

Emerging EU Resource Efficiency Policy

Pavel Misiga

Sustainable Production and Consumption

DG Environment - European Commission

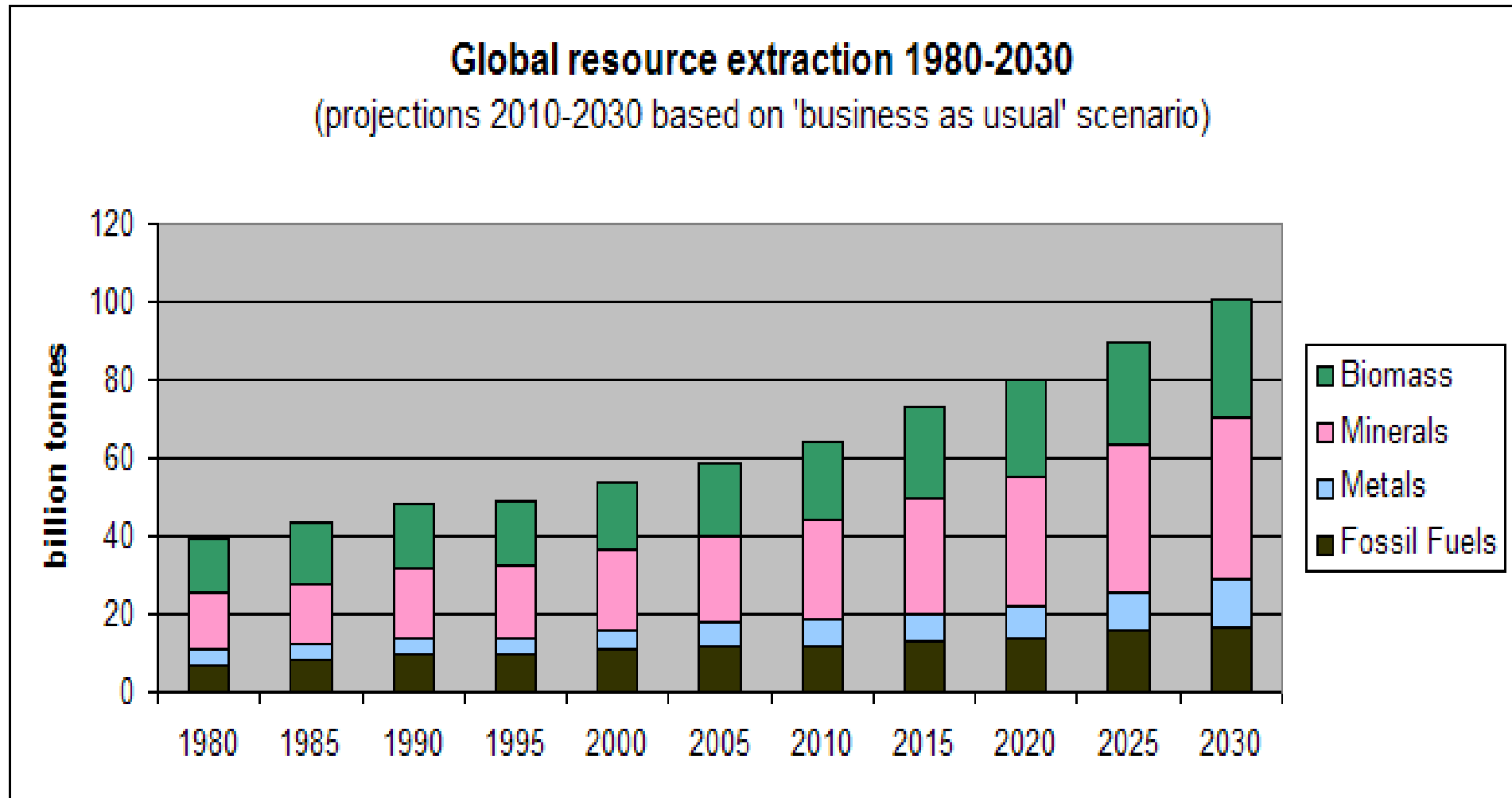


Why do we need to act on resource efficiency?

