The next 40 years: Placing sustainability at the heart of Europe’s policies

EEB – 40th Anniversary Conference
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Dr Hans Bruyninckx
EEA Executive Director
The 7th EAP: a long term vision of sustainability

“In 2050, we live well, within the planet's ecological limits…”

What this means:

- Low carbon society
- Green/circular Economy
- Resilient ecosystems

“Together with current **wasteful production and consumption systems** in the world economy, rising global demand ... and the depletion of resources are increasing the cost of raw materials, ... generating more pollution and waste, increasing global GHG emissions and exacerbating land degradation, deforestation and biodiversity loss” (7EAP, p 17)
Green Economy: Living well within ecological limits

ECOSYSTEMS

SOCIO-TECHNICAL SYSTEMS
providing social needs and value

Energy system
Food system
Mobility system

Policy
Industry
Market

Values
Technology

Withdrawals from the ecosystems
Environmental externalities
Deposits Emissions Pollution

Ecosystem services
The ‘good life’ within environmental limits

UNEP 2012 - GEO5
Energy efficiency in Europe has increased, but we are far from a low-carbon economy.

Source: EEA (CSI 028)
To reach ambitious sustainability visions

Not just incremental efficiency gains...

nor new technologies only...
And it’s also about resilient ecosystems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource efficiency</th>
<th>Ecosystem resilience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GHG emissions</td>
<td>Global climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritime transport emissions</td>
<td>Marine biodiversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transboundary air pollution</td>
<td>Air quality in urban areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water use, treatment</td>
<td>Ecological status of water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decoupling, recycling, ...</td>
<td>Ecological footprint</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>