



THE EU SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY – DEFINING AND MEASURING PROGRESS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Timo Makela

Director for Sustainable Development and Integration

Environment Department

European Commission



EU Sustainable Development Strategy Review

Introduction – Key Dates

- **1998:** reference to SD in the EU Treaty
 - **March 2000:** *Lisbon* strategy adopted
 - **Jun 2001:** adoption of the SD Strategy
 - **Feb 2002:** a global dimension is added to the strategy
 - **Sep 2002:** Johannesburg declaration
 - **Dec 2005:** European Council to discuss the SDS review
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Current Objectives

Overall objective: *meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*

A. Addressing unsustainable trends

1. *Climate change*
 2. *Public health*
 3. *Natural resources*
 4. *Sustainable transport*
 5. *Aging population*
 6. *Social exclusion*
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Current Objectives

B. Improve policy making

- *Increase policy coherence*
 - *Increase public participation*
 - *More based on science / knowledge*
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Current Objectives

2002 Johannesburg declaration objectives:

- *Halve no. people in extreme poverty*
- *Halve the no. people lacking access to water + sanitation*
- *10 year frameworks for sustainable consumption and production*
- *Reduce rate of loss of biodiversity*
- *Substantially increase global share of renewable energy*
- *Restore fish stocks*
- *Achieve sustainable use of chemicals*

2003: EU adopts Johannesburg objectives

EU is also committed to Millennium Development Goals and Doha Round declaration



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What has been achieved so far

A. Priority Areas

- Climate change: ratification of Kyoto, emission trading, energy taxation directive
 - Health: REACH proposal on chemicals, Air Quality Thematic Strategy
 - Resources: reform of the Agriculture and Fisheries policies, Natura 2000 network for habitats and species, Integrated Product Policy
 - Transport: Bio fuels Directive, Marco Polo programme (modal shift)
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What has been achieved so far

