



Being Efficient

According to the Europe 2020 strategy adopted by EU leaders at the European Council meeting on 17 June, the EU is in pursuit of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. There are headline targets in the realms of employment, innovation, climate change, education and poverty. However, the opportunity to lift the target for GHG emissions reductions from 20 to 30 per cent has not been taken and the Council held back from introducing more environmental and energy related targets of the kind advocated by the Parliament. This leaves improved resource efficiency as the principal area where the strategy offers any new impetus for the environmental agenda.

A "Resource efficient Europe" is such a broad concept that the space for interpretation is wide open. There will no doubt be competition to define it in both political and policy terms. In the strategy the Commission introduces the concept primarily in relation to energy and transport efficiency, new infrastructure and networks, new technologies and market based instruments. It is suggested that the Member States, but not the EU itself, will need to phase out environmentally harmful subsidies. A low-carbon, resource efficient economy apparently will allow the EU to meet both emissions reduction and biodiversity targets. Strikingly, the challenge of shrinking the EU's swollen ecological footprint is not rehearsed, although there is a modest aspiration to improve global food security by appropriate climate adaptation measures.

This interpretation of the concept seems little more than a starting point for a more balanced and coherent vision of a resource efficient Europe. Now is the time to address a wide range of material flows above and beyond the energy sector, for example reaching into biological resources such as fish. Resource efficiency needs to have a more explicit global and spatial dimension, considering the use of land, soil and water alongside more mobile resources. The question of sustainable consumption and the active engagement of consumers and industry needs to be explored in a more ambitious way and the linkages between biodiversity and carbon efficiency unpacked more vigorously. Synergies and conflicts will need to be identified and addressed and tested in new frameworks such as ecosystem services. Investment in data, monitoring and tools such as life-cycle analysis will be required alongside new technologies.

From this framework should emerge concrete initiatives not only in the energy and transport sectors but also in other spheres – such as soil and water management. Europe has an opportunity to develop a long term perspective to 2020 and beyond in a way that is often difficult at national level. This would give some meaning to smart and sustainable growth.

Strategies come and go – but within the verbal foliage of this one there is a doorway worth opening much further.

David Baldock
Director IEEP

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This newsletter is published and distributed by the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP). IEEP is an independent institute for the analysis and development of policies affecting the environment in Europe and beyond.

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The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) – from theory to practice

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) initiative is approaching its conclusion. The final results will be published in October at the 10th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya, Japan. Three years in the making, TEEB has already provided many valuable insights on the role of biodiversity and ecosystems in maintaining our wellbeing, influencing future biodiversity policy both at the EU and global level. There is now a clear need to demonstrate how the approaches and instruments introduced by TEEB can be put into practice at regional and local level.

To bridge this gap between theory and practice, one of the upcoming TEEB thematic reports will be dedicated to addressing the needs of regional and local policy-makers. This report, coordinated by the

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) and due to be launched on 9 September 2010, will illustrate the wide range of concrete socio-economic benefits of integrating the true value of biodiversity



and ecosystem services into regional and local decision-making. In particular, the report will highlight how the different economic insights and instruments could

be used in practice to support the sustainable use of ecosystems and natural resources, for example through urban management and spatial planning.

Similarly, IEEP and the WWF Danube Carpathian Programme (DCP) are carrying out a study to explore the application of TEEB approaches in the Danube river basin. This short scoping study aims to demonstrate how the insights and lessons learned from TEEB, such as creation of markets, reforming harmful subsidies and establishing payments for ecosystem services, could be implemented at a river basin level. The Danube basin, rich in both biodiversity and ecosystem services but also facing strong pressures for further economic development, provides an interesting case study. The study will be published later in 2010, in time to provide useful insights to the CBD meeting in Nagoya.

Contact: Marianne Kettunen, Patrick ten Brink

Launch of IEEP's Manual of European Environmental Policy on 23 September

The re-launch of our flagship publication, the Manual of European Environmental Policy, will take place in Brussels on 23 September, marking the culmination of over a year of painstaking effort from across the Institute. Under the new editorship of Andrew Farmer, the Manual is an essential reference guide for all those who need to keep pace with EU environmental policy. We hope that many of you will be able to join us to celebrate and to find out more about the Manual's new pan-European format.

With our new publishers, Earthscan, we are confident that the Manual's new format will make it even more useful to readers from the EU Member States and beyond. The Manual acts as a collective history of EU environmental policy, consolidating the extensive information and intelligence gathered by the Institute. Building on the original Manual of Environmental Policy: The EU and Britain, edited by Nigel Haigh and first published in 1992, the new Manual has been refocused to give it a broader pan-European perspective.

In addition, as well as continuing in print format it will now be available online with enhanced search functions. The text also provides direct links to all relevant EU texts, offers analysis of important cases brought to the European Court of Justice, and highlights key implementation issues.

