

# Integrating Sustainable Development in OECD Country Reviews

## **Economic and Development Review Committee (EDRC)**

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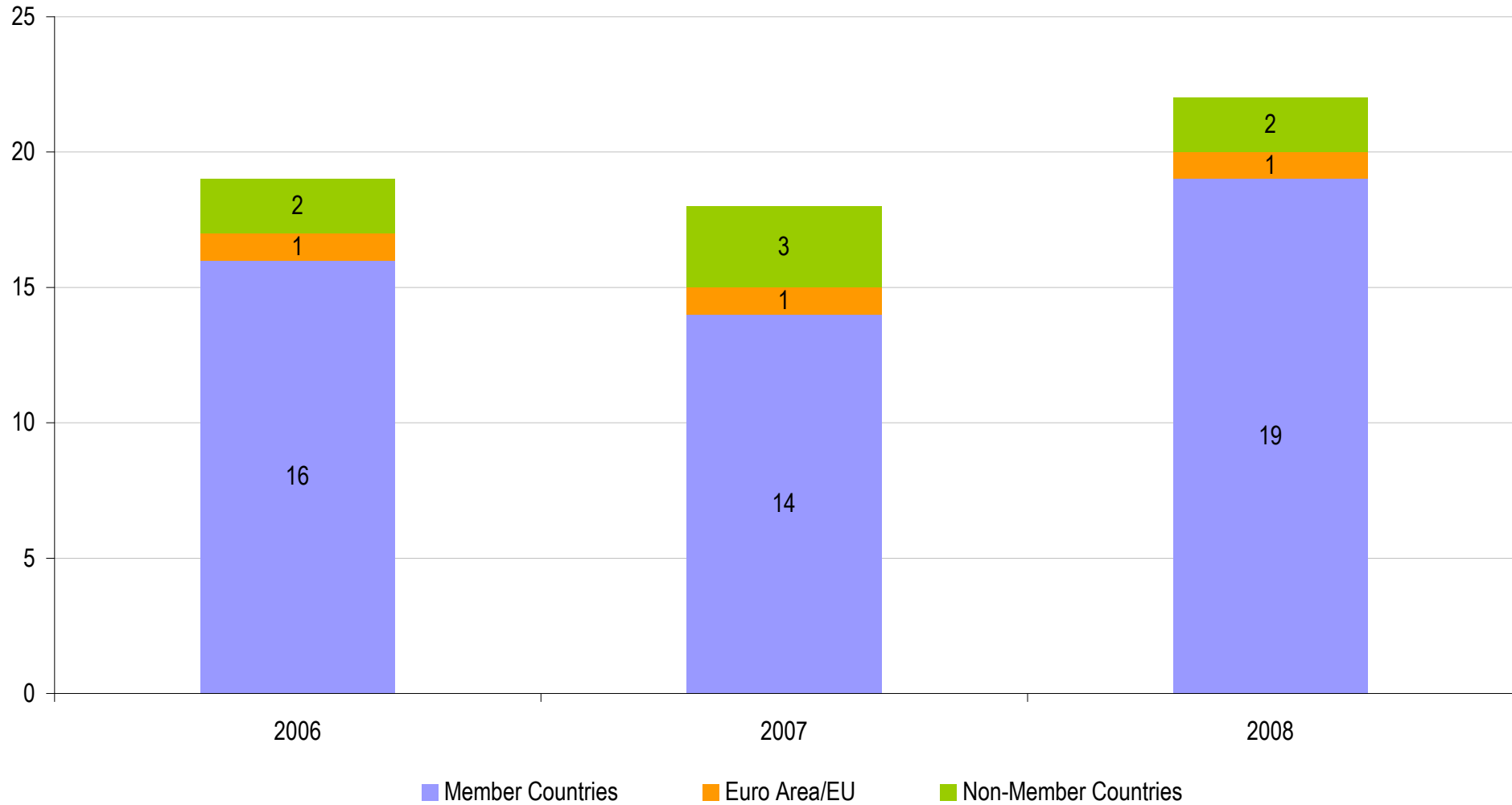
# Plan

- EDRC – some information and statistics on our work
- Sustainable Development in the EDRC
- Some ideas for improvement

## **EDRC Mandate**

*The Council decided, mindful of the vision ‘to achieve the highest sustainable economic growth and employment and a rising standard of living in Member countries’ and ‘to contribute to sound economic expansion in Member as well as non-member countries’, that the Economic and Development Review Committee (EDRC) will examine on a regular basis and make comments and country-specific recommendations on the macroeconomic and structural policies of the Member countries and selected non-Member economies and on the interaction of these policies in raising economic performance.*

## Number of EDRC Reviews



# Frequency of Surveys

- For Member Countries and for the Euro Area/European Union: Survey Intervals of 21-22 Months
- Economic Reviews of Non-Members: every 24-30 Months
- Number of Surveys will rise from 22 in 2008 to approx. 23-24 in 2009

# Format of Surveys (130 – 150 Pages)

- Executive Summary
- Assessments and Recommendations
- Introduction Chapter: Macroeconomic short– and longer-term Perspectives/Key Challenges
- Longer-term Fiscal Issues
- (Two) Chapters on Structural Policy Issues
  - ‘In-depth’ Chapter
  - Other structural Chapter to improve Economic Performance

# EDRC Topics

- Main Focus: Economic Efficiency and Effectiveness of Economic Policy
  - Fiscal Policy
    - sustainability of public finances
    - structure of tax systems
  - Monetary Policy
  - Policies to increase Economic Potential
  - Regulatory Efficiency
    - Labour Markets
    - Product Markets
    - Financial Markets

# EDRC Topics – SD related (1)

- Social Sustainability
  - Education
    - Early Childhood education (languages)
    - Human capital formation
  - Social Security Systems
    - Pension systems
    - Health systems
  - Labour Market
    - Integration of groups at the margin (immigrants, older workers, women etc.)
    - Poverty reduction (in work benefits)
  - Housing Policy



# EDRC Topics – SD related (2)

- Environment
  - Special chapters
    - Water management (AUS)
    - Long Term Sustainability of the Energy Sector (CAN)
  - Other environment related topics
    - Climate change (CO<sub>2</sub> Emission Trading Scheme, pricing, Kyoto targets)
    - Environmental performance in Agriculture (Water, Soil, Biofuels)
    - Pollution
    - Energy taxation

# Some ideas to improve...

## How to bring SD issues to the forefront...

- Implement AMSDE proposals
  - Assess country performance in a more integrated fashion
  - Develop SD measurement and assessment methodologies
  - Use the multi-disciplinary approach of the OECD
- Enrich Committees' Mandates with explicit SD references
- EDRC specific
  - Choice of „In depth chapter“
  - Provide Country Desks with SD tools (standards, existing country specific analysis, assessment tools)

# Conclusions

- EDRC is interested and willing to take SD concerns more and better into account
- Mandates of Committees could take into account SD objectives
- Most of the Work falls on the Secretariat
  - Choice of the in depth chapter (together with MS)
  - Development of SD tools
  - Interaction between Directorates