

FOURTH UNECE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Agenda item 9. The 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

Intervention by the Swedish Presidency of the European Union¹



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**Swedish Presidency
of the European Union**

1. Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production is one of the three overarching objectives of sustainable development. We need to make it happen at all levels by shaping and launching a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP). Some of us are over-consuming and some of us don't have the possibility to fulfill our basic needs. There is a need for a common strategy on how to promote SCP to bridge the gaps between developing and industrialized countries and to assist the transition to an eco-efficient economy promoting well-being, quality, equity and efficiency within the carrying capacity of ecosystems.

1.1 We see SCP as a key to improve the quality of life, based on significant changes in lifestyles. SCP goals and actions are powerful levers to accelerate the transition to an eco-efficient economy and turn environmental and social challenges into business and employment opportunities. SCP aims at "doing more and better with less", by optimising resource use, preventing and minimising waste and pollution, looking at the entire life cycle of products to protect the environment as well as at ensuring a healthy life in harmony with nature and fostering social development by creating decent employment and protecting rights at work.

1.2 At the global level, the EU sees the promotion of SCP and the 10YFP as a key lever to develop an alternative model to the increasingly unsustainable global consumption and to promote innovative policies and sustainable growth, which could contribute to the fulfilment of the MDGs in a synergetic way. Through this, negative trends such as ecosystem degradation, unsustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity loss could be reversed and climate change may be curbed.

2. As a means to raise the level of international commitment:

2.1 The EU has contributed to the Marrakech Process (MP) and supports the development of the 10YFP, also through the work of the international Marrakech Task Forces (MTF) most of them led by EU countries.

2.2 CSD is the only international forum having SCP as such on its agenda, therefore it has an eminent role in the elaboration of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes, which should be ambitious and composed of two parts:

- a declaration on SCP outlining a common vision for all countries on the need to promote SCP with a framework defined in terms of program fields, overall goals in each field and implementing structure, and
- a series of specific programs for SCP with precise objectives and time frames, means of implementation, sectors and actors to accelerate the shift towards SCP and respond to national and regional needs and priorities.

3. The EU has reviewed progress made in implementation and integration, as well as existing best practices and policies, in the light of a lifecycle perspective This shows that we still have to work further at a coherent and shared vision and reaching a systemic approach in developing SCP policies.

3.1 The following challenges deserve to be highlighted:

- On production and supply chain: the lack of integration across the whole lifecycle, of “absolute decoupling” and of synergies in the components of sustainable development.
- On products: the need to evaluate and internalise external short and long term costs in terms of human and environmental resources, and cooperating with new actors such as retailers and media.
- On consumption and lifestyle: the lack of demand side management and instruments addressing consumption levels, for changing unsustainable behaviour and avoiding rebound effects. This results in a misbalance in the number of policy instruments targeting supply versus demand side. The challenge is to match sustainable technological solutions with behavioural changes.
- On long term growth and development strategies: the fragmentation of existing strategies and approaches and lack of coherence among existing policy instruments targeting the same areas. The need to develop education in general, and education for sustainable consumption in particular, and to provide adequate infrastructure and tools such as indicators to measuring the impact of developed countries consumption and production patterns on developing countries.

3.2 The EU has made a lot of progress, learned lessons and developed a number of good policies and practices to meet these challenges, both at the community and at the Member States levels. A series of examples are given in a list attached to these speaking points. I will just mention a few of them.

- The EU Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control define a regulatory framework at the EU level for permitting and controlling industrial installations. In addition, the CSR action plans adopted in several Member States encourage business to promote sustainable production processes through voluntary actions.

- The EU has taken actions on legislation for the Eco-design of energy-using and energy-related products aiming at producing more eco-efficient products, and on Sustainable (green and social) Public Procurement in order to increase the public consumption of these products as well as opportunities for decent job creation while a strong link is being made with labelling and eco-design. A directive implementing measures for specific products will identify the performance level below which public authorities shall not procure or grant incentives. At the Member States level, product panels involving stakeholders on a cooperative basis have been developed to put more eco-efficient products on the market.
- Education guidelines and toolkits, such as the one developed by the Task Force Education for Sustainable Consumption, have been elaborated to introduce sustainable consumption into formal learning processes. A Retail Forum set up recently at the EU level engaging retailers to work together and with other stakeholders and the Commission at concrete actions in favour of sustainable consumption.
- The SCP/SIP Action plan called for by the EU Sustainable Development Strategy is the main example of mainstreaming SCP in EU domestic policy. Beyond its border, EU has also supported SCP through bilateral trade agreements and various programmes, such as the 90 million Euros SWITCH Programme targeting Asia. SCP policy has also been integrated into national and sub-national SD strategies, including Agendas 21 at local levels.

