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Preliminary list of Sustainable Development Indicators

**Sixth Meeting of the
ESS Task Force on Methodological Issues
for Sustainable Development Indicators**

Meeting of 13-14 January 2004
Brussels, Entrance: 5 Avenue de Beaulieu (Room BU-5 03/78)

Table 3: The Preliminary List of SDIs
Version of 10 December 2003

('best available' indicators are presented in normal text and 'best needed' indicators in *Italics*)

THEMES Level I	Sub-Themes Level II	Areas to be addressed Level III	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 * Still under discussion: <i>Indicators on Changes in real effective exchange rate, Breakdown of value added by branches (for various themes), Impact of international migrations on employment/unemployment, Treatment and presentation of regional disparities</i>			
Growth rate of GDP per capita at constant prices (2000=100)	Growth rate of GDP at constant prices (2000=100)	GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards (EU 15=100) Total Investment (Total gross fixed capital formation as a percentage of GDP) Public Investment (gross fixed capital formation by the public sector as a percentage of GDP. Business investment (gross fixed capital formation by the private sector as a percentage of GDP) R&D expenditures (gross domestic expenditure on R&D as a % of GDP) Private Consumption growth rate (% change in final consumption by households – 2000=100) Disposable income growth rate (% change in disposable income by households – 2000=100) Inflation growth rate (%change (% change in harmonised indices of consumer prices by households – 2000=100) National savings (current account balance as a % of GDP) Households savings (savings of private households as a % of disposable income) Public balance (net borrowing/leading of consolidated general government sector as a percentage of GDP) General government consolidated net debt as a percentage of GDP Labour productivity (GDP in pps per hour worked – EU 15=100) Unit labour cost growth (Growth rate of the ratio compensation per employee divided by GDP - both in current prices - per total employment: Total and for manufacturing industry)	<u>EC Lisbon2000</u> : An average economic growth rate of around 3% a realistic prospect for the coming years. <u>EC Cardiff1998</u> : Public sector budgetary deficit to be less than 3% of GDP and gross debt less than 60% of GDP. 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.
	Total employment growth (Annual % change in total employed population) Total unemployment rate (unemployment persons as a share of the total active population)	Total employment rate, by age, gender, qualification Total unemployment rate, by age, gender, qualification Life-long learning (% of the population aged 25 -64 participating in education and training)	Raise the employment rate to 67% for January 2005 and to 70% by 2010; increase the number of women in employment to 57% for January 2005 and to more than 60% by 2010. Increase the average EU employment rate among older women and men (55-64) to 50% by 2010. <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.

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POVERTY and SOCIAL EXCLUSION			
At-risk-of-poverty rate at the level of the total population	At-risk-of-poverty rate for children aged 0-15	Persistent at-risk-of-poverty rate Median relative at-risk-of-poverty gap At-risk-of-poverty rate according to European rate line in PPS <u>or</u> Illustrative value of at-risk-of-poverty threshold in PPS At-risk-of-poverty rate anchored at a point in time Gini coefficient <u>or</u> s80/s20 income quintile share ratio	Make a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty
	Long-term unemployment rate	Very long-term unemployment rate Jobless households Dispersion of regional employment rates In-work risk-of-poverty rate Total income tax on gross wage earnings	Halve by 2010 the number of 18 to 24 years olds with only lower secondary education who are not in further education and training <u>EC Lisbon2000</u> : Increased social cohesion by 2010
	Early school leavers not in further education or training	Low educational attainment (age 25-34 and 55-64) Mean number of years schooling completed <u>or</u> at -risk-of-poverty rate by educational attainment level Proportion of population living in household suffering at least one of the following: noise, shortage of space, accommodation too dark, pollution, crime in area	
AGEING SOCIETY * Still under discussion the place in the framework of indicators on Migrations (see also Economic Development), Employment rate of older workers (55-64), Access to health care for elderly persons, Population age structure by region			
At-risk-of-poverty rate for persons aged 65+	Ratio of median household income of persons aged 65+ to median household income of persons aged <65	Projected theoretical replacement ratio	<u>EC Stockholm2001</u> : Address the demographic challenge by raising employment rates, reducing public debt and adapting social protection systems, including pension systems Ensure the adequacy of pension systems as well as of health care systems and care of the elderly, while at the same time maintaining sustainability of public finances and inter-generational solidarity.
	Current and projected old age dependency ratio (65+ to 15-64)	Life expectancy at age 0 Life expectancy at age 65 Total fertility rate	
	Employment rate of older workers (55-64)	Effective average age of withdrawal from labour market Pensions expenditure as % GDP	

