

European Union policy
with regard to
the extractive industry
and
the recultivation of land

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The 6th European Environmental Action Programme 2002-2012 – COM (2001)31

- includes the preparation of seven Thematic Strategies:
 - Clean air for Europe, **soil protection**, sustainable use of pesticides, air pollution, protect and conserve the marine environment, waste prevention and recycling, **sustainable use of natural resources (NAT RES)**, urban environment
- The framework of the NAT RES Strategy is set by COM(2003)572
- The strategies will define the framework for the development of new policies and regulations / changes of some of the existing ones

Soil Protection

- Objective: to stop soil degradation and to improve the soil quality across Europe
- Advisory forum and 5 working groups concluded their work
- EU drafting the new directive on soil monitoring for spring 2005
- Consequences for rehabilitation

Towards a Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

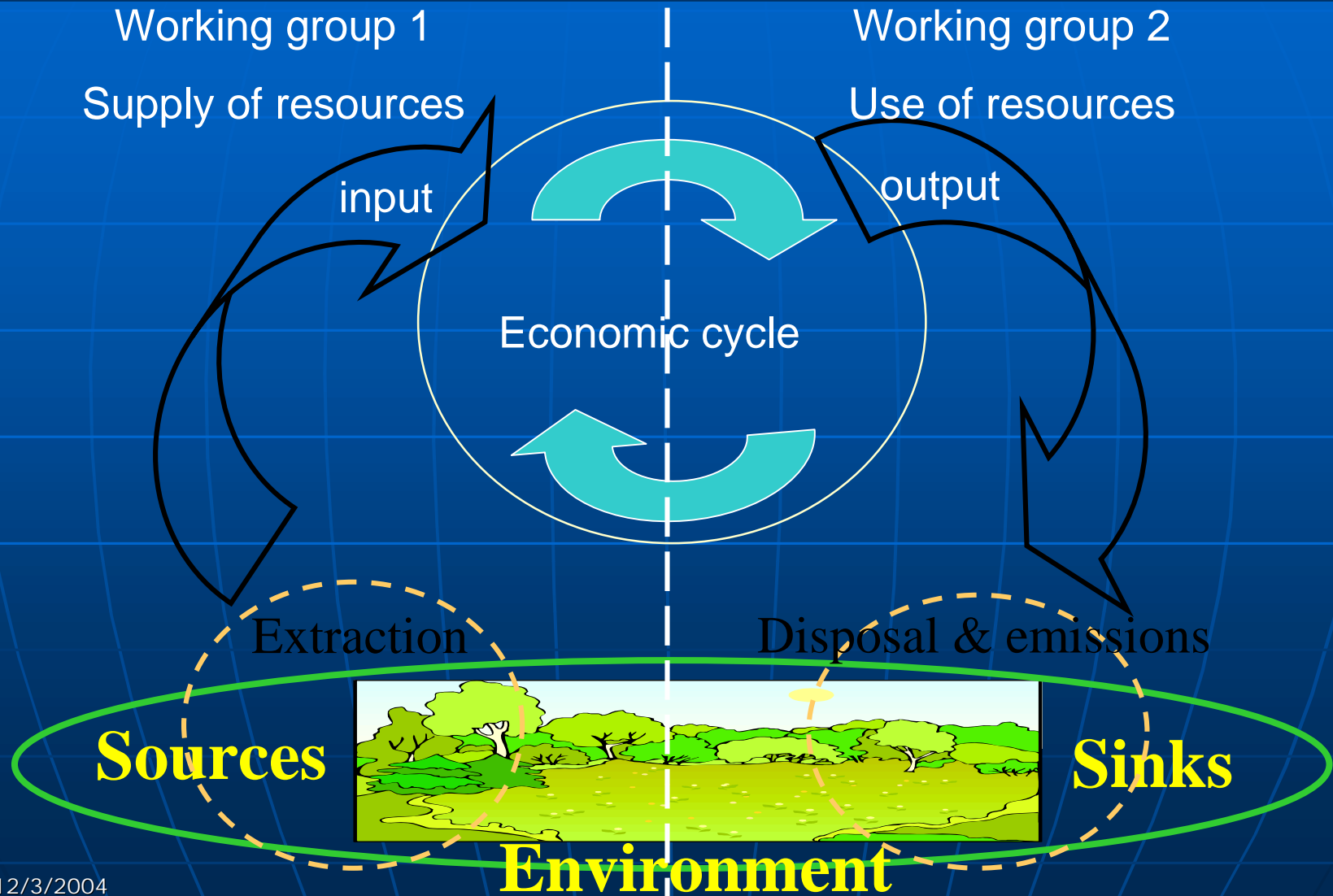
What needs to be achieved?

“... sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion.” (Lisbon, 2000)




“... decoupling environmental pressures and economic growth” and “restoring and developing the functioning of natural systems”. (6th EAP, 2002)

The time-scale for the strategy is 25 years!!

Towards a Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources



What are the N.R. resources concerned?

-  ■ **Raw materials (minerals and biomass)**
-  ■ **Environmental media (air - water - soil)**
 - **flow resources**
 - **space**
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Towards a Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

What is the strategy about?

Three strategic functions should be set up:

1. Knowledge gathering

Knowledge about resource use patterns and impacts is presently dispersed between many actors, and significant gaps exist. This function should ensure that knowledge is readily available to decision-makers and that gaps are being filled.

Towards a Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

Three strategic functions should be set up:

2. Policy assessment

The use of natural resources is influenced by numerous (environmental) policies. This function will assess whether policy choices in these different areas are compatible with the overall aim of decoupling economic growth from the impacts of resource use, and suggest alternatives wherever possible.

Towards a Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

Three strategic functions should be set up:

3. Policy integration

Concrete actions will need to be taken on the basis of the information generated by the previous functions. This will involve political judgements to rank the relative importance of different impacts and to prioritise environmental targets. This function will therefore work towards increasing the integration of resource-related environmental issues into other policies, in particular under the Cardiff Process.

Towards a Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

Where to find more information?