The chapters include an introduction to the EU institutions, policy processes and instruments used in environmental policy making; information on over 500 individual Directives, Decisions and Regulations; an analysis of the relationship between environment-specific policy and other EU policy fields; and a summary of forthcoming policy measures, as well as a comprehensive index of current environmental legislation.

The Manual will be launched in the early evening of 23 September in our Brussels office. For more details, including on how to subscribe, please visit: www.earthscan.co.uk/meep.
Contact: Camilla Adelle

Stakeholders discuss progress on waste prevention and recycling

The Thematic Strategy on Waste Prevention and Recycling was adopted in 2005, setting out the strategic policy direction for future EU action in this field; notably the Strategy led to the review of the waste framework Directive. On 22 June 2010 IEEP and the European Commission held a major stakeholder event to inform the ongoing IEEP-led study supporting the mid-term review of this Thematic Strategy. The event provided a forum for stakeholders to address key questions emerging from the review, to debate the role and achievements of Strategy, and to discuss potential next steps.

Much of the day was spent in four working groups comprised of invited stakeholders active in the field of waste policy, including representatives from industry, NGOs, Member States, regional and local authorities and the research community. The working groups considered: the practicalities of implementing the Thematic Strategy and its objectives; waste prevention; the international influence and impact of EU waste management policy; and recycling markets.

A number of overarching messages emerged from the discussions. Stakeholders considered that the Thematic Strategy, and the resulting revised Waste Framework

Directive, had had some positive impacts on waste management activities. Further efforts are nonetheless needed to develop policy solutions addressing ongoing challenges, in particular waste prevention.

Current EU policies are leading to increased material exports to third countries for recycling and reuse; though not necessarily negative, better mechanisms are required to address the potential environmental consequences of this trend. Promoting EU markets for high-quality secondary raw materials is essential to deliver more environmentally sustainable waste management and to 'close the loop' in terms of production, consumption, recycling and reuse.

The transformation of waste management represents an opportunity for the EU, but it is apparent that additional actions are required to bring about sustainable improvements.

IEEP's contribution to the review will be completed in August. Presentations and notes from the stakeholder event are available at <http://www.eu-smr.eu/tswpr/meetings.php>.

Contact: Catherine Bowyer

Knowledge is (purchasing) power

Reducing CO₂ emissions from cars is not an easy task. Alternative fuels are taking time to develop and many people, still unconvinced of the merits of public transport, are reluctant to leave their cars at home. There are several approaches to tackling this. Supply-side approaches take the shape of obligatory technical standards for car manufacturers, for example, to limit the amount of CO₂ a car emits. Demand-side approaches look to influence public behaviour – not only how much one drives, but how environmentally 'friendly' one's car is.

As part of the EU strategy to reduce car CO₂ emissions, Directive 1999/94/EC on the provision of information on new cars aims to influence consumers' purchasing behaviour. Information on the fuel economy and CO₂ emissions of new cars must be displayed: on a label at the point of sale; on posters / electronic displays; in a paper guide; and in promotional literature. By informing consumers of

the environmental impacts of the car they drive, it is hoped they will see how to minimise these through their choice of model.



Picture: Samuela Bassi

With the Directive due for revision, the European Parliament's Environment Committee commissioned IEEP and partners to undertake a study on the Directive's implementation and suggest concrete policy options. The

study examined compliance in ten Member States and explored existing research on consumer behaviour and car purchasing.

The study recommended harmonising the label's format to make it more effective. The colour-coded energy efficiency label for electrical appliances was championed as a good example. The Commission's intention to extend the scope of the Directive to other vehicle types was not backed by the study, but the inclusion of information on running costs was encouraged.

For more details and the full set of recommendations please see the full study, which is available at <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/studies/download.do?language=fr&file=31259>.

Contact: Megan Lewis

Putting the environment at the centre of a future CAP

The debate on the future rationale and structure of the CAP post 2013 is now well underway, with a Commission Communication containing outline proposals due to be published on 15 November 2010, followed by legislative proposals in spring or summer 2011.

Despite calls from some sectors and Member States to maintain the status quo, it is becoming increasingly clear that this is not an option and that the forthcoming CAP Reform could mark a significant change in the policy. One of the key messages from the recent Commission consultation and subsequent conference on the CAP post 2013 was that the CAP should be refocused on the provision of public goods in line with society's demands. It should also address the diversity of environmental, social and economic situations in different regions of the EU 27, perhaps by adopting a more territorial approach.

The UK's Land Use Policy Group (LUPG) commissioned IEEP to write a series of discussion papers to examine some of the issues surrounding a reorientation of the CAP towards the provision of environmental goods



Picture: Justin Bartley

and services.