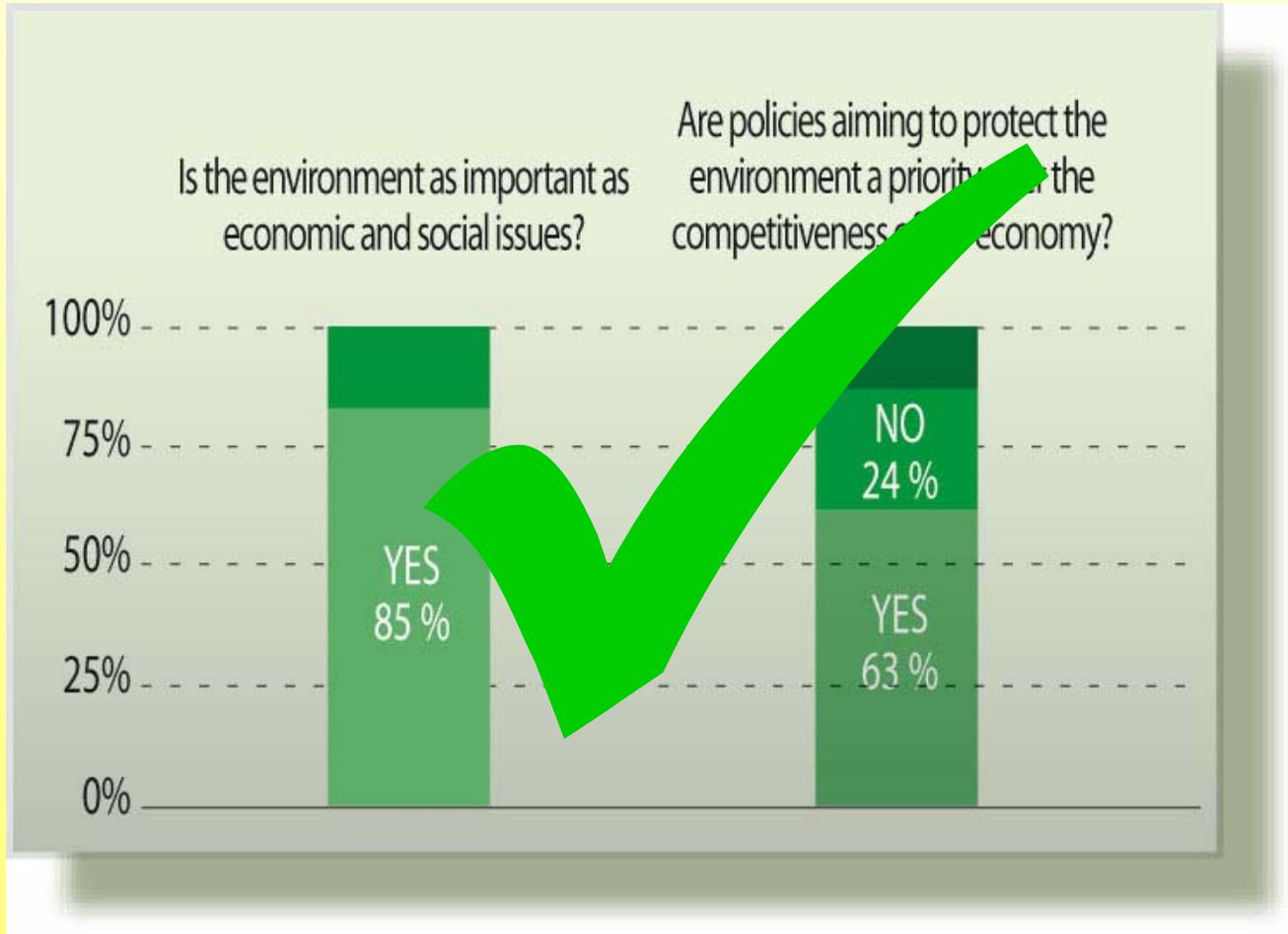
B. Better Policy Making

- Systematic Impact Assessment of all major initiatives (43 in 2003)
 - Sectoral integration (Cardiff) – Agriculture and Fisheries policy reforms
 - 7 Thematic Strategies: integrated and participatory approach
 - Minimum standards for public consultation
 - Better regulation initiative
 - Aarhus - transparency
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PUBLIC OPINION