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PUBLIC HEALTH			
Average life expectancy at birth Disability-free life expectancy Dependency free life	Premature mortality Infectious diseases and Antibiotics consumption <i>Total consumption of antibiotics (inc. agriculture)</i> Body mass index <i>Alcohol consumption, Narcotics & Smoking</i>	Declared state of health Suicides Accidents at work New cancers diagnosed	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.
	Residues of pesticides in food	Salmonella cases	Make food safety and quality the objective of all players in the food chain. <u>6EAP</u> : Reducing the impacts of pesticides on human health and the environment and to achieve a more sustainable use of pesticides as well as a significant overall reduction in risks and of the use of pesticides consistent with the necessary crop production. Achieving quality levels of ground and surface water that do not give rise to significant impacts on and risks to human health and the environment.
	Contents of toxins in breast milk, blood and fish <i>Chemical index</i>		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
	Safe drinking water (% of failed tests)	Exceedance of air quality thresholds % of households exposed to noise <i>Respiratory diseases</i> <i>% of households exposed to noise + % of population affected by noise</i>	<u>6EAP</u> : Achieving levels of air quality that do not give rise to significant negative impacts on and risks to human health and the environment. Substantially reducing the number of people regularly affected by long-term average levels of noise.

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CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY * Still under discussion: Indicator <i>CO2 efficiency</i> , Indicator <i>Carbon sinks</i>			
GHG emissions vs. Kyoto target	GHG emission (breakdown by sector)	*	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.
Gross inland energy consumption (breakdown by fuel)	Electricity production by fuel Energy intensity Final energy consumption by sector	Combined heat and power generation Nuclear waste generation vs. Disposal Energy efficiency by sector or by specific industries Energy prices/taxes/subsidies Fuel poverty	<u>6EAP</u> : Doubling the overall share of Combined Heat and Power in the Community as a whole to 18% of the total gross electricity generation. <u>EC Brussels2003: (revised SDS objective)</u> 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. <u>PoI2002</u> : Remove market distortions, including the restructuring of taxes and phasing out of harmful subsidies. Establish domestic programmes of energy efficiency, with the support of the international community.

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PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION PATTERNS			
Domestic material consumption (DMC) Total material consumption (TMC)	Emissions of aggregated acidifying substances, ozone precursors and GDP Municipal waste collected <i>Generation of waste by all economic activities and by households</i>	Water use (surface and groundwater)/available resources <i>Water use exceeding replenishment rate</i> Municipal waste treatment (recovery, land-filling, incineration) <i>Generation of hazardous waste by economic activities</i> BOD loading of rivers <i>Emissions of nutrients to water bodies</i> <i>Emissions of heavy metals</i>	Break the links between economic growth, the use of resources and the generation of waste. The Common Agricultural Policy contributes 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. <u>6EAP</u> : Ensure that the consumption of resources and their associated impacts do not exceed the carrying capacity of the environment. 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. <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.
	Pesticides use or fertilizers use	Change in livestock density vs. area of livestock farms Share of organic farming in total agricultural area	
		Total environmental expenditures (public + private) level 2 Total environmental expenditures by type of expenses	<u>EC Barcelona2002</u> : Increase spending on R&D and innovation with the aim of approaching 3% of GDP by 2010.
	Number of enterprises with an environment management system (EMS) <i>Share of production coming from enterprises with an EMS</i>	Number of EU flower awards by country and product group	<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.
	Household consumption of electricity	Food consumption per capita and/or meat consumption per capita	<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. Develop community-based initiatives on sustainable tourism by 2004.