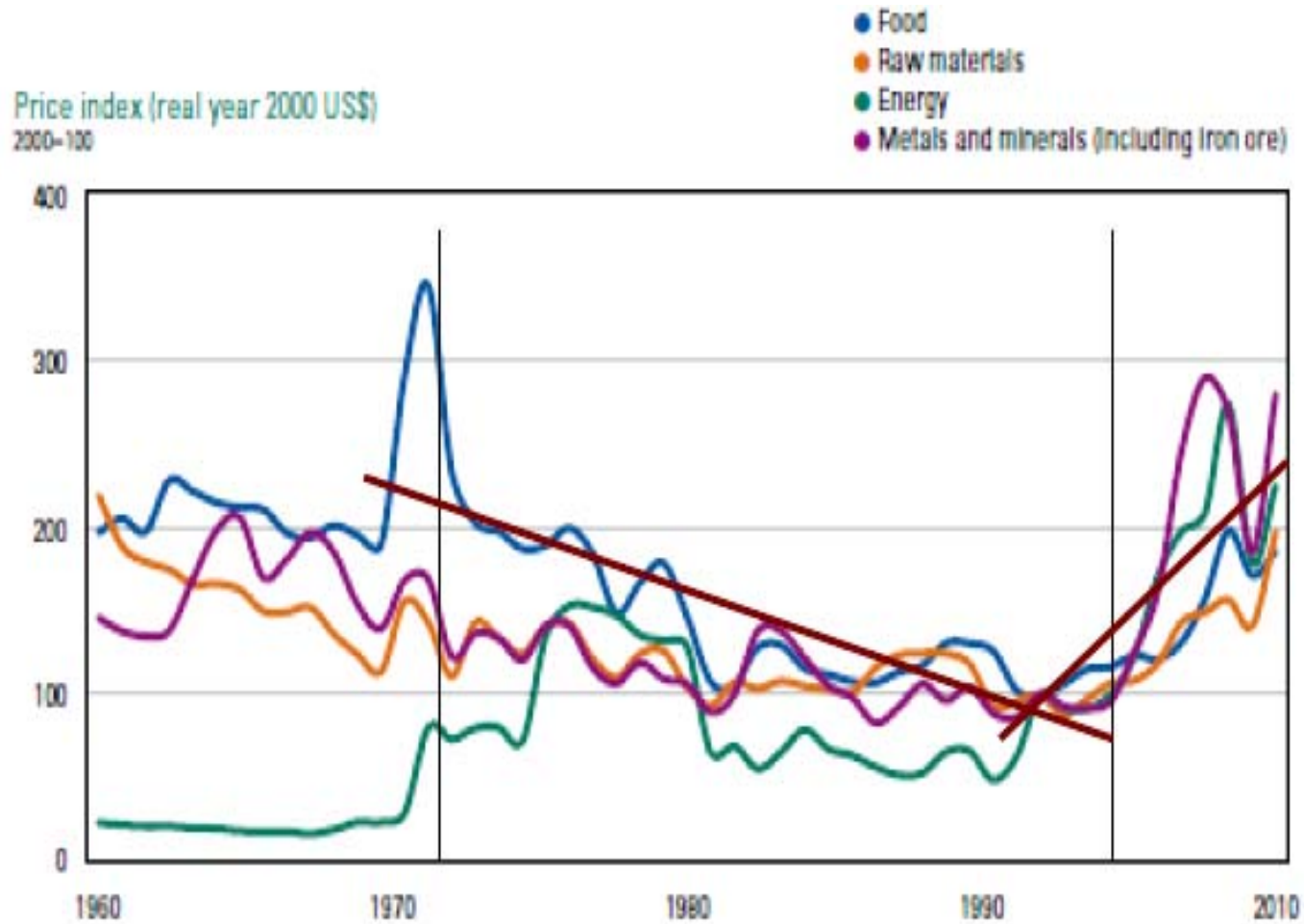
- Growing economic activity and population growth (9 billion by 2050)
- Competition for resources (including raw materials) increases, resource scarcities appear, prices go up
- Resources such as water, fertile soil, clean air and ecosystem services are central to our health and quality of life



