

Consultation on a Roadmap for a resource-efficient Europe

Meta Informations

Creation date

07-04-2011

Last update date

User name

null

Case Number

599554658531109711

Invitation Ref.

Status

N

Language

en

IDENTIFICATION

Are you answering as an individual or on behalf of an organisation or institution?

I am answering on behalf of an organisation or institution (business, NGO, public authority, ...)

Please select the option which best describes your organisation

non-governmental organisation / association of NGOs

Please enter the name of your organisation

Quaker Council for European Affairs 3960234639-24

Please enter your e-mail address

rtansey@qcea.org

Please select your country from the list below

Belgium

Unless you specify otherwise, your contribution will be published on the

You can publish this contribution under the name given

Commission's website together with your identity. Please indicate here if you wish your contribution to be anonymous.

QUESTIONNAIRE

What are your predictions about the impact in Europe of resource scarcities?

We will consume natural resources at an unsustainable rate and sustainability limits of natural resources will be exceeded	In the short term (by 2020)
Access to resources will become difficult (e.g. because of tensions between countries)	In the short term (by 2020)
Europe will face physical shortages of resources like water and minerals	In the longer term
The prices of some materials/resources will rise considerably	In the short term (by 2020)

Resource efficiency has the potential to:

Help the EU's economy cope with sudden price rises and shortages on world markets	In the short term (by 2020)
Make the EU's environment more resilient	In the longer term
Create new jobs and growth in the European economy (e.g. new technologies and services)	In the short term (by 2020)

How would you rate the current use of the following resources in Europe in terms of efficiency?

Metals and minerals (e.g. iron, copper, lithium)	No opinion
Food (e.g. agriculture products, meat, drinks)	Not efficient
Fossil fuels (e.g. oil, gas, coal)	Not efficient
Water	Not efficient
Biotic materials (e.g. wood, biofuels)	Not efficient
Construction materials	No opinion

Energy	Not efficient
Ecosystem services (e.g. pollution sink, water regulation, pollination)	Not efficient
Chemicals	No opinion

How much potential do the following policies have to help make the European economy more resource efficient?

Agriculture and rural development	Some potential
Climate change policy	Some potential
Consumers and health policy	No opinion
Employment policy	No opinion
Energy policy	Some potential
Environmental policy	Some potential
Industrial policy	Some potential
Maritime and fisheries policy	Some potential
Regional policy	Some potential
Research and innovation policy	Some potential
Trade policy	No opinion
Transport policy	No opinion

How significant are the following obstacles in preventing the economy from becoming more resource efficient?

Inadequate market signals for resource efficiency (i.e. prices do not reflect impact on resources)	Significant mainly at EU level
Consumers purchasing decisions not reflecting long term sustainability	Significant mainly at national level
Lack of information (on alternative options)	No opinion
Lack of long-term thinking in decision making (e.g. awareness of new technologies, working methods and processes among managerial staff)	Significant mainly at EU level
Insufficient public funding/incentives for investment and innovation promoting resource	Significant mainly at national level

efficiency	
Limits in existing infrastructure (e.g. energy, transport and communication)	Significant mainly at EU level
Dependence on existing technologies	Significant mainly at global level
Current business models	Significant mainly at global level
Skills gaps in the workforce and sub-optimal functioning of the labour market	Significant mainly at EU level
Unhelpful existing regulation	Significant mainly at EU level
Lack of targets/indicators	Significant mainly at EU level
Lack of prioritisation	Significant mainly at EU level
Insufficient R&D funding and investment	Significant mainly at EU level

POLICY TOOLS

Lack of long term thinking in private innovation and investment in efficiency

How potentially effective are the following ways to promote long-term thinking and planning in the private sector?

Education & training of consumers, entrepreneurs and workers to raise awareness of resource-saving opportunities	Effective mainly at national level
Binding regulations and standards (e.g. fuel efficiency standards, eco-design requirements, compulsory resource accounting and reporting)	Effective mainly at EU level
Mandatory long-term targets	Effective mainly at EU level
Market-based instruments (e.g. energy and resource taxes and incentives) to induce resource-saving measures	Effective mainly at EU level
Financial support to trigger long-term investments in the private sector	Not effective
Public-private partnerships in R&D and innovation	No opinion
Support to R&D into new technologies and organisational structures	Effective mainly at EU level
Information tools to strengthen the market for sustainable products (e.g. product labels indicating resource footprint)	Effective mainly at EU level
Eco-friendly procurement contracts by public	Effective mainly at national level

authorities (to strengthen the market for resource-efficient products)	
Incentives to consume less, re-use, recycle	Effective mainly at national level
Trade policy measures (e.g. introduction of sustainability criteria for imported products)	Effective mainly at global level
Phase out of environmentally harmful subsidies	Effective mainly at EU level
Access to credit for efficient use of energy, water and waste management and other sustainable products and services for households	Effective mainly at national level

Insufficient public funding/incentives for investment and innovation for resource efficiency

How potentially effective are the following as ways of boosting investment in innovation for resource efficiency?

