

## **14th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development**

### **EU brochure**

**FINAL VERSION**

*Title:*

European Union

Priority Issues for CSD 14 and 15

*Disclaimer:*

This document presents the views and priorities of the European Union (EU) as a contribution to the discussion at CSD 14 and 15. The EU is comprised of the following 25 Member States:

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The candidate countries Bulgaria and Romania align themselves with this brochure.

## **EU Ambitions for Outcomes of CSD14 and 15**

In the EU's view, the key challenges facing CSD14/15 are to increase access to affordable and sustainable energy services to meet basic human needs and for sustainable industrial development, and to reduce energy related environmental and health problems, in particular those related to climate change and air pollution. This also encompasses efficiency gains in resource use. Achieving this will require concerted action by all countries, with developed countries taking the lead in changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production.

A major and guiding consideration is that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production and managing the natural resource base for economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development.

The EU recognises that countries and regions experience different challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the CSD14/15 thematic issues. National and regional variations also exist in the interlinkages between the thematic issues as well as with cross-cutting issues, including means of implementation. If meaningful progress is to be made, it is important that any global assessment of implementation takes account of these differences, as highlighted during the Regional Implementation Forums.

In preparing the ground for achieving concrete and meaningful policy guidance and actions at CSD15, it will be important for the outcomes of CSD14 to be focused on key challenges and obstacles to implementation. CSD14 provides the opportunity to share examples of best practice to promote ideas for concrete action. The EU believes that our exchange of experience should focus on 'success factors', which have contributed to effective programmes, projects and policies.

### **Energy for Sustainable Development**

The principal objective of CSD14/15 should be to expedite the implementation of JPOI objectives and commitments to steer the world onto a markedly and truly sustainable energy path, in line with the shared objective to avoid air pollution and climate change, and to increase access to energy services amongst the world's poor.

Taking into account regionally determined variations and conditions, in particular those highlighted during the Regional Implementation Forums, CSD14/15 has a number of challenges to address, including how to:

- achieve access to reliable and affordable energy services for sustainable development to meet basic human needs and to facilitate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- promote energy savings and efficiency to decouple economic growth from energy demand and environmental degradation including climate change; and
- increase the use of renewable energies;
- increase energy security (supply and affordability), including through the diversification of energy sources.

Key obstacles to implementation exist in the areas of changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumptions, governance, financing and investment,

technology development, cooperation, transfer and adaptation of technology and in capacity building.

In developing their own joint Energy Policy for Europe to address mounting energy challenges, the EU attaches great importance to ensuring security of supply, competitiveness and environmental sustainability. Increased energy efficiency, EU-wide development of renewable energies, the implementation of the EU Biomass Action Plan and strengthened RD & D (research, development and demonstration) are key components in this regard.

Concerted global action is required to ensure a sustainable response to the rising demand for energy services. Recognising that there is no single policy or technology that will by itself deliver this objective, a number of key issues will need to be tackled, including:

- integration of energy access, energy efficiency as well as action to tackle climate change and manage climate risks in national development plans (including Poverty Reduction Strategies, national sustainable development strategies and other relevant policy plans);
- phasing out of harmful subsidies and the design and implementation of incentives;
- better use of regulatory and market-based frameworks and incentives
- use of transparent and competitive public and private procurement and effective exchange of best practice, including partnerships;
- reducing unsustainable use of biomass, for cooking and heating through more sustainable production and cleaner and more efficient use;
- reducing dependence on fossil fuels to meet current and future overall national energy requirements;
- increasing energy efficiency, with developed countries taking the lead in changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production and facilitating technology transfer;
- building capacity through cooperation and collaboration between existing initiatives and partnerships.

