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**The EU Sustainable Development Strategy:
A framework for indicators**

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A framework for indicators to monitor the EU Sustainable Development Strategy

1. Introduction

One of the main tasks of the Eurostat Task Force on Sustainable Development Indicators is to assist Eurostat in identifying a suitable framework for future work at EU level on Sustainable Development Indicators (SDI). A framework for organising the selection and development of indicators is essential, although it is recognised that any framework on its own is an imperfect tool for expressing the complexities and interrelationships encompassed by sustainable development.

There are many different interpretations of what is meant by 'sustainable development'. It is not the role of Eurostat or the statistical offices to define sustainable development. Two Commission Communications and the related Council conclusions have set out their interpretation of what sustainable development means in practical terms at EU level, with a number of key objectives, based on the priority themes mentioned below. The EU has also taken a number of commitments following the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in 2002. The framework for indicators must take on board the need to monitor progress in these priority areas.

This paper attempts to set out a framework which could serve as a basis for the development of a list of indicators to be used in evaluating the implementation and effectiveness of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS). This framework takes account of both the political basis defined by the Commission and the European Council and the technical basis, which has been implemented over the time through many initiatives within and outside the EU.

The fact that this framework and the future indicators have been set up in order to serve for the evaluation of the EU SDS means in particular that the Task Force leaves it to each Member State to determine whether this framework (and/or some or all of these SDI) are relevant for own national purpose or if specific priorities or indicators should be developed at national level.

The present paper is intended to define a set of rules for the definition and the organisation of the future set of indicators by answering the following questions:

- How should the set of indicators be organised?
- What are the rules to be followed for the selection of indicators?
- How to communicate on the work achieved?
- What is the time frame for this work?

2. The political and technical basis

The priority policy themes, their objectives and measures, as set out in the Commission Communications on SDS and Global Partnership, together with the Conclusions of the European Council Summits in Gothenburg and Seville, form the core features of the framework for SDI. The EU commitments made in the Johannesburg Declaration and the Plan of Implementation (PoI) of the World Summit on Sustainable Development are likely to be integrated into the strategy when it is revised in 2004. Taken together, these documents form the **political basis** for future SDI work.

2.1 The Sustainable Development Strategy

In Gothenburg, the European Council not only added an environmental dimension to the Lisbon Strategy - so putting the environmental dimension on a par with economic and social dimensions

- but it also adopted a **strategy for sustainable development**. The Strategy focuses on six themes¹:

1. Limiting climate change and increasing the use of clean energy;
2. Addressing threats to public health;
3. Managing natural resources more responsibly;
4. Improving the transport system and land-use management;
5. Combating poverty and social exclusion; and
6. Dealing with the economic and social implications of an ageing society;

For each theme, a number of headline objectives are identified, as well as a set of measures to be introduced in order to meet those objectives. In some cases there are also supplementary objectives linked to the measures, for example, 'alternative fuels should account for at least 7% of fuel consumption by cars and trucks by 2010'.

2.2 Global Partnership

A second Communication², on the external dimension of sustainable development, was endorsed by the European Council in Seville. This complements the first step taken in Gothenburg by proposing that the EU should take a leading role in the pursuit of global sustainable development. It sets out the six priorities listed below:

1. Harnessing globalisation: trade for sustainable development;
2. Fighting poverty and promoting social development;
3. Sustainable management of natural and environmental resources;
4. Improving the coherence of EU policies;
5. Better governance at all levels;
6. Financing sustainable development.

As global partnership refers to both domestic and international actions, some of the issues can be considered as overlapping with the SDS priority themes (e.g. poverty, resource management), while others, such as governance, may add a new aspect also for SD assessments within the EU.

2.3 The WSSD Plan of Implementation

The Johannesburg Declaration and the PoI reaffirmed the Rio commitments and highlighted the issues of poverty and environmental protection, but also strengthened demands in areas such as sustainable production and consumption, water and energy and emphasised the role of the civil society and benefits of partnership. The key commitments refer to the following main issues:

1. Poverty eradication, including Water and sanitation
2. Changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, including Energy, Transport, Waste, Chemicals, and Corporate environmental and social responsibility
3. Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development
4. Health and sustainable development
5. Sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and in Africa
6. Means of implementation (Official Development Assistance, participation)

Several of the priority issues of the PoI have been already included in the EU measures on internal or external SD. The main expansion refers to sustainable production and consumption, corporate social and environmental responsibility, and participation. As the EU will have a leading and decisive role in these, they have been integrated into the proposed framework. This

¹ Commission Communication COM(2001)264 final of 15.05.2001: "A Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development".

² Commission Communication COM(2002) 82 final of 13.02.2002: "Towards a global partnership for sustainable development".

addition will facilitate the integration of more actual considerations of SD into the framework and accordingly, is expected to result in a more policy relevant set of SDI.

2.4 The technical basis

With a view to harmonisation and rationalisation with other indicator initiatives, the current work will make maximum use of existing initiatives - both international and national - such as UN Commission on Sustainable Development and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development lists of SDI, Structural Indicators, Laeken indicators, Environmental Pressure Indicators, etc. This does not mean however that the indicators used in these exercises would automatically qualify to become part of the EU set of SDI.

Because one of the major challenges of SDI is to bring out how the economic, social and environmental aspects of SD impinge on each other, accounting frameworks - and particularly the System for Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) - which apply a harmonised approach to the economy and a number of environmental issues, will be favoured as much as possible to describe the interlinks between dimensions. Moreover, the extension of this accounting matrix to include social issues is being explored in a number of Member States.

