



**Possible elements
of the
EU's Post-2012 climate policy**
Stakeholder meeting 22 November 2004

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22 November 2004**



Overview

- **Background to the stakeholder consultation**
- **Climate Change: the state of play**
- **Elements for the post-2012 regime**
- **Expectations for today's meeting**



Background to the stakeholder consultation



Background to the stakeholder consultation

- **European Spring Council 22-23 March 2005:**
“looks forward to considering medium and longer term emission reduction strategies, including targets” / Commission is invited “to prepare a report on benefits and costs taking account both of environmental and competitiveness considerations”
- **Commission report to be issued in January 2005**
- **Need for stable policy environment to allow a smooth transition**
- **Create a competitive advantage in a global low-carbon economy**
- **Entry into force of Kyoto Protocol :**
negotiations on post-2012 to start by end of 2005



Background to the stakeholder consultation

- **Commission held a web-based stakeholder consultation (closed on 31 October 2004)**
- **Over 160 submissions:**
 - **NGOs: 32**
 - **Public authorities: 17**
 - **Academia/think tanks: 21**
 - **Private individuals: 13**
 - **Industry: 74**

"Action on climate change post-2102"
(http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/climat/future_action.htm)

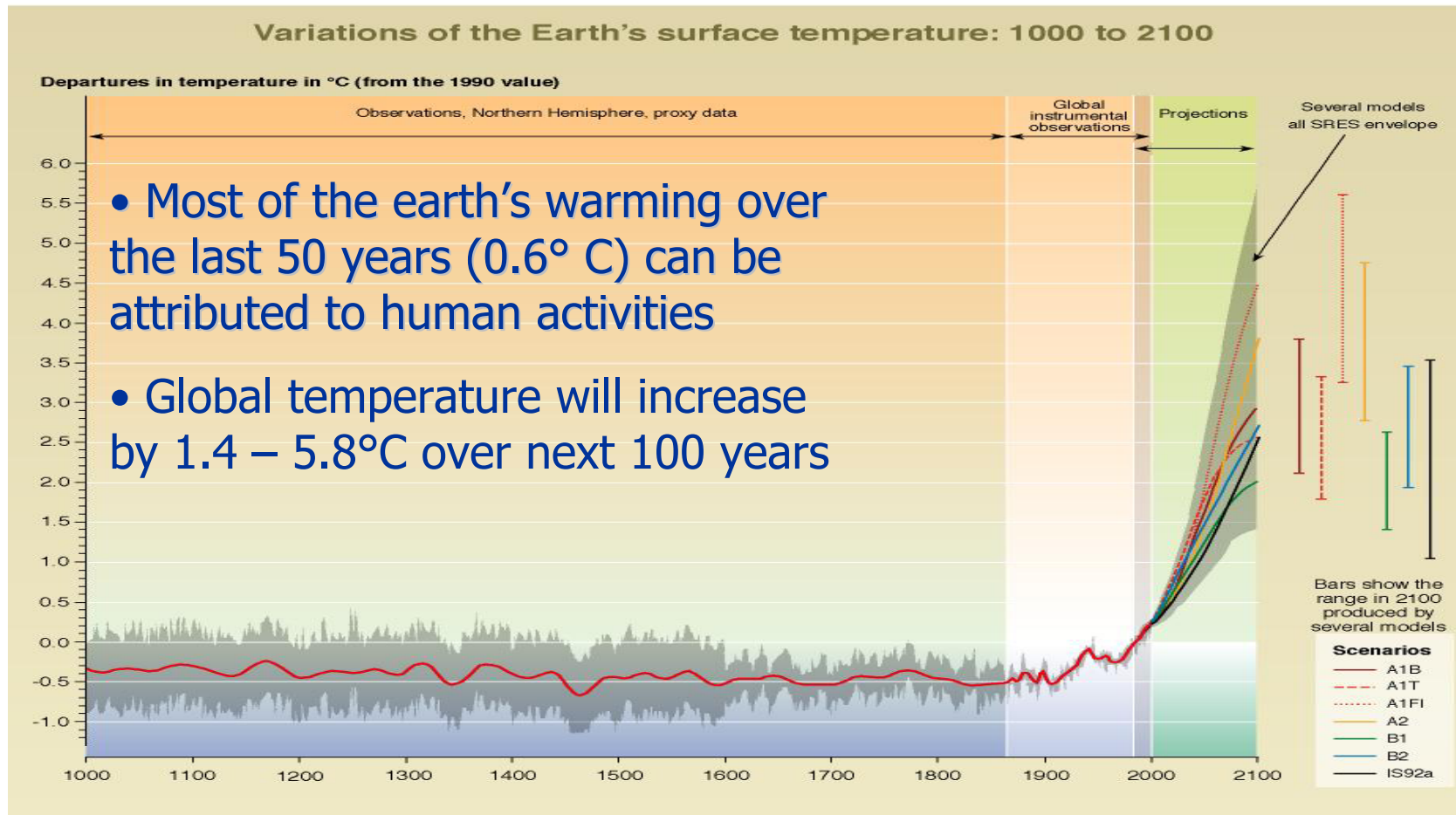


Climate Change: the state of play



The state of play: The Science is robust

FIGURE 9.2
SPM - 10b



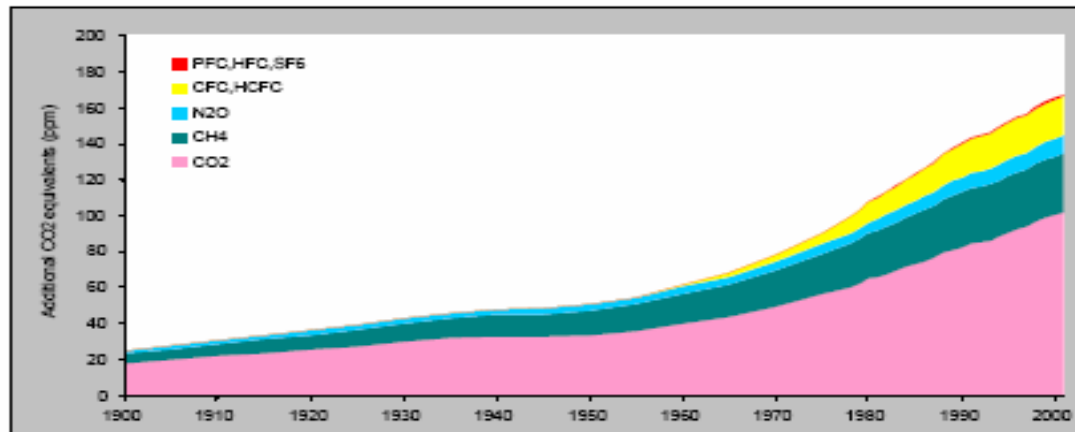


The state of play: The Science is robust

Greenhouse gas concentration

- Concentration of CO₂ has increased by 95 ppm (34%) to 375 ppm (global + Europe)
- All greenhouse gases rose by 170 ppm CO₂-equivalent (61% CO₂, 19% methane, 13% CFCs and HCFCs, and 6% N₂O)

past trends



Rise of greenhouse gases (1900–2000) compared to the year 1750

- Increase to 650 - 1215 ppm CO₂-equivalent is projected by 2100

future projection

Data-sources: IPCC



Factual signs: Impacts in Europe

- **Floods in EU in 2002, 2003 – loss of life and major economic damage**
 - **Central and northern Europe getting more rain, south and south-east Europe getting drier**
 - **Sea levels rising at 0.8-3 mm/year**
 - **Growing season has increased by 10 days between 1962 and 1995**
 - **Economic costs of weather related losses have gone from \$5 billion to \$11 billion in last 20 years**
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Factual signs: Impacts in Europe

- **Terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity**
- **Glaciers, snow and ice**
- **Marine ecosystems**
- **Agriculture**
- **Economy**
- **Human health**



