



Main themes for discussion

	Introductory Notes
<i>The purpose of the mission</i>	The purpose of the mission is to <u>prepare the examination</u> of Italy's environmental performance by the OECD Working Party on Environmental Performance on 11 October, 2012 in Paris. Hence, the mission is not the examination itself.
<i>A guide for discussion</i>	<p>This document provides a guide to help structure the discussion in each session of the review mission (see the mission schedule). It presents a checklist of possible issues for discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at sessions with representatives of the relevant <u>national authorities</u>; and • at sessions with <u>stakeholders</u>: industry, trade unions, environmental NGOs, and independent experts. <p>The discussion should focus on environmental trends and policy responses in the period 2002-2012.</p>
<i>Discussion during the sessions</i>	By the time of the review mission, team members will have read the background documents and Italy's reply to the OECD questionnaire. To make best use of the limited time available during the review mission, discussion in each session should focus on <u>evaluation of environmental performance</u> and on <u>policy measures</u> to address pressures on the environment. Any request for additional factual information will be sought in written form, either before or during the meeting.
<i>Focus on results</i>	The <u>focus on performance</u> distinguishes between intentions, actions and results, with emphasis on results. It also encompasses the <u>feasibility and coherence</u> of policy measures to achieve environmental goals. Evaluation of performance is based on the analysis of trends in the state of the environment, of the extent to which domestic objectives and international commitments have been met, and of the cost-effectiveness of the measures taken to address pressures on the environment. Discussions will therefore focus first on the <u>results of past and present policies</u> (2002-2012), before considering the <u>feasibility and coherence of plans for the future</u> .



Main themes for discussion

CONTEXT, ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORK, ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Monday, 6 February, 2012

9:30 – 12:30

State of the environment and environmental pressures

1. Snapshot of key trends in the quality of the environment: air quality, water quality and biodiversity; key factors underlying the trends; effects on human health and associated health costs; major achievements compared with national and international targets;
2. Snapshot of key trends related to pressures on the environment: air emissions, water abstraction, discharges to water, hazardous and non-hazardous waste generation, protected areas; key factors underlying the trends; major achievements compared with national and international targets;
3. Current emerging issues that are catching the attention of policy-makers and public opinion.

Strategic policy objectives and policy initiatives

4. Key policy priorities during the review period (since 2002);
5. Major initiatives and developments in environmental policies and legislation and their rationale; mechanisms for identifying policy priorities and for evaluating environmental policies;
6. Key inter-ministerial initiatives (e.g. sustainable development, climate change, green growth, land use planning, transport, agriculture);
7. Key initiatives in the international context (e.g. the EU, the Mediterranean, the Alps, global);

Environmental management

8. Role of different levels of environmental administration (national, regional, provincial and local); division of responsibilities and mechanisms for co-ordination and co-operation.
9. Regulatory framework: progress in integrated environmental permitting, effectiveness of regulations, legislative simplification;
10. Enforcement mechanisms: level of compliance with environmental requirements by sector and by media and follow-up in case of non-compliance; level of fines; inspections; results/outcomes of enforcement and compliance actions;
11. Mechanisms for evaluating environmental policies: effectiveness of the arrangements in place to evaluate ex ante and ex post policy and projects (e.g. cost-benefit analysis; regulatory impact analysis; environmental, strategic and sustainability impact assessment procedures; mechanisms to track progress).
12. Provision of information and access to environmental information, public participation in decision-making; role of NGOs; environmental liability and access to courts: complaint and appeal procedures; public inquiries; length of court procedures, compensation;

Note: After introductory statements (~15 minutes) at the beginning of each part, the rest of the time will be devoted to questions by the OECD team. Factual information should preferably be provided in writing (before or during the meeting).