3. The EU framework for Sustainable Development Indicators

These themes outlined above, together with the objectives and measures set out in the Communications, will provide the framework for the identification and selection of the indicators. These should be supplemented by some background economic indicators, to provide the context for the other indicators.

The selection of the set of indicators will take into account the technical base of existing sets of indicators and statistical work in related areas. This will ensure consistency between sets of indicators, and should reduce the burden on Member States. However, a further analysis of the themes, objectives and measures may well result in the need for new indicators.

The identification of appropriate indicators is an iterative process. The Commission is required to review the Strategy regularly. This may also result in revision of the indicator set to adapt it to new needs, which become apparent following the review.

3.1 Why a theme framework?

As discussed during the 9th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development of the UN, the framework employed in the CSD work programme to guide the selection of SDI has evolved from a driving force-state-response approach to one focusing on themes and sub-themes of sustainable development. This change in organisational framework was prompted by the experience of countries that assisted the CSD in testing and developing indicators of sustainable development.

In essence, the rationale for the theme framework is to better assist national policy decision-making and performance measurement by focusing on relevant policy issues. The main drawback in this approach is that the set of indicators is not so stable, as priority themes and headline objectives may change over time. However, new priorities and policy targets will also need indicators to monitor their implementation and effectiveness. Indeed, one of the uses of indicators is to monitor if the existing policies are having the desired effect, or whether further measures are needed. So while a stable set of indicators may be desirable from a statistical point of view, for policy makers some flexibility is preferable. This emphasises the importance of a stable base of statistical data, which can be combined in different ways to produce different indicators.

3.2 The set of themes

The basis of the framework is, then, the six themes mentioned in the SDS. A theme on *Economic development* has been added to maintain and visualise the three dimensional nature of sustainable development.

The *Global partnership* theme refers to the issues of trade, financing for SD etc. and describes the impact (positive or negative) of the EU on the sustainable development of the rest of the world.

As outlined in chapter 2.3, two additional themes on *Production and consumption patterns* and *Good governance* have been added. As the EU intends to have a leading and decisive role in the development of both of these, they have been integrated into the proposed framework.

The framework for assessing the EU SDS thus contains the 10 themes presented in Table 1:

Table 1. Themes

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
POVERTY and SOCIAL EXCLUSION
AGEING SOCIETY
PUBLIC HEALTH
CLIMATE CHANGE and ENERGY
PRODUCTION and CONSUMPTION PATTERNS
MANAGEMENT of NATURAL RESOURCES
TRANSPORT
GOOD GOVERNANCE
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

3.3 About sub-themes

Within each theme a number of sub-themes and ‘areas to be addressed’ have been identified. The sub-themes encompass the relevant SD issues addressed in the basic policy documents. Generally, the sub-themes are closely linked to the headline objectives, which are also reflected in the labelling of the sub-themes. The ‘areas to be addressed’, which can be considered as an interface between indicators and policies, are closely linked to the measures announced in both Communications and in the PoI. However, a certain amount of balancing has been done between the sub-themes and the areas to be addressed, to take account of the different levels of importance of the issues and to ensure consistency.

Additional sub-themes have sometimes been included in order to increase the visual clarity of the overall framework and to group the areas to be addressed. In these cases the labelling of the new sub-themes follows the objectives of the common EU policies (see Table 2 in annex 2). The focus is put on the ‘slow burning’ issues, the things we are doing or failing to do today that may result in future problems (social, environmental or economic) that maybe extremely difficult or impossible to reverse. This is the essence of sustainability.

As the policy objectives and measures have not yet been defined in the EU for all aspects of the PoI, the characterisation of *Production and consumption patterns* and *Good governance* in the framework is based on aspects singled out in the PoI and the Aarhus Convention.

Under this structure of sub-themes, the selected indicators should contribute to ‘telling the story’ and for these issues the DPSIR (Driving force-Pressure-State-Impact-Response) framework may provide useful guidance, depending on the most appropriate message.

3.4 Theme boundaries and indicators

The framework for SDI is determined by policy themes that unavoidably overlap partially with each other. Some driving forces such as energy, influence developments in several themes, but cannot be presented several times in the indicator set. Furthermore, the scope of the themes differs considerably as some themes address a very specific domain (e.g. *Climate change and*

energy) and some (e.g. *Production and consumption patterns*) encompass a wide variety of general socio-economic and environmental issues.

The approach to be taken with these boundary issues, developed in the course of discussions in the Task Force, is presented in annex 1. The main principles for allocation are that the indicator in question

- complements the overall theme evaluation;
- addresses specific policy objectives in the theme; and
- measures the success/failures of policy actions in that theme.

Accordingly, the framework is based on a strict prioritisation of indicators inside each theme, but with the help of standardised concepts, definitions and classifications, it ensures that information is structured in a manner that facilitates the use of indicators in other themes too.

3.5 Integration

The integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions forms the heart of any assessment of sustainable development. This integration should bring out and present the most relevant interactions, damages, distortions, imbalances etc. taking place in general and with respect to specific themes. As mentioned under section 2.4, the SEEA is expected to play a major role in the integration of the various dimensions.

The issue of integration can be approached from various perspectives that can be used in several combinations in the final framework. It is proposed to favour the description of integration at the sub-theme or the area level.

