

Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

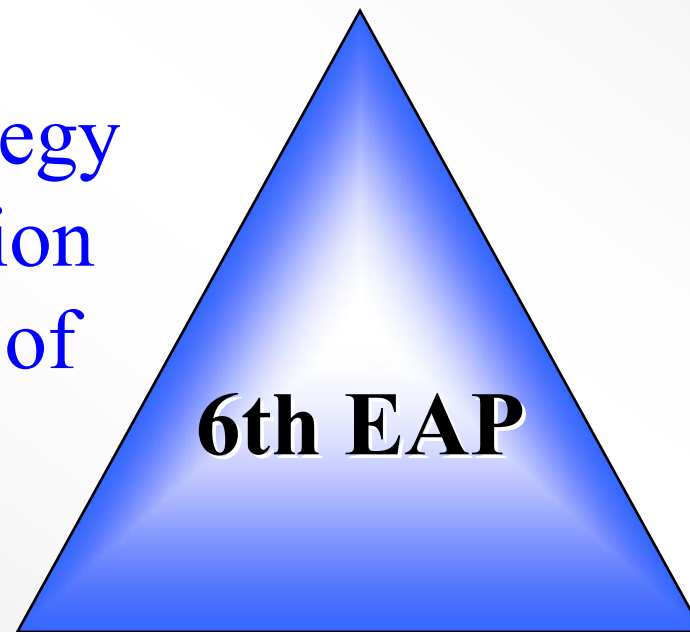
State of play

Frans Vollenbroek DG ENV, November 2004

Resource, product and waste policy an integrative approach

Thematic Strategy
on the Prevention
and Recycling of
waste

Com 2003, 301



Thematic
Strategy on
Sustainable Use
of Resources

Com 2003, 572

Integrated Product
Policy

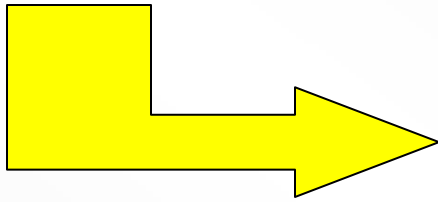
Com 2003, 302

Resources

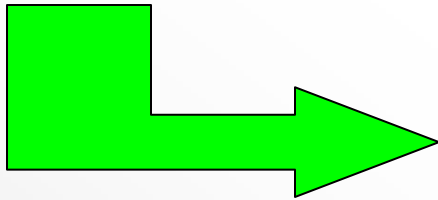
- Scarcity of non-renewable resources is not at stake. Their abundance and low prices leads to excessive use and various environmental impacts (e.g. CO₂)
- Depletion/extinction of renewable resources and habitats causes severe environmental impacts
- Material use is stable in the EU at 16 tonnes per capita
- Energy use is still increasing
- Built up areas have expanded by 20% over last decades

 **There is a risk that environmental impacts of resource use will further increase.**

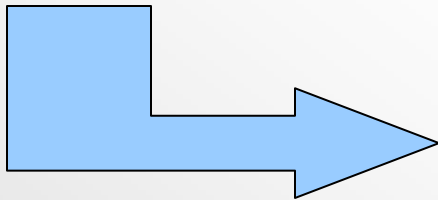
Three strategic elements



Resources:
“Increasing resource productivity”