4. In conclusion, and based on this review of gaps and challenges, actions and policies the EU proposes four priority areas where we should launch specific programs building upon our own experience on SCP. These areas could thus be considered as program fields for the 10YFP with goals and vision as follows:

- Program Field 1 of the 10YFP covers Production processes with the goal of Sustainable production, including cleaner production, eco-efficiency, with closed loop production, and commitment to labour standards and human rights.
- Program Field 2 of the 10YFP covers Better Products (incl. distribution and marketing) with the goal of Sustainable products, characterized by better environmental and health performance and eco-efficiency, affordability, accessibility, quality standards, to improve response to basic everyday needs such as food, housing and mobility.
- Program Field 3 of the 10YFP covers Consumption and Sustainable Living (incl. waste management) with the goal of Responsible consumption, including private and public consumption (key lever for SCP). Sustainable living requires knowledge on sustainable lifestyles covering areas such as food, housing and mobility to enable informed choices.
- Program Field 4 of the 10YFP covers horizontal strategies at the different governmental and intergovernmental levels in order to mainstream SCP goals by integrating SCP policies into SD strategies and other relevant strategies at all levels, including poverty reduction and MDG implementation providing enhanced prospects for economic development and improved environmental and social performance at the same time.

5. The EU view is that, due to the cross-cutting nature of SCP, specific programs of the 10YFP can be defined in each of these four fields.

The three first fields cover the three main stages of the life-cycle of products and services and they are all strongly connected to waste management which is also a theme of this CSD cycle. These three fields taken together can thus close the loop of a life cycle perspective of the good and services developed.

The fourth field broaden the systemic approach by integrating SCP in cross-cutting overall strategies at the governmental and intergovernmental levels, and thereby strongly connecting SCP to social development, including the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals.

The work in these four fields should be supported by a globally recognized, credible and coherent science base for SCP capable of creating a strong science-policy interface.

Examples of good policies and practices on Sustainable Consumption and Production

Focus 1: On production processes

Title ***Integrated pollution prevention and control***

Level ***European Union***

Description The EU adopted the directive on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) in 1996. This directive gives a set of common rules for permitting and controlling industrial installations with the aim to minimising pollution from various industrial sources throughout the European Union. The directive is based on several principles, namely an integrated approach, best available techniques, flexibility and public participation.

Source DG Environment

Website <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/pollutants/stationary/ippc/summary.htm>

Title ***SWITCH-Asia Programme***

Level ***European Union***

Description The EU supports SCP via the SWITCH-Asia Programme, with 90 million EUR allocated for the period 2007-2010. The aim is to promote economic prosperity and help reduce poverty in Asia by encouraging sustainable growth with reduced environmental impact. The projects aim for example to introduce cleaner production, support green products and eco-labelling, introduce energy saving techniques and encourage sustainable Public Procurement and Corporate Social Responsibility.

Source DG Environment

Web site http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/asia/regional-cooperation/environment/switch_en.htm

Title ***Sustainable public procurement policy***

Level ***European Union***

Description The European Commission has developed practical tools to facilitate the uptake of environmental criteria in public procurements, ex. Training Toolkit on green public procurement (designed for use by green public procurement trainers or for integration in general public procurement training courses), Handbook on environmental public procurement. In 2008, the Commission published a Communication on public procurement for a better environment, which provides guidance on how to reduce the environmental impact caused by public sector consumption and proposes a voluntary 50% GPP target for Member States to be reached as from 2010.

Source DG Environment

Web site http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/index_en.htm

Title *Sustainable public procurement policy*

Level *EU Member States*

Description Several Member States have used public procurement to pursue social and environmental goals. It can be a requirement of equal pay between men and women is a condition for public contracts to be performed in the country. It can also be a Special Contract Arrangements (SCA) requires contracting authorities to give special consideration to buying goods and services from suppliers which employ severely disabled people. One country developed a sustainable procurement guide including social and environmental criteria for about 70 product- and service groups.

Source Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement, CSD Reports

Web site <http://www.guidedesachatsdurables.be>

<http://esa.un.org/marrakechprocess/tfsuspubproc.shtml>

Title *European Multi-stakeholder Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)*

Level *European Union*

Description The European Multi-stakeholder Forum on CSR launched in October 2002 provides a platform among the main stakeholder groups at European level - employers, trade unions, business organisations/networks and civil society organisations - with the Commission playing a facilitating role. It aims to promote CSR practices and instruments, in particular by exploring the appropriateness of establishing common guiding principles, taking into account existing EU initiatives and legislation and internationally agreed instruments such as OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises, ILO core labour conventions and the International Bill of Human Rights.

Source DG Enterprise and industry

Web site <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/csr/multistakeholder.htm>

Focus 2: On better products

Title *Eco-design of Energy-using Products*

Level *European Union*

Description The EU adopted the directive on Eco-design of Energy-using Products in 2005. The Directive defines conditions and criteria for setting, through subsequent implementing measures, requirements regarding environmentally relevant product characteristics and allows them to be improved quickly and efficiently. Following the EU SCP action plan, the scope of this Directive will be enlarged to include all energy-related products, which are products that do not consume energy during use but have an indirect impact on energy consumption, such as water-using devices, windows or insulation material.

