

# EU STRATEGY ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT\*

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**Abstract:**

*Globalization, creating ever closer interdependence among economies around the world, as well as the technological revolution of the 90s, including the internet and new information and communication technologies, led to the revolution of the European economy and everyday life citizens. A special place in the global problems of mankind is occupied by environmental problems, whose study is important. To solve the problems that mankind is currently facing, we must address each issue in a separately way, but also to make an integrated approach to these problems, which are obviously connected between them. Sustainable development aims and tries to find a stable theoretical framework for decision making in any situation where a report, such as man-environment, can be found, whether it's environmental, economic or social.*

**Key words:** *sustainable economic development, natural resources, economic growth, biodiversity, the Lisbon Strategy.*

**JEL classification:** *Q01*

As a form of manifestation of macroeconomic dynamics, economic development involves a series of quantitative, structural and qualitative changes, both in the economy and in scientific research as well as in the manufacturing technologies, the operating mechanisms and organizational structures of the economy, and in the people's thinking and behavior. In this context occurs the concept of sustainable economic development, which is that form of economic development which aims to meet the present needs of consumption and to not compromise or prejudice those of future generations.

R.Gooland and G. Ledec define sustainability : «Sustainable development is a model of structural economic and social transformations that optimize economic and social benefits available until now, without jeopardizing the likely potential for similar benefits in future (...) sustainable development implies using renewable resources so as to not be depleted or degraded or diminished their usefulness for future generations (...) involves also non-renewable energy resource depletion at a rate that ensures a likely transition to renewable energy sources (...) »

According to David Pearce, "sustainability criteria requires conditions for equal access to basic resources, which will have to be valid for each generation" which includes: a set of constraints that establishes the resource consumption rates are not higher than their natural regeneration rates, the use of the environment as a "place of storage of waste so that waste generation rates do not exceed the assimilation rates of the corresponding ecosystems.

Thomas Sterner's conception of sustainability is presented as a unit with three dimensions: economic, social and environmental. Joining the eco-friendly to the economics influences growth by affecting natural resources and biodiversity, the social and eco-friendly overlapped ensure rational use of natural resources, biodiversity conservation, a respect for nature through education and culture.

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Sustainable development concept was born 30 years ago in response to the emergence of environmental issues and natural resource crisis, in particular those related to energy.

In recent years the concept of sustainable development has become a strategic goal for all humanity.

Humanity's response to these crises is given by the concept of "sustainable development" which is proposed to be the development model of the human society in the next millennium. In a very general understanding of the concept, the sustainable development includes development without the resources depletion caused by the passage beyond the supportability and regeneration of ecosystems. The basis for this concept is the need to integrate economic goals with the ecological and environmental protection goals. A long period of time is granted especially to the economic growth, excluding environmental problems. Serious forms of manifestation of deteriorating environmental components have required changing this vision. Of course that the perspective for economical growth before the environment is possible. Such a strategy can be sustained by a stable economy that generates funds and allows extensive social work in environmental protection. But such an approach does not allow them to develop long-term support, which applies especially in developing countries. It promotes environmental damage and health consequences of present and future. A question not mentioned is the need of implication in the development of global environmental protection issues (climate change, depreciation depletion, desertification) coming from all the countries involved. Developing countries face serious environmental problems at local or national level, having no possibilities, especially materials ones, to help solve the global issues.

Minimum requirements for achieving sustainable development are:

- Re-size the economical growth, given a more equitable distribution of resources and increased quality of the production;
- Ensuring an acceptable level of population growth (population growth control);
- Elimination of poverty by meeting the basic needs for jobs, food, energy, water, housing and health;
- Preserve and enhance natural resources, maintenance of ecosystem diversity, monitoring environmental impacts of economic activity;
- Shift technologies and control the risk ;
- Government decentralization, increasing participation in decision making;
- Corroboration decisions on environment and development at national level of those in the international area.

A controversial issue is the relationship with this strategy most famous agenda, the Lisbon Agenda for growth and employment. Complementing EU strategy for socio-economic reforms, defined in the 2000 European Council (Lisbon Agenda), the EU adopted a strategy as ambitious for Sustainable Development. Although EU states explicitly that sustainable development is the dominant principle of EU policies, the reality is that the question of EU economic competitiveness compared to the globalization dominates the political agenda today. New Lisbon strategy has become the main objective of the Barroso Commission. The three pillars of the Lisbon strategy (economic competitiveness, social inclusion and environmental protection) have often been compared to "three children", one of which - competitiveness - gets more attention. In the process, sustainable development strategy became reduced to the environmental pillar of Lisbon strategy. The EU has first formulated the strategy of sustainable development in the Gothenburg European Council in 2001. Although the

EU treaties contain sustainable development strategies, implementation remains a problem. In February 2005, the Commission found that several unsustainable trends continue to worsen. In 2005, the Commission began an evaluation of the Strategy for Sustainable Development. It published a critical assessment of progress since 2001 and has set some guidelines.

