer, innovation subsidies and pollution taxes and charges can contribute to progress
- ⚙️ More environmental integration needed in sectors that contribute most to environmental pressures – agriculture, energy, transport, industry, households
- ⚙️ Transport illustrates the benefits of integrated approaches. It contributes to air pollution, climate change, noise, soil sealing, habitat fragmentation and water pollution from local to global levels.



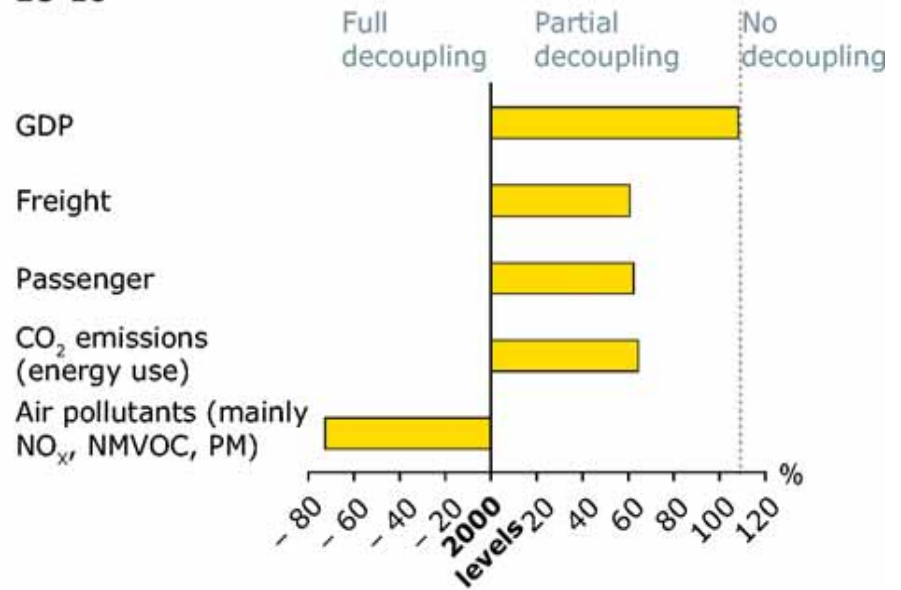
Decoupling

Decoupling in the transport sectors 2000–2020
(percentage change to 2020)

EU-15



EU-10





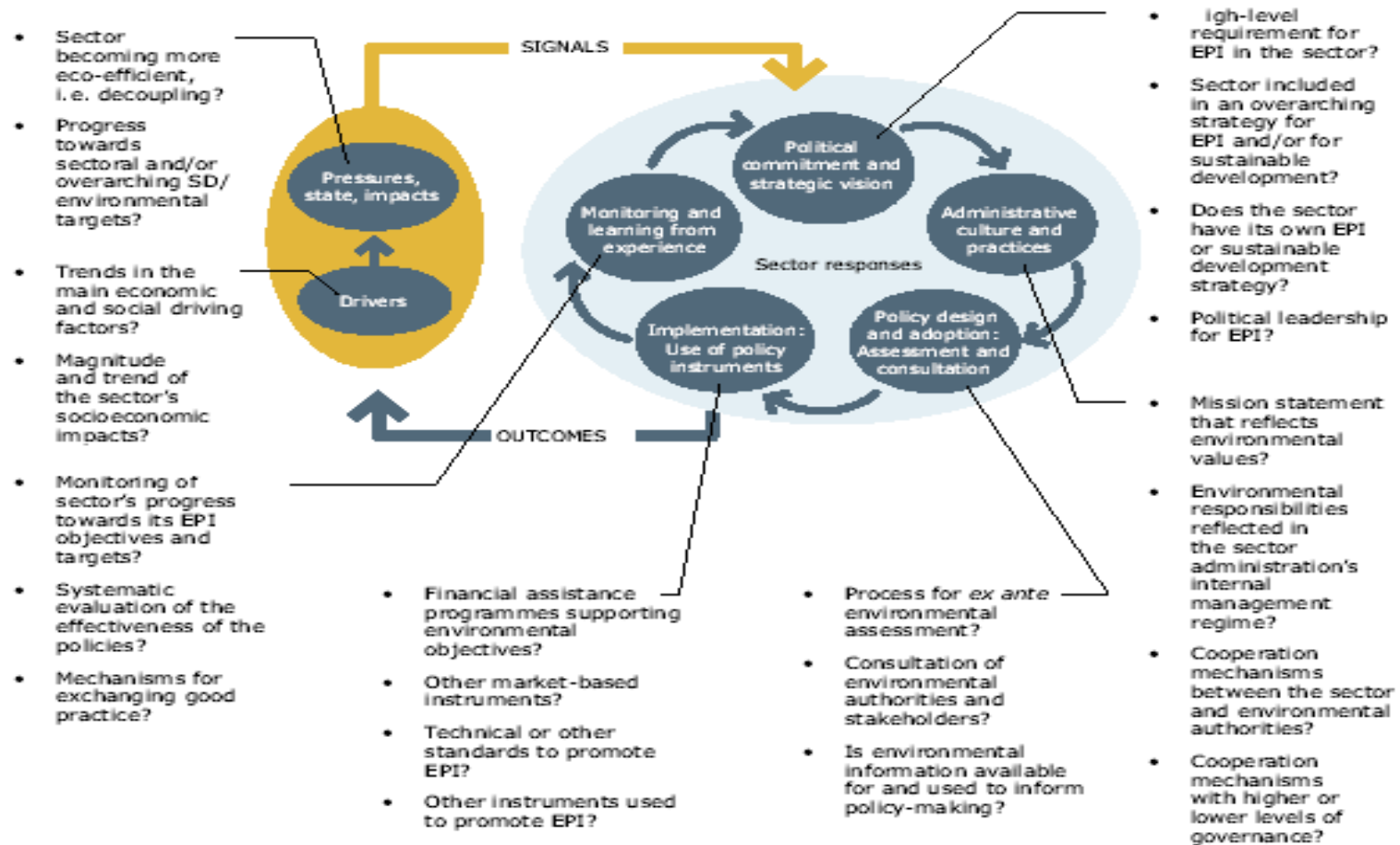
What can we do?

- ⚙️ Design long-term, coherent policies that shift market signals towards sustainable production and consumption
- ⚙️ Across all sectors move to broader, integrated market instruments that combine sustainability objectives – ecological tax and subsidy reform
- ⚙️ Re-inforce public and private sector expenditure on research and development in the environment and main sectors to help Europe compete globally.
- ⚙️ Improve institutional set-ups to design and implement integrated approaches. Such set-ups can be as important as policies themselves



Framework

Figure 10.1 Framework for evaluating integration of environment into sector policies





The European Environment – State and outlook 2005 report on the web

- ⚙ Full report – one pdf file per chapter
- ⚙ Executive summary in 25 languages
- ⚙ Press release in 25 languages
- ⚙ Speeches
- ⚙ Press conference (video)
- ⚙ Flash animation
- ⚙ Powerpoint presentation

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