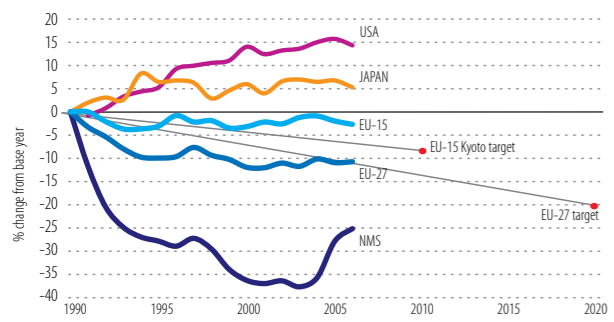


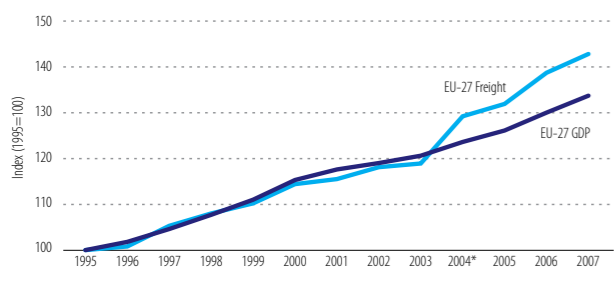
1. Climate change – Greenhouse gas emissions



Under the Kyoto agreement, EU-15 is committed to reduce certain greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 8% compared to base year levels (mostly 1990) by 2008-2012. In 2006, EU-15 GHG emissions were 2.7% lower than base year levels, while EU-27 GHG emissions fell by 10.8%. Compared to previous year, GHG emissions decreased by around 0.8% in EU-15 and by around 0.3% in EU-27. The latest projections (2007) indicate that the Community will reach its Kyoto target.

The EU's objective is to limit average global warming to less than 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels. It has established the most ambitious climate and energy targets in the world: a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels (and a 30% reduction in the context of a satisfactory international agreement), a 20% improvement in energy efficiency and a 20% share for renewables in the EU energy mix – all by 2020. A major package of measures to achieve these goals was agreed in 2008 (1). No other region has more ambitious targets and the measures to reach them.

2. Transport



EU aims at decoupling transport growth from economic growth. During the period 1995-2007 inland freight transport (2) increased more than GDP in EU-27 (respectively by almost 43% and by almost 34%), and by 66% in the new Member States. The major contributor was road transport which increased by 54% in EU-27 and by 145% in the new Member States.

Freight and passenger transport contribute not only to greenhouse gas emissions but also to air pollution and noise, and has negative impacts on biodiversity, due to landscape fragmentation caused by transport infrastructure. In 2008 the European Commission has proposed a sustainable transport policy (3).

* The increase in the freight transport statistics in 2004 is mainly due to an improved statistical methodology.

(1) 'Climate and energy package' approved by the European Council and the European Parliament in December 2008.
 (2) This indicator includes transport by road, rail and inland waterways.
 (3) Greening Transport Package of July 2008.

DATA SOURCES

Data sources for indicators are:
 1, 9 and 10 – European Environment Agency,
 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8 – Eurostat and other European Commission Services,
 5 – EBCC/RSPB/Birdlife International/Statistics Netherlands,
 7 – Eurostat and the Institute of Rural Sciences, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

More information on these indicators can be found on the Commission's environment indicators database (1) and the European Environment Agency's core set of indicators (2). Several indicators in this leaflet are taken from there.

More information on the EU's environment policies can be found at:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/index_en.htm

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It is also available on the web site:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/indicators/pdf/leaflet_env_indic_2009.pdf

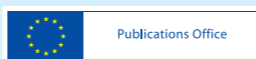
(1) <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>, theme 'Energy and environment'
 (2) <http://themes.eea.europa.eu/IMS/CSI>

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EU environment-related indicators 2009



Assessing trends towards key environmental challenges



INTRODUCTION

A clean and healthy environment is essential if we are to achieve the well-being and prosperity we want for ourselves and for our children.

Promoting a high level of environmental protection and improving environmental quality is one of the European Union's tasks stipulated in the EU Treaty. The Treaty also requires environmental protection to be integrated into other Community policies to help promote sustainable development.

Europeans care deeply about the environment, according to three Eurobarometer surveys (1) published in 2008:

- 96% of Europeans say that protecting the environment is important for them personally and are most concerned about global environmental issues such as climate change, water and air pollution.
- 75% of respondents consider climate change/global warming as a very serious problem and 62% think it is the second most serious problem facing the world;
- almost seven out of ten European citizens perceive as a very serious global problem the decline and possible extinction of animal species, flora and fauna, natural habitats and ecosystems.