Tax incentives for sustainable companies	Not effective
Education & training of consumers, entrepreneurs and workers on how to use innovation to their advantage	Effective mainly at national level
Binding technical regulations and standards (e.g. public buildings energy and water standards to boost investment in the construction sector)	Effective mainly at EU level
Financial support to increase energy efficiency of buildings and invest in renewable energy	Effective mainly at national level
Information tools (e.g. resource footprint information on cars for consumers)	Effective mainly at EU level
Eco-friendly public procurement to develop the market for more sustainable products and services	Effective mainly at national level
Public-private R&D and innovation partnerships	No opinion
Increased funding for resource-efficient infrastructure through EU's structural and cohesion funds	Effective mainly at EU level
Other market based instruments	No opinion

Limits of existing infrastructure

How potentially effective are the following as ways to ensure private investment in a resource-efficient infrastructure (e.g. energy, transport and communication)?

Cap and trade-type quotas combined with economic incentives	Not effective
Market-based instruments (e.g. higher taxes on energy, roads and congestion instead of income tax)	No opinion
Subsidies	Not effective
Development of demand-side management strategies in parallel with any major infrastructure projects	Effective mainly at EU level
Binding technical regulations and standards (e.g. uniform standards and targets for energy and resources to influence infrastructure-related emissions)	Effective mainly at EU level
Information tools (e.g. standardised methodologies on life-cycle analysis for use by suppliers to increase transparency and allow market comparison)	Effective mainly at EU level
Eco-friendly public procurement (e.g. public infrastructure tenders to impose compliance with sustainability and ecological requirements/indicators)	Effective mainly at national level
Public-private partnerships	Not effective
Increased funding for resource-efficient infrastructure (e.g. through EU's structural and cohesion funds)	Effective mainly at EU level

Current consumption patterns

How potentially effective are the following as ways of steering consumers towards more sustainable alternatives?

Education & training of consumers, entrepreneurs and workers for sustainable consumption and waste generation	Very effective
Better research & design of consumers choices	No opinion
Binding minimum technical product	Very effective

regulations and standards to remove the least sustainable products from the market	
Market-based instruments (e.g. energy and resource taxes reflected in product prices) to make sustainable products more price-competitive	Very effective
Information tools (e.g. labelling of products on their resource foot-print)	More or less effective
Corporate social responsibility (CSR)	More or less effective
Eco-friendly public procurement to develop the market for sustainable consumer products and services	More or less effective
Trade measures (e.g. introduction of sustainability criteria for imported products) to develop the market for sustainable consumer goods	More or less effective
Stricter requirements for waste disposal and recycling for consumers	Very effective

Current business models

For each of the following factors, say how significant it is as a **barrier to adopting new business models/ organisational innovations by private companies that could contribute to more resource efficiency?**

Excessive perceived risk	Very significant
Lack of funds-financing (e.g. in R&D)	More or less significant
Long payback period for investments compared to short term investors expectations	Very significant
Limited access to information and knowledge (e.g. among managerial staff)	More or less significant
Lack of suitable business partners	More or less significant
Uncertain market demand	Very significant
Market dominated by established firms	Very significant
Regulations not providing the right incentives	Very significant
Lack of qualified personnel	More or less significant
Lack of adequate infrastructure	More or less significant
Lack of technological and management capabilities	More or less significant

How potentially effective are the following as ways of **shifting business**

behaviour to resource efficient business models?

Market-based instruments (e.g. energy and resource taxes/incentives in support of resource efficient business models)	More or less effective
Cap and trade-type quotas	Not effective
Education & training of employees, entrepreneurs and workers about progressive businesses case studies and how to replicate them in their environment	Very effective
Binding technical regulations and standards (e.g. fuel-efficiency standards or eco-design requirements and compulsory resource accounting and reporting)	Very effective
Easy access to investment/R&D and innovation funding	More or less effective
Information tools (e.g. products information on resource foot-print to encourage businesses to create more sustainable supply chains and business models)	More or less effective
Requirement for public procurement to comply with sustainability and ecological standards	More or less effective
Trade measures (e.g. introduction of sustainability criteria for imported products to push businesses to create more sustainable supply chains and business models)	More or less effective
Voluntary sectoral agreement (with commitments and targets, possibly to become mandatory after agreement with all parties)	Not effective

Inadequate market signals for resource efficiency**How potentially effective are the following as ways of steering the market towards resource efficiency?**

Financial support mechanisms to correct price distortions in the market	Not effective
Influence markets through pricing environment and resource use (e.g. energy and resource taxes instead of income taxes)	Effective mainly at national level
Independent and trustworthy advice (by public authorities) to consumers and SMEs on energy efficiency applications (in their homes/business)	Effective mainly at national level
Information tools (e.g. products information	Effective mainly at EU level

on resource foot-print to help consumers)	
Eco-friendly public procurement to influence markets and consumer perception	Effective mainly at national level
Trade measures (e.g. introduction of sustainability criteria for imported products to send the right signal to national and international markets)	Effective mainly at EU level
Binding regulations and standards (e.g. compulsory resource accounting and reporting, fuel-efficiency standards, eco-design requirements)	Effective mainly at EU level
Private sector financial stimuli (e.g. long-term soft-loan for energy efficient projects)	No opinion

