

# Europe 2020

## Sustainable Development and Climate Change Challenges for the future



Prof. ir. Bernard MAZIJN, Ghent University  
VUB-IES, 24 November 2010, Brussels

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# Sustainable Development and Climate Change: challenges for the future ... are huge !

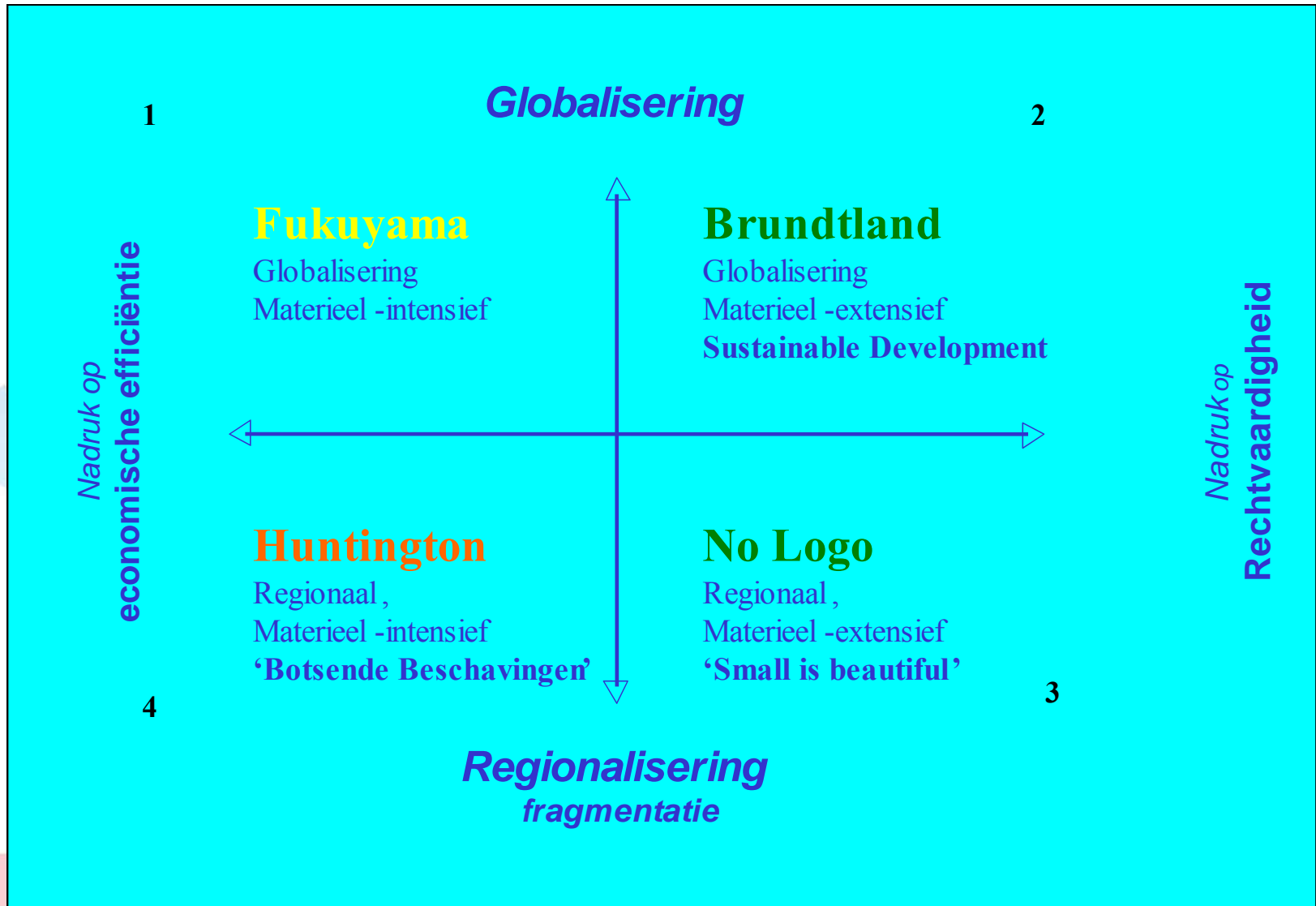
Read e.g. ...

- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005)
- IPCC 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report (2007)
- ...

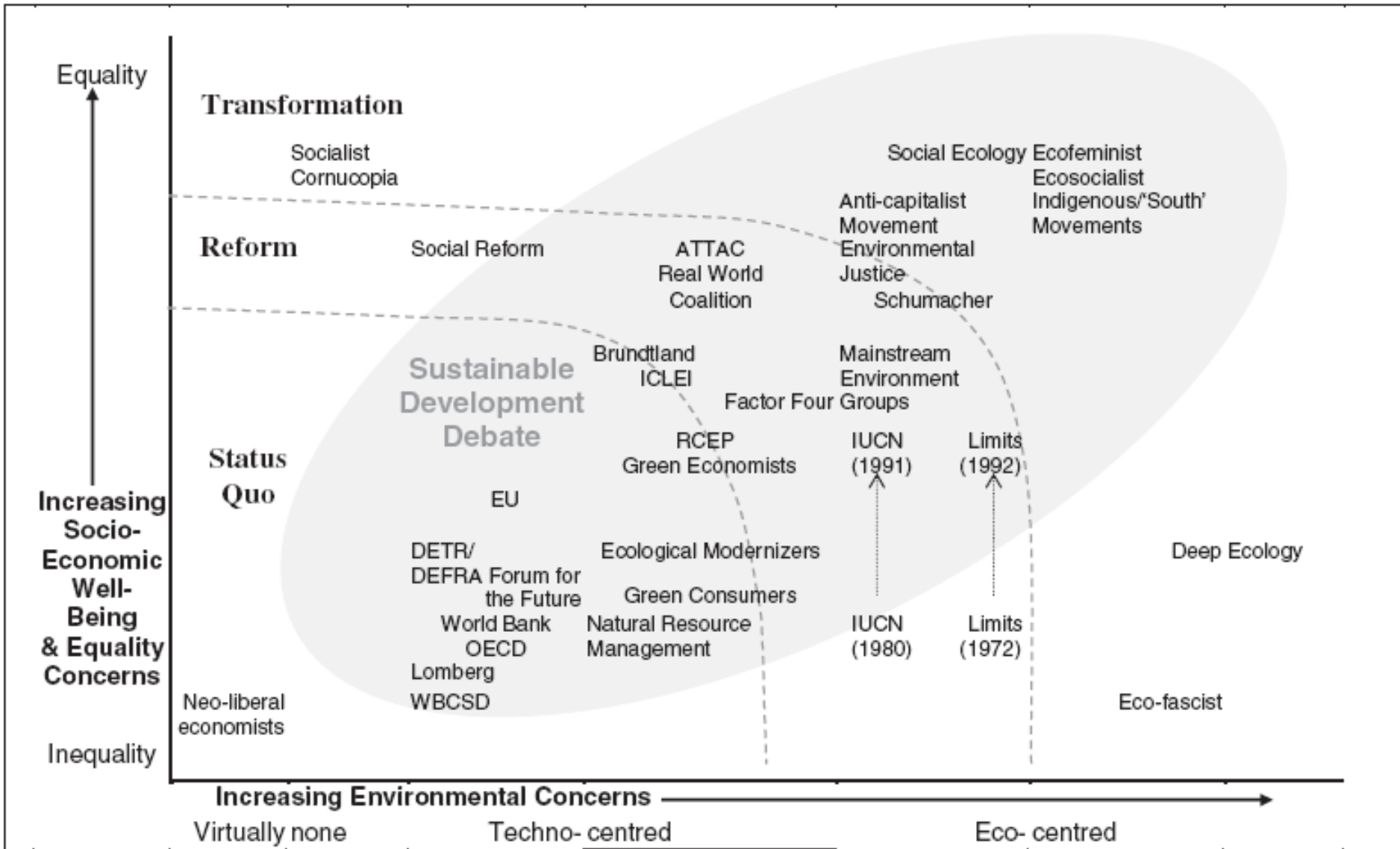
but as well the successive ...

