



EU environmental policy in the context of the SDGs – A DG ENV perspective

**EEB Workshop ‘Shaping the
Future of EU Environmental Policy
– Systemic change through future
EU and national ENV policies’
*Hainburg, 23 October 2018***

**Claudia Hahn
European Commission
DG ENV**

- 1. Short reminder – What is the 7th EAP and has it helped to make EU policies more coherent?**

Short reminder: what is the 7th EAP?



A 2014 - 2020 timeframe and a 2050 vision



3 THEMATIC:

1. **Natural capital** – "Nurturing the hand that feeds us"
2. **Resource efficient**, low-carbon growth – "Doing more with less"
3. **Health & environment** – "Taking care of the environment is taking care of ourselves"

4 'ENABLERS':

4. **Implementation** – "Good for the environment, our health and our wallets"
5. **Knowledge/evidence base** – "Best decisions based on latest data"
6. **Investment** – "Green incentives mean green innovations"
7. **Integration** – "Tackling multiple challenges with one approach"

2 'HORIZONTAL':

8. **Urban environment** – "Working together for common solutions"
9. **International** – "*Living well, within the limits of our planet is a global aim*"





- **European Parliament's** report on the implementation of the 7th EAP (A8-0059/2018)
- **European Environment Agency's** indicator reports
- **Committee of the Region's** opinion on an 8th EAP (COR-2018-01672-00-00-PA-TRA).
- **Commission Evaluation** (ongoing) – Focus on efficiency, effectiveness and relevance. Preliminary findings discussed with stakeholders at a workshop in Brussels on 13 November 2018. Publication: May 2019 (Green Week).



Commission evaluation of the 7th EAP – Preliminary findings (general)

- Most Member States are **in favour of the continuation** of EAPs. They suggest to connect a next programme to the SDGs, to increase the shared responsibility across DGs, Institutions and Member States and to define **quantifiable objectives** and to introduce a clear **monitoring** mechanism.
- According to Member States, ensuring the continuation of the programme from one Commission to the next remains a challenge.



Commission evaluation of the 7th EAP – Preliminary findings related to Policy Coherence

- Contribution to **mainstreaming** viewed as a key success in the public consultation. The general mainstreaming of environmental and climate issues is far from complete, but continues to be of high importance and requires ongoing and further attention. For example, coherence between agricultural policy and environmental policy remains a concern (though 7th EAP has helped)
- Some lack of **coherence** with the EU's 2020 strategy.
- Mixed opinions on coherence with the SDGs and **Paris Agreement** - could be better (not just a 7th EAP issue).
- MSs felt that **other strategies** such as Europe 2020, were noted as being more high-profile and often “fighting for attention” in regard to making environmental/sustainability policy coherent.
- Non MSs pointed out that “**Silo**” **thinking** with the different DGs needs to be addressed to improve coherence.

	EU indicator past trend	Outlook of the EU meeting the selected objective by 2020
Exposure of terrestrial ecosystems to eutrophication due to air pollution		
Gross nutrient balance in agricultural land: nitrogen		
Land take		
Forest: growing stock, increment and fellings		
Status of marine fish stocks		
Abundance and distribution of selected species (common birds and grassland butterflies)		
Species of European interest		
Habitats of European interest		
Status of surface waters	N.A.	



Resource productivity		
Waste generation in Europe		
Recycling of municipal waste		
Use of freshwater resources		
Total greenhouse gas emission trends and projections		
Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption		
Progress on energy efficiency in Europe		
Energy consumption by households		
Greenhouse gas emissions from transport		
Animal product consumption (animal protein)		
Share of environmental and labour taxes in total tax revenues		
Employment and value added in the environmental goods and services sector		
Environmental protection expenditure in Europe		

2. Future Environmental Policy: Systematic solutions for systematic challenges

EU progress towards the 17 SDGs



EU progress towards the 17 SDGs (past 5-year period)