The first paper, 'Achieving a transition away from CAP direct payments', examines a range of transitional arrangements that could

facilitate a shift in the basis of CAP payments from the current system of support towards the provision of public goods. The second paper, 'Scoping the Development of the Environmentally Sustainable Production Agenda', explores the need for European agriculture and forestry to play a positive role in managing and enhancing the natural environment as well as delivering sufficient food, fibre and raw materials for human consumption in the future. The third paper, 'Towards a More Comprehensive Rationale for EU Funding in the Environment', discusses the need for state intervention to meet environmental objectives and targets, and the rationale for intervening at the European level.

The papers can be viewed online at www.cap2020.ieep.eu.

Contact: Kaley Hart

IEEP awarded Independent Research Organisations status

IEEP has been awarded Independent Research Organisations status by the UK Research Councils. This recognises IEEP's high quality research capability and contribution to the UK research base. It makes us eligible for research funding with two Councils, ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) and NERC (Natural Environment Research Council). We have received UK Research Council funding in the past, but new rules were introduced a few years ago requiring non-academic institutions to apply for IRO status in order to be eligible to apply for funding.

IEEP latest reports

Find out about and get access to the latest reports from IEEP by visiting our publications webpage <http://www.ieep.eu/publications/publications.php?search=latest&submit=Submit>

Manual of
**EUROPEAN
ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY**

IEEP CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

In the coming months IEEP is organising and/or participating in a number of meetings and events. To find out more, do not hesitate to contact us

Conference: Biodiversity in a changing world (Biodiversity post-2010 strategy) – Initiatives for Rewarding Benefits from Ecosystem Services – Ghent (Belgium), 8 September 2010

Patrick ten Brink will speak at this high-level conference under the Belgian EU Presidency. He will also present an introductory note on 'Initiatives for rewarding benefits from ecosystem services'. Contact: Patrick ten Brink

Workshop: One Planet Economy Europe – Brussels (Belgium), 8-9 September 2010

This workshop, organised in the context of the FP7 study One Planet Economy Europe (OPEN:EU) carried out by WWF-UK, Ecologic, the Global Footprint Network, University of York, University of Twente, University of Trondheim, the Sustainable Europe Research Institute and IEEP, will gather project partners and selected stakeholders to present the project and its progress. The study is developing a robust "footprint family" of sustainable development indicators, placing them in a scenario modelling policy tool, and raises awareness of the need to reach a 'one planet economy' by 2050 (see <http://www.oneplaneteconomynetwork.org/>).

Contact: Samuela Bassi

Workshop: The 6th Environment Action Programme: Reviewing progress, lessons learned, and possible implications for the future – Brussels (Belgium), 14 September 2010

This expert workshop is being held as part of an in-depth assessment of the 6th EAP being carried out by IEEP, the Ecologic Institute and the Central European University. The workshop will bring together key stakeholders from across the EU to evaluate progress in implementing the 6th EAP in the four thematic areas, explore certain strategic issues relating to the added value of the 6th EAP and its interactions with other EU strategies, and reflect on possible implications for the future. Contact: Sirini Withana

Stakeholder workshop: Crossing scales for biodiversity – how can better understanding of ecological, socio-economic and institutional scales promote effective conservation of biodiversity in the EU beyond 2010? – Brussels (Belgium), 21 September 2010

Marianne Kettunen is co-organising this stakeholder workshop to identify EU policies that can better address the scale-dependent pressures on biodiversity and support more scale-sensitive biodiversity governance in the EU. The results will support work on the FP7 project 'Securing the Conservation of biodiversity across Administrative Levels and spatial, temporal, and Ecological Scales (SCALES)'. The event is co-organised by the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research and other SCALES partners. The workshop is by invitation only and is hosted by the Liaison office of Saxony. Contact: Marianne Kettunen

Annual Conference of the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC) – Bruges (Belgium), 15 October 2010

A representative from IEEP's Agriculture and Land Management programme will introduce and discuss the issue of Public Goods in agriculture at the EEAC annual conference. Contact: Kaley Hart

Launch of TEEB report at the Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – Nagoya (Japan), 18-29 October 2010

Patrick Ten Brink will attend COP 10 to present the report 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) in National and International Policy Making', which has been coordinated by IEEP. The TEEB synthesis report and the key findings of other TEEB reports will also be presented in Nagoya. For further details please see the CBD COP 10 <http://www.cbd.int/cop10/> and TEEB websites <http://www.teebweb.org/> Contact: Patrick ten Brink

Conference: Industrial Waste Recycling – Melbourne (Australia), 22-23 March 2011

This international conference, organised by International Business Review (Australia), will bring together current recycling industry pioneers and policy makers. Emma Watkins will speak on significant developments in recycling policy and legislation in Europe. Further details will be available in due course at: <http://www.ibrc.com.au/> . Contact: Emma Watkins