- IEA World Energy Outlooks
- UNEP Global Environmental Outlooks
- UNDP Human Development Reports
- Human Rights World Reports
- ...

# Different views on society (1)



# Different views on society (2)



**Source:** Hopwood (2005)

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# Sustainable Development – International Context

1972 UNCHE, Stockholm

1987 WCED 'Our Common Future'

1992 UNCED, Rio de Janeiro ('the Earth Summit')

1997 UNGASS, New York ('Rio+5')


2000 UNGA, New York ('UN Millennium Declaration')

2002 WSSD, Johannesburg ('Rio +10')

2012 UNCSD, Rio de Janeiro ('Rio+20')



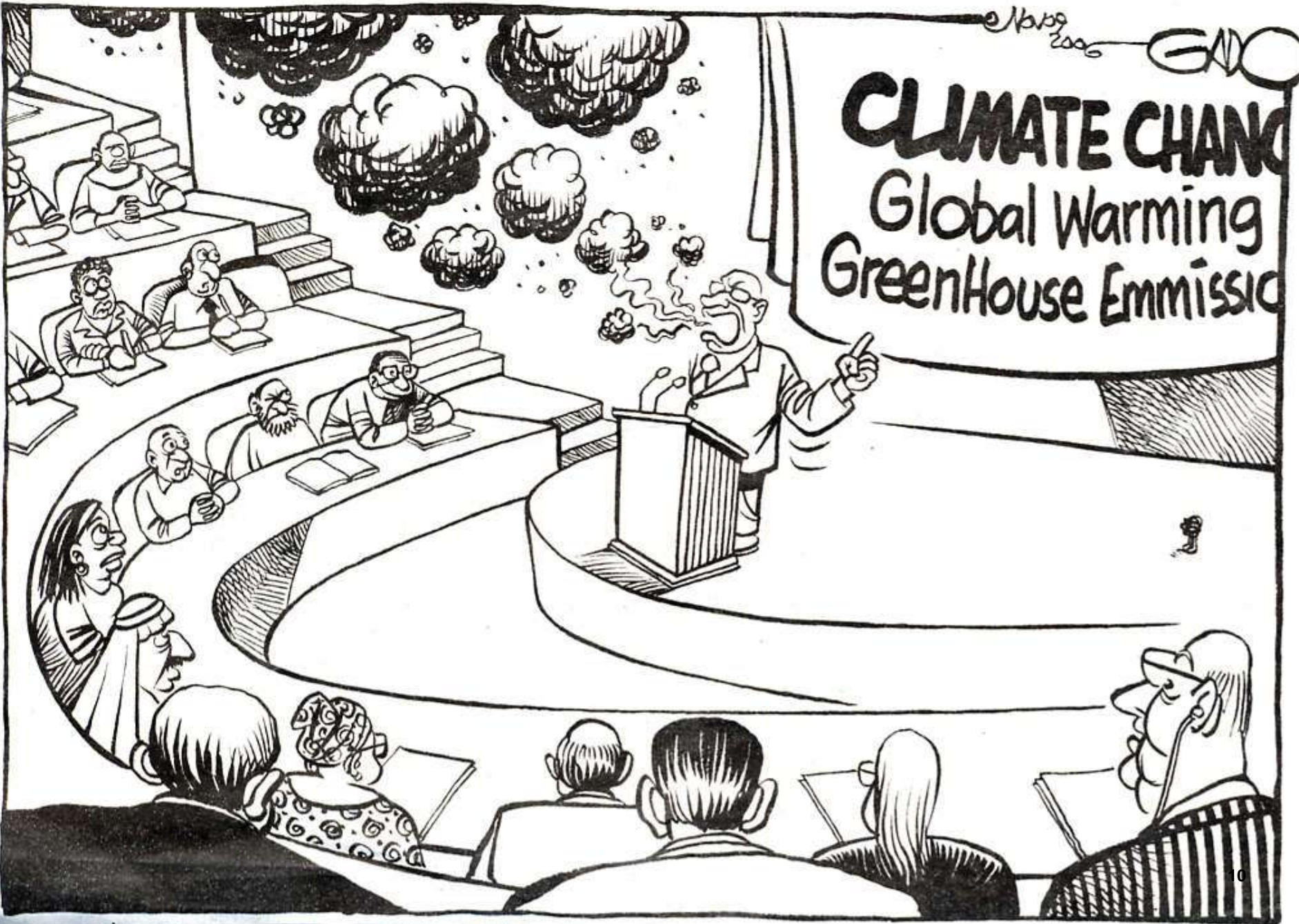
# Climate Change – International Context

