

# The European environment – State and outlook 2005



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## 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

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## 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.

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## 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)

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## **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

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## **What can we do?**

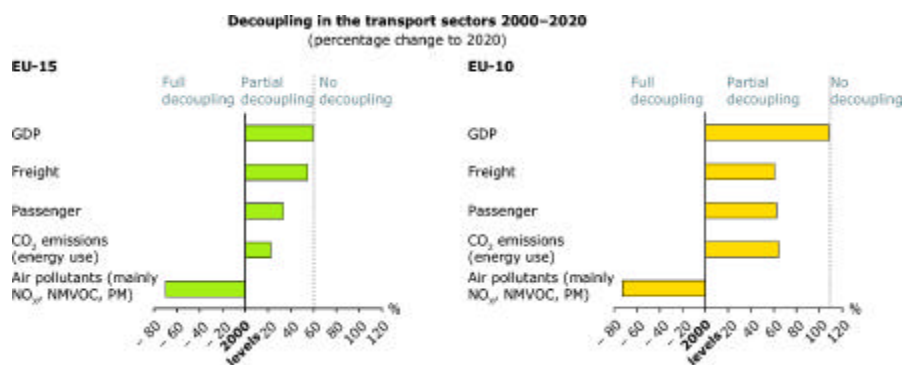
- Europe's economy can become more materials and energy efficient – EU-10 has the scope to improve efficiency by a factor of 4 to EU-15 levels.
- Technology transfer, innovation subsidies and pollution taxes and charges can contribute to progress
- More environmental integration needed in sectors that 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.

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## Decoupling



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## 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

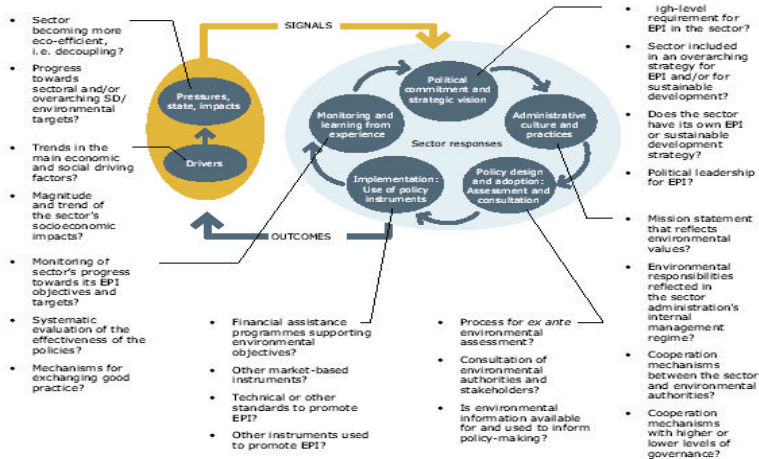
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## Framework

**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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