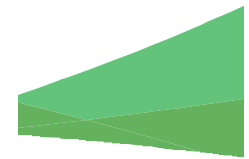
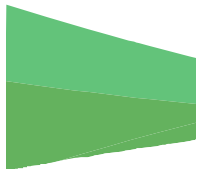
Growing Resource Use



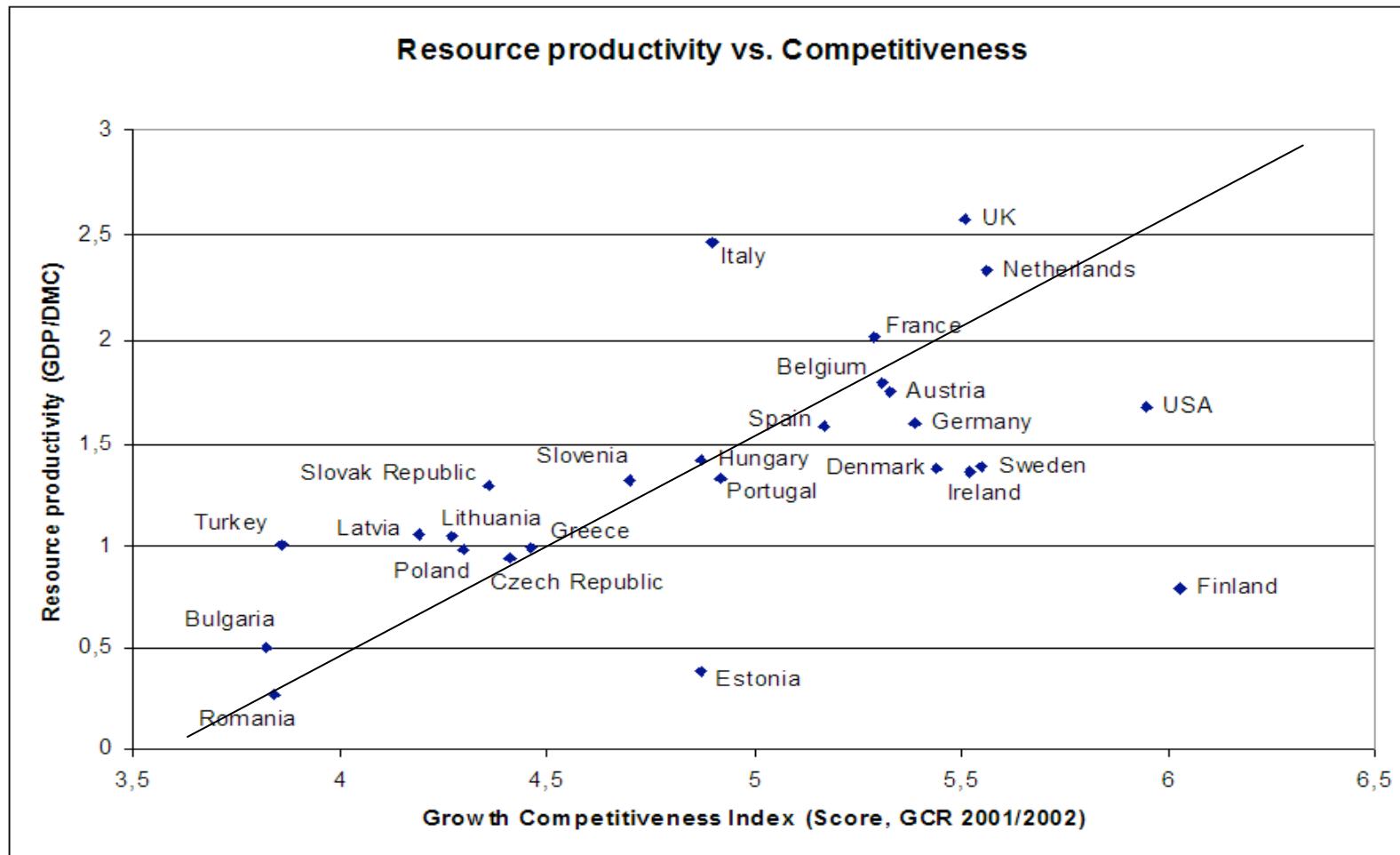
Trends in resource prices