- 1979 1<sup>st</sup> World Conference on Climate Change
  - 1988 Establishment of the IPCC by WMO and UNEP  
(4 AR's: 1990, 1995, 2001, 2007)
  - 1992 UNFCCC
  - 1997 Kyoto Protocol
  - 2001 Marrakech Accords
  - 2005 Kyoto Protocol into force
  - 2009 Copenhagen 'Accord'
  - ... (?)
- 

Nov 2006



**CLIMATE CHANGE**  
Global Warming  
GreenHouse Emmissio



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# Europe 2020 – Brief and Partial History

1957 Treaty of Rome

...

1997 Treaty of Amsterdam

→ 'sustainable development' for the first time recognized as a priority

1998 European Council of Cardiff

→ integration of environmental protection (cf. Impact Assessment)

1999 European Council of Helsinki

→ 'The Commission is invited to prepare a proposal for a long-term strategy dovetailing policies for economically, socially and ecologically sustainable development'

# Europe 2020 – Brief and Partial History

## 2000 European Council of Lisbon

- adoption of ‘a new strategic goal for the next decade’  
‘to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion’

## 2001 European Council of Gothenburg

- EC Communication ‘A Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development’

## 2002 European Council of Barcelona

- EC Communication ‘Towards a Global Partnership for Sustainable Development’

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# From the Gothenburg Strategy (2001) to the renewed EU-SDS (2006)

European Council - Presidency conclusions (Gothenburg, 2001):

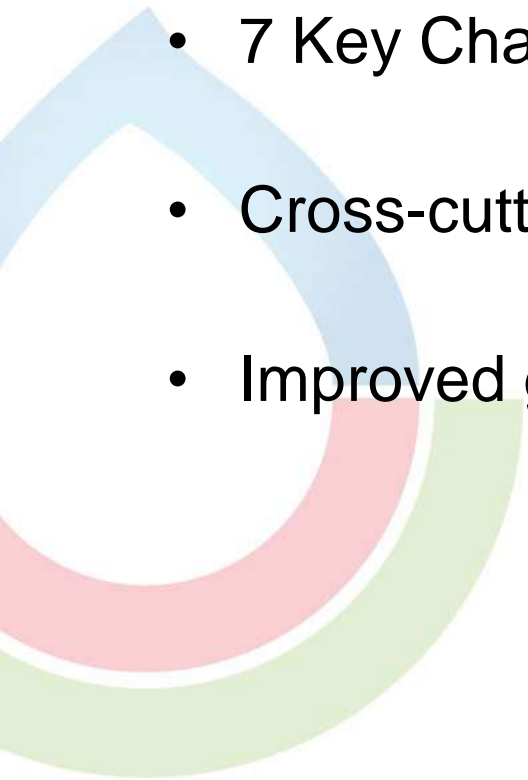
”The European Council ... agreed on a strategy for sustainable development and added an environmental dimension to the Lisbon process for employment, economic reform and social cohesion; ...”

As a basis for the renewed strategy, the European council in June 2005 approved a declaration with key objectives and principles, followed by a Commission communication (December 2005) ”On the review of the Sustainable Development Strategy – A platform for action”.

European Council adopted ‘an ambitious and comprehensive renewed’ Sustainable Development Strategy for an enlarged EU, building on the strategy adopted in 2001 in Gothenburg (June 2006).