Source DG Enterprise and industry

Web site http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/eco_design/index_en.htm

Title *Product panels*

Level *EU Member States*

Description Many countries develop "product panels", interactive and co-operative approaches among different stakeholders in order to develop and disseminate cleaner and more eco-efficient products on the market, considering the supply and demand sides. They are based on interaction between the participating players by learning, negotiating and exchanging information. Product panels started mid nineties.

Source Innovative Approaches in European Sustainable Consumption Policies

Web site http://www.ioew.de/uploads/tx_ukioewdb/IOEW-R_192_Sustainable_Consumption_Policies_01.pdf

Title *Retail Forum*

Level *European Union*

Description The European Commission has set up a Retail Forum, involving a number of other stakeholders, including producers, as well as consumers and other nongovernmental organisations. The aim of this forum is to get large individual retailers to commit to a series of ambitious and concrete environmental actions, which will be monitored regularly. The European Commission will also support measures to increase consumer awareness and help shoppers make more sustainable choices.

Source DG Environment

Web site http://ec.europa.eu/environment/industry/retail/index_en.htm

Focus 3: On consumption and sustainable living

Title *EU Ecolabel*

Level *European Union*

Description The EU adopted the directive on the EU Ecolabel in 1992. The label is easily recognisable by its flower logo, takes into account the main environmental impacts of a product as well as its environmental performance. Only those goods with the lowest environmental impact (10-20% of products) will be able to meet the criteria. The label currently covers cleaning products, appliances, paper products, clothing, home and garden products, lubricants and services such as tourist accommodation.

Source DG Environment

Web site <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/>

Title *Strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity related health issues*

Level *European Union*

Description The European Commission published in 2007 a white paper on a “*A Strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity related health issues*”. This strategy aims to better inform consumers, to ensure healthy options for the consumers and to encourage physical activity. The white paper stresses that: *The actions described are intended to work across government policy areas and at different levels of government using a range of instruments including legislation, networking, public-private approaches, and to engage the private sector and civil society.*

Source DG Health and Consumers

Web site [http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/nutrition/
documents/nutrition_wp_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/nutrition/documents/nutrition_wp_en.pdf)

Title *Education for Sustainable Consumption (ESC)*

Level *EU Member States*

Description Many countries develop ESC instruments entering often within the framework of the UN Decade on Education for SD (2005-2014). One of them has developed an Educational toolkit on sustainable consumption for schools that addresses various topics such as sustainable use of resources, shopping, product labelling, sustainable housing, product life cycles and ecological footprint. Worth to mention is also the Recommendations and guidelines on ESC developed by the Task Force on ESC.

Source CSD Reports

Task Force on ESC

Web site http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_ni/ni_pdfs/NationalReports/czech/

Consumption_Production.pdf

<http://www.unece.org/env/esd/inf.meeting.docs/SC/SC-4/HereandNowLayout28Jan09.pdf>

Focus 4: On horizontal strategies at the different governmental/ intergovernmental levels

Title *Sustainable Development Strategy calling for SCP Action plan*

Level *European Union*

Description The 2006 renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS) foresaw that the Commission would propose *an EU Sustainable Consumption and production Action plan by 2007, which should help to identify and overcome barriers for SCP and to ensure better coherence between the different related policy areas and to raise awareness among citizens and change unsustainable consumption habits*. The European Commission adopted the Sustainable Consumption and Production and Sustainable Industrial Policy Action Plan in 2008. It includes *inter alia* some of the above mentioned good practices. Moreover, the list of sustainable development indicators (SDI) developed to monitor the EU SDS includes a set of SDI on SCP.

Source DG Environment

Web site http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/escp_en.htm

Title *National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) integrating SCP*

Level *EU Member States*

Description Some countries have NSDSs integrating SCP as a key component. For example, the NSDS (2002) and its follow-up working programmes can take a particular SCP featured approach, with sustainable products and services as well as consumption and lifestyles amongst the central themes addressed. In another country, a proposal for a national SCP programme was endorsed for implementation by the government by means of approval of the renewed NSDS in 2006, which addresses SCP and makes a commitment for the implementation of the SCP programme.

Source DG Environment

Web site

http://www.mop.gov.si/fileadmin/mop.gov.si/pageuploads/podrocja/okolje/pdf/time_for_action/background_paper_national_SCP_strategies_reviv.pdf

Title *European Union Cohesion Fund*

Level *European Union*

Description The Cohesion Fund which serves to reduce the economic and social shortfall as well as to stabilise the economy of Member States whose gross national income per inhabitant is less than 90% of the Union average, may intervene in areas related to environment and in areas related to sustainable development which clearly present environmental benefits, namely energy efficiency, use of renewable energy, developing rail transport, supporting inter modality, strengthening public transport, etc.

Source DG Regional Policy

Web site http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/cf/index_en.htm