Main themes for discussion

BREAK-OUT SESSION 1: CLIMATE CHANGE

Monday, 6 February, 2012

14:00 – 17:30

State, pressures, trends

1. Trends in GHG emissions and removals (by gas and sector); projections; drivers of GHG emissions;
2. Impacts of climate change;

Policy measures

3. Climate objectives: i) objectives to be achieved during the review period and objectives for the future; ii) national targets and international commitments;
4. Performance in meeting objectives: achievements compared with targets, main obstacles;
5. The institutional setting for climate change policy; role of local governments; co-ordination mechanisms;
6. Policy measures to reduce emissions of GHGs (regulatory measures, economic instruments, voluntary initiatives, etc.), other than in the energy and transport sectors; expenditure and financing;
7. Co-benefits of GHG reduction policies related to a reduction of traditional air pollutants;
8. Implementation of the Kyoto Protocol flexible mechanisms;
9. Key measures to meet the post-Kyoto target; implementation of the EU climate package 20-20-20.
10. Role of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures in reducing GHG emissions; biofuels for transport purposes.
11. Climate-related measures in the transport sector: transport demand management and public transport in urban areas and for inter-urban travels; use of economic instruments to moderate transport demand (e.g. fuel prices and taxes, road pricing, congestion charges);
12. Climate change and cities (Eco-model cities for a low carbon society); local initiatives; Local Climate Policy Plans.
13. Strategies and measures for adapting to climate change; risk management; key measures by type of impact.

Note:

After a brief introductory statement (~10 minutes), the session will be devoted to questions by the OECD team. The dialogue will focus on policy issues and environmental performance, particularly on the results achieved the feasibility of achieving policy objectives with currently-available instruments, and their coherence. Factual information should preferably be provided in writing (before or during the meeting).

Main themes for discussion

BREAK-OUT SESSION 2: WATER GOVERNANCE Monday, 6 February, 2012 14:00 – 17:30	
Policy objectives	
1.	<u>Water management policy objectives</u> (water as a resource and water supply and wastewater treatment services): i) objectives to be achieved during the review period and objectives for the future; ii) national targets and international commitments;
State, pressures, trends	
2.	<u>Availability/quantity of water</u> (surface and groundwater): trends in withdrawal (public water supply, industry, agriculture, energy);
3.	Trends in <u>water quality</u> (groundwater, drinking water, rivers, lakes) per quality class and effects on health;
4.	<u>Trends in discharges</u> from point and diffuse sources: agricultural run-off (nitrates and pesticides), pollution load from municipal sewage and from industrial activities; marine pollution;
5.	<u>Disparities</u> in access to water services and in exposure to water pollution by region and social group;
6.	The objectives and challenges of <u>water supply and wastewater services and infrastructure</u> (extending access to water supply and wastewater treatment, multi-municipal and municipal systems; regularity, quality, distribution losses, compliance with the EU urban wastewater treatment regulations).
Policy measures	
7.	<u>Institutional mapping</u> of roles and responsibilities in water policy design, regulation and implementation (who does what at central government level and subnational levels in the context of river basin management and water supply/wastewater treatment);
8.	Identification of the main <u>multilevel governance co-ordination and capacity challenges</u> across ministries and public agencies (upper horizontally) between levels of government (vertically), and across local actors, including water utilities (lower horizontally);
9.	Identification/assessment of possible <u>arrangements for co-ordination with non-environment ministries and agencies</u> (horizontally), so as to ensure the integration of water-related concerns in other policies <u>and between levels of government</u> (vertically, e.g. contracts, financial transfers, water information systems, river basin management);
10.	Mechanisms for ensuring <u>effective involvement of stakeholders in decision-making and to improve environmental awareness</u> at local level (including the recent water referendums);
11.	<u>Implementation challenges of the EU legal framework</u> (from the river basin management perspective and the cost recovery perspective);
12.	<u>Financing challenges</u> : opportunities for enhancing financing flows and cost-recovery of service provision and investment (taxes, tariffs, transfers); the role of repayable financing mechanisms (loans, bonds, guarantees, etc);
13.	Opportunities for <u>improving the performance and governance of water utilities</u> , including by improving economies of scale and scope;
14.	Addressing <u>North-South regional disparities</u> , including experience with the federal policy package and access to basic services.
Note:	After an introductory statement (~10 minutes), the rest of the session will be devoted to a dialogue on policy issues based on questions from the OECD team. Factual information should preferably be provided in writing (before or during the meeting).