The exercise highlighted several trends of worsening of the situation on climate change, public health, poverty and growing social exclusion, as the excessive exploitation of natural resources and biodiversity loss. In June 2005, Heads of State and Government of the EU adopted a declaration about the principles of sustainable development, which explicitly states that "the new Lisbon strategy is an essential component of the overarching objective of sustainable development". In June 2006 the European Council adopted a revised strategy. Council conclusions marked the beginning of a partnership between the EU Member States, civil society and business environment, aimed at achieving sustainable development. Council noted that progress was modest, even at policy level, both the EU and Member States were progressing significantly, especially on climate change and clean energy. On 14 December 2007, the European Council welcomed the Commission progress report of October 22, and stressed the need to prioritize measures for implementation. Also concluded that the new EU and national strategy in the field of sustainable development must be linked more closely.

Minimum requirements for achieving sustainable development include: resizing growth, given the increased quality of production sides; eliminating poverty in by meeting basic needs for employment, food, energy, water, housing and health, ensuring an acceptable level of population growth (reduction of uncontrolled population growth); conservation and enhancement of natural resources, ecosystem maintenance, monitoring environmental impact of economic development, technological shift and the control of its risks, government decentralization, increased participation in decision-making on environment and economy.

Multiple aspects of sustainable development from the economical growth and population employment by gender, environment protection and individual freedoms are treated in an integrative vision, focusing on broadening opportunities manifested human choices. From the broad scope of possible options, three are considered essential: longevity, education and standard of living. These underline human development index (HDI) which provides a simplified measure, but useful, to join the complex realities. Indicators used to calculate the HDI are life expectancy, literacy level and extent of coverage in education, reflecting the level of education, GDP per person as a measure of standard of living.

The issue of sustainable development has remained and will remain in actuality global concern particularly because there is a discrepancy between the theoretical recognition of its importance and concrete results now, assigned to the idea of social progress. In recent decades, on a worldwide scale, there have been made progress in all areas and there have been significant changes in the human development.

Sustainable Development Strategy is operational by appropriate national policies, able to promote compatibility of systems which are interrelated across time and space, by the collaboration and cooperation with a regional, international and global character.

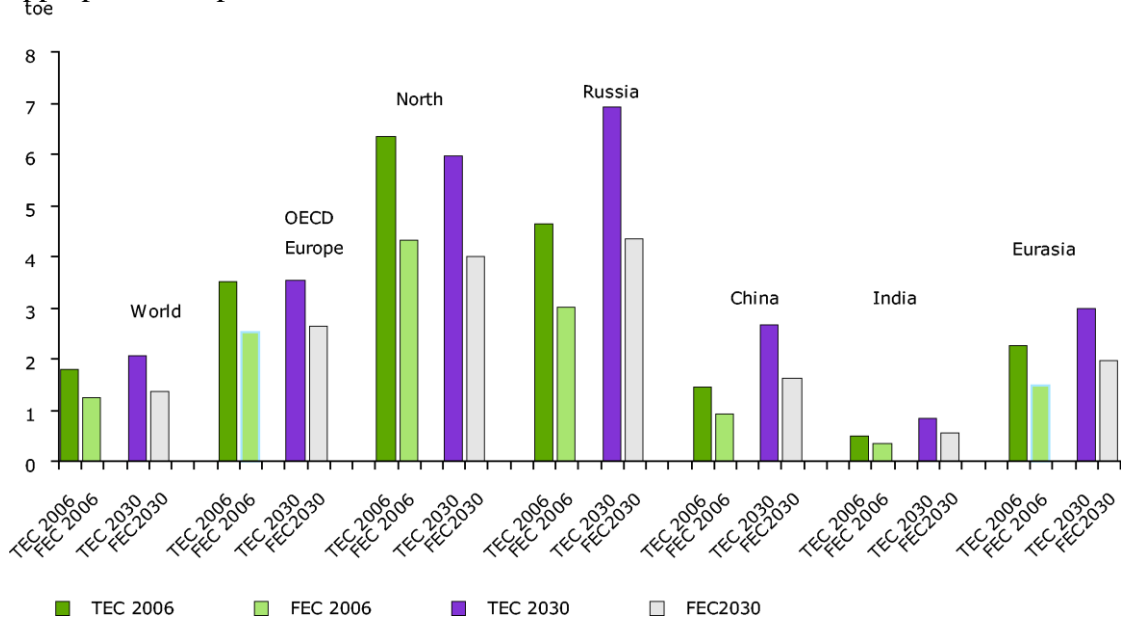
For developed countries which impose themselves to assure compatibility of direct economic efficiency criteria imposed by the market with the ones of social, human and ecological efficiency imposed by the need to create conditions for equal opportunities standing present and future generations, growth is projected to achieve a consolidated, dynamic environment based on compatibility between the natural environment and the one created by man, and based on compatibility between the economic efficiency and social justice.