Over the past 30 years the European Union and its Member States have adopted a range of environmental measures aimed at improving and protecting our environment. Indicators are a concise way of showing progress – or the lack of it – towards achieving environmental protection goals.

This leaflet presents 10 environment-related indicators that highlight trends relevant to the Sixth EU Environment Action Programme's priority areas: Climate Change, Nature and Biodiversity, Environment and Health, and Natural Resources and Waste. They reveal that in most areas there has been little improvement, with only one indicator showing positive progress towards reaching targets set.

KEY

The indicators highlight trends at EU level by using traffic light colours. The colour of the heading summarises the overall situation. The bullets, which are also colour-coded, highlight the main issues. The assessment for most indicators is based on recent official documents of the Commission.

Red means poor performance, indicating that worrying trends are not being reversed, and/or that targets are unlikely to be met (where targets exist).

Amber means trends are not clear, or that overall problems remain despite some mixed progress.

Green means good performance, indicating that worrying trends have been reversed or the EU is on track to meet targets, where there are targets.

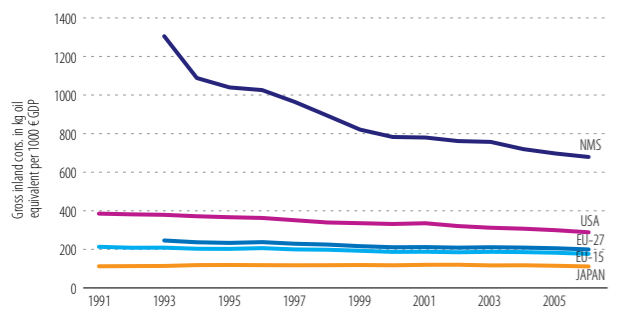
Depending on data availability, graphs show EU-27 or EU-25 values. Trends for EU-15 and NMS are shown separately where appropriate.

- The 'EU-15' are the 15 Member States as of 1 January 1995: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.
- 'NMS' means the New Member States that joined the EU on 1 May 2004 or 1 January 2007: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia Republic, and Slovenia.
- The 'EU-25' are the 25 Member States as of 1 May 2004.
- The 'EU-27' are the 27 Member States as of 1 January 2007.

(1) The Special Eurobarometer 295 'Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment' survey was carried out in Winter 2007, the Special Eurobarometer 300 'Europeans' attitudes towards climate change' survey was carried out in Spring 2008, while the Flash Eurobarometer 219 'Attitudes of European citizens towards the issue of bio-diversity' survey was carried out in Autumn 2007. The results are available at: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index.htm



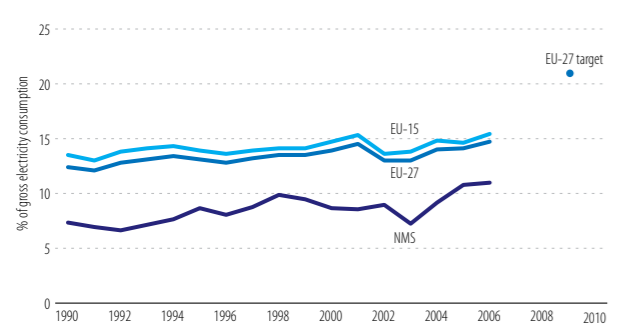
3. Energy intensity



The EU aims at improving energy efficiency by 20% by 2020. Energy intensity (energy consumption per unit of GDP) has constantly decreased in the EU since the 1990s and in 2006 was around 202 kg tonnes oil equivalent per 1000€ GDP.

Energy intensity has halved in the new Member States since 1993. In EU-15 it has decreased by almost 17% since 1991: Luxembourg and Ireland have decreased by more than 40%, Italy and Spain by less than 5%, while in Portugal it has slightly increased. Denmark, the most energy efficient country in the EU (only Japan is performing better), has reduced energy intensity by almost 25% compared to 1991.

4. Electricity from renewables

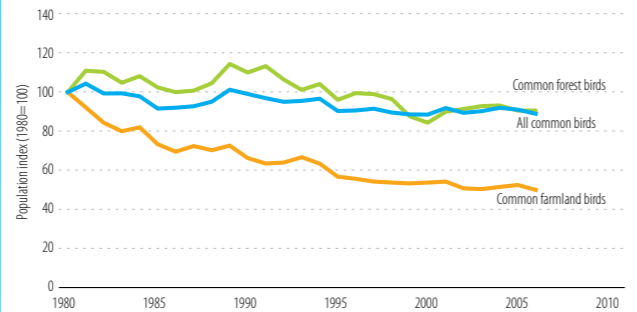


The EU aims at producing 21% of all electricity from renewable sources by 2010. In 2006 14.6% of electricity was produced from renewables, compared to 12% in 1990. This mainly comes from hydropower, followed by biomass and wind.