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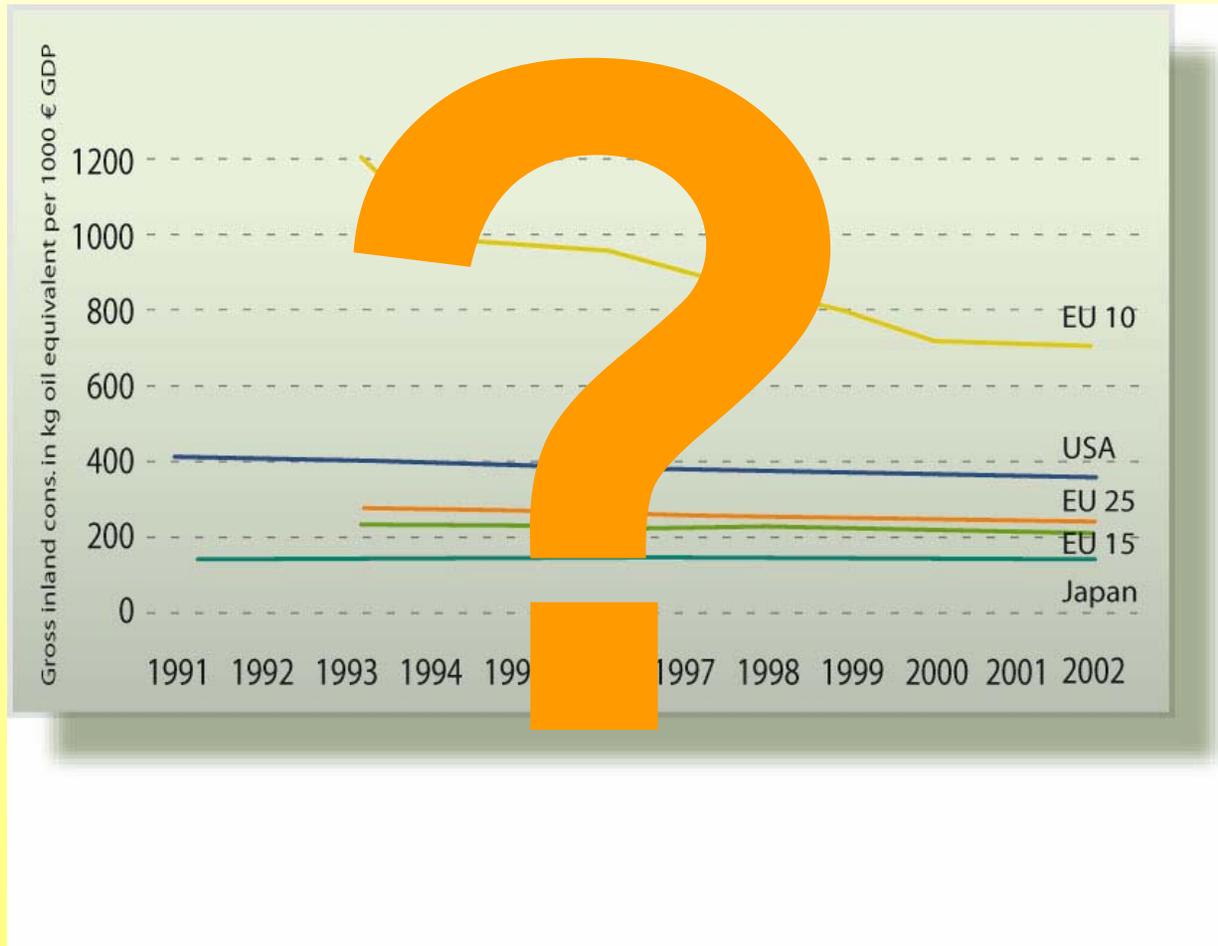
GHG EMISSIONS