The practical integration of the three dimensions of SD has several options. In the optimum case, the integration takes place when one single variable represents the economic, social and environmental aspects of the area/sub-theme/theme in question (e.g. environmental taxes).

The second best case refers to an indicator that is calculated on the basis of several variables, thus combining two or three dimensions together. For instance, eco-efficiency may be considered to be this kind of indicator.

The third option is to present developments in all three dimensions in a single graph. For instance, trends in investments in public transport, incidence of respiratory diseases and emissions of VOCs may be used to indicate different, but simultaneous developments, the concordance of which may require special measures.

The fourth option refers to graphical presentations where two dimensions are combined to a single indicator and the third dimension is presented together with the new, calculated one. An example of this could be to plot resource productivity (two dimensions) and occupational exposure to harmful chemicals (third dimension) describing inter-related developments on a country-by-country basis in the same graph.

These general characteristics for the integration indicators illustrate the possibilities for various practical options.

4. Sustainable Development Indicators: selection and coverage

4.1 Selection criteria

The European Commission and the European Statistical System already have a long experience in the selection of indicators. The proposed set of selection criteria is very close to the one used for the Laeken indicators³.

³ Cf. Report from the Chairman of the Indicators Sub-Group to the Social Protection Committee, October 2001, page 11. Academic research which contributed to the conclusions reached by the ISG can be found in "Social Indicators: the EU and Social Inclusion", Oxford University Press, by T. Atkinson, B. Cantillon, E. Marlier and B. Nolan.

The Task Force recommends that each indicator to be selected in the SDI list - and particularly the headline indicators - should respect as far as possible the following criteria, which can be seen, in particular for environmental indicators, as a kind of quality **target**:

1. An indicator should capture **the essence of the problem** and have a **clear and accepted normative interpretation**. When translating policy goals into indicators there is an unavoidable reduction of the problem. Selected indicators should cover the main concerns of the policy goal without being misleading. Their interpretation should be recognised as meaningful and understandable by a general public.
2. An indicator should be **robust** and **statistically validated**. The data used should be regarded as statistically reliable and should avoid arbitrary adjustments. When data are derived from sample surveys these surveys should comply with the best practices and highest standards of survey research methodology. Indicators should also be reliable over time in the sense that its values are comparable over time and fluctuations can be generally explained.
3. An indicator should be **responsive to policy interventions** but not subject to manipulation. Indicators should reflect the impact of policies, but not be conceived in a way that they can be manipulated in order to show a better score. In general, indicators should reflect outcomes rather than the various alternative ways in which they might be achieved.
4. An indicator should be measurable in a sufficiently **comparable** way **across Member States**, and **comparable** as far as practicable with the **standards applied internationally by the UN and the OECD**. The aim should be to reach an acceptable level of comparability between the countries involved and to give recommendations, when needed, for an increase of this comparability. Indicators should also not be over-sensitive to structural differences between countries nor pose specific problems of interpretation for some countries.
5. An indicator should be **timely** and **susceptible to revision**. Indicators should be as timely as possible, and should be susceptible to revisions both for data and underlying concepts when necessary.
6. The measurement of an indicator should **not impose** on Member States, on enterprises, nor on the Union's citizens **a burden disproportionate to its benefits**. Wherever possible, the construction of SD indicators should be based on existing data collections made by Eurostat, the European Environment Agency (EEA) or other recognised international sources.

And the portfolio of indicators should follow the following principles:

7. The portfolio of indicators should be as far as possible **balanced across different dimensions**. The selection of indicators should respect a certain equilibrium across the various SD themes.
8. The indicators should be **mutually consistent** within a theme. Indicators should not deliver contradictory messages, or to the extent that they do so then explanations should be readily available.
9. The portfolio of indicators should be as **transparent** and **accessible** as possible to the citizens of the European Union. Indicators should be easy to read and understand. Dissemination aspects will be treated under section 4.

Some of the measures announced in both Communications have clear targets and therefore indicators can be readily identified. For others it is less clear and although it has been discussed thoroughly by the Task Force, it has not always been possible to produce meaningful indicators for all sub-themes and areas. In such cases, the Task Force has recommended '**best available**' and '**best needed**' indicators, the former corresponding to the best indicators in the current state of available information and the latter corresponding to the desired indicators which are not yet feasible for methodological or data availability reasons.

4.2 The number of indicators

A large number of indicators are needed to properly assess the multidimensional nature of SD. The Task Force recommends building the set of SDI as a three-level pyramid. If possible, the different levels should form part of a consistent 'story'. For instance, level 1 indicators should be some kind of aggregation of level 2 indicators, while level 2 should constitute a kind of aggregation of level 3 indicators. The use of appropriate breakdowns supports this kind of aggregation between the pyramid levels.

At the top of the pyramid, there should be between 10 and 20 **headline indicators** focusing on the lead objectives of the SDS. These indicators should contain the essence of the message on SD and cover the most important issues for SD in the EU. It is envisaged that these indicators would be published regularly and made available to a wide audience.

The **second level** of the pyramid should consist of indicators related to some general policy performance and indicators related to the "areas to be addressed". They should tend to support the message delivered by headline indicators by giving information on more detailed policy aspects. The second level should contain between 30 and 40 indicators.

The maximum degree of comparability will be sought for these headline and second-level indicators. Standard disaggregations of these indicators into key dimensions (e.g. gender, age, branches) will be specified, usually at level three, but these breakdowns will not necessarily feature in all publications.