# Renewed EU SDS

- 4 Key Objectives
- 10 Policy Guiding Principles
- 7 Key Challenges
  - Cross-cutting issues
  - Improved governance






# 4 Key Objectives

- Environmental protection
- Social equity and cohesion
- Economic prosperity
- Meeting our international responsibilities



# 10 Guiding Principles

- Promotion and protection of fundamental rights
  - Solidarity within and between generations
  - Open and democratic society
  - Involvement of citizens
  - Involvement of businesses and social partners
  - Policy coherence and governance
  - Policy integration
  - Use best available knowledge
  - Precautionary principle
  - Make polluters pay
- 

# 7 Key Challenges

- **Climate change** and clean energy
- Sustainable **transport**
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Conservation and management of **natural resources**
- **Public Health**
- ***Social inclusion***, demography and migration
- Global ***poverty*** and SD challenges



# Cross-cutting policies contributing to the knowledge society










- Education and training
- Research and development
- ...



# Improved governance

- Commission progress report to the December European Council (odd years)
- EC (Sustainable) Impact Assessment
- National focal points
- National Sustainable Development Strategies and their linkage to the EU SDS
- Networks (European Sustainable Development Network, ESDN ...)
- Regional and local SD processes and their networks
- ...

# Evaluation of climate change and energy\* (EU 27, since 2000)

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
 Greenhouse gas emissions*   Consumption of renewables	: Greenhouse gas emissions by sector   Energy dependency	<b>Climate change</b>  Greenhouse gas intensity of energy consumption : Global surface average temperature
		<b>Energy</b>  Gross inland energy consumption  Electricity generation from renewables  Consumption of biofuels in transport  Combined heat and power**  Implicit tax rate on energy

\* EU-15

\*\* From 2004

\* **Source:** EUROSTAT, 2009

# Synergies between the EU SDS and the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs (?)

European Council (Stockholm, March 2001)

*“Lisbon has successfully integrated economic and social matters. The sustainable development strategy, including the environmental dimension will complete and build on the political commitment under the Lisbon strategy. All dimensions of sustainable development should be reviewed in the context of the annual European Council”*

‘The EU SDS and the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs complement each other. The EU SDS is primarily concerned with quality of life, intra- and inter-generational equity and coherence between all policy areas.’

‘The EU SDS forms the overall framework within which the Lisbon Strategy, provides the motor for a more dynamic economy.’

‘Investments in human, social and environmental capital as well as technological innovation are the prerequisites for long-term competitiveness and economic prosperity, social cohesion, quality employment and better environmental protection.’

# EU 20-20-20 – Brief and Partial History

March 2006 – EC Green Paper ‘A European Strategy for Sustainable, Competitive and Secure Energy’

January 2007: EC ‘EU Climate Change & Energy Package’ with objectives for 2020:

