



The International Panel on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

8 Feb. 2007 – Nairobi – GC24

European Commission
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A Global Issue !

- Our economies and well-being rely on the **quality** of natural resources as air, water and soil.
- European and other economies depend on the **trade** of natural resources, including minerals, fuels, timber and agricultural products
 - => natural resources are increasingly scarce
 - => environmental **impacts** do not respect borders
- Global economic growth puts a strain on natural resources



Basic questions



- Are there enough resources to support our ever-growing economies ?
- Are we using resources in a sustainable manner ?
- Do the increasing amounts of waste and emissions exceed the carrying capacity of the environment ?



Which policy answer ?

- Long-term development in a sustainable way.
- Fundamental changes in the way we produce and consume
- A global approach
 - the international dimension of resources markets
 - the international dimension of environmental impacts





European Strategy



on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

1. **Decoupling** - reducing negative impacts of resource use in a growing economy
2. Improving resource efficiency
3. Focus on key economic sectors



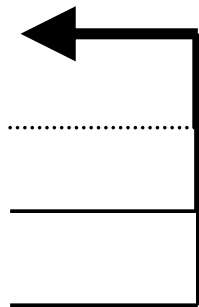
Between 1980-2000, materials productivity in the 15 older EU Member States increased from 867 €/tonne to 1316 €/tonne (2,1% per year), meaning a significant decoupling of resource use from growth



Strategic Actions



1. Global dimension: **International Panel**
2. Economic Sectors: **Sector Initiatives**
3. Knowledge-based policy: **Data Centre**
4. Measuring Progress: **Impact Indicator(s)**



Various other EU policies contribute to the objectives of the Resource Strategy, e.g. the **Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan** to be tabled in 2007



Thank you for your attention

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<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/natres/index.htm>