The **third level** should contain most of the indicators linked to and allowing for the monitoring of the effectiveness of concrete and specific policy measures, looking in more depth at certain issues. In particular, if the correlation and combination of dimensions (economic/social/environmental) is not adequately reflected in the headline and second-level indicators, efforts will be made to highlight such links in indicators selected at this level. Clearly, no restriction can be set concerning the number of indicators, except for the question of the availability of resources.

4.3 The coverage of SD indicators

As already stated, the aim of the whole exercise is to give a statistical basis to evaluating the implementation of the EU SDS. Indicators for countries which are not directly concerned with the implementation of this strategy are not really germane. It is thus suggested to limit the calculation of indicators - as far as possible - to the European Union in a broad sense, the EU Member States, the Candidate Countries and the EFTA countries.

The geographical coverage should be limited to the national level without developing indicators at regional (sub-national) level. The spirit of Agenda 21 and later of the Johannesburg Summit was to call for SD initiatives at each level - international, national or regional. These however were bottom-up approaches where local priorities may greatly differ from priorities at national or EU level. In the present context, it appears reasonable not to develop indicators at regional level.

Indicators - at least the headline indicators - should be annual, covering as many time periods as possible in order to show whether political measures have had an impact. They could also include projections to the future (e.g. demography, pensions) and distances to target (e.g. employment, greenhouse gases), where appropriate.

5. The dissemination of SD indicators

The purpose of this exercise is to create a whole system of information on sustainable development. This system should allow for a regular updating of indicators to be made available to the EU institutions, governments and the general public.

The headline indicators - and the information on their validity - should be updated as regularly as possible and at least once a year. The use of regular data collection and existing indicators should allow for quasi-automatic update of most indicators, with the same rhythm as the updating of the basic data. But if separate data collection is needed, indicators in the second and third levels of the pyramid would not necessarily be produced on an annual basis.

A first set of indicators should be available by mid-2004 in order to serve as a basis for the evaluation of the current SDS and its revision. Further refinement of the initial list of indicators will be looked for in order to build a final proposal at the end of the lifecycle of this Task Force.

5.1 Metadata

The Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) developed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will be the communication tool used for describing metadata on SDI.

Already used by the EU Member States, most Candidate countries, Norway and Switzerland⁴, Eurostat decided to use the SDDS when developing the Structural Indicators and Euro-indicators. The choice of this format will allow more easily the work on SDI to be integrated with other indicator initiatives and other statistical domains where this international standard is compulsory.

The format will be adapted to take into account some additional information linked to SDI (relevance for SD, link to political objectives, limits and precautions when using the indicator). For information, the SDDS templates are annexed to this report.

5.2 Quality profile

The quality profile process defined for Structural Indicators (SI) will also be used for SDI⁵. The purpose is to attach an overall assessment of the quality to each indicator so as to provide guidance for their interpretation.

In the SI process, the quality profile (see document in annex 4) will be issued by Eurostat in co-operation with the European Statistical System making use of existing working structures. It will be implemented by a questionnaire to be sent to the National Statistical Institutes drawing – as far as possible – from information already available in the various domains, e.g. quality reports.

Most of the information provided with the SI quality profile is immediately applicable to the SDI. Therefore the SI quality profile will be adopted, with additional specifications if needed, for each indicator in common. The quality profile process should be gradually introduced for SDI which are not at the same time SI.

5.3 Data dissemination

Eurostat intends to set up a specific SDI web page, which will present available information on SDI in the EU as well as links to other relevant websites. Time series will be disseminated through specific data sets in the New Cronos database. At the end of the Task Force work, Eurostat intends to produce a specific publication in order to present the list of EU SDI.

6. The timetable for the development of Sustainable Development Indicators

Eurostat will report back to the Statistical Programme Committee, which created the Task Force on SDI. A first interim report was made in autumn 2003 and a final report is expected on current planning at the end of 2004. This report will describe the achievements of the Task Force, in particular in terms of setting-up and disseminating indicators but will also point out the main difficulties and the main data or conceptual gaps that remain if the European Statistical System is to cover the EU SD policy correctly.

The Commission plans to evaluate the implementation of the EU SDS in 2004. Therefore, a medium-term goal of the Task Force will be to have a first portfolio of SDI ready by mid-2004. This exercise will only constitute a first attempt as the Task Force has also to concentrate on further developments both in terms of data, methodologies and indicators. The final report of the Task Force will give indications on the continuation of the work after the Task Force is dissolved.

⁴ See <http://dsbb.imf.org/country.htm>

⁵ The concept of quality profile for Structural Indicators has been accepted by the Statistical Programme Committee in its 51st meeting of November 2003 (document CPS 2003/51/11/EN)

Boundaries between interlinked themes in the SDI framework

By their very nature, many of the issues of sustainable development can be seen as belonging to more than one theme. To avoid duplication a specific issue or indicator should be allocated to only one theme. This allocation should be based on pragmatism and should take into account how the SDS treats these boundary issues.

The following overview describes how the core boundary questions are dealt with in the framework and what have been the main considerations in the allocation of indicators. The following does not aim to be exhaustive, but rather is intended to facilitate a better understanding of the framework of SDI in general.