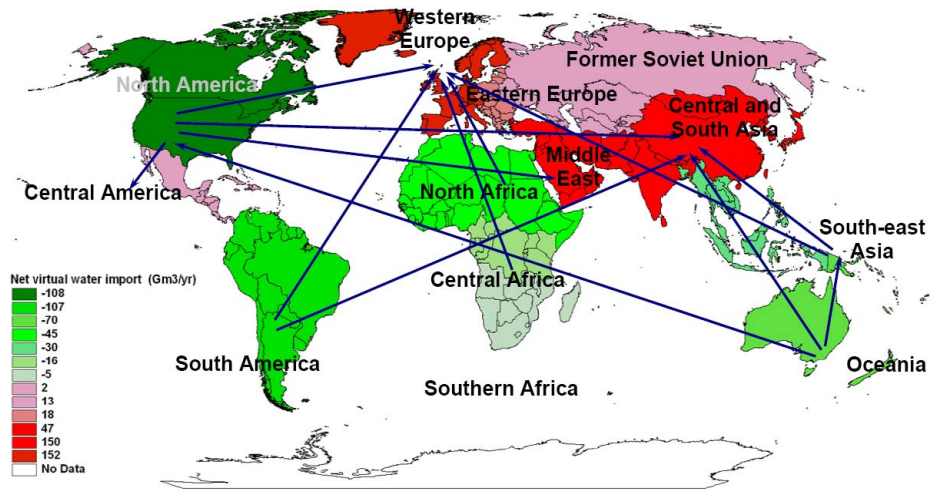
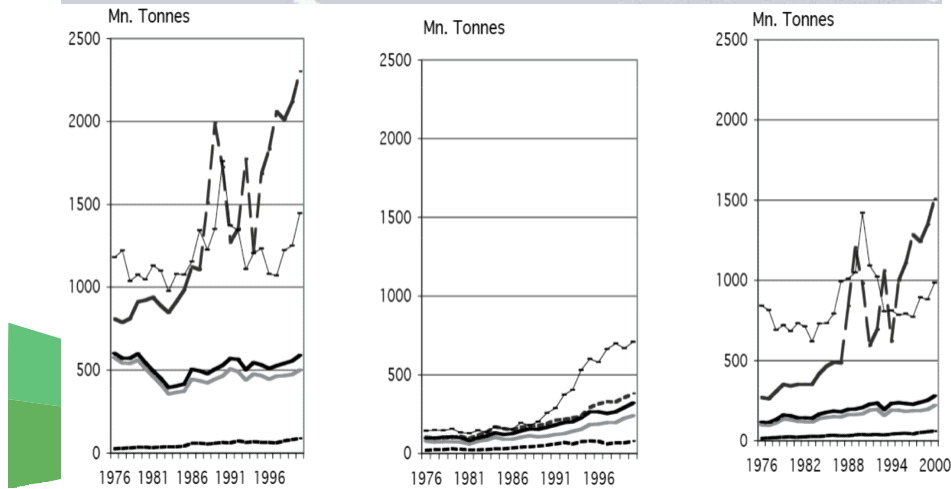
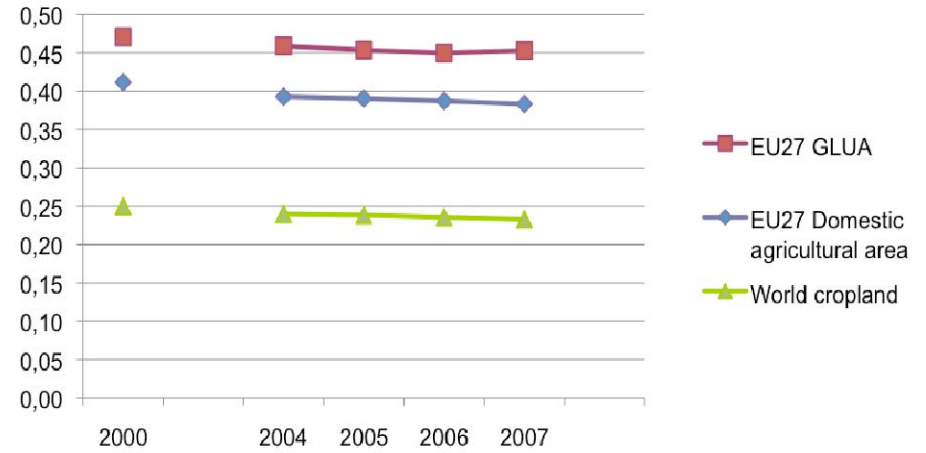
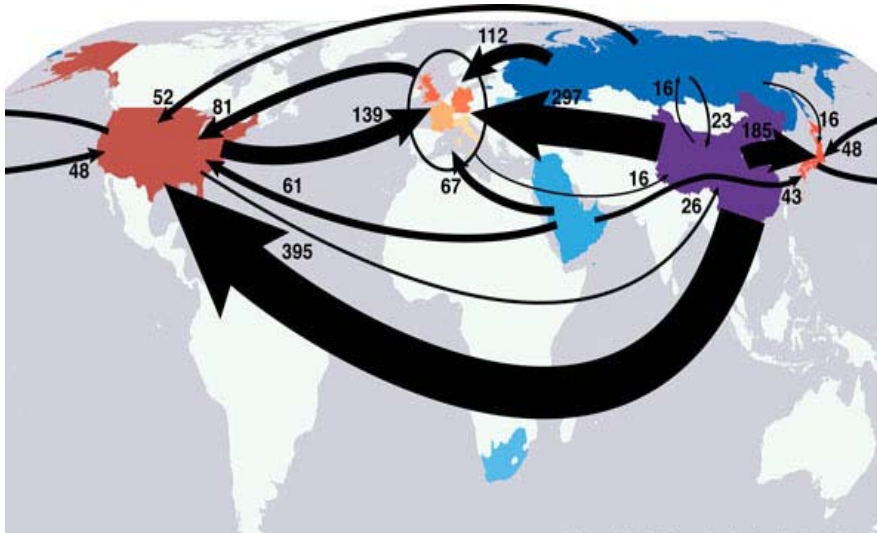
Source: World Bank Commodity Price Data (Pink Sheet), historical price data, available from <http://blogs.worldbank.org/prospects/global-commodity-watch-march-2011>