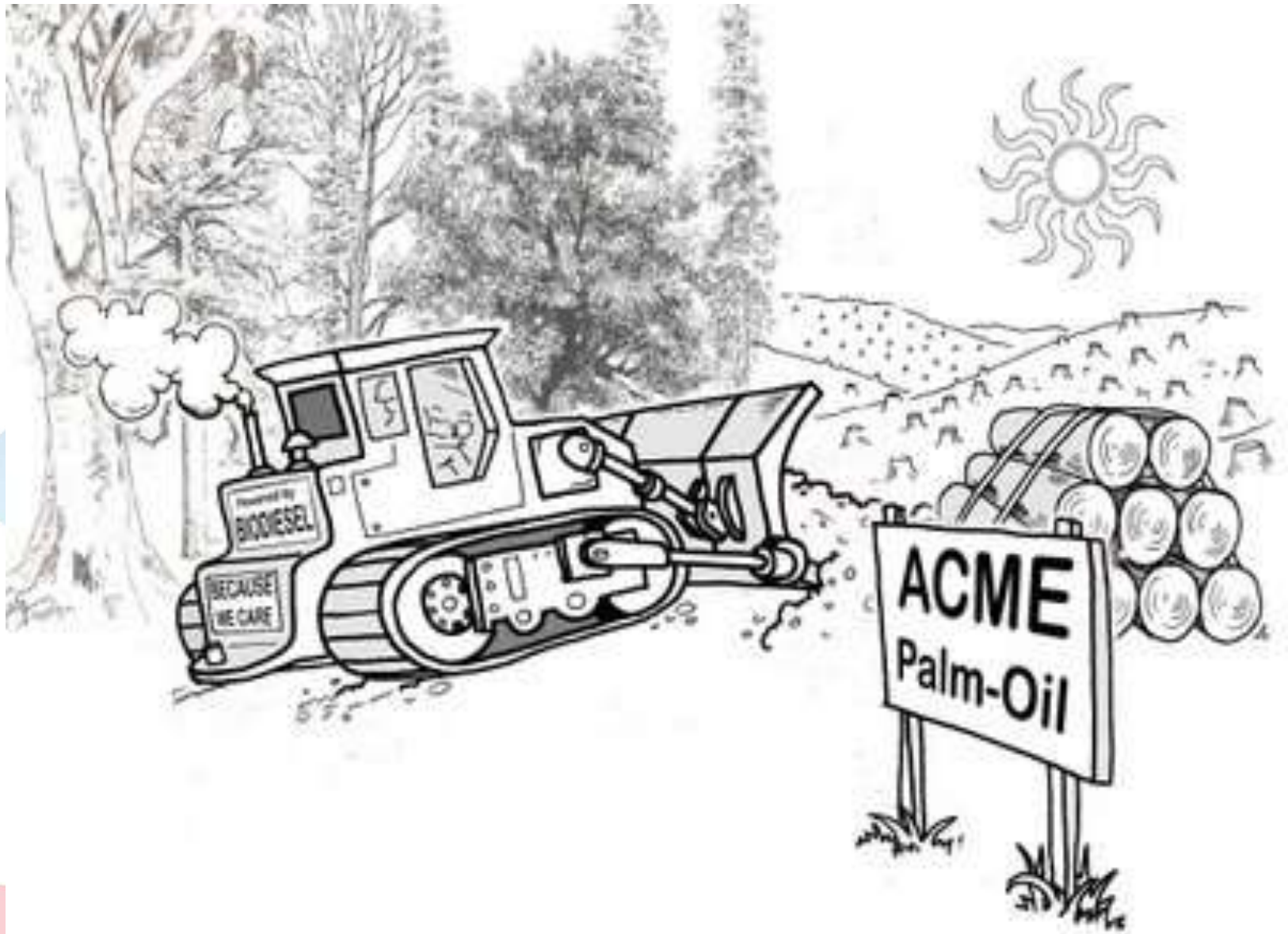
- 20% renewable energy
- 20% reduction of GHG emissions
- 10% biofuels

March 2007: European Council agrees and develops an action plan



# EU 20-20-20 – Action plan






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# Europe 2020 - A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

- 3 Thematic Priorities
  - 5 EU Headline Targets  
→ translated into national ones
  - 7 Flagship Initiatives  
→ from the Commission
  - 10 Integrated Guidelines  
→ for implementing reforms in Member States
- 

# Europe 2020 - 3 Thematic Priorities

1. **Smart growth:** developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation
  2. **Sustainable growth:** promoting a more efficient, greener and more competitive economy
  3. **Inclusive growth:** fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion
- 

# Europe 2020 - 5 EU Headline Targets

1. 75 % employment rate  
(% of population aged 20-64 years)
  2. 3% investment in R&D  
(% of EU's GDP)
  3. “20/20/20” climate/energy targets met  
(incl. 30% emissions reduction if conditions are right)
  4. < 10% early school leavers & min. 40% hold tertiary degree
  5. 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty
- 

# Europe 2020 - 7 Flagship Initiatives

<b>Smart Growth</b>	<b>Sustainable Growth</b>	<b>Inclusive Growth</b>
<b>Innovation</b> <i>« Innovation Union »</i>	<b>Climate, energy and mobility</b> <i>« Resource efficient Europe »</i>	<b>Employment and skills</b> <i>« An agenda for new skills and jobs »</i>
<b>Education</b> <i>« Youth on the move »</i>	<b>Competitiveness</b> <i>« An industrial policy for the globalisation era »</i>	<b>Fighting poverty</b> <i>« European platform against poverty »</i>
<b>Digital society</b> <i>« A digital agenda for Europe »</i>		