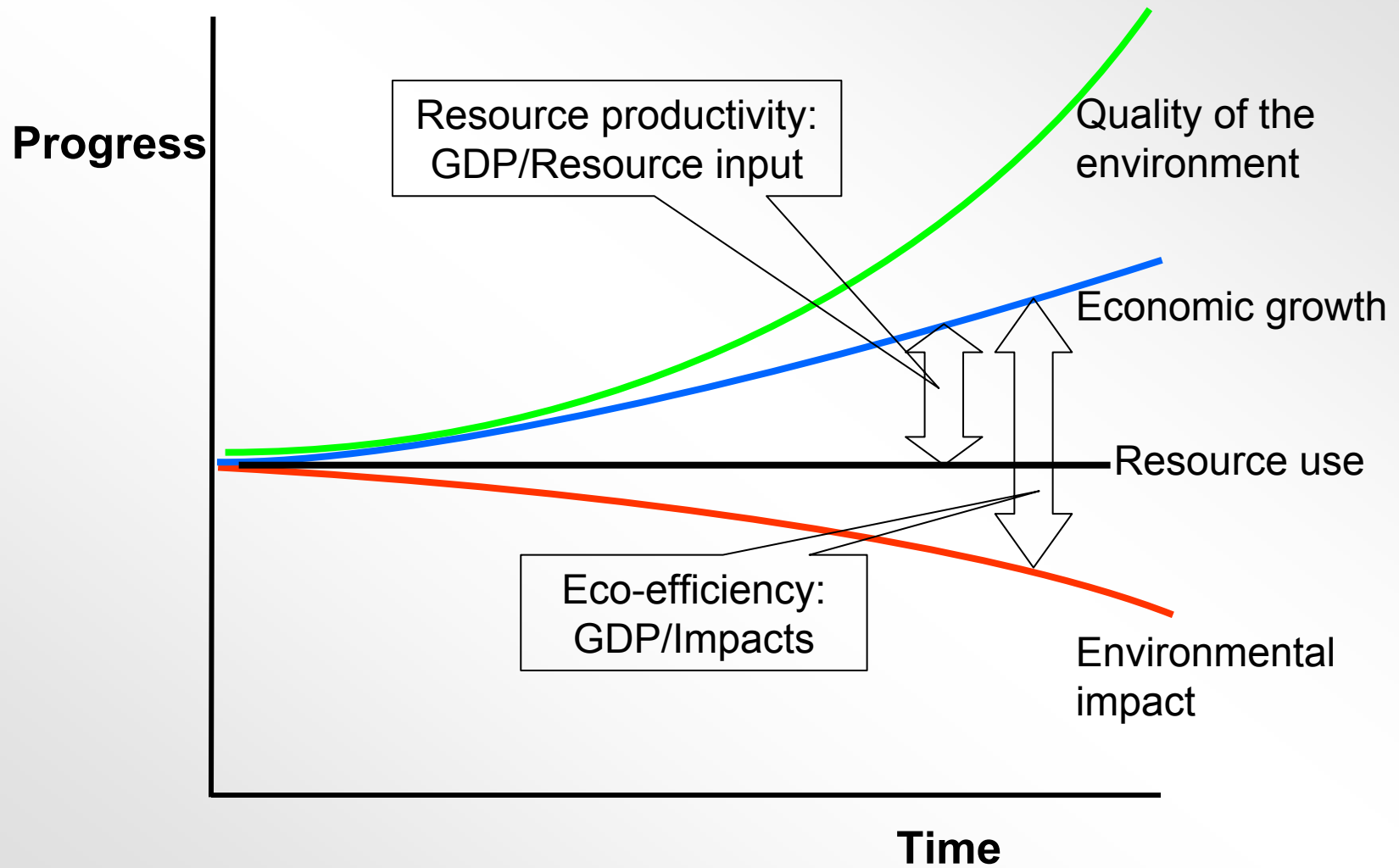


Environmental impacts
“Decoupling impacts from growth”