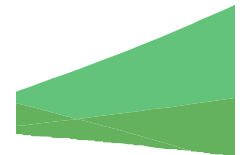
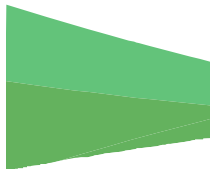
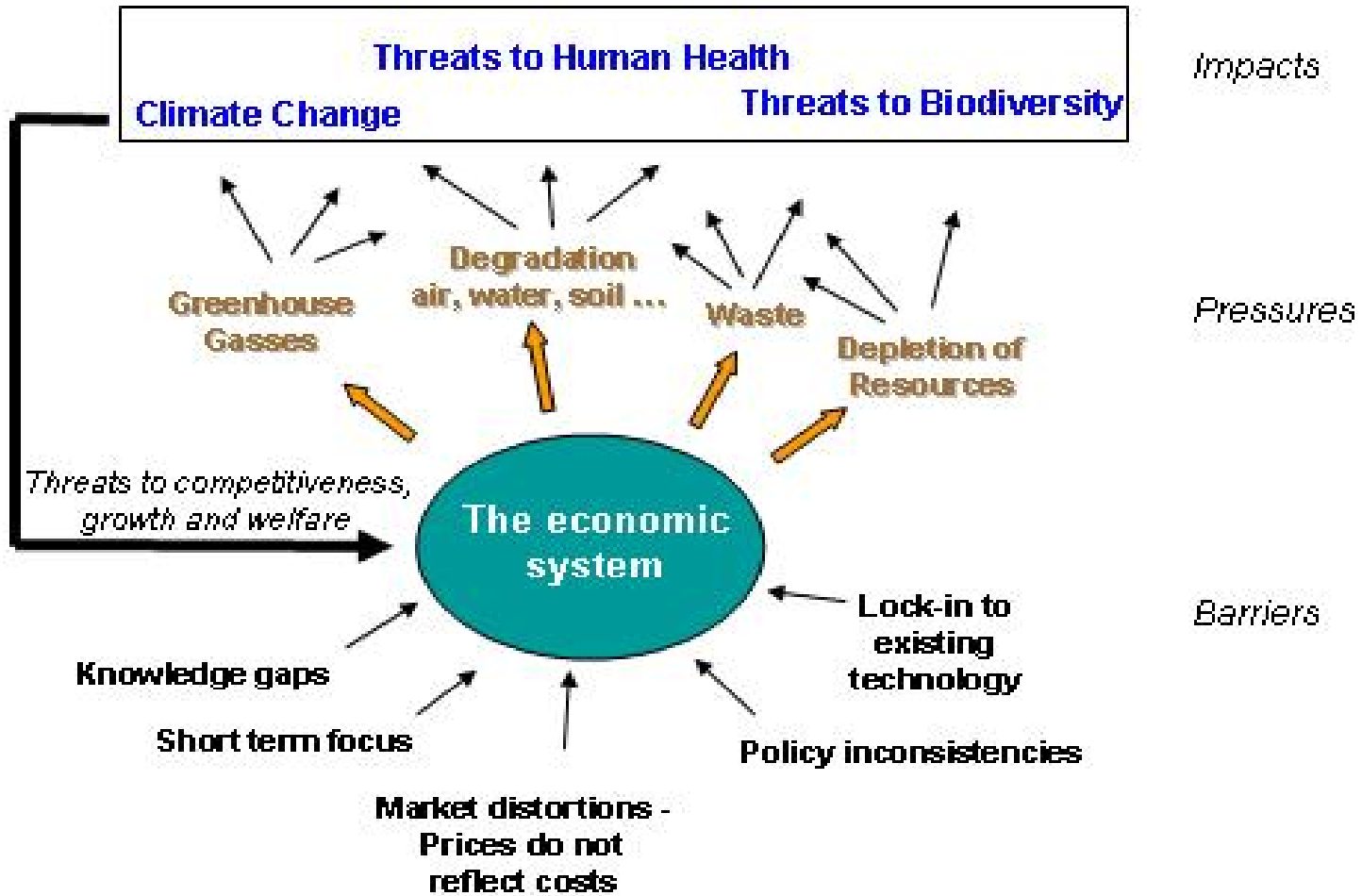
Resource efficiency as economic opportunity



