Resource Efficiency as a win-win for business and society

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Resource use:
• Doubled in last 30 years
• Adverse impacts on the environment

Drivers:
• Population growth
• Growth in prosperity

2050:?
• 9.2 billion people
• Resource Use: ???

Why resource efficiency?

Challenges:
- Costs: rising and highly volatile prices
- Access: scarcities, trade barriers, social concerns
- Environment: emissions, waste, land use, biodiversity loss

Benefits of a more efficient use of raw materials:
- Lower costs
- Decrease dependency on imports
- Decrease vulnerability to rising and volatile prices
- Result in higher competitiveness and secure jobs
- Decrease adverse effects on the environment
- Secure our natural capital for future generations

Germany: Strong economic drivers for RE

Export-oriented economy with strong industrial base

Germany depends on imports of raw materials
- rich in minerals, but 66.8 % of metals imported

Materials account for 45 % of costs in German manufacturing sector
- (labour costs: 19%; energy less than 3%)

Prices: highly volatile; rising costs of high-tech metals

Resource efficiency is a business strategy
German Resource Efficiency Programme (ProgRess)

National Target:
Double Raw Materials Productivity by 2020 against 1994

Goals:
✓ Decouple economic growth from resource use
✓ Reduce environmental impacts of resource use
✓ Improve competitiveness of German industry

Concept:
• Measures along the whole value chain
• Broad stakeholder involvement
• Programme to be reviewed every 4 years

→ Work on ProgRess II already in progress

Sustainable Raw Materials Supply
- Raw Materials Strategy
- Sustainable Use of Renewable Materials

Resource Efficient Production
- Information and Support for SMEs
- Efficient Production Processes
- Environment Audits
- Product Design
- Standardisation

Resource Efficient Consumption
- Awareness Raising
- Sustainable Consumer Decisions
- Certification Schemes
- Public Procurement

Closed Cycle Management
- Product Responsibility
- Optimizing Recycling
- Prevention of Illegal Exports

Overarching Instruments
- Support for Faster Market Uptake
- Research
- Legal Framework
- Technology & Knowledge Transfer
- EU / International
Example: resource efficiency in SMEs

Why support resource efficiency in SME?
• 23 mio. SMEs in Europe - backbone of European economy
• SME-specific market failures: information deficits, low awareness, difficult access to finance for resource efficiency improvements
• Average cost savings of 200,000 Euros p.a. per SME through low-cost or no-cost investments in resource efficiency

Policy Measures:
• State-sponsored consultancy services for SMEs on resource efficiency
• Establishment of Resource Efficiency Competence Center (VDI ZRE with German Association of Engineers)
• Large-scale information campaign targeted at SME decision-makers
• Preferential loans for investment in RE (with KfW banking group)
• Eco-Innovation Programme: support for innovation in material efficiency
International efforts: SDGs

8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead.

9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.

12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

International efforts: G7 process

German G7 Presidency 2015 put resource efficiency on G7 Agenda

Decisions of G7 summit:

- Commitment to ambitious action to protect natural resources and use them efficiently
- G7 Alliance on Resource Efficiency: Forum to exchange best practices in G7 and with stakeholders
- Request to International Resource Panel (IRP) for synthesis report on potentials and promising solutions for all countries
- Request to OECD for policy guidance

Japanese Presidency 2016 continues work stream
International Resource Panel (IRP)

- Body of ~ 35 eminent scientists
- Established in 2007, hosted by UNEP
- Provides independent and authoritative scientific assessment on the sustainable use of natural resources and the environmental impacts of resource use over the full life cycle.
- Balanced representation of industrialized and developing countries
- Steering Committee of Government representatives and international institutions co-chaired by EC and UNEP
- More information: www.unep.org/resourcepanel

Support by OSCE for resource efficiency?

- Continue to engage in regional and cross-border environmental co-operation
  - generates momentum for peace in areas of political tension
- Extend scope to enhancing resource efficiency:
  - awareness-raising and information campaigns
  - exchange on political strategies and business best practice
  - coordinate and disseminate information material - adapted to respective regional requirements (language, economic, cultural and geographic circumstances)
Lessons learnt in Germany

- Resource Efficiency is a process
- Needs commitment and initiative by many actors: policy-makers, business, science, civil society, regions
- Close involvement of all stakeholders
- Provide long-term orientation for business
- “can do”: Exchange and co-operation on best practices
- Soft measures: awareness-raising, information, education
- Helpful: strong political underpinning in national sustainability strategy and national target

Thank you for your attention!

Questions?
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