Life cycle
Taking into account all impacts

Economic growth and progress



Overall aim of the Resources Strategy

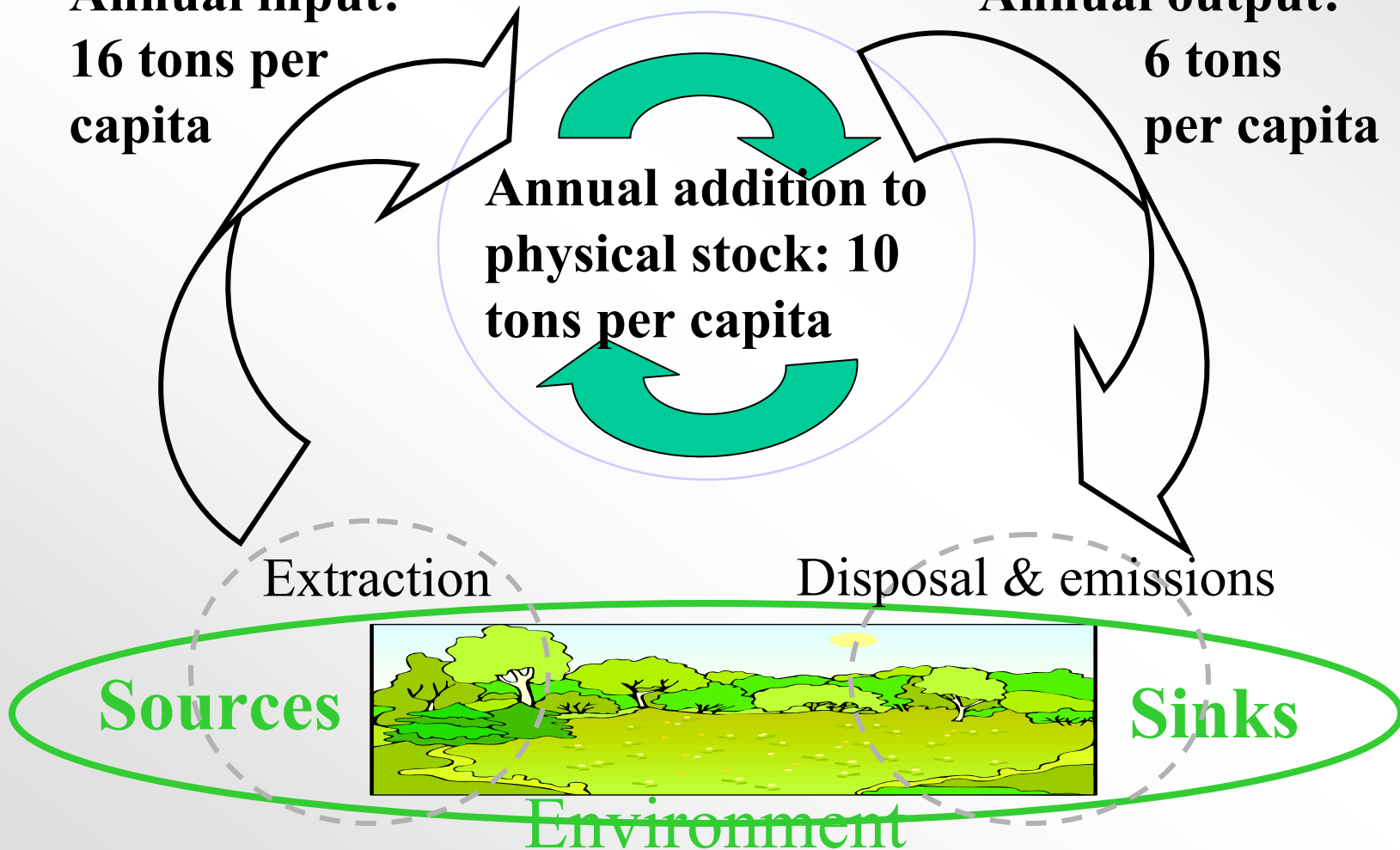
Developing a framework and measures that allow resources to be used in a sustainable way without further harming the environment, while achieving the objectives of the Lisbon strategy.