Employment/unemployment touches the themes *Economic development*, *Poverty and social exclusion* and *Ageing society*, but is mainly dealt with in *Economic development*, as it is a key factor for this theme and touches all age groups. However, Long-term unemployment is dealt with under *Poverty and social exclusion*, as it is a key factor leading to monetary poverty and social exclusion.

Poverty touches themes *Poverty and social exclusion* and *Ageing society*, but is dealt with under the former and broken down by various age groups. Nevertheless, the adequacy of pensions and their influence on the financial sustainability are dealt in *Ageing society* as they are key issues for this theme.

Health care touches *Ageing society* (adequacy and sustainability of health care systems), *Poverty and social exclusion* (access to health care systems) as well as *Public health*. Although this issue is singled out as a priority policy issue of *Ageing society*, health care issues have been all integrated into the *Public health* theme.

Sectoral contributions to various themes are generally shown as standardised sectoral breakdowns of specific indicators. In some important cases, specific sectors or aspects are singled out in some of the sub-themes like *Climate change and Energy* (Energy/ Energy consumption and production), *Public health* (Agriculture/ Pesticide residues in food products), *Production and consumption patterns* (Agriculture/ Environmentally friendly farming) and *Transport* (Transport growth, fuel use).

Air emissions: all emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) from EU and acceding countries are primarily allocated to the theme *Climate change and Energy*. Reductions in the GHG emissions in the non-Annex I countries and under the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol should be considered under the theme *Global Partnership*. Emissions of particulates are treated under *Public health* and those of acidifying substances and ozone precursors under *Production and consumption patterns*. Deposition of acidifying substances and nitrogen affecting the state of vegetation are dealt in the *Management of natural resources*. The conceptual inconsistencies between international environmental conventions such as UNFCCC (Climate change) and UNECE/LRTAP (Air emissions), and the System of National Accounts require a special approach for the assessment of decoupling and eco-efficiency in the framework.

Water issues are addressed in *Public health* (Drinking water quality), *Production and consumption patterns* (Water use by sectors), *Management of natural resources* (Water resources and pollution) and possibly in the future also in *Global Partnership* (EU Water partnership).

Land use is dealt with under *Management of natural resources*, but specific issues such as fragmentation of ecosystems due to transport infrastructure belongs more closely to the *Transport* theme.

Management of nuclear waste is relevant for themes *Climate change and Energy* and for *Production and consumption patterns*, but is allocated to the former as the main policy interest is related to the safety of nuclear waste management in energy production.

The impacts of EU consumption on third countries could be addressed under *Production and consumption patterns* or in the *Global partnership*. Due to current methodological difficulties, these issues are addressed now only in relation to imports. Access of developing countries to the EU markets and their resource inputs to the EU economy are assessed in the *Global partnership*.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) relates both to *Production and consumption patterns* and *Good Governance*. The CSR addresses governance issues from the management point of view and on a voluntary basis, while governance in the EU institutions takes place on the basis of strict rules and procedures. Therefore, the sub-theme CSR is allocated to the theme on *Production and consumption patterns* where it complements the overall assessment and will thus contribute to the forthcoming global 10 year programme of the Sustainable Production and Consumption.

Good governance issues relate to both internal and external policies. In the framework, the internal governance issues are handled under the theme *Good governance*. The questions of good governance in third countries or the contribution of the EU to global governance are not taken on board at all.

Theme, sub-themes and ‘areas to be addressed’

THEMES	Sub-Themes	Areas to be addressed	Headline Objectives in the EU SD Strategy, Presidency conclusions of European Council (EC), Plan of Implementation (PoI) and the 6 th Environmental Action Programme (6EAP)
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Investment	Investment in R&D	<p><u>EC Lisbon2000</u>: An average economic growth rate of around 3% a realistic prospect for the coming years.</p> <p><u>EC Cardiff1998</u>: Public sector budgetary deficit to be less than 3% of GDP and gross debt less than 60% of GDP.</p> <p>The inflation rate of a given Member State must not exceed by more than 1½ percentage points that of the three best-performing Member States in terms of price stability.</p> <p><u>EC Barcelona2002</u>: Increase spending on R&D and innovation with the aim of approaching 3% of GDP by 2010.</p> <p><u>EC Lisbon2000</u>: A substantial annual increase in per capita investment in human resources. Provide new basic skills through lifelong learning of IT skills, foreign languages, technological culture, entrepreneurship and social skills.</p> <p>Raise the employment rate to 67% by January 2005 and to 70% by 2010; increase the number of women in employment to 57% by January 2005 and to more than 60% by 2010.</p> <p>Increase the average EU employment rate among older women and men (55-64) to 50% by 2010.</p>
		Investment in Env. Friendly technologies	
		Consumption and inflation	
		Saving and borrowing	
	Competitiveness	Labour productivity	
		Unit labour costs	
		Life-long Learning	
	Employment	Employment rate	
		Unemployment rate	
POVERTY and SOCIAL EXCLUSION	Monetary poverty	Income inequality	
		Non-monetary deprivation	
	Access to Labour Market	Poverty-in-work	
	Other aspect of social exclusion	Access to education	
		Access to health care	
		Access to housing	
		Social participation	
AGEING SOCIETY	Pensions adequacy	Income of elder generations	
	Demographic changes	Life expectancy	
		Fertility	
		Migrations	
	Financial Sustainability	Age of withdrawal from Labour Market	
		Pension expenditures	

Theme, sub-themes and ‘areas to be addressed’ (cont.)