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ENERGY INTENSITY





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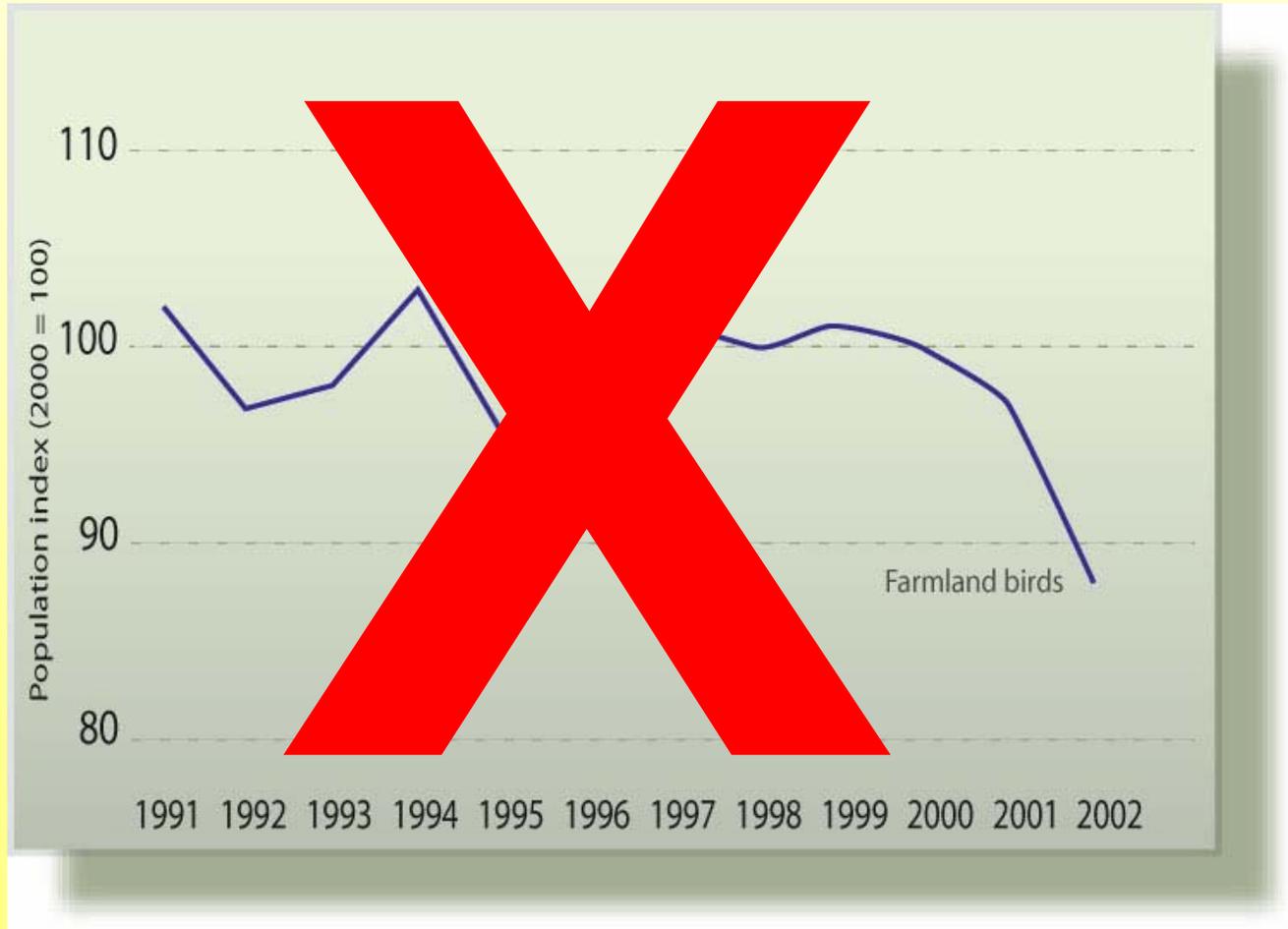
ELECTRICITY FROM RENEWABLES