To expedite progress towards a sustainable energy path, CSD14/15 needs to discuss a number of important issues including:

- Defining visions and strategies
- Defining means of bridging the financing gap
- Defining means of increasing research and development
- Identifying a mechanism to enable effective and meaningful review and follow-up of outcomes of CSD14/15 on energy

## **Industrial Development**

Industrial development is a wide ranging issue, of which sustainable consumption and production (SCP) is a key element. Built on an economically, environmentally and socially sound basis industrial development can be an engine for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and to promote employment, gender equality, and increased access to education and health care. The challenge is to enable developing countries to realise such development and to benefit from the development and application of sound environmental and resource-efficient technologies complemented by integrated management systems. The protection and

sustainable management of the natural resource base within the carrying capacity of ecosystems, the control of emissions and a reduction in the use of hazardous substances are essential in all countries.

CSD14/15 offers an opportunity to address the environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainable industrial development as well as the interlinkages with other thematic issues within the cluster.

To expedite progress towards sustainable industrial development, the EU finds it important for CSD14/15 to consider a number of pressing issues including:

- practical steps towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production, recognising national variations and needs, especially the different patterns of consumption and production between developed, developing countries, and countries with economies in transition;
- corporate social and environmental responsibility and accountability including decent work, gender equality, equal pay for equal work and use of business relations and supply chain management in promoting SCP;
- strengthen the investment climate in developing countries for sustainable industrial development, including through improved governance structures and addressing constraints to industrial development;
- building business capacity, technological innovation and cooperation, in particular of small and medium-sized enterprises, to address unsustainable industrial practices and to undertake Life Cycle Analysis and develop integrated product policies;
- further integration of developing countries in international trade;
- effective measures to ensure efficient use of resources;
- strengthened dialogues with developing agencies.

The EU believes that the Marrakech process on sustainable consumption and production and the international Marrakech task forces have an important role in promoting sustainable industrial development globally.

## **Air Pollution and Atmosphere**

Whilst in many countries and regions progress has been made to reduce air pollution, due to development of cleaner technologies and abatement of emissions, globally there has been a rise in air pollution, negatively impacting on human health and causing environmental degradation, including climate change. Tackling air pollution requires regional and international cooperation. One success story in this context is the UNECE Convention of Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, which has reduced emissions of some key air pollutants in Europe and North America.

The causes of air pollution vary within and between countries and regions. A major challenge in developing countries and specifically in least developed countries is indoor air pollution from heating and cooking, which has severe negative impacts on the health of women and children. This issue needs particular attention at CSD14/15. It will be important for CSD to address social, environmental and economic aspects of air pollution and atmosphere. Best available techniques have to be applied world wide and regional cooperation between countries has to be encouraged as well as phasing out of ozone depleting substances.

CSD offers an opportunity to address a number of issues important for expediting progress, including on:

- impacts of air pollution on human health, in particular indoor air pollution, which disproportionately affects women and children;
- transport and vehicle emissions, including maritime and aviation;
- impacts and management of long-range and transboundary air pollution;
- increase in urbanisation, in particular unplanned development;
- linkages between safe and affordable energy, air pollution and climate change.

## **Climate Change**

We face serious and linked challenges in tackling climate change, promoting environmentally sound energy and achieving sustainable development globally.

Urgent action is required to meet the shared and multiple objectives of reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), improving global environment, enhancing energy security and cutting air pollution in conjunction with vigorous efforts to eradicate poverty. CSD can bring added value by promoting an integrated approach to policy making and addressing the interlinkages between these issues.

Technology development and availability could help address the linked challenge of rising energy demand and increasing concentrations of GHGs.

A broad strategy and concerted global effort is needed to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions in order to keep GHG concentrations in the atmosphere at a safe level. Governments will need to work with the business sector, to stimulate research and innovation into low carbon energy technologies, and put in place policy, regulatory, and financing frameworks for scaling-up investment in low carbon energy, particularly for development of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

Without prejudging new approaches for differentiation between Parties in a future fair and flexible framework, the EU believes that, in this context, reduction pathways for the group of developed countries in the order of 15-30% by 2020 compared to the base years used in the Kyoto Protocol, and by 2050, in the spirit of the Conclusions of the March 2005 (Environment) Council, should be considered.

The impacts of climate change are already being felt and threaten to undermine development efforts and the achievement of the MDG's. Climate change impacts and risks need to be integrated within national sustainable development policies and strategies.