THEMES	Sub-Themes	Areas to be addressed	Headline Objectives in the EU SD Strategy and other relevant policy documents
PUBLIC HEALTH	Human health protection and Life styles	Financial sustainability	Ensure the adequacy of health care systems and care of the elderly, while at the same time maintaining sustainability of public finances and inter-generational solidarity
		Disability-free life expectancy	Tackle issues related to outbreaks of infectious diseases and resistance to antibiotics. <u>6EAP</u> : Contributing to a better quality of life through an integrated approach concentrating on urban areas. <u>PoI2002</u> : Enhance health education with the objective of achieving improved health literacy on a global basis by 2010.
		Premature mortality	
		Life styles	
		Health and safety at work	
		Infectious diseases and resistance to antibiotics	
	Food Safety and Quality	Pesticide residues	
		Microbiological contamination	
		Drinking water quality	
	Chemicals management	Chemicals production and consumption	By 2020, ensure that chemicals are only produced and used in ways that do not pose significant threats to human health and the environment. <u>6EAP</u> : Dangerous chemicals (especially PBTs) should be substituted with the aim of reducing risks to man and the environment (ground and surface water, air quality). <u>PoI2002</u> : in line with SDS & 6EAP
		Exposure to chemicals	
	Health risks due to environmental conditions	Air quality	<u>6EAP</u> : Achieve levels of air quality that do not give rise to significant negative impacts on and risks to human health and the environment. Substantially reduce the number of people regularly affected by long-term average levels of noise.
Noise exposure			
CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY	Climate change	GHG emission reduction	Meet the Kyoto commitment. However, Kyoto is but a first step. Thereafter, the EU should aim to reduce atmospheric greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 1% per year over 1990 levels up to 2020. <u>EC Gothenburg2001</u> : Achieve demonstratable progress in the reduction of GHG emission by 2005.
	Energy	Energy taxes	<u>6EAP</u> : Double the overall share of Combined Heat and Power in the Community as a whole to 18% of the total gross electricity generation.
		Energy efficiency	<u>EC Brussels2003</u> : (<i>revised SDS objective</i>) Increase the share of renewable energy with a EU-wide indicative target for renewable energy of 12% of primary energy needs and 22% of electricity needs by 2010. Promotion of 5,75% target for the use of biofuels in transport by 2010.
		Renewable energy resources	<u>PoI2002</u> : Remove market distortions, including the restructuring of taxes and phasing out of harmful subsidies.
		Management of nuclear waste	Establish domestic programmes of energy efficiency, with the support of the international community.
		Air pollution from energy use	

Theme, sub-themes and ‘areas to be addressed’ (cont.)

THEMES	Sub-Themes	Areas to be addressed	Headline Objectives in the EU SD Strategy and other relevant policy documents
PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION PATTERNS	Eco-efficiency	Decoupling economic growth and resource use	Break the links between economic growth, the use of resources and the generation of waste. <u>6EAP</u> : Ensure that the consumption of resources and their associated impacts do not exceed the carrying capacity of the environment.
		Decoupling economic growth and emissions	Achieving a significant overall reduction in the volumes of waste and hazardous waste generated and in the quantity of waste going to disposal while avoiding an increase of emissions to air, water and soil.
		Decoupling economic growth and generation of wastes	<u>PoI2002</u> : Encourage and promote the development of a 10-year framework of programmes to accelerate the shifts towards sustainable consumption and production. Renew commitments to the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes throughout their life-cycle.
	Agriculture	Pesticides use	The Common Agricultural Policy should contribute to achieving sustainable development by encouraging healthy, high quality products, environmentally sustainable production methods, including organic production, renewable raw materials and the protection of biodiversity.
		Nitrogen balances	
		Environmentally-friendly farming	
	Corporate responsibility	Triple bottom line	<u>EC Lisbon2000</u> : A special appeal to companies’ sense of social responsibility regarding best practices in lifelong learning, work organization, equal opportunities, social inclusion and sustainable development.
			<u>PoI2002</u> : Actively promote corporate responsibility and accountability, including through the full development and effective implementation of intergovernmental agreements and measures, international initiatives and public-private partnerships, and appropriate national regulations.
	Consumer awareness	Consumer information	<u>PoI2002</u> : Develop and adopt, where appropriate, on a voluntary basis, effective, transparent, verifiable, non-misleading and non-discriminatory consumer information tools to provide information relating to sustainable consumption and production, including human health and safety aspects.

Theme, sub-themes and ‘areas to be addressed’ (cont.)