<p>Monitoring and measuring progress on resource efficiency</p> <p>How should the European Commission approach the issue of indicators so that improvements in resource efficiency across different parts of the EU economy can be effectively monitored and measured?</p>	<p>Establish a limited selection of particularly important high-level indicators in order to improve public visibility and focus attention for policy development</p>
--	---

INDIVIDUAL ATTITUDES

What do you see as the main criteria steering individual behaviour and decisions to improve resource efficiency?

Compliance with social, religious or ethical norms (e.g. waste disposal)	Very relevant
Perceived usefulness/benefit to society of the individual's effort	Very relevant
Tendency for short-term thinking	Very relevant
Perceived cost (e.g. up-front investment, more expensive products) and effort (e.g. red tape, complex authorisation systems)	Very relevant
Perceived long-term savings	More or less relevant
Perceived trade-offs in terms of comfort	More or less relevant
Consumer information	More or less relevant
Financial incentives	More or less relevant

Should the resource efficiency footprint of products (resources used in their production, consumption) be indicated on the product' labels?	Strongly agree
---	----------------

In order to reduce the impact of resource consumption outside of the EU, should the EU trade only products that respect sustainability criteria and labelling (e.g. the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) label certifying that wood is sourced from well managed forests)?	Agree
--	-------

Would you be willing to pay comparatively more for sustainably produced/imported products (e.g. certified timber, certified sustainable biofuels, etc...)?	Strongly agree
--	----------------

Would you be willing to change your diet to reduce the environmental impact of the food-production chain (e.g. favouring seasonal fruit and vegetables)?	Strongly agree
--	----------------

Would you consider leasing or buying a service for the following as an alternative to buying goods if the option was available?

Transport (e.g. car leasing or buying mileage instead of buying a vehicle)	Yes
--	-----

Personal electronic appliances (e.g. mobile phone, computing)	Yes
---	-----

Household electrical/electronic appliances (e.g. home entertainment, laundry)	Yes
---	-----

What factors would influence you in deciding whether to opt for a service or sharing/leasing scheme (e.g. car sharing) instead of buying a product for your personal use?

Ease and flexibility of contractual arrangement	Very relevant
---	---------------

Practicality/availability/reliability of service	Very relevant
--	---------------

Attractiveness of service	More or less relevant
---------------------------	-----------------------

Lower environmental impact	Very relevant
Social image	More or less relevant
Price/value for money	More or less relevant

<p>Would you agree to higher taxes on goods with higher environmental impacts (e.g. energy from fossil fuels, imported goods involving high resource use, etc.) if this was offset by lower taxes on goods with a lower environmental impacts (sustainable products or services) so that there was no increase in your taxes overall? This would increase the price of less sustainable products and services and reduce the price of more sustainable ones.</p>	Strongly agree
---	----------------

How potentially effective do you consider the following private initiatives to contribute to resource efficiency?

Change of diet and consumption patterns (e.g. not throwing away food, reducing the number of electronic devices owned)	Very effective
Using alternative means of transport to minimise private car use and air travel	Very effective
Investing in higher-efficiency installations (e.g. insulation, double-glazing, heating/cooling through air/ground source pumps, energy star rated boilers, thermostats and aquastats)	Very effective
Reducing waste by composting and recycling	Very effective
Investing in smart meters to control consumption and cost (water, electricity)	More or less effective
Investing in small-scale renewable technologies (e.g. solar thermal to heat water, solar photovoltaic and small-scale wind turbines to generate your own electricity and sell the excess back to the grid)	Very effective

Thank you for answering this questionnaire!

If your organisation has developed specific inputs on resource efficiency that you consider useful sharing with the Commission you can send it to Env-Resource-efficiency-Survey@ec.europa.eu. Please note the specific private

statement at the beginning of the questionnaire about the treatment of your submission.

If you have further comments and suggestions please write them in the box below (optional) (maximum 1000 characters)

Europe consumes more than its fair share of the Earth's resources, in terms of today's global poor and future generations. Europe has a moral responsibility to reduce this - not just by greater resource efficiency, but by actively reducing consumer demand. Business-as-usual is not an option for the environment or the economy. Resource and energy efficiency puts us in a better position vis-à-vis difficult supply issues, volatile prices and environmental degradation inc. climate change. It is crucial to restore the link between resource inefficiency and price - the more a product/service consumes/wastes/pollutes the more it should cost. Sec.1, Q 4 ignores the distinction between the potential of policies as they are (inadequate, lack of binding efficiency targets) and as they could be (if they were more ambitious/comprehensive/complementary). Sec.1, Q 5.3 - It is not the lack of information on alternative options, but the array of sources/misinformation/propaganda that is the issue here.