

ANNUAL MEETING OF OECD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT EXPERTS (AMSDE)

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Discussion Panel: Sustainable Development in OECD Country Reviews



OECD Environmental Performance Reviews & Sustainable Development

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OECD EPR PROGRAMME AND SD

A solid influential experience

- All OECD Countries reviewed
(1st Cycle and 2nd Cycle completed)
- Non-OECD Countries
(e.g. Bulgaria, Russia, Chile, China)
- 62 OECD EPRs completed
- Key concepts: performance, peer review, accountability, recommendations, influence
- Generated companion programmes
(UN-ECE, UN-ECLAC, ADB)



OECD EPR PROGRAMME AND SD

A long-term twinned path

- SD has always played a significant role in the frame of EPRs
- Present in the 1st Cycle of the Reviews in the 1990's
- Central issue within all the 2nd Cycle developed since 2000

OECD EPR PROGRAMME AND SD

SD experts in EPRs reviewing teams

- Sustainable development experts in the OECD EPRs teams. e.g.:
- Johanne Gelinas (Federal Commissioner for Environment & SD in the Canadian Office of the Auditor General)
- Nadine Gouzée (Coordinator of the Belgian Task Force on SD – UN-CSD)

OECD EPR PROGRAMME AND SD

Links with SD Peer Reviews attempts

- Reflection on sustainable development in PRs
- Exchanges with:
 - AMSDE (Stockholm Conference, Aug.2006)
 - UN-CSD & UN-DESA
 - European Commission (test SD PRs)
 - World Bank (CEAs and SEAs)

Often absence of sufficient financial & human resources

→ no systematic SD Peer Reviews



SD IN THE EPR REPORT

SD institutional setting

- national strategy for Sustainable Development (content, indicators, ambition, monitoring)
- institutional and governance setting (e.g. Committee, Council; Law; Administrative support, State structure)
- local level, of parallel reinforcing initiatives, like Local Agenda 21, urban and regional plans for sustainable development



SD IN THE EPR REPORT:

SD in practice: institutional integration

- national and sectoral strategies
- plans
- programmes
- budget
- project design, selection and approval



SD IN THE EPR REPORT:

SD in practice: market-based integration

- price signal, polluter-pays-principle
- economic instruments (taxes and charges)
- environmentally-damaging and market-distorting subsidies (incentives, exemptions, tax deductions)



SD IN THE EPR REPORT: Sectoral Integration

- Permanent:
 - transport and environment
 - energy and environment
 - agriculture and environment
- Occasional:
 - building, forestry, mining, fisheries, ...

SD IN THE EPR REPORT

The social-environmental chapter

In the 2nd Cycle, a specific social-environmental chapter in all Country Reviews. Issues such as:

- green jobs (environment & employment)
- the role of green technologies, research and innovation
- health environmental impacts
- social poverty issues and environmental policies
- social, gender & ethnic minorities & environmental policies
- environmental democracy
- environmental education and awareness



CONCLUSIONS

OECD EPRs as an instrument serving SD

- ❑ EPRs: a solid stronghold for SD, in the OECD tradition of Peer Reviews
- ❑ SD can be improved in the Report, but we can build upon a solid base and roots
- ❑ EPRs: a service to the community of SD experts & governments' community