THEMES	Sub-Themes	Areas to be addressed	Headline Objectives in the EU SD Strategy and other relevant policy documents
MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	Biodiversity	Protection of habitats and natural systems and biodiversity	Protect and restore habitats and natural systems and halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010. <u>6EAP</u> : Conservation of species and habitats with a special concern of preventing habitat fragmentation.
		Maintaining the carrying capacity	Ensure that the consumption of resources and their associated impacts do not exceed the carrying capacity of the environment. <u>PoI2002</u> : Achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity.
	Marine ecosystems	Over-fishing	<u>EC Gothenburg2001</u> : The review of the Common Fisheries Policies should address the overall fishing pressure by adapting the EU fishing effort to the level of available resources, taking into account the social impact and the need to avoid over-fishing. <u>6EAP</u> : Conservation, appropriate restoration and sustainable use of marine environment, coasts and wetlands. <u>PoI2002</u> : On an urgent basis, and where possible by 2015, maintain or restore depleted fish stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield.
	Fresh water resources	Water extraction and use	<u>6EAP</u> : Ensure that the rates of extraction from water resources are sustainable over the long term.
		Protection of surface and ground water resources	<u>PoI2002</u> : Develop integrated water resources management and water-efficiency plans by 2005.
	Land use	Land use change	
		Soil degradation	<u>6EAP</u> : Conservation and appropriate restoration of areas of significant landscape values including cultivated and sensitive areas. Promotion of sustainable use of the soil, with particular attention to preventing erosion, deterioration, contamination and desertification.
		Forests	<u>PoI2002</u> : Accelerate the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and intensify efforts on reporting to the UN Forum of Forests so as to contribute to an assessment of progress in 2005.
TRANSPORT	Transport growth	Decoupling of economic and transport growth	Decouple transport growth significantly from growth in Gross Domestic Product in order to reduce congestion and other negative side effects of transport. <u>6EAP</u> : Substantially reducing the number of people regularly affected by long-term average levels of noise. Bring about a shift in transport use from road to rail, water and public passenger transport so that the share of road transport in 2010 is no greater than in 1998 (the most recent year for which data are available).
		Road to rail, water and public transport	
		Land use by transport systems	
	Environmental impact of transport activities	Air pollutants	

Theme, sub-themes and ‘areas to be addressed’ (cont.)

THEMES	Sub-Themes	Areas to be addressed	Headline Objectives in the EU SD Strategy and other relevant policy documents
<p>GOOD GOVERNANCE</p>	<p>Policy coherence</p>	<p>Citizen’s adherence and support to EU actions</p>	<p><u>EC Barcelona2002</u>: Good governance at the national level is essential for sustainable development and all states should strengthen their government institutions, by promoting the rule of law, improving legal structures and providing access to information.</p> <p><u>EC Gothenburg2001(revised in Barcelona2002)</u>: Ensure that all major internal and external policy proposals include a sustainability impact assessment.</p>
		<p>Sustainability of EU actions and measures</p>	
	<p>Public participation</p>	<p>Legislative compliance</p>	
<p>GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP</p>	<p>Globalisation of trade</p>	<p>Market access for least developed countries (LDC)</p>	<p>Ensure that globalisation contributes to sustainable development.</p> <p><u>EC Barcelona2002</u>: Integrate developing countries into the world economic system notably through the implementation of the Doha Development Agenda and ensure that trade policies and investment flows contribute to sustainable development.</p> <p><u>GEAP</u>: Ensure that trade and environment policies and measures are mutually supportive.</p> <p><u>PoI2002</u>: Improve access by developing countries to alternatives to ozone-depleting substances by 2010, and assist them in complying with the phase-out schedule under the Montreal Protocol.</p>
	<p>Financing for SD</p>	<p>Foreign direct investments to developing countries</p>	<p>Ensure adequate financing to attain the International Development Targets and the Millennium Development Goals.</p>
		<p>Official Development Assistance (ODA)</p>	<p><u>EC Barcelona2002</u>: Reach to UN goal of 0.7% ODA/GNI: MS lacking behind this goal to increase their ODA in the next four years within their respective budget allocation processes, whilst the other MS renew their efforts to remain at or above the target of 0.7% of ODA, so that collectively a EU average of 0.39% is reached by 2006 and each MS at least 0.33% ODA/GNI by 2006. (<i>Monterrey2002</i>).</p>
		<p>Other official financing</p>	
	<p>Resource management</p>	<p>Resource consumption</p>	<p>Ensure that current trends in the loss of environmental resources are effectively reversed at national and global levels by 2015. Develop sectoral and intermediate objectives in some key sectors – water, land and soil, energy and biodiversity.</p> <p><u>GEAP</u>: The pursuit of ambitious environmental policies at the international level paying particular attention to the carrying capacity of the global environment. The further promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns at the international level.</p>
		<p>Air emissions & Energy</p>	
		<p>Water</p>	
<p>Waste</p>			

SDDS format File 1: Base Page

Domain:

Table: Name and code

Last update: day/month/year (when the text of the metadata file has been updated)

Contact

Country (Area)	<i>For instance, "European Union and Euro-zone", or "country x"</i>
Data category	<i>Name of indicator, or group of indicators</i>
Contact person	<i>Domain manager</i>
Organisation	<i>Source for data and metadata, postal address</i>
Phone Number	<i>Phone</i>
Fax Number	<i>Fax</i>
Internet Address	<i>e-mail address</i>

The Data: Coverage, Periodicity and Timeliness

Coverage characteristics	<i>Introductory texts (short presentation of the domain)</i> <i>Breakdown available</i> <i>Run of data available</i>
Periodicity	<i>Frequency of the data</i>
Timeliness	<i>Delay between reference period and transmission to Eurostat.</i> <i>Possible delay until dissemination.</i>

Access by the Public

Advance dissemination of release calendar	<i>Release calendar (if any, hyperlink)</i>
Simultaneous release to all interested parties	<i>Database update</i> <i>News release</i>