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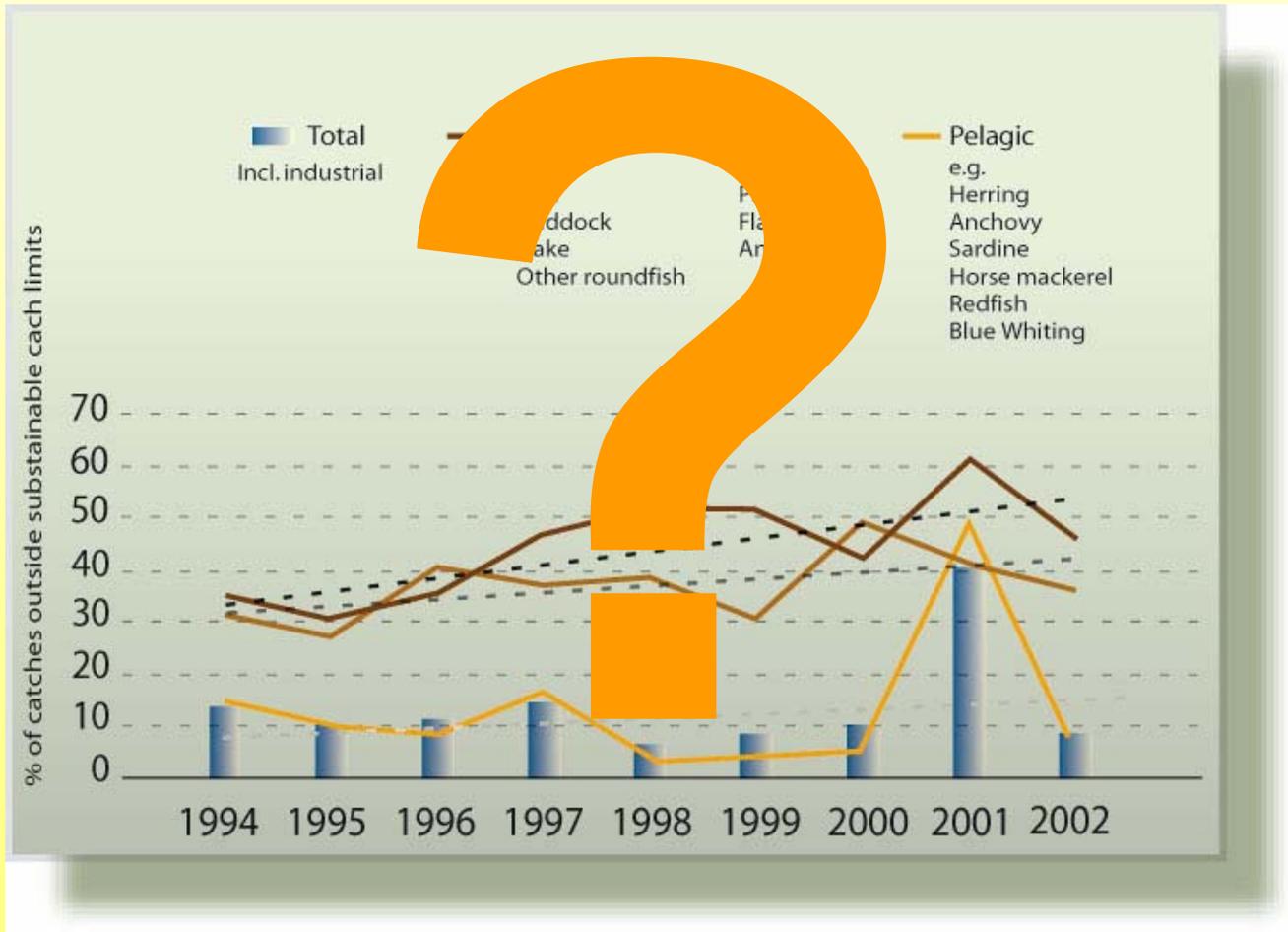
BIODIVERSITY - BIRDS





