

Climate Policy: an EU perspective

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Presentation to cover:

- Overview of EU policy
- EU Climate Change Programme (II) and the Adaptation Green Paper
- Insights into national adaptation strategies
- The research agenda of the ADAM project
- Concluding thoughts on issues / barriers facing the adaptation agenda



Overview of EU policy

- Use of Directives for environmental policy
- Importance of 5th Environmental Action Programme in 1992
- Question of EU competence
- Impact on policies on vulnerability in Europe
- Shift in emphasis ECCP → ECCP II (2005)
- Reinforced by a series of recent EC Communications



EC Communications

EC Communication (2005): ' *Winning the battle against climate change* '

The 2005 communication set-out that the Commission should explore "the role of the EU in **reducing vulnerability** and **promoting adaptation**". Further, 'EU climate policy should aim to reduce vulnerability of European society and economy to the adverse effects of climate change and **improve its resilience**'.

The communication also refers to three specific challenges: participation, innovation and adaptation. The adaptation challenge is said to require further research to predict the impacts at the regional level in order to enable local and regional public and private sector actors to develop cost-effective adaptation options.



EC Communications (2)

EC Communication (2007): 'Global Climate Change to 2 degrees'

In early 2007, the EC published a communication on future climate policy. On adaptation, it states:

'Measures to assist countries to adapt to the unavoidable consequences of climate change will have to be an integral part of the future global climate agreement. The need to adapt to the impacts of climate change should be taken into account in **public and private investment decisions**. Building on the implementation of the EU action Plan on climate change and development, to be reviewed in 2007, the EU should enhance its **alliance-building with developing countries** in the areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation.....The EU should also strengthen the implementation of the EU Action Plan on climate change in the context of **development cooperation.**'



Adaptation policy

- Adaptation being taken forward through ECCP II under a dedicated impacts and adaptation group
- Work programme is being progressed through a sectoral approach
- 10 thematic meetings held in 2006 are being used to inform the development of the Adaptation Green Paper (due summer 2007)



Adaptation policy (2)

1. Impacts on water cycle and water resources management and prediction of extreme events
2. Marine resources and coastal zones and tourism
3. Human health
4. Agriculture and forestry
5. Biodiversity
6. Regional planning, built environment, public and energy infrastructure, Structural funds
7. Urban planning and construction
8. Development cooperation
9. Role of insurance industry
10. Building national strategies for adaptation (country reports)



Green Paper - potential direction

- In some areas, the EC may lead adaptation policy, for instance where international cooperation is needed (river catchments).
- In others, it may influence the way that Member States implement adaptation policy (suggest / require national adaptation strategies).
- Introduce an enabling framework for local and regional adaptation (research, knowledge transfer, funding etc).
- 'Mainstream' climate change considerations into all policy areas.



Green Paper (2)

- Determine priority sectors and setting overall strategic framework
- Cross sectoral issues / policy (water and agriculture – CAP and WFD, role of planning etc)
- Adaptation v mitigation
- Define adaptation targets and indicators



National Adaptation Strategies

- Italy: No national adaptation strategy but adaptation measures implemented within sectoral policy
- Czech Republic: National programme of mitigation and adaptation measures (2004) – sectoral approach
- Finland: Adaptation strategy (2005) – sector specific and cross-cutting actions to adapt and improve adaptive capacity
- Belgium: National adaptation strategy expected to be included in the National Climate Plan (2007-2012)
- Slovenia: climate change adaptation plan (2006) – limited in comparison to mitigation agenda



National Adaptation Strategies (2)

- Netherlands: national spatial adaptation strategy out for consultation (due 2007). Will focus on: safety, economy, quality of life, biodiversity; and the role of spatial planning and structural changes.



Programma Adaptatie Ruimte en Klimaat

- UK: UKCIP, research, APF phase 1 (government leadership, cross-sector mal-adaptation, role of local and regional scale in promoting and delivering adaptation), APF phase 2 (setting out a cross-departmental adaptation framework)



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(<http://www.programmaark.nl/Internationaal/25242.aspx>)

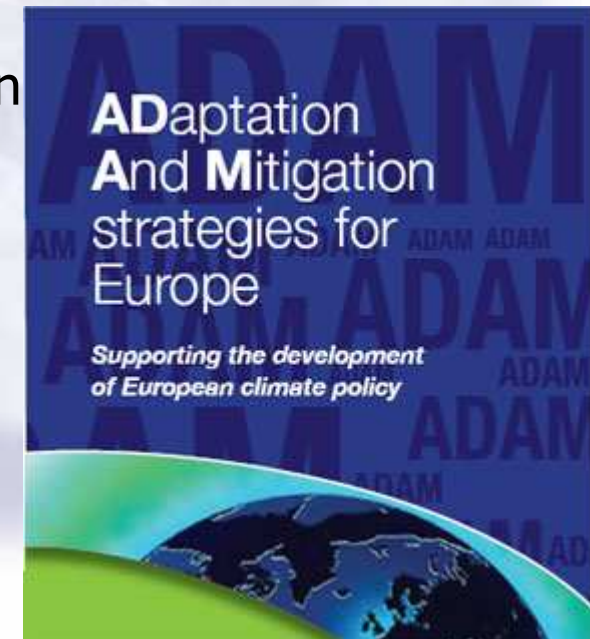
Research informing policy

ADAM (FP6 programme):

The research programme is structured around four overarching domains:

- Developing framing scenarios for adaptation and mitigation
- Mitigation (EU and globally)
- Vulnerability, adaptive capacity and adaptation
- Policy Appraisal Framework

<http://www.adamproject.eu/>



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Concluding thoughts

- Vulnerability, and hence adaptation, are highly context specific and will vary according to both time (dynamic) and space (place specific)
- Adaptation responses: multi-scalar and multi-actor
- Need to better understand cross-sectoral linkages and spill-over effects (both positive and negative) – will act to support the SD agenda
- Synergies and conflicts between adaptation and mitigation agendas – mature climate policy
- Costs and benefits of adaptation