Analysis of the situation over time and some forecasts for major economic and social sectors affecting the environment, shows that pollutants have the largest impact on the environment and the degree to which its components were affected.

Climate change: by 2100, global temperatures are expected to be well above the sustainable development objective set in the Action Programme Environment 6, given the inherent and analytical scientific uncertainty in characterizing the study of the impact of climate change.

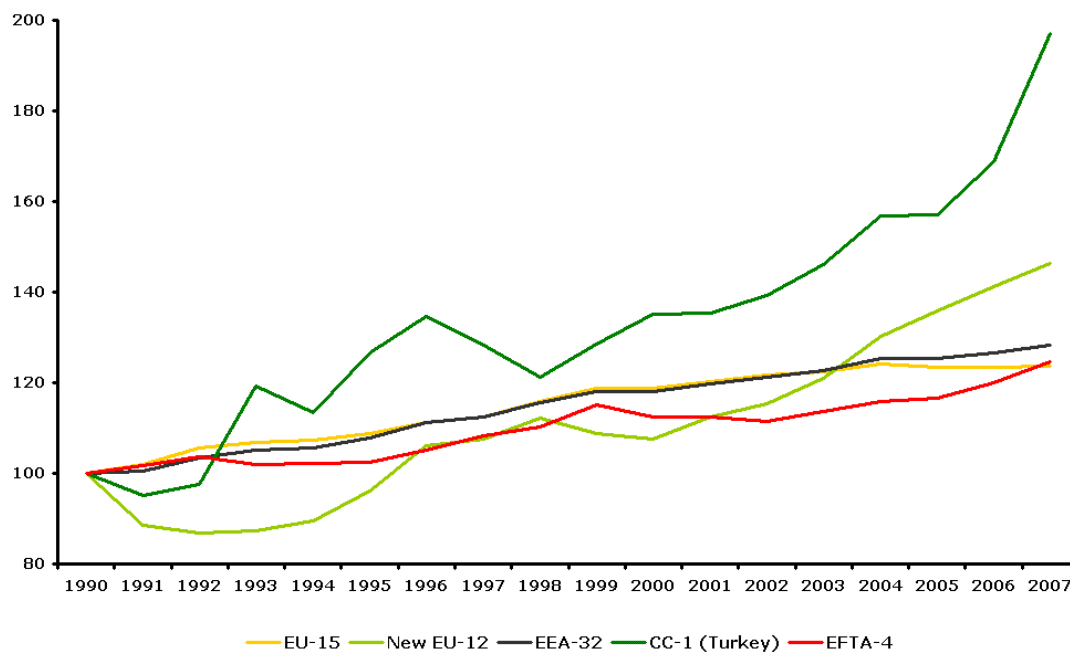
Protocol Kyoto Protocol to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and its first commitment period, is only a first step in tackling climate change. To limit temperature increases to a maximum of 20C above pre-industrial levels will be needed to reduce global emissions by 50% by 2050 target proposed by the EU as required to avoid unacceptable impacts of future climate change .

Energy consumption and emissions of greenhouse effect gases resulting from it, increased in the pan-European Region, from the Kiev Conference, despite improvements in energy efficiency of renewable energy, which increased in certain sectors. It is expected that this trend will continue unless policies and implement additional measures in the field. Energy markets of the three pan-European sub-regions are closely linked. A considerable proportion of imports of natural gas and oil will increase substantially by 2030. Since the conference in Kiev progress have been made both in terms of policy development in this area and access to information. However it is still too early to see a significant improvement in soil quality on the complexity of current risk, particularly those related to climate change; new mechanisms are needed in this area to improve the quality of information gathered under which to undertake appropriate soil protection.



Transport: Energy consumption and emissions of greenhouse gases from transport activities in SEE and EVC grow rapidly, accompanying the overall increase in this sector. Energy consumption in transport sector and CO2 emissions per capita remain relevant in EVC four times higher than in SEE and EECCA. Adoption of competitive solutions for urban transport is one way to traffic decongestion and at the same time to solve air quality problems and improve transport safety. For transport to be competitive it must be included in planning and urban development. Passenger demand is forecast to be separated from economic growth over the next 30 years, with political objectives. As a consequence of segregation patterns of transport, no major technological substitute is expected for the timeframe 2008-2030. The main innovation

in passenger transport is air transport, whose total share is estimated to increase from 5.5% to 10.5%, while public transport will decrease from 9% to 6.5%.



According to the strategic plan for sustainable development of the European Union, it will prepare options for an agreement which will be consistent with the objective of 20C without delay through constructive engagement in a broader dialogue on long-term cooperative action. Commission will conduct an analysis of how to meet current targets for renewable resources and how to promote them and biofuels use in transport.

Achieving sustainable levels of energy use in transport, reducing emissions to levels that minimize effects on human health and the environment, are two objectives that must be realized. EU and Member States should improve energy efficiency in transport through effective instruments in terms of cost.

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