EEA (2004): Impact of Europe's changing climate



Factual signs: Impacts in the world

- **The global mean sea level increased at an average annual rate of 1 to 2 mm during the 20th century**
- **A widespread retreat of non-polar glaciers has been observed during the 20th century**
- **The duration of ice cover of rivers and lakes decreased by about 2 weeks over the 20th century in mid- and high latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere**
- **The extent and thickness of Arctic sea ice has decreased in recent decades by 40% during late summer and early autumn**
- **Snow cover decreased in area by 10% since global observations became available from satellites, in the 1960s**
- **Permafrost soil has thawed, warmed, and degraded in some mountainous, polar and sub-polar regions.**
- **El Niño events have become more frequent, persistent, and intense during the last 20 to 30 years compared to the previous 100 years**
- **Coral reef bleaching increased frequency, especially during El Niño events**
- **Weather-related economic losses have risen by an order of magnitude over the last 40 years. Part of the observed upward trend is linked to socio-economic factors and part is linked to climatic factors**



State of play: The current multilateral framework

- **1992:** **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** 
 - **1997:** **Kyoto Protocol sets targets for industrialised countries (2008-2012)**
 - **2001:** **US withdraws from Kyoto Protocol**
Gothenburg summit
Marrakech Accords
 - **2002:** **MS & the Community ratify the Kyoto Protocol**
 - **2005:** **The Kyoto Protocol enters into force (16 Feb.)**
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Elements for the post-2012 regime



Elements for the post-2012 regime

Questions from the web-based stakeholder consultation:

- **EU leadership**
 - **How to translate the 2°C into concrete global and EU climate change policy**
 - **The participation challenge**
 - **The innovation challenge**
 - **The architecture of the future regime**
 - **Consideration of benefits and costs of action / inaction**
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Elements for the post-2012 regime: From science to policy