# Europe 2020 - 10 Integrated Guidelines

<b>ECONOMIC</b> <b>Smart and sustainable Growth</b>	<b>EMPLOYMENT</b> <b>Inclusive growth</b>
<b>Guideline 1: Ensuring the quality and the sustainability of public finances</b>	<b>Guideline 7: Increasing labour market participation and reducing structural unemployment</b>
<b>Guideline 2: Addressing macroeconomic imbalances</b>	<b>Guideline 8: Developing a skilled workforce responding to labour market needs, promoting job quality and lifelong learning</b>
<b>Guideline 3: Reducing imbalances in the euro area</b>	<b>Guideline 9: Improving the performance of education and training systems at all levels and increasing participation in tertiary education</b>
<b>Guideline 4: Optimising support for R&amp;D and innovation, strengthening the knowledge triangle and unleashing the potential of the digital economy</b>	<b>Guideline 10: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty</b>
<b>Guideline 5: Improving resource efficiency and reducing greenhouse gases emissions</b>	
<b>Guideline 6: Improving the business and consumer environment and modernising the industrial base</b>	



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OECD Annual Meeting of Sustainable Development Experts  
(Paris, 18-19 October 2010)

**Ad-interim assessment of the OECD Green Growth Strategy,  
applying three SIA tools:**

**Swiss Sustainability Assessment  
Belgian Quick Scan  
EU Impact Analysis**

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XLIV Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees  
of Parliaments of the European Union  
(Brussels, 25-26 October 2010)

**Sustainable Development and the EU 2020 Strategy**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Theme of the bi-annual report of COSAC**

# The EUROPE 2020 Strategy, a Well-Integrated Concept?

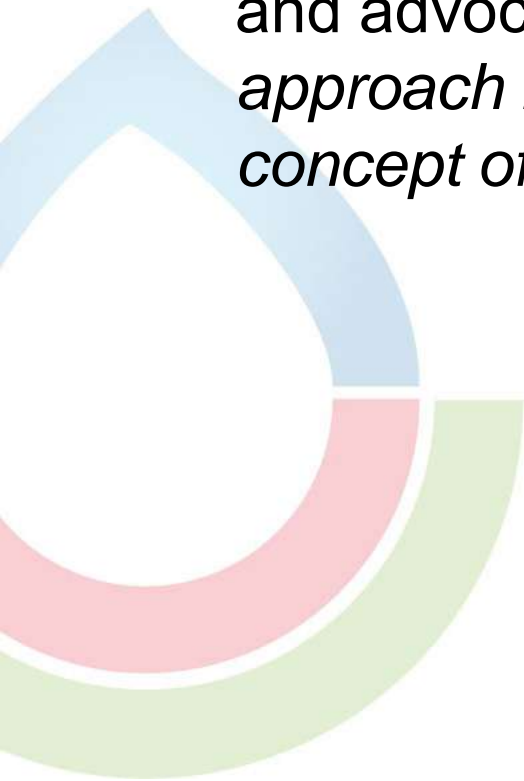
There is an overwhelming majority of national parliaments - the ones that responded – which considers that the Europe 2020 Strategy forms a well-integrated whole, albeit with the formulation of a few (nationally inspired) assumptions/conditions.

The European Parliament, on the other hand, makes critical comments, including that “*the headline targets ... should be formulated in the framework of a consistent and coherent sustainable development strategy combining the economic, social and environmental policy agendas.*”

# Economic and Scientific Developments in the Rest of the World

Half of the parliaments argue that Europe 2020 takes sufficient account of them, although a number of potential pitfalls are mentioned.

The European Parliament does not agree with that, and advocates “*a broader and more comprehensive approach in its external action, in line with the EU concept of policy coherence for development.*”



# The Social and Environmental Consequences of the EUROPE 2020 Strategy

One can read in the summary that the majority of the parliaments feel that this is treated properly; a number of parliaments do express reservations about the degree to which social aspects are taken into account.