Life cycle approach

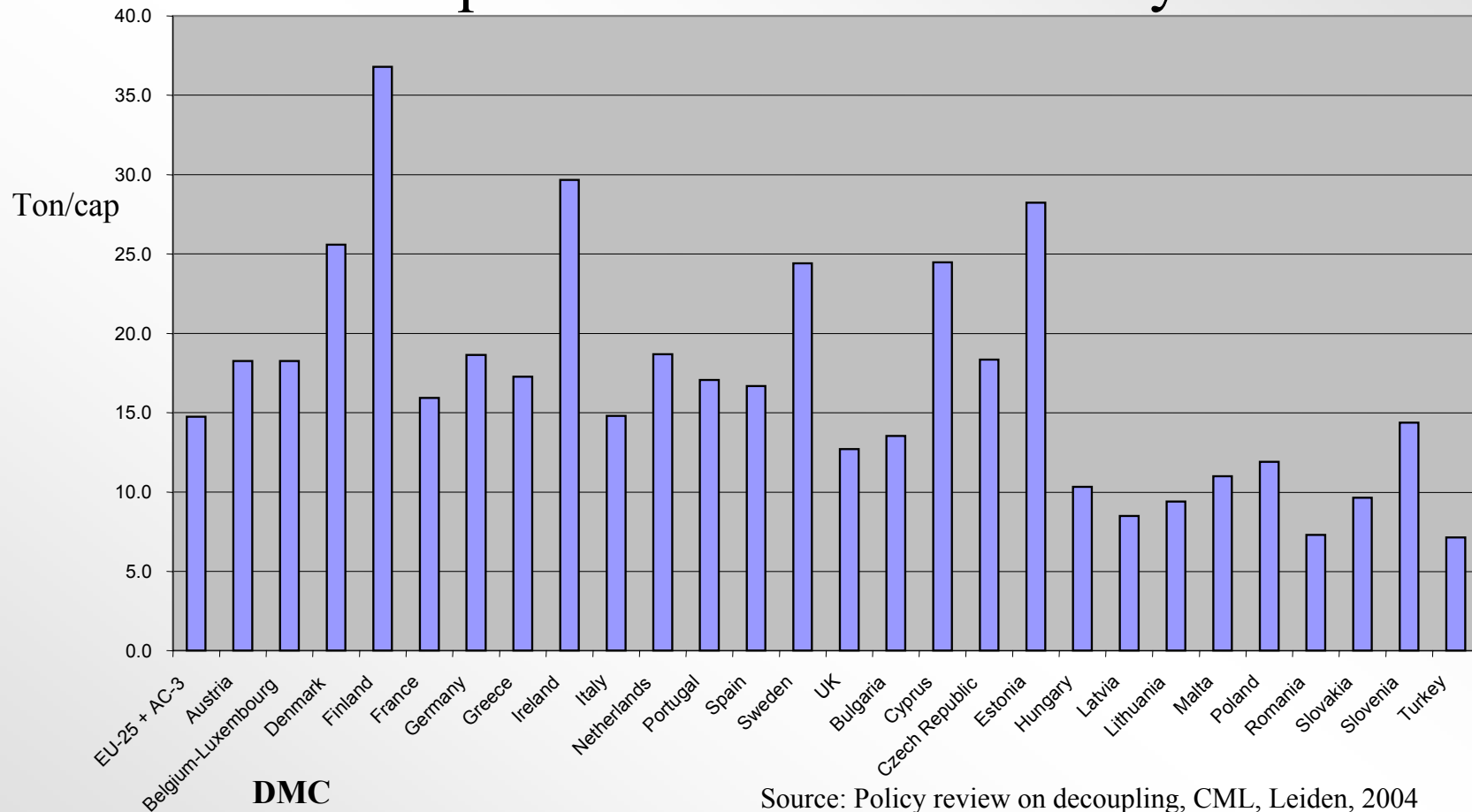
**Annual input:
16 tons per
capita**

**Annual output:
6 tons
per capita**

**Annual addition to
physical stock: 10
tons per capita**



DMC/cap in EU-25 + AC-3 in the year 2000