Source: Eurostat 2018 Sustainable Development report





European
Commission

More
sustainable
production

Systemic challenges

Housing

Mobility

Mega
trends

DIGITALISATION

AGING

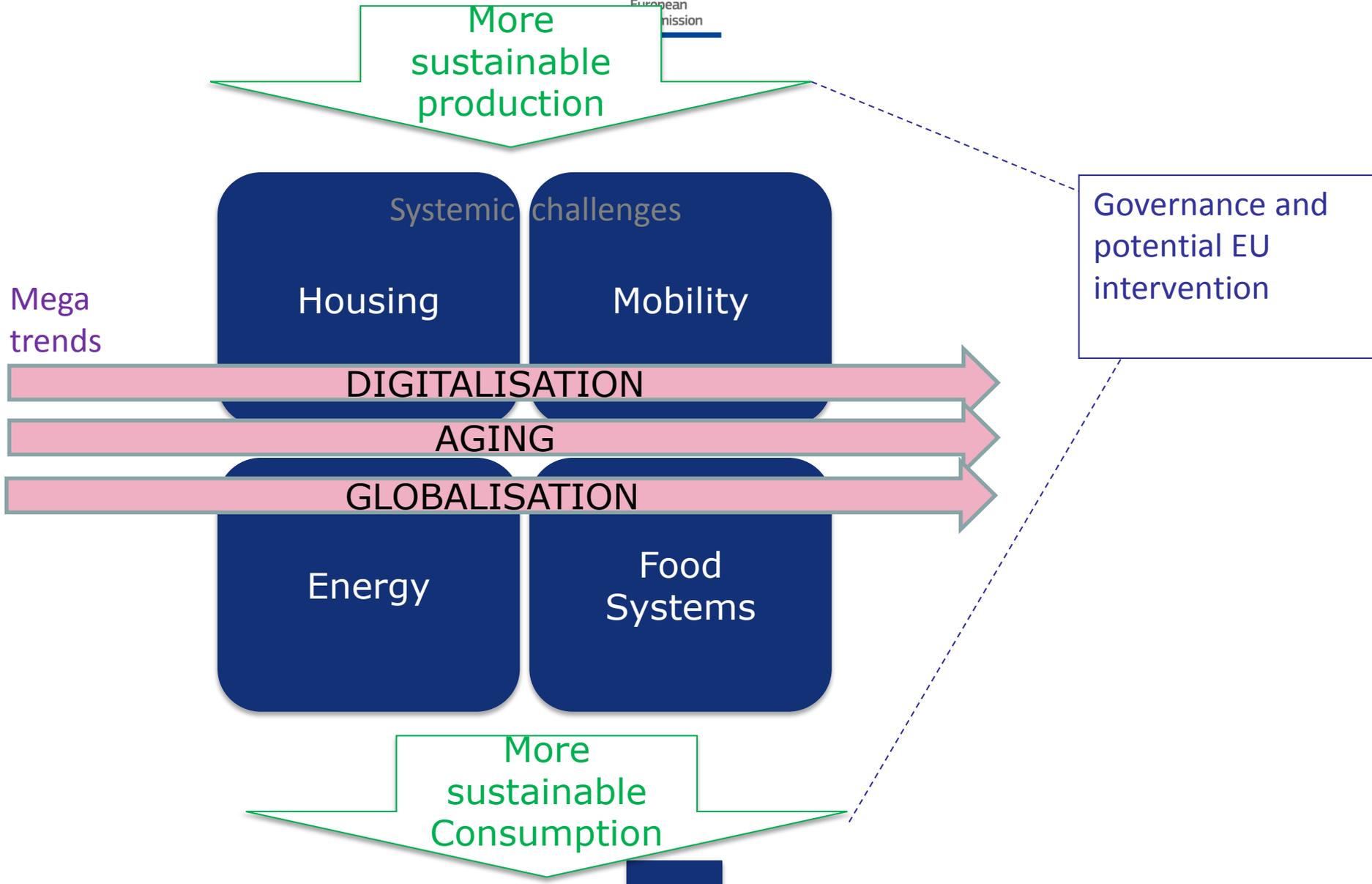
GLOBALISATION

Energy

Food
Systems

Governance and
potential EU
intervention

More
sustainable
Consumption



Integrated policies - Recent success stories



- ✓ **Energy Union**, including action on Energy Poverty
- ✓ **Circular Economy Action Plan & Plastic Strategy**
- ✓ **Sustainable Finance Action Plan**
- ✓ Long Term **Climate Strategy** (November 2018)
- ✓ **CAP Reform**
- ✓ Commission Staff Working Papers on **cross-cutting** topics:
 - ✓ Agriculture Water Nexus
 - ✓ Clean Air for all

What next?

- ✓ **Circular economy 2.0**
- ✓ **Bioeconomy** Strategy
- ✓ **System approach** for food, mobility, housing, energy
- ✓ Ecosystem's contribution to fight against **climate change**
- ✓ A Paris agreement for **Biodiversity**?
- ✓ Need for a **just transition**
- ✓ What about our **lifestyles**?





“It’s all about governance”

- ✓ Align working methods to SDG spirit: stakeholder participation; High Level Expert Groups
- ✓ Addressing the implementation gap (WS III)
- ✓ Public money for public goods (WS II): MFF, GPP & EHS
- ✓ Monitoring: Product Ecological Footprint; Natural Capital Accounting; Non-financial reporting; Greening the European Semester; Beyond GDP
- ✓ Coherence external/internal policies (e.g. CE goes global, trade policy; EU footprint in third States)
- ✓ Internalisation of externalities (tax shift, CO2 tax)
- ✓ Science based policy & Innovation
- ✓ Transparency/Communication

What next?



- ✓ Next Commission's priorities?
- ✓ SDG Strategy?
- ✓ Integrated Environmental Programme 2030 or simple Action Plan ?
- ✓ DE Integrated Programme "**Shaping Ecological Transformation**", 2015, 5 priorities: (i) sustainable economy (including energy and resource transition); (ii) agriculture; (iii) mobility & cities; (iv) healthy living conditions; (v) international dimension



A few milestones



- EP, CoR and EEB input
- COM internal preparation for the next Commission
- 9/12/2018 Reflection Paper: part of the Future of Europe discussion papers; includes Distance to SDG analysis + self-standing contribution of MSP
- May 2019: Publication of COM evaluation of the 7th EAP
- May 2019: EP elections
- Sept/Oct 2019: Hearing of new Commissioners
- November 2019 (tbc): New Commission ready to start work
- December 2019 : Publication EEA SOER 2020