Living well, within the limits of our planet

The Commission proposal for a general Union Environment Action Programme to 2020
The 6th Environment Action Programme of the European Community

10 year time-frame (2002-2012)

Four priority areas:
- Climate change;
- Nature and biodiversity;
- Environment, health and the quality of life;
- Natural resources and waste

Two cross-cutting areas:
- International co-operation;
- Strategic approaches to policy-making (implementation, cooperation with the market)

In total, the 6th EAP contained 156 actions
On balance, 6th EAP was helpful – it provided an overarching framework, a reference point for stakeholders at national, regional and local levels.

- It provided comprehensive stock-taking and better understanding of EU environment policy as a whole.

- 7 Thematic strategies (air, pesticides, waste, resources, urban, soil, marine) developed in order to strengthen policy integration and improve knowledge base.
- Large number of actions with varying scope resulted in lack of a clear message and varying progress towards objectives
- Inadequate implementation and enforcement
- Lack of longer-term vision, 10-year horizon not always appropriate and overall timing affected financing opportunities

Impact Assessment accompanying the proposal – SWD(2012)398


Annexes to the Impact Assessment:

- Annex 1: Details of the responses to the public consultation
- Annex 2: Linkages of environment policy issues
- Annex 3: Targets set by EU environment policy
- Annex 4: The outlook to 2020 and beyond to 2050
- Annex 5: The link between the environment and competitiveness
- Annex 6: The underlying analysis of priority objectives
- Annex 7: Overview of the evaluation of the 6th EAP
- Annex 8: Overview of the main studies used for the IA
- Annex 9: Glossary
What’s the added value of the new EAP?

- Aims to create a shared understanding of the state of Europe's environment, the challenges we face and the opportunities we have, with the long term 2050 vision.

- Explains how environment policy contributes to growth and making growth sustainable/green (quality of jobs, quality of life)

- Provides an overarching framework for action, building on recent roadmaps and strategies and put them in context

- Aims to develop better integrated approaches looking beyond and across established policy dividing lines

- Aims to secure the commitment of Member States and the European Parliament to a limited number of priority objectives and what it takes to achieve them.
New EAP: an overview

- **2020** timeframe, **2050** vision, **9** priority objectives
- Commitment by EU and its **Member States**

**Thematic objectives:**
- Protect, conserve and enhance our natural capital base
- Put in place the right conditions for resource-efficient, low-carbon growth, which is at the core of the green economy we want to create
- Help safeguard the health and well-being of Europe's citizens

**Enabling framework:**
- Implementation
- Information, knowledge base
- Investment
- Integration, coherence

**Spatial dimension:**
- Urban environment
- International
**Thematic priority objectives**

**PO 1: Protect & enhance natural capital**
- Biodiversity
- Water, Marine
- Land and soil
- Forests
- Nutrient cycle

**PO 2: Transition to resource efficient, low-carbon economy**
- Climate mitigation
- SCP, Waste
- Eco-innovation
- Industrial emissions
- Water stress

**PO 3: Safeguard health & wellbeing**
- Chemicals
- Air quality
- Drinking and bathing water quality
- Noise
- Climate adaptation
Main messages

- Fully/better implementation of existing legislation and strategies
- Update legislation where necessary/justified by new evidence
- Take action to fill identified gaps: set targets, develop strategies/new measures (legislative/non-legislative) in key areas (e.g. soil and land, water efficiency, marine litter, env. impacts of consumption; chemicals)
Four other objectives constitute the **enabling framework** which supports effective action for the achievement of the thematic objectives:

1. **Implementation** of existing legislation: we have a lot of very good legislation, but it will not deliver if it is not being implemented as it was intended to be.

2. We also need to make sure the necessary **investments** are made in support of our objectives, from public and private sources, including through economic reforms and MBIs.

3. **Our policy should benefit from the most up-to-date science and information**

4. More effective **integration** of environmental and climate considerations into other policies, as well as more coherent, joined-up policy approaches that deliver multiple benefits.
The last two priority objectives focus on specific spatial scales:

1. to enhance the sustainability of EU cities, where 80% of citizens will live in 2020 and where environmental problems and solutions are at the crossroad

2. to increase the EU's effectiveness in confronting regional and global environmental and climate challenges, as many of the priority objectives set out in the programme can only be fully achieved as part of a global approach and in cooperation with neighbouring and partner countries.
Conclusions

• Europe 2020 context – we are facing multiple crises, environment is part of the solution

• Many targets for 2020 already exist in policy or legislation. New targets may be helpful and will be developed on the basis of robust impact assessments

• Better implementation is a stand-alone priority objective, but also a core action to achieve the three thematic priority objectives

• Programme for the Union, not a Commission work programme, a strategic framework to guide action at EU and national levels

• The Union and its Member States are responsible for ensuring the delivery of the priority objectives and action shall be taken with due account of the principle of subsidiarity and at the level best suited.
Living well, within the limits of our planet

Proposal for a general Union Environment Action Programme

Thank you for your attention

Thea Pieridou
European Commission Representation in Cyprus
Tel: +357 22817770 Fax: +357 22768926
thea.pieridou@ec.europa.eu