Main themes for discussion

TOWARDS GREEN GROWTH Tuesday, 7 February, 2012 9:30 – 12:30	
Economic development and environmental concerns	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Linkages between Italy's <u>economic structure and performance</u> and <u>environmental pressures</u>: effects of the economic developments and structural changes in the last decade on the environment; impacts of Italy's environmental policy on economic activity and competitiveness; 2. The <u>environment as a driver for economic growth</u>: environmental component of measures adopted to address the 2008-2009 economic recession; green elements of current and planned economic growth strategies and economic plans (Salva-Italia and Cresci-Italia packages); 	
Environment related taxes, subsidies, expenditure, and eco-innovation	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. <u>Environmentally related taxes</u>: energy (fuel) and transport (vehicles) taxes; taxes in other economic sectors (e.g. agriculture, construction, property, land use); coherence of the tax system with environmental objectives; 4. <u>Subsidies</u> to energy, industry, transport, agriculture, construction and other sectoral policies that impact on the environment; steps to reduce the negative environmental impacts of subsidies in these sectors; 5. <u>Environmental expenditure</u> (public and private), including Pollution Abatement and Control (PAC) expenditure (air, wastewater, waste) and other environment-related expenditure; financing of major environmental infrastructure, including through EU Funds; the results achieved by and economic efficiency of these programmes; role of public-private partnerships in financing environmental improvement; 6. Other <u>incentives</u> to promote environmentally friendly production and consumption patterns (e.g. bonuses for purchasing energy efficient vehicles or electric appliances; tax breaks for investment in environmentally efficient industrial equipment); implementation of the polluters-pay and users-pay principles; 7. <u>Mechanisms for evaluating environmental policies</u>: effectiveness of the arrangements in place to evaluate ex ante and ex post policy and projects (e.g. cost-benefit analysis; regulatory impact analysis; mechanisms to track progress); 8. <u>Policy objectives</u> on "green" technologies and products; 9. Environment-related <u>Research and development (R&D)</u>; 10. <u>Policy incentives</u> encourage the supply of, and promote the demand for, "green" technologies and products (e.g. economic incentives, green public procurement, labelling); 	
Social-environment linkages	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. <u>Employment effects of environmental policy and opportunities</u>: positive/negative, direct/indirect; trends and scope of employment in environmental goods and services industry; 12. <u>Distributive effects of environmental policies</u>: implications of environmental policies for low-income households; measures to address affordability of services; measures to address limitations in access to natural resources by and pollution impacts on disadvantaged segments of the population; regional disparities in availability and quality environmental services. 	
Note:	<p>After an introductory statement (~10 minutes), the session will be devoted to questions by the OECD team. The dialogue will focus on the linkages between economic and environmental performance, particularly on the results achieved, the feasibility of achieving policy objectives with currently-available instruments, and their coherence. Factual information should preferably be provided in writing (before or during the meeting).</p>



Main themes for discussion

ENVIRONMENT, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Tuesday, 7 February, 2012

14:00 – 15:00

1. Data on official development assistance for the environment and discussion of its effectiveness;
2. Arrangements for mainstreaming the environment in other development co-operation projects;
3. Coherence of trade and investment flows with environmental and development objectives; environmental impacts of export credits, responsible businesses behaviour; implementation of the OECD guidelines on multinational enterprises.

Note:

After an introductory statement (~10 minutes), the rest of the session will be devoted to a dialogue on policy issues based on questions from the OECD team. Factual information should preferably be provided in writing (before or during the meeting).



Main themes for discussion

CONSULTATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

Tuesday, 7 February, 2012

15:30 – 17:30

Introductory session

1. Short statements by Italian participants* on the country's achievements and areas for progress in the area of sustainable development:
 - environmental management;
 - green growth;
 - climate change;
 - water governance.