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FISHERIES





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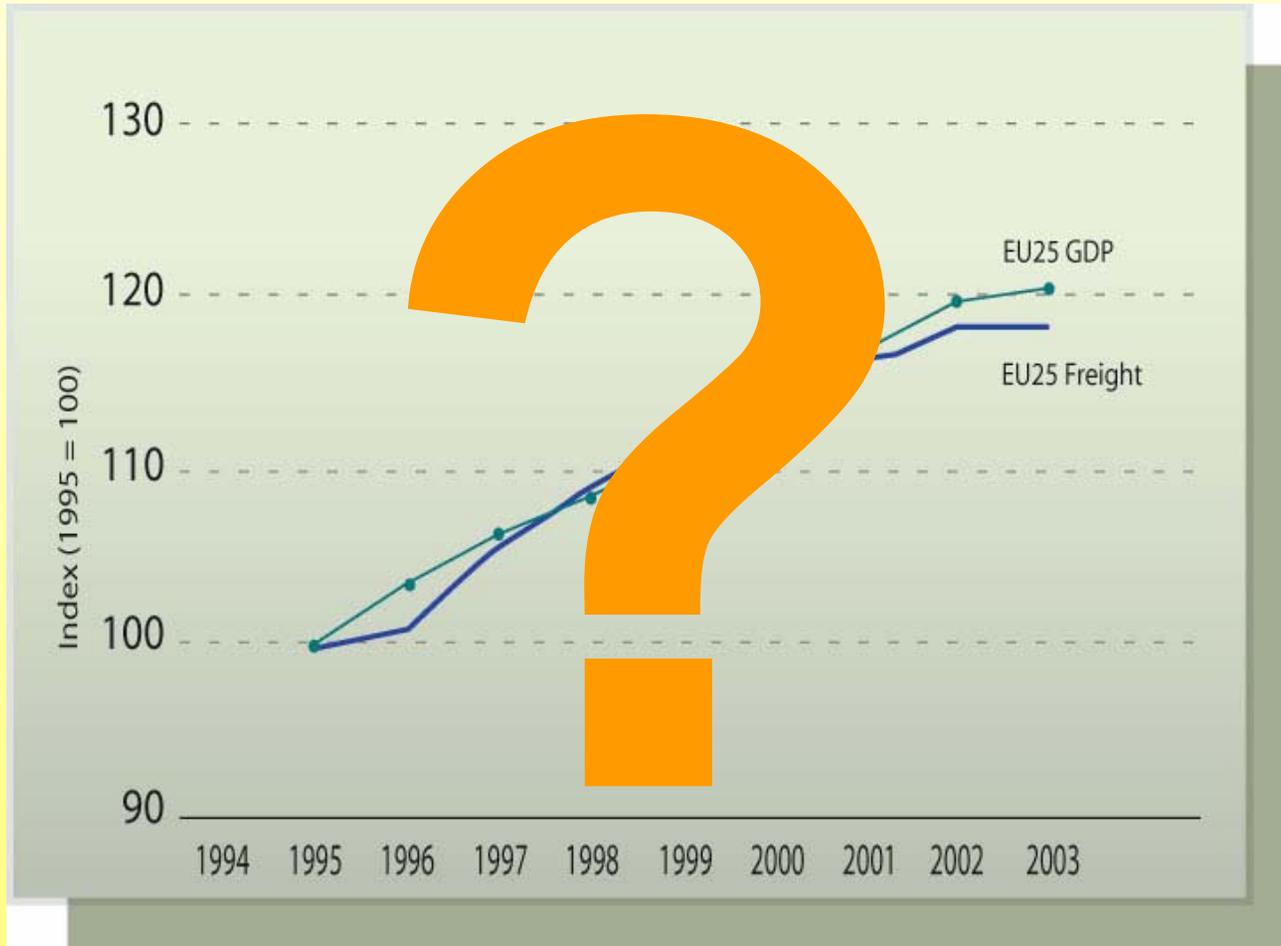
ORGANIC FARMING