Climate friendly policies can be implemented in a cost-effective manner now and in the future if we ensure a global response and use flexible instruments, as provided for under the Kyoto Protocol.

## **Interlinkages and Cross-cutting issues**

Achieving sustainable development requires the adoption of an integrated approach, which takes account of social, economic and environmental considerations. Pursuing sectoral commitments in isolation can compromise the achievement of other policy

objectives. It is therefore critically important to address the interlinkages between the CSD14/15 thematic issues to ensure the development of coherent policy guidance and activities.

Significant interlinkages and cross-cutting issues exist between each of the thematic issues within this cluster. CSD offers a unique opportunity to address these in an integrated way, which include:

- land-use, including deforestation and desertification;
- urban planning, including infrastructure development;
- transport planning (public and private) so as to increase access to basic services, facilitate trade and enable movement of people whilst reducing negative impacts on the environment.

It is also important to further discuss the cross-cutting issues, which CSD11 agreed should be addressed in each cycle. These cannot be addressed in isolation, but need to be integrated into discussions on each of the thematic issues, as well as within the interlinkages. Such crosscutting issues include:

- poverty eradication underpinned by environment sustainability;
- changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, with developing countries taking the lead;
- protecting the natural resource base to ensure that development is long-term;
- gender equality, which is an integral part of achieving sustainable development, relevant to addressing global problems such as poverty, environmental degradation and lack of security;
- financing and investment, including national public and private investment as well as multilateral and bilateral assistance;
- capacity building to enable country-led implementation of sustainable development commitments;
- good governance at all levels, including more effective use of participatory approaches, which can engage all stakeholders;
- health, in particular of women and children;
- education, including life long learning through formal, informal and non formal learning processes to provide improved understanding of the linkages between social, economic and environmental aspects of lifestyles and individual behaviour.

## **Follow-up and Review**

For CSD15 to bring about lasting progress, an effective and meaningful review and follow-up arrangement on sustainable energy and in particular on renewable energies should be decided upon during the CSD15. Identifying indicators and targets to measure progress could be a part of this.

- CSD has the primary responsibility to follow-up and monitor the implementation of the commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. In the absence of an intergovernmental body within the UN system responsible for energy further consideration is required as to what role the CSD should play in following-up the outcomes of CSD15.
- Any follow-up arrangement to CSD15 needs to build on existing mechanisms rather than duplicate efforts.
- A review and follow-up arrangement on the global expansion of the share of renewable energies as foreseen in paragraph 20. (e) of the Johannesburg

Plan of Implementation and build on the recommendations of Bonn *renewables2004*, BIREC 2005 and the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition (JREC) Dubai Statement should be discussed at CSD14 and decided upon at CSD15. CSD14 and 15 should consider – as recommended in the JREC Dubai Statement - the launch of an action programme to further promote renewable energies based i.a. on the results of the renewables2004 conference in Bonn.

- The role of UN-Energy in the context of the follow-up to CSD15 requires further consideration.
- The involvement of IFIs and RDBs, taking into account the fundamental inputs and studies provided by the IEA also requires further consideration.
- The EU considers time-bound targets (for e.g. on access to energy services, energy efficiency, renewable energies, low carbon technologies) to be a relevant tool to express government's vision and to develop and implement efficient integrated enabling policies and measures. The EU wants to share its own experiences with the use of targets, and is open for suggestions on targets by other partners.

#### **Internet links to policies, initiatives, projects and programmes of EU Member States and the European Commission**

- [http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/wssd/csd\\_14\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/wssd/csd_14_en.html)
- <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/jrec/>
- <http://www.euei.org>
- <http://gvpep.org>
- <http://www.klimaaktiv.at>
- <http://www.reeep.org>
- <http://www.environment.fi> > Publications > Brochures > Making it happen – Best practices from Finland
- <http://www.climate.noa.gr>
- <http://www.ceacr.cz>
- <http://www.envir.ee>
- <http://www.minambiente.it/st/default.aspx>
- <http://www.sweden.gov.se>
- <http://www.mst.dk/homepage/>

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