Albeit with a few critical comments, the European Parliament does appear to be satisfied with the way in which the social aspects have been incorporated into the Europe 2020 Strategy, unlike the environmental aspects, where the Parliament has been very critical about weaknesses. As regards human rights, it advocates using trade as a weapon to enforce compliance.

# The EUROPE 2020 Strategy and the EU SDS

A large majority of the parliaments that sent in an answer have a positive evaluation about the integration of the EU-SDS into the Europe 2020 Strategy. Various parliaments make specific observations about some of the challenges formulated in the EU-SDS.

The European Parliament goes into detail about each of those challenges. It would take too long to go into such detail here. In summary, it can be stated that the EP is insisting on going further and being more specific in the actions than what is currently formulated in the strategy.



# Instruments of the EUROPE 2020 Strategy

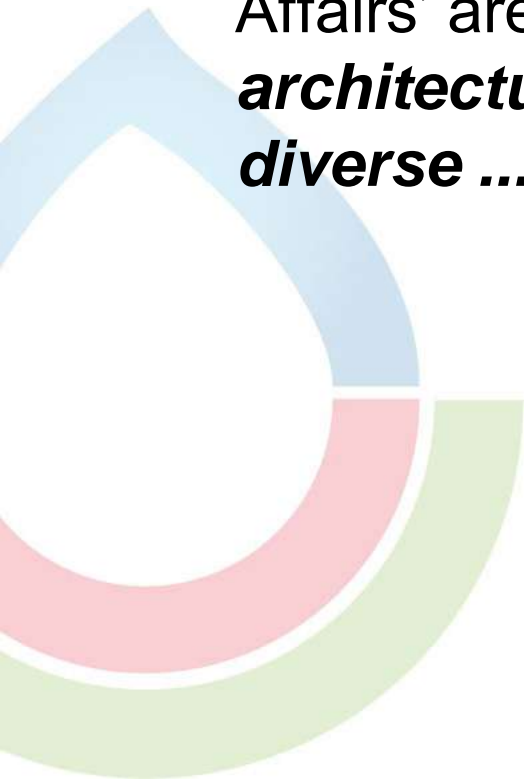
The national parliaments state that there are adequate instruments to monitor the Europe 2020 Strategy, in particular the challenges set out in the EU-SDS.

However, it does appear that the European Parliament - which stated in its first resolution in March 2010 that *“The Commission therefore urgently needs to come forward with more detailed plans to clarify how these initiatives will be implemented successfully, and to present such plans to Parliament”* - has still not its wishes met so far.

# The EUROPE 2020 Strategy and National Parliaments

The answer given on this point by national parliaments and the European Parliament is rather sketchy, and gives a very disparate picture.

Although the parliamentary 'Committees on European Affairs' are supposed to play a role, ***the institutional architecture in the various parliaments is very diverse ... and limited.***



# Personal conclusions from the COSAC-debate

- ***Divers emphasis***: some refer to the economic aspects, others to the environmental aspects and yet others to the social aspects, expressly drawing attention to the poverty issue. The 'external dimension' received little or no attention.
- ***In relation to the objectives, there is some ambiguity***: it was argued that they should not be too numerous, but not too few either, that they must be realistic yet ambitious.
- There is ***a tension between the short-term objectives*** (usually associated with the financial and economic crisis) ***and the long-term objectives***. In this regard, it is probably appropriate to make a critical observation about the concepts of 'competition' and 'competitiveness', which were referred to in various contributions.
- ***There definitely needs to be a multi-level approach***. The role of the European level as compared with that of Member States, the nation states, needs further clarification. In that regard, the role of national parliaments also needs to be borne in mind in the budget/spending discussions.

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## In conclusion: input for the discussion

- Sustainable Development and Climate Change, huge challenges ...  
observed from different perspectives
- International 'Accord' + min. 5 years = EU Action,  
+ min. 2,5 years for some 'external dimension'
- Different strategies of EU are hardly streamlined,  
EU-SDS is not an overarching strategy.
- SIA should be a 'conditio sine qua non' ...  
to avoid 'trade offs' in the ST, MT and LT
- EC is vertical organised ...  
and EU is still a sum of nation states.

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