Questions & answers session

2. Effectiveness of policy responses in addressing pressures on the environment: successful experiences, failures, obstacles, challenges and opportunities;
3. Economic efficiency of Italy's environmental policy mix; economic instruments (cost effectiveness of taxes, charges, subsidies, etc.);
4. Governance: inter-institutional co-operation, performance of the competent environmental authorities, evaluation of environmental policies, public participation in decision-making, environmental awareness.
5. Positive and negative impacts of Italy's environmental policy on economic activity and employment;
6. Integration of environmental concerns into overall economic policy and in sectoral policies (energy, transport, industry, tourism, agriculture, construction);
7. Distributional implications of environmental policies; poverty and access to environmental services; regional disparities;
8. Climate change;
9. Water governance.

Note:

* During the introductory session, each Italian participant is kindly request to present (in 3-4 minutes) key findings and/or the position of their respective organisations on the proposed themes. The remaining time will be devoted to a dialogue focusing on policy issues.



Main themes for discussion

CONSULTATIONS WITH INDUSTRY

Wednesday, 8 February, 2012

9:30 – 11:00

Introductory session

Short statements by Italian participants* on the country's achievements and areas for progress in the area of sustainable development and green growth:

1. Environment, growth and competitiveness;
2. Environment and employment;
3. Environmental management;

Questions & answers session

1. Environment, growth and competitiveness

- Economic costs of environmental policies (regulation, taxation, etc.): effects on competitiveness;
- Eco-innovation, environmental research and development, integrated product policy;
- Environment-related business opportunities; eco-industry.

2. Environment and employment

- Net impact of environmental policies on employment;
- Employment in eco-industries and eco-services.

3. Environmental management

- Environmental legislation and standards: level of compliance by industry;
- Eco-audits and environmental management schemes (e.g. ISO14001); producer responsibility;
- Eco-labels;
- Voluntary actions and business initiatives;
- Climate change initiatives.
- Water management and governance (water use and pollution, water supply and sanitation).

Note:

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Main themes for discussion

CONSULTATIONS WITH TRADE UNIONS

Wednesday, 8 February, 2012

11:30 – 12:30

Introductory session

Short statements by Italian participants* on the country's achievements and areas for progress in the area of sustainable development and green growth:

1. Environment and employment;
2. Environmental management in enterprises;

Questions & answers session

1. **Environment and employment**

- Positive and negative impacts of environmental policies on employment;
- The role of trade unions in traditional heavy polluting industries and in promoting environmental goods and services;

2. **Environmental management**

- The role of trade union and workers in strengthening environmental performance of enterprises and compliance with environmental regulations;
- Environmental legislation and standards: transparency and consultations with trade unions, feedback to regulators on administrative burdens and non-compliance;
- Promotion of good environmental practices and innovation at the work place;
- Occupational health and safety, reducing environmental health risks.

Note:

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Main themes for discussion

CONSULTATIONS WITH INDEPENDENT EXPERTS

Wednesday, 8 February, 2012

14:00 – 16:30

Introductory session

1. Short statements by Italian participants* on the country's achievements and areas for progress in the area of sustainable development:
 - environmental management;
 - green growth;
 - climate change;
 - water governance.

Questions & answers session

2. Effectiveness of policy responses in addressing pressures on the environment: successful experiences, failures, obstacles, challenges and opportunities.
3. Economic efficiency of Italy's environmental policy mix; economic instruments (cost effectiveness of taxes, charges, subsidies, etc.).
4. Governance: inter-institutional co-operation, performance of the competent environmental authorities, evaluation of environmental policies, public participation in decision-making, environmental awareness.
5. Positive and negative impacts of Italy's environmental policy on economic activity and employment;
6. Integration of environmental concerns into overall economic policy and in sectoral policies (energy, transport, industry, tourism, agriculture, construction).
7. Distributional implications of environmental policies; poverty and access to environmental services; regional disparities.
8. Climate change;
9. Water governance.

Note:

* During the introductory session, each Italian participant is kindly requested to present (in 3-4 minutes) key findings and/or the position of their respective organisations on the proposed themes. The remaining time will be devoted to a dialogue focusing on policy issues.