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MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES * Still under discussion: Y Indicator <i>Nitrogen surplus on agricultural land</i> , Indicator <i>Nitrogen in drinking water</i> , Indicator <i>River water quality</i> , Indicator <i>Pesticide risk index for aquatic environment</i>			
Population trends of wild Birds <i>Biodiversity index</i> Percentage of fish catches	Land use change Acidification: exceedance of critical loads in sensitive natural areas Nitrification of soils in natural areas	Percentage of protected area (either under the Birds and Habitats Directive, or, by IUCN category) GLOBAL Convention TRGT Fragmentation of land by transport infrastructure to Transport	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. <u>PoI2002</u> : Achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity. 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.
	Size of fishing fleet		Improve fisheries management to reverse the decline in stocks and ensure sustainable fisheries and healthy marine ecosystems, both in the EU and globally. <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. Put into effect, the FAO international plans of action for the management of fishing capacity by 2005 and prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported fishing by 2004. Develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools, including the ecosystem approach, the elimination of destructive fishing practices and the establishment of marine protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information, including representative networks, by 2012. Establish, by 2004 a regular process under the aegis of the UN for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment. Eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to overcapacity.
	Area at risk from soil erosion Soil contamination by heavy metals		<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.
			<u>6EAP</u> : Ensure that the rates of extraction from water resources are sustainable over the long term. <u>PoI2002</u> : Develop integrated water resources management and water-efficiency plans by 2005.

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TRANSPORT AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT			
Freight transport and GDP growth	Modal split of freight tonne-km Traffic deaths and serious injuries by age Access to public transport	Growth of vehicle-km for road	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.
Modal split of passenger-Km	Land –use changes by main categories <u>or</u> % of land use by settlements and transport infrastructure <i>Fragmentation due to Tarnsport</i>		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). Promote more balanced regional development by reducing disparities in economic activity and maintaining the viability of rural and urban communities, as recommended by the European Spatial Development Perspective
GOOD GOVERNANCE	Still under discussion: Indicators for level 3		
Level of citizen’s confidence in EU institutions	% of total public procurement per institution for product group where environmental and/or other SD criteria have been used		<u>EC Lisbon2000</u> : Real efforts must be made by public administrations at all levels to exploit new technologies to make information as accessible as possible.
	<i>Proportion of perverse subsidies</i> Share of Council conclusions that are implemented/followed-up	Share of policies, programmes and plans for which an impact assessment has been decided and undertaken	<u>EC Gothenburg2001(revised in Barcelone2002)</u> : Ensure that all major internal and external policy proposals include a sustainability impact assessment.
	Responses to EC Internet public consultations <i>Total consultation processes, by type</i>	Budget allocation for “net-works” Registrations for thematic information	<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.
	Number of infringement procedures and infringements cases	Infringements on non-compliance with International Conventions	<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.

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GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP	Still under discussion: Indicators for level 3		
ODA/GNI by Member State with a graph on the population under poverty line	EU imports of fair-trade goods <i>EU imports of SD labelled goods</i> EU imports by categories		Ensure that globalisation contributes to sustainable development. <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. <u>6EAP</u> : Ensure that trade and environment policies and measures are mutually supportive. <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.
		<i>See the indicators on financing for SD</i>	Attain the International Development Targets and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular the target of halving extreme poverty in the world by 2015.
			Ensure good governance at all levels and within all countries so as to achieve common sustainable development objectives. Strengthen the legitimacy, participatory basis, coherence and effectiveness of global economic, social and environmental governance. <u>EC Barcelona2002</u> : Promote partnership for sustainable development with international organizations, governments, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders.
	ODA/income group, category, per capita, population below-the-poverty-line Debt of Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Total EU financing to SD by type of FDI, ODA, OOF		Ensure adequate financing to attain the International Development Targets and the Millennium Development Goals. <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>). <u>EC Barcelona2002</u> : Encourage sustainable foreign direct investments (FDI) in developing countries and export credits consistent with sustainable development.
	<i>Contribution of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) to GHG emission reductions in developing countries</i> Material flows from developing countries Waste flows to developing countries		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 bio-diversity. <u>6EAP</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.