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TRANSPORT





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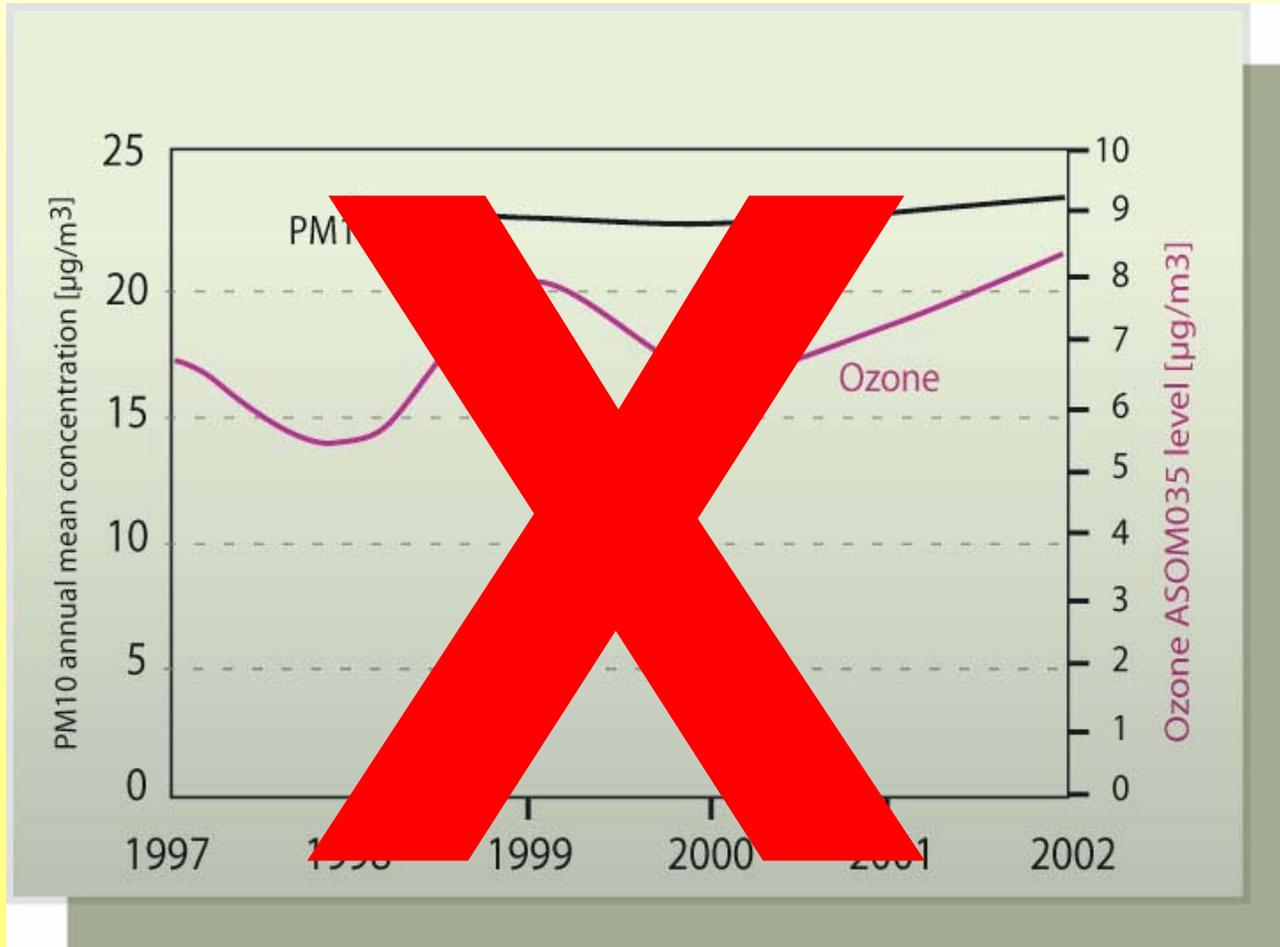
AIR EMISSIONS





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URBAN AIR QUALITY





EU Sustainable Development Strategy Review **Assessment**

- **Unsustainable trends are still there**
- **Instruments for policy coherence still need improvement:**
 - Slow progress on sectorial integration (Cardiff)
 - Impact assessments of variable quality
 - Insufficient integration of national, EU and international strategies

**PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN A NUMBER OF AREAS BUT
IS STILL INSUFFICIENT**



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Challenges for the future

- **Increased political focus on growth, competitiveness and creation of jobs**
 - Need to keep environment high on the agenda
 - Need to take a positive approach (win-win solutions, environmental technologies)
 - **Enlarged Union (15 to 25 countries)**
 - Different levels of development
 - Increased needs of investment should be compatible with SD
 - **Globalisation and emerging economies**
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EU Sustainable Development Strategy Review Orientations

Key Messages :

- Sustainable development as an overarching objective for all policies
 - Internal and external dimensions combined
 - Coherence between SDS and the Strategy for Growth and Jobs
 - Restate the need to change production and consumption patterns / decouple / act now
 - Confirm the integrated approach priority areas / better policy making
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Conclusions

- SD to remain overall objective of EU policies => =>European Charter for Sustainable Development to be issued in June
- Action is needed now and in the long run on climate change, biodiversity, environment and health, resource use
- Will focus on:
 - better implementation
 - improving environmental policy making (ex. through Impact Assessment)
 - integration of environment into other sector policies

We cannot afford to focus on growth now and take care of environment later



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

timo.makela@cec.eu.int