Resources Strategy

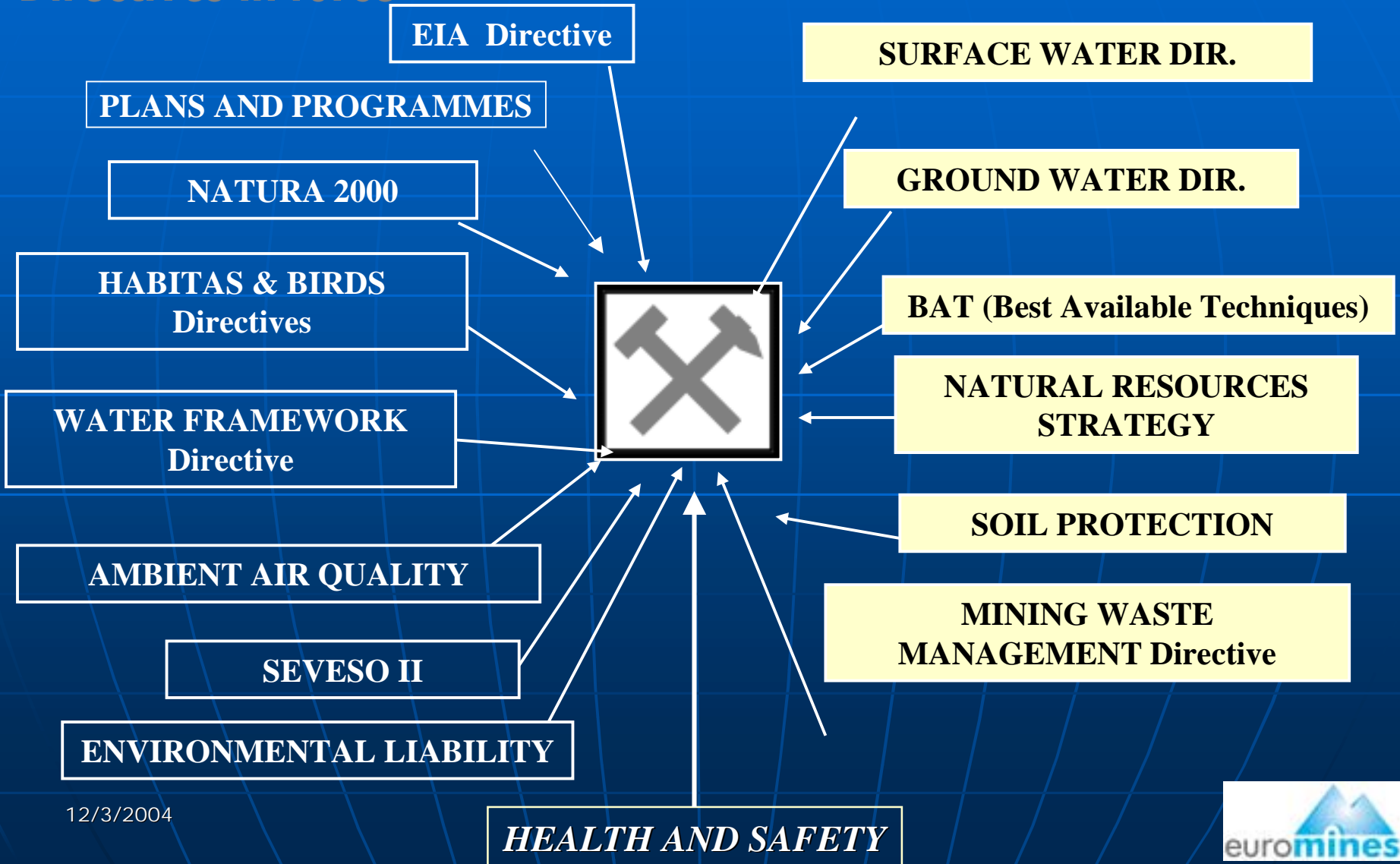
europa.eu.int/comm/environment/natres

EUROPEAN EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY DIRECTIVES

Directives in force

ENVIRONMENT

New Directives



Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EG)

- Coordinated management of river basins (Art. 3)
- Determination of environmental protection goals: stopping degradation, protection zones (Art. 4)
- Requirements for the analysis of the basins , human activities' impacts and economic analysis of water consumption (Art. 5)
- Register of protected areas (Art. 6)
- Description and protection of drinking water resources (Art. 7)

Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EG) - 2 -

- Monitoring requirements (Art. 8)
- Principle of full cost coverage for water supply (Art. 9)
- Programme of measures to be taken (Art. 11)
- River basin management plans (Art. 13)
- Requirements concerning information and public consultation (Art. 14)
- Groundwater directive (Art. 17)
- Plans for future joined actions (Art. 19)

Groundwater and Surface Water

- First draft of a ground water directive proposed by Commission
- In discussion in Environment Committee in European Parliament
- Commission tabled in the meantime Surface water and new proposal for Environmental Quality standards
- Objective: improve the water quality across Europe
- Expected new standards for rehabilitated land

Draft Directive on environmental quality standards and emission controls in the field of water policy and amending Directive 2000/60/EC and 96/61/EC

- This draft directive has the objective to prevent pollution of surface water.
- Article 2: Scope
- Article 5: Exceedance of maximum allowable concentrations
- Article 6: Background concentrations
- Article 8: timetable for cessation of emissions, discharges and losses of priority hazardous substances
- Article 9: Base line definition

Draft Directive on environmental quality standards and emission controls in the field of water policy – 2 -

- Article 10 and 11: Please note that the installations that come under the IPPC directive are concerned with Art. 10. Those not coming under the IPPC Directive are concerned with Art. 11.
- Article 20: Please notice the short implementation period of 12 months which is of course in connection with the adopted Water Framework directive adopted in 2000.
- Annex I: Commission proposal to be revised according to CSTEЕ opinion!
- Annex II: Methods to establish background concentrations.

Implementation of Natura 2000

- Identification of areas to be protected
- Operating mines:
 - More and more local and regional authorities have problems with issuing extractive permits due to the Natura 2000 regulation
 - Euromines documentation in preparation on implementation issues
 - Conference planned for 2005 in the Czech Republic
 - For future rehabilitation the potential impacts need to be considered
- Old extractive sites might be impacting on such sites
- However, many old quarries are today providing new habitats and have been declared as protected sites as well
- Nominations in all Eastern European countries under way