While the target is ambitious, some Member States have made good progress: Denmark has seen constant growth, increasing from about 2% in 1990 to 26% in 2006, followed by Slovakia which increased its share by 10 percentage points. In 2006 Austria and Sweden produced more than 48% of their electricity from renewable sources, followed by Latvia with 37.7%.

For 2020 the EU has set itself the target of obtaining 20% of its energy from renewable sources (this share was 9.2% in 2006). To achieve this, legislation setting differentiated national targets was agreed in 2008.

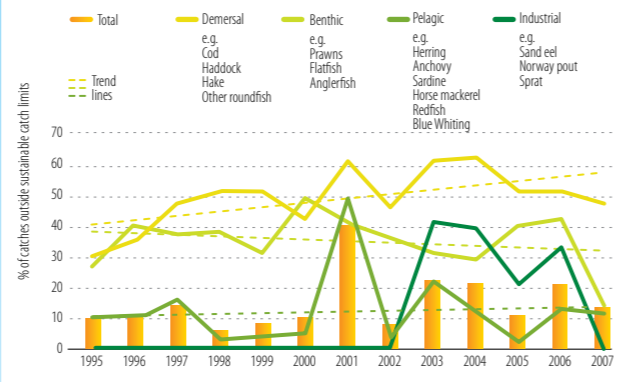
5. Biodiversity — Common Birds



The EU aims at halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010. Common birds, which are considered to be highly representative of biodiversity and the integrity of ecosystems, have declined by more than 10% in EU since 1980. Without a significant additional effort, the EU will fail to meet its target (1).

Common farmland birds, a good indicator of trends in farmland biodiversity, have declined by around 50%, partly due to inputs of nutrients and pesticides. The relative stabilisation during the last 10 years is partly due to the introduction of set-aside areas in the EU-15, while well designed agri-environmental measures can reverse bird declines at local levels.

6. Fisheries — Catches outside safe limits



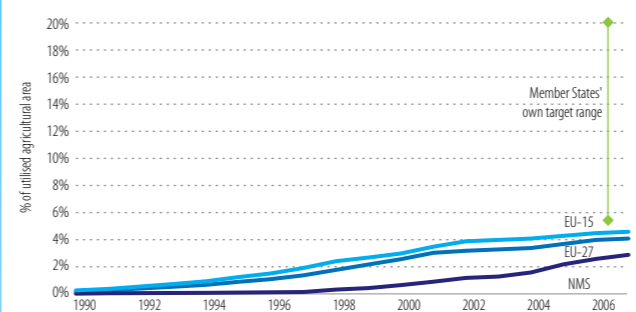
In 2007 13% of total catches were outside safe biological limits, indicating no improvement since 1995. Demersal and benthic stocks were generally in poor condition all along the observed period, even if they improved in 2007.

Some important pelagic stocks, which normally sustain large catches, fell outside safe biological limits for the first time in 2001, causing the large variation in the indicator for this year. The fall in industrial stock catch in 2007 is due to a ban on fishing for sand eel.

Key: Demersal fish live close to the bottom of the sea and depend up on it. Benthic fish live on or in the sea bed, while pelagic fish spend most of their lives in open water. Products from industrial fish are used for industrial processes (e.g. production of fish meal and fish oil used in aquaculture), not for direct human consumption. The data covers the North East Atlantic (North Sea and Baltic Sea, Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Peninsula), and excludes the Mediterranean Sea.

(1) Mid-term assessment of the implementation of the EC Biodiversity Action Plan, December 2008, COM (2008) 864 final.

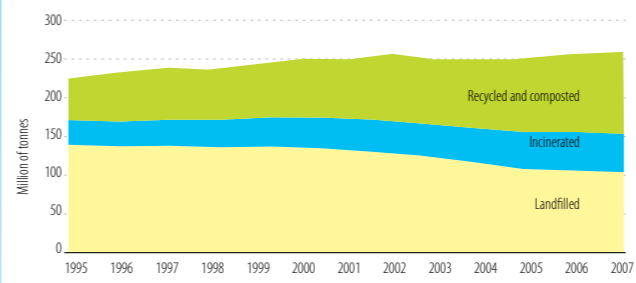
7. Organic farming



The Common Agricultural Policy funds organic farming because of its positive effects on the environment, in particular on ecosystems and human health. In 2007 4.1% of EU-27 farmland was organic, slightly up from 4.0% in 2006. Austria has the highest share of organic farming, with 11.4% in 2007, followed by Latvia with 9.8%. Italy accounts for 16% of the total organic area in the EU-27.