- **EU consensus on + 2 °C above pre-industrial levels is the maximum acceptable level**
 - **Uncertainty + Precautionary Principle will require a hedging strategy for mitigation policy**
 - **Even if aspiration is met, EU will face + 2.5 °C increase ⇒ need pro-active adaptation policies to reduce vulnerability**
 - **Continued EU leadership is necessary – also internationally**
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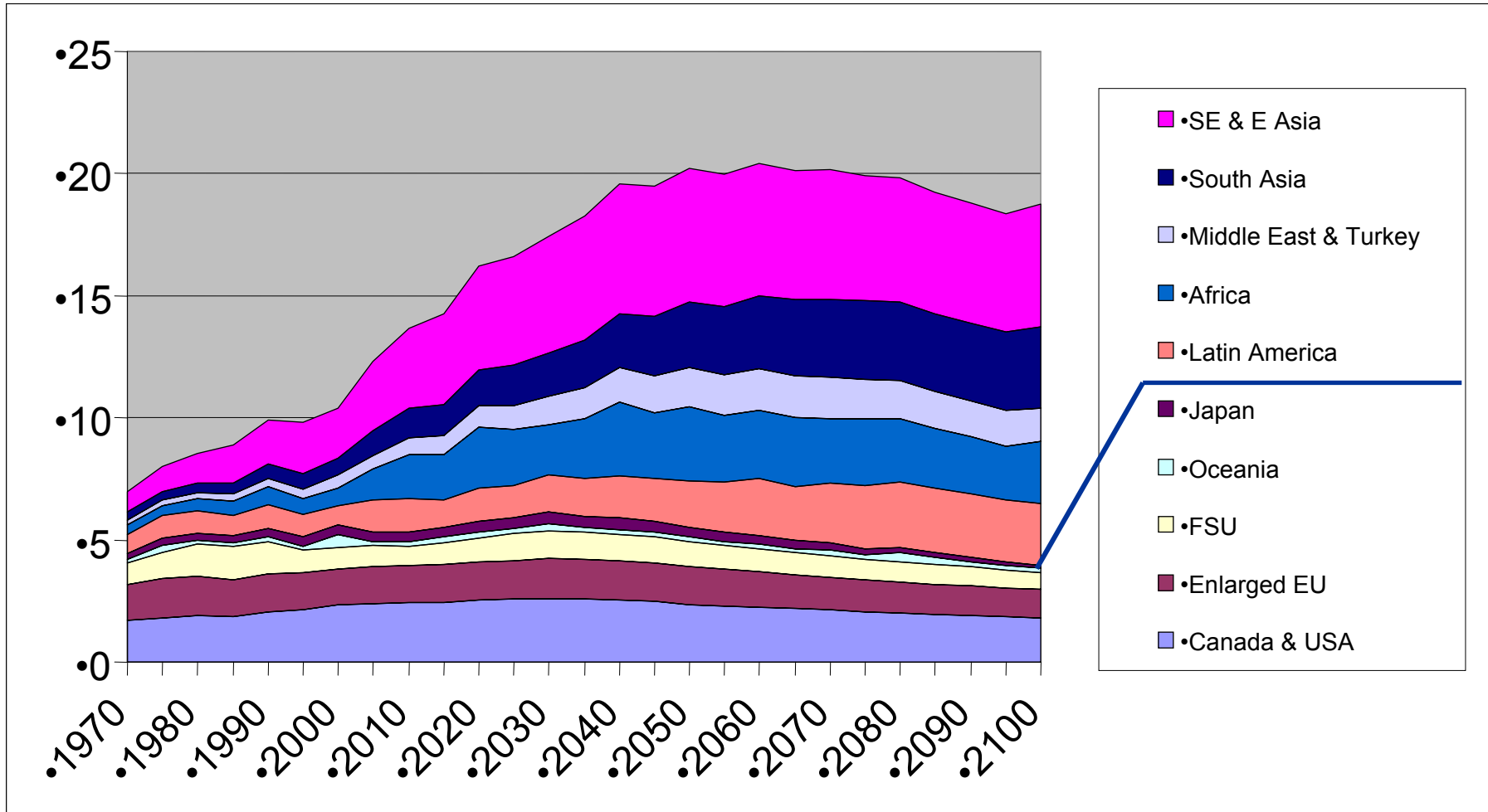
Elements for the post-2012 regime: The participation challenge

- **Climate change requires a global solution**
- **EU action alone will not achieve the 2°C**
- **UNFCCC Principle: “common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities”**
- **Participation of:**
 - **Industrialised countries**
 - **Developing countries**



The participation challenge :

Emissions from developing countries expected to surpass those of industrialised countries soon



Source: RIVM

European Commission: DG Environment Directorate



Elements for the post-2012 regime: The innovation challenge?

- **Towards a “climate friendly” society:**
 - “Technology Push”...and...
 - “Market pull” of climate-friendly technologies
 - Energy savings – climate friendly behaviour

 - **What are the technological options**
 - **What policy framework**

 - **First mover advantages (Kok report)**
 - **Not only mitigation, but also adaptation technologies...**
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Elements for the post-2012 regime: Possible elements of the future architecture

- **Successful elements of the Kyoto Protocol**
 - Flexible mechanisms
 - Monitoring, compliance and reporting
 - Targets
 - **Type and timing of developing country participation**
 - **Complementary elements on technology development and transfer, adaptation**
 - **Further integrate climate change into other policy areas (transport / aviation)**
 - **Deforestation**
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Elements for the post-2012 regime: Benefits and costs

Benefits: considerable

- **knowns and unknowns, many are difficult to monetise**
- **Ancillary benefits:**
 - energy security
 - Competitiveness
 - air pollution

Costs: manageable

- **Effects on competitiveness?**
 - **Costs of adaptation?**
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Expectations for today's meeting

- **Seek common ground**
- **Stimulate new ideas**

Climate change is the problem
Be part of the solution



Today's programme

WG 1: The climate change challenge **Room S3**

WG 2: The participation challenge **Room S1**

WG 3: The innovation challenge **Room S2**

WG 4: The future architecture **Room S4**