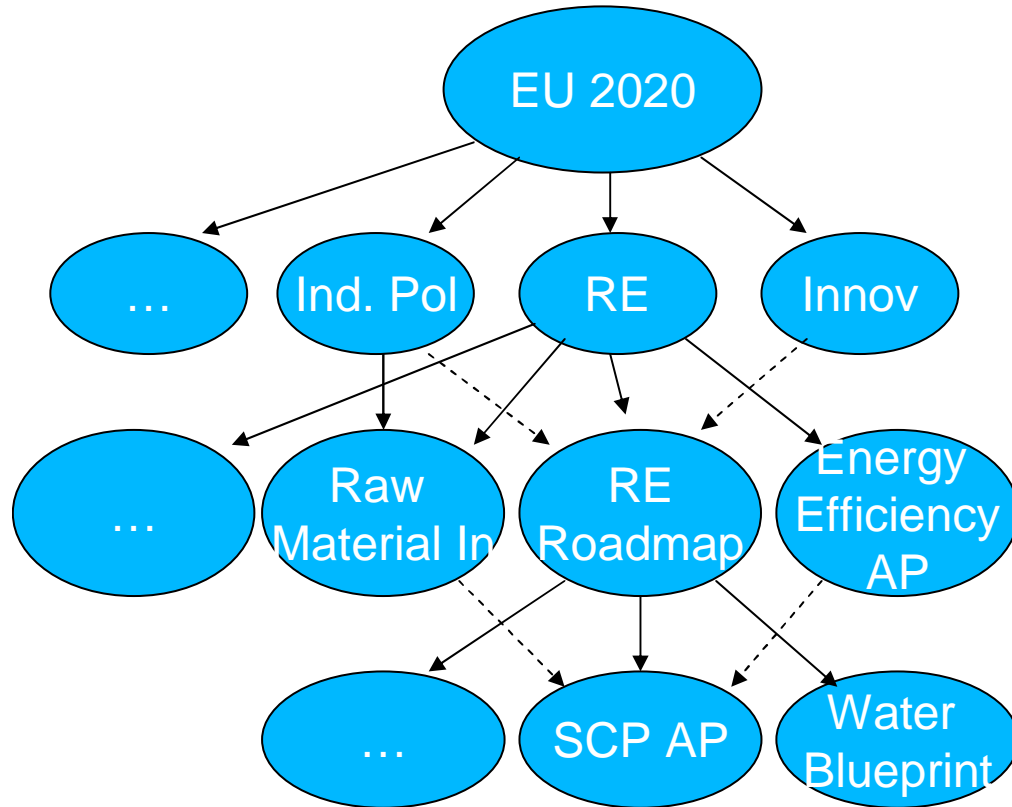
International aspects of resource use



The policy problem



Resource Efficiency: Policy architecture



Objectives:

- decouple economic growth from resource use;
- create new opportunities for economic growth
- ensure security of supply of essential resources
- limit the environmental impacts of resource use

Resource Efficiency Roadmap

Outline the key challenges and opportunities

Propose a positive long term vision and objectives

Propose priority areas for action

HORIZONTAL MEASURES: such as use of market based instruments, research and innovation, stimulating better products and change of consumption patterns, boosting efficient production, investment in infrastructure, spatial planning, international aspects

RESOURCE/SECTOR SPECIFIC MEASURES: such as metals & minerals, water, land/soil, marine resources, ecosystem services; food, construction/buildings, mobility

Define required accompanying measures

Modelling, set indicators and targets

Governance, monitor progress

Mitigation of social and economic costs of the transition

Actions: Mobility

Milestone: *By 2020 overall efficiency in the transport sector will deliver greater value with optimal use of resources like raw materials, energy, and land, and reduced impacts on climate change, air pollution, noise, health, accidents, biodiversity and ecosystem degradation. Transport will use less and cleaner energy, better exploit a modern infrastructure and reduce its negative impact on the environment and key natural assets like water, land and ecosystems. There will be a 1% yearly reduction, beginning in 2012, in transport GHG emissions.*

Reference to:

- White Paper on the future of transport
- Revision of TEN-T
- Strategic Transport Technology Plan

Interlinks between resources:

- Avoid land fragmentation, soil sealing and environmental pollution from transport infrastructure

Actions: Products and Consumption

- Strengthen the requirements on Green Public Procurement (GPP);
- Provide guidance to Member States and the private sector on a methodology to assess the environmental performance of products and services based on a comprehensive assessment of their environmental impacts over their life-cycle ('environmental footprint');
- Address the environmental footprint of products, including through setting requirements under the Ecodesign directive to boost the material resource efficiency of products (e.g. reusability/recoverability/recyclability, recycled content, durability), and, following an assessment in consultation with stakeholders, through expanding the scope of the Ecodesign directive to non-energy related products;
- Options to increase market rewards for genuinely environmentally friendly products;
- Measures to extend producer responsibility to the full life-cycle of the products they make (including via new business models, through guidance on take-back and recycling schemes and support for repair services);

Actions: Production

- **Establish a common methodological approach to enable companies to measure, manage and compare their environmental footprints, based on a life-cycle approach, by 2012;**
- **Put in place incentives that stimulate a large majority of companies to measure, benchmark and improve their resource efficiency systematically;**
- **Help companies work together to make the best use of the waste and by-products they produce (e.g. by exploiting industrial symbiosis);**
- **Ensure that advice and support is available to help SMEs identify and improve their resource efficiency and sustainable use of raw materials;**
- **Develop new innovative technologies and solutions for sustainable raw materials supply, through the candidate Innovation Partnership Raw Materials for a Modern Society.**

Question to the IRF

How can the Road Sector contribute to resource efficiency?

We would like to hear your opinion.
Please send your ideas and comments to:
pavel.misiga@ec.europa.eu