Although there is a big difference between the EU-15 (4.6%) and the NMS (2.9%), in recent years organic farming has seen rapid growth in NMS, comparable to that in EU-15 during the 1990s.

8. Municipal waste

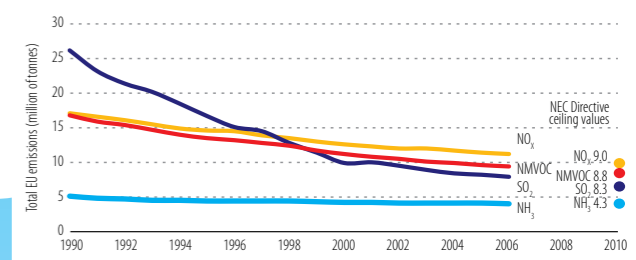


Municipal waste produced in EU-27 reached 258 million tonnes in 2007, 14% higher than in 1995: around 40% was sent to landfill (a big decrease from 62% in 1995) and almost 20% was incinerated (up from almost 14% in 1995). Municipal waste treatment varies widely between Member States: less than 5% is landfilled in some countries – Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Belgium – while more than 85% is disposed of in this way in others – Latvia, Lithuania, Cyprus and Malta. In 2007 each EU citizen produced on average of 522 kg of municipal waste. In 2006 EU-27 produced around 3 billion tonnes of total waste, including mining waste, i.e. 6 tonnes per capita.

In 2007, 103 million tonnes of municipal waste was recycled (2), twice as much as in 1995. Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Austria lead the recycling of municipal waste, with more than 50%. Denmark has the highest share of municipal waste incinerated (53%).

(2) The amount of municipal waste recycled and composted is estimated as the difference between the amount of municipal waste generated and the amount landfilled and incinerated.

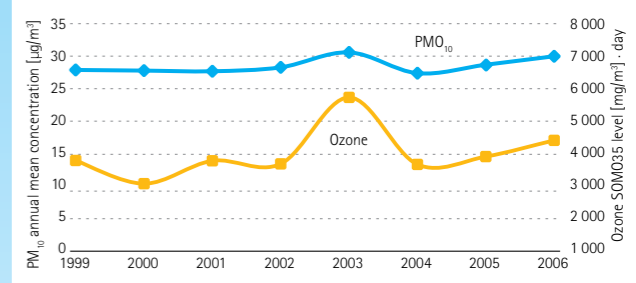
9. Air emissions



Air pollutants such as sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC) and ammonia (NH₃) have harmful effects on human health and the environment. They cause damage to crops and materials, acidification, eutrophication and increase sickness and premature death, directly and through formation of particulate matter and ground level ozone. The National Emission Ceilings (NEC) Directive sets national targets for reducing emissions of SO₂, NO_x, NMVOC and NH₃ by 2010. The EU air pollution strategy aims to reduce levels of these and other air pollutants further by 2020.

Compared to 1990 levels, in 2006 the EU-27 had reduced emissions of SO₂ by 70%, NO_x by 34%, NMVOC by 44% and NH₃ by 22%. For NO_x, however, many Member States are expected to exceed their national emission ceilings in 2010 (3), partly because demand for road transport has grown faster than anticipated.

10. Urban air quality



Airborne particulate matter has serious impacts on human health, reducing average life expectancy in the EU by about 9 months (4). Despite improvements in many cities, the concentrations of particulate matter (PM₁₀) (5) in some large European cities have increased since 2004. The high value in 2003 was partly due to unfavourable weather conditions.

High levels of ground-level ozone are very dangerous for human health, as ozone is responsible for respiratory diseases, in particular affecting vulnerable groups such as asthmatics, children and the elderly. The concentrations of ozone (6) have increased since 2004 (7). Ozone levels are affected by air pollution and weather conditions.

(4) Source: NEC Directive status report 2007, EEA Technical report 9/2008.

(5) Source: Impact Assessment of the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution.

(6) Including cities from most Member States (CY, LU, LV and MT are missing).

(7) Including cities from most Member States (CY, IE, LU, and MT are missing).

(*) Results are based on "urban background stations" in cities with population over 250.000 inhabitants, using PM10 annual mean concentrations and for the ozone indicator Sum Of Means Over 35 ppb ozone (SOMO35) calculated from daily 8-hourly maximum concentrations. Population weighing is applied. Further information may be obtained from: env-airquality@ec.europa.eu.