



5 June 2012

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## MEETING BETWEEN MEP MATTHIAS GROOTE AND BUSINESSEUROPE DIRECTOR GENERAL PHILIPPE DE BUCK, 6 JUNE 2012

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### KEY MESSAGES

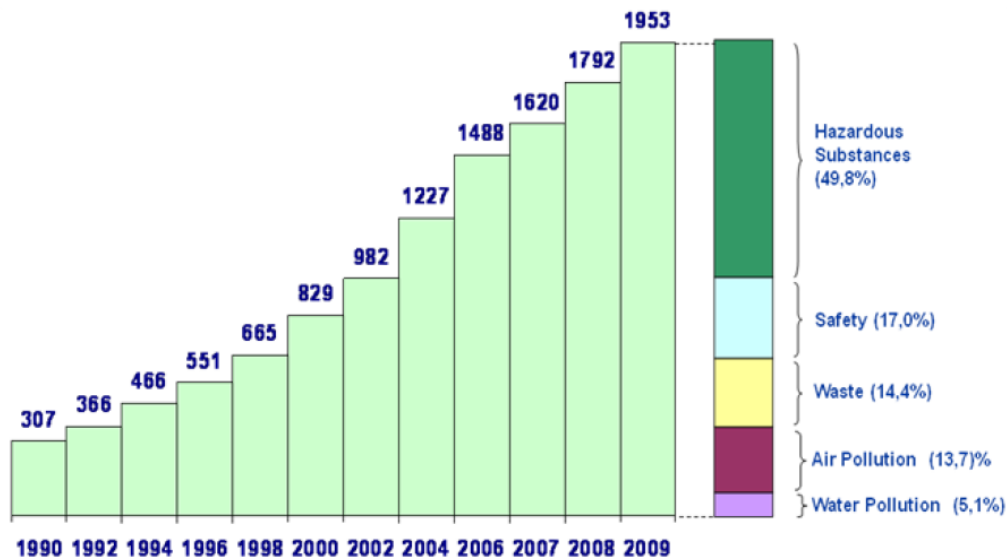
1. Focus should be put on proper implementation of existing EU environmental legislation.
2. Environmental goals should not be pursued at the expense of competitiveness. Among other things, this should entail a “competitiveness proofing” of all environmental policy initiatives to avoid unnecessary costs and burdens.
3. Industry needs a technology-friendly society and policy environment to be able to develop sustainable products and solutions.

### WHAT DOES BUSINESSEUROPE AIM FOR?

- By the end of 2012, the EC will present a proposal for the successor of the 6<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme (EAP), which will expire on July 2012. It should be a strategic document providing an overarching framework for environmental priorities up to 2020. The EC intends to structure the new programme around the following three pillars:
  - Improving implementation and enforcement of the acquis
  - Further integrating environmental policies into other policies and strengthening policy coherence
  - Filling policy gaps where justified by the latest scientific information and in line with the precautionary approach
- Business needs policy which offers certainty, consistency and simplicity. Policymakers need to take account of the policy landscape that is already in place:



**Chart: Number of environmental and safety laws\* adopted in the EU**



Source: Federchimica, 2010

(\*) Directives, Decisions and Regulations

- The assessment of the sixth EAP revealed inadequate implementation and enforcement of the EU's existing environment policies by member states. This should be the main focus, at least in the near future: to complete implementation.
- We must not set economic and environmental goals against each other. Environmental goals should not be pursued at the expense of competitiveness, any more than we should seek competitiveness at the expense of the environment. The challenge of integration is to achieve both. Among other things, this should entail a "competitiveness proofing" of every policy initiatives to avoid unnecessary costs and burdens.
- Industry needs a technology-friendly society and policy environment to be able to develop sustainable products and solutions. What we need is an open marketplace of ideas, one that's free to look in all directions for solutions. Be too prescriptive on product requirements can hold it back. Cutting-edge research and innovation in areas like bio- or nano-technologies must be supported and not prevented.
- To be ultimately effective, sustainability policies must focus on efficient resource use by consumers. Businesses are using different approaches to boosting green demand – such as raising consumer awareness, using government incentives to influence behaviour or providing greater information and choice for consumers. Support for industry driven activities is key to bring this forward.

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