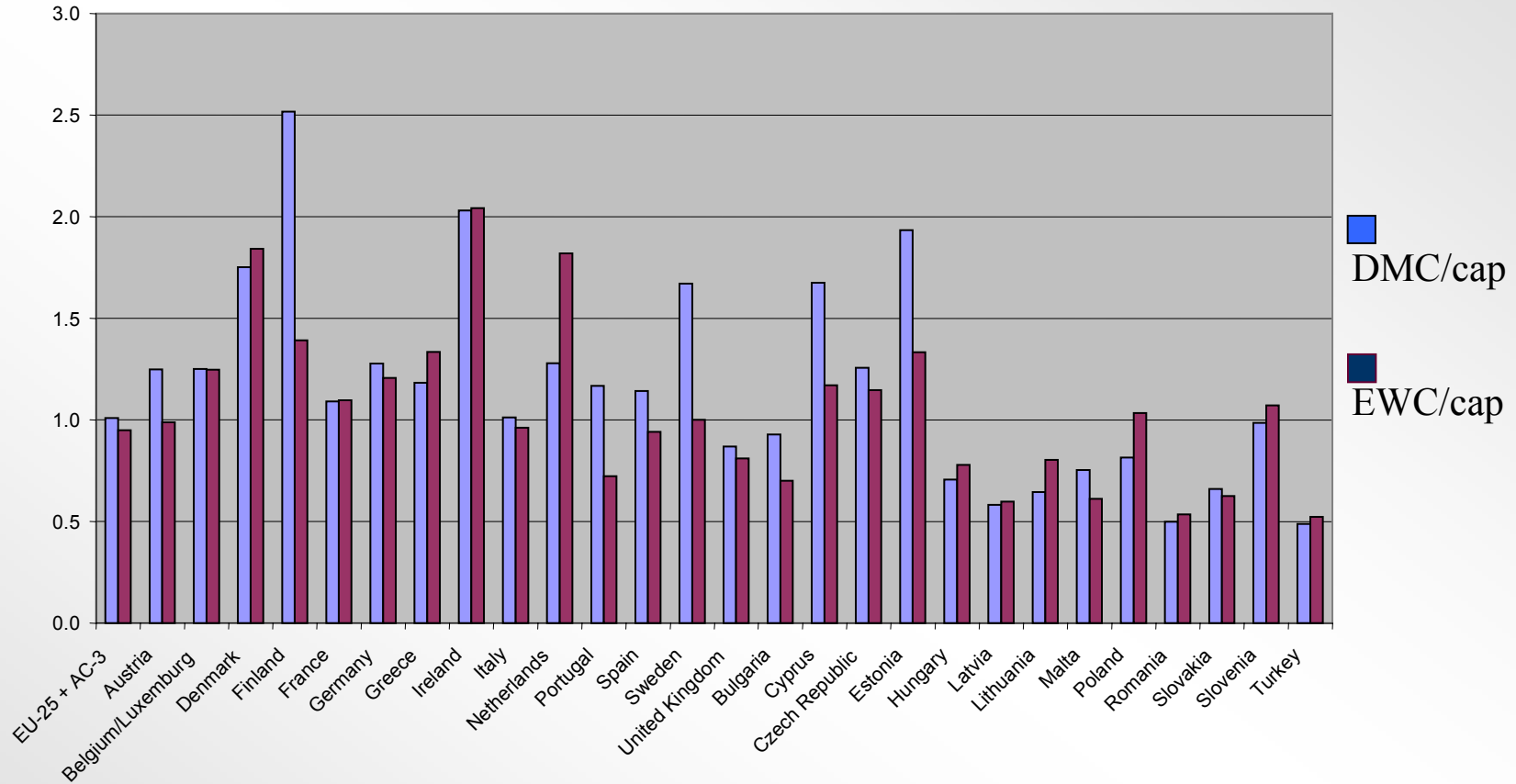


DMC

Source: Policy review on decoupling, CML, Leiden, 2004

stands for Direct Material Consumption and includes domestic extraction plus imports minus exports.