Integrity		
Dissemination of terms and conditions under which official statistics are produced, including confidentiality of individual responses	<i>Legal basis of the domain</i> <i>Regulation on Community statistics</i> <i>Regulation on Confidentiality</i>	
Identification of internal government access to data before release	<i>Access before release (ECB, Commission,...)</i>	
Identification of ministerial commentary on the occasion of statistical releases	<i>Official comments</i>	
Provision of information about revision and advance notice of major changes in methodology	<i>Information about data revisions</i> <i>Major changes in methodology</i>	
Quality		
Dissemination of documentation on methodology and sources used in preparing statistics	<i>References to detailed methodology (direct link to publication of general link to Data Shops)</i> <i>Bibliographical references</i>	
Dissemination of information that support statistical cross-checks and provide assurance of reasonableness	<i>Other Eurostat databases and domains containing similar information</i> <i>Links to other information sources, if applicable</i>	
Notes:		
Dissemination Formats		
Hardcopy		
	() News release:	
	() Weekly bulletin:	
	() Monthly bulletin:	
	() Quarterly bulletin:	
	() Other:	
Electronic		
	() On-line country bulletin board or database.	<i>Datashops contact</i>
	Internet address:	Hyperlink
	() Diskette:	
	() CD ROM:	
	() Other:	

File 2: Summary Methodology

Indicators:

Summary Methodology provided by Eurostat in conformity with the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

Last update: day/month/year (when the text of the metadata file has been updated)

Summary Methodology

1. Analytical framework, concepts, definitions and classifications

Organisation of the data

Statistical concept

Indicators (official definitions)

Classification system adopted, conformity with official standards

2. Scope of the data

Geographical coverage

Time coverage

Sector coverage, including exceptions

Statistical population

3. Accounting conventions

Time of recording

Reference period (period to which the indicator refers)

Valuation principles

Unit of account

4. Nature of the basic data

(Mostly at national level: see IMF prompt points)

Origin of basic data (collection method, e.g. survey, administrative data)

Reporting units, methods and techniques

5. Compilation practices

At EU and Euro-zone level:

Aggregation methods (compilation, estimation, reconciliation)

Treatment of missing values

Adjustments (seasonal, working-day, unadjusted)

6. Other aspects

Limits and precautions when using or interpreting data

Verification of data (elements for a quality assessment)

STRUCTURAL INDICATORS QUALITY PROFILE

Indicator			
Responsible COM DG:	Eurostat Unit:	Date
European Statistical System Working Group			

1. Objective and relevance of the indicator* : _____

If necessary, comments on restrictions of its relevance: _____

2. Data availability

		Member States	Candidate Countries	US and Japan	EEA-EFTA
Target Reference years for SR 200□	T ₁				
	T ₂				

Comments (including information on time series: _____

3. Overall accuracy

High
 Restricted (sources, errors, methodology etc.)

Comments

4. Comparability across countries

High
 Restricted

Comments

5. Comparability over time

High
 Restricted

Comments

6. Contribution to quality of the set/potential to qualify for an integrated policy analysis*

Comments/ Assessment:

7. Other characteristics which may lead to restriction for using this indicator in the Spring Report:

Comments

 -

8. Overall assessment

AA A B C Indicator to be developed

9. Development perspective for improving quality of this indicator (including as far as possible an indication of burden on Member States and respondents.)

* Not part of the quality rating

Description of Quality grades

<i>Grade “AA”</i>	An “AA” is given if the indicator fulfils the requirements listed for the “A” grading and in addition (1) time series are available (starting from 1991 for the Member States and 1995 for the Candidate Countries) and (2) data for at least reference year t_{-2} (real data for a majority of countries) is available in time for the Spring Report.
<i>Grade “A”</i>	An indicators is graded “A” if data is available on time for the Spring Report of the year t_1 for Member States, at least acceding countries, US and Japan. Data cover the years 2000 until at least the reference year t_{-2} (including estimates). The underlying data is collected on the basis of a common methodology for the European Union with the Candidate Countries following the same approach. Data for US and Japan can be considered comparable with any major differences being assessed and documented. Data are comparable over time; impact of procedural or conceptual changes being documented. Data is collected from reliable sources applying high standards with regard to methodology/accuracy and is well documented in line with Eurostat metadata standard.
<i>Grade “B”</i>	An indicator is graded “B” if data is available on time for the Spring Report of the year t_1 for most Member States and at least most of the acceding countries. Data cover the years 2000 until at least the reference year t_{-3} . There are some serious shortcomings with regard to either comparability between Member States/Candidate Countries/US and Japan (including the lack of data) or break in series for several countries which seriously hamper comparison over time. Deficiencies with regard to assessing and documenting impact of these shortcomings might be identified. Data is collected from reliable sources applying high standards with regard to methodology/accuracy and is well documented in line with Eurostat metadata standard.
<i>Grade “C”</i>	An indicator is graded “C” if data coverage on time for the Spring Report of the year t_1 has some severe deficiencies as regards country coverage and/or timeliness. There might be either some serious shortcomings with regard to comparability between Member States/Candidate Countries/US and Japan (including the lack of data) or break in series for several countries which seriously hamper comparison over time. Data might have to be interpreted with care as methodology/accuracy does not meet high quality standards.
<i>Indicator to be developed</i>	This indicator is not ready to be used for the Spring Report. Data availability in time for enough countries and/or with a sufficiently high timeliness seems to be unlikely. There might be either some serious shortcomings with regard to comparability between Member States/Candidate Countries/US and Japan (including lack of data) and/or break in series for several countries which seriously hamper comparison over time. Data might have to be interpreted with care as methodology/accuracy does not meet highest quality standards.