DMC/cap and EMC/cap, EU-25+AC-3, indexed: 1992 = 1

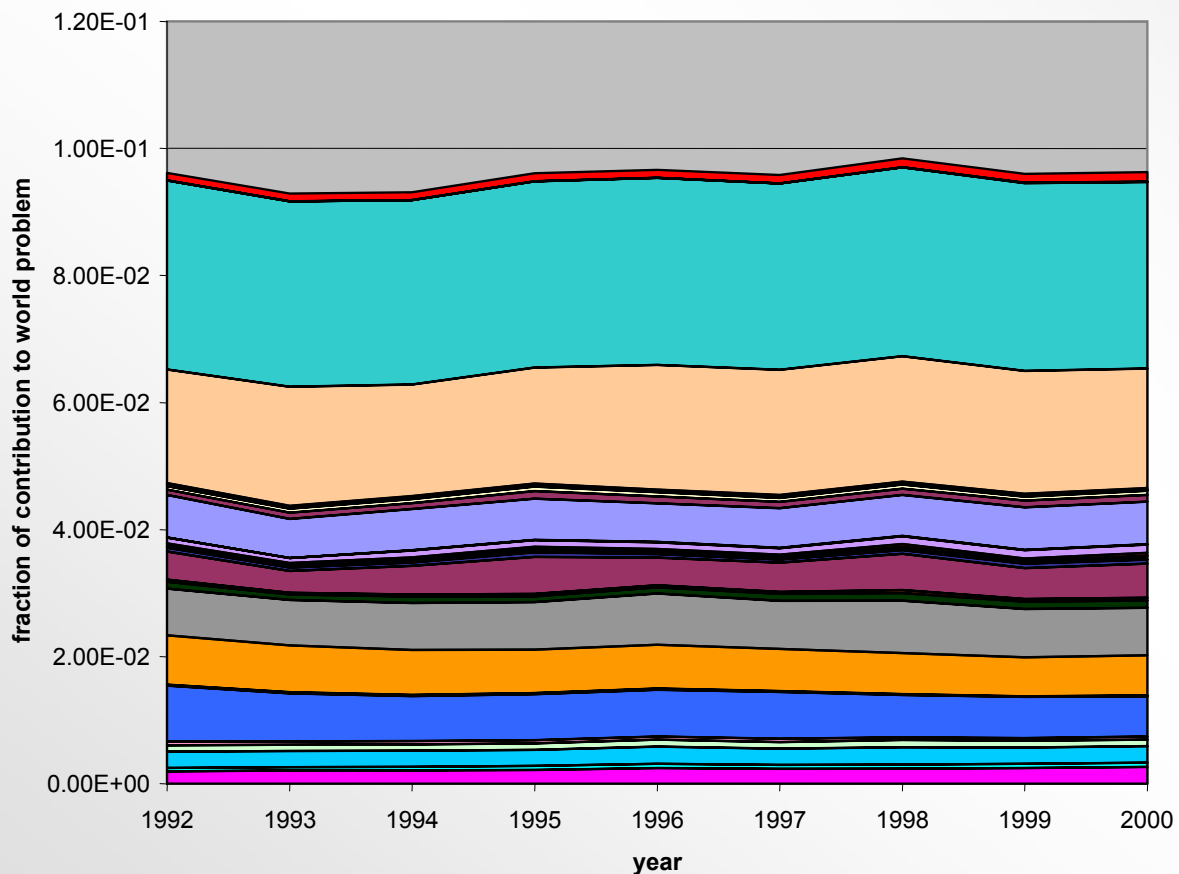


Source: Policy review on decoupling, CML, Leiden, 2004

EMC

stands for Environmentally weighted Material Consumption based on a dozen environmental pressures such as greenhouse gas effect, stratospheric ozone depletion, water eutrophication, etc.

EMC per flow, EU-25 + AC-3, based on equal weighting



Source: Policy review on decoupling, CML, Leiden, 2004

What policies are relevant for natural resources?

- **The use of natural resources and the associated environmental impacts are affected by many policies, e.g. economic, fiscal, agricultural, energy, transport, R&D, international conventions. Environmental policies alone can not do the job.**
- **Many policies have diverging objectives. They are not applied coherently with regard to the use of natural resources.**

➔ Decision-makers need assessment of trade-offs between policy choices and their relation to the overall aim of decoupling growth from environmental impacts.

The strategic response

Three strategic functions which should:

1. *Knowledge gathering*

make knowledge about resource use and impacts available to decision-makers.

2. *Policy assessment*

assess whether choices in various policy areas are compatible with the overall aim of decoupling economic growth from the impacts of resource use

3. *Policy integration*

work towards increasing the integration of resource-related environmental issues into other policies, in particular under the Cardiff Process.

The Way Forward

- **Advisory Forum has been established**
- **Two Working Groups: Supply and Use of resources**
- **Steering Committee**
- **Mandates have been drafted**
- **Reports have been delivered 1 October 2004**
- **Impact Assessment is in progress.**
- **Final Strategy should be ready for implementation in 2005**

Advisory bodies and institutions

General support of:

- Economic and social Committee
- Committee of the regions
- European Parliament
- Stakeholders

For details: see

europa.eu.int/comm/environment/natres