

Current impacts of European lifestyles – and potential policy actions

SPREAD roundtable on sustainable lifestyles 2050

– visions and policy actions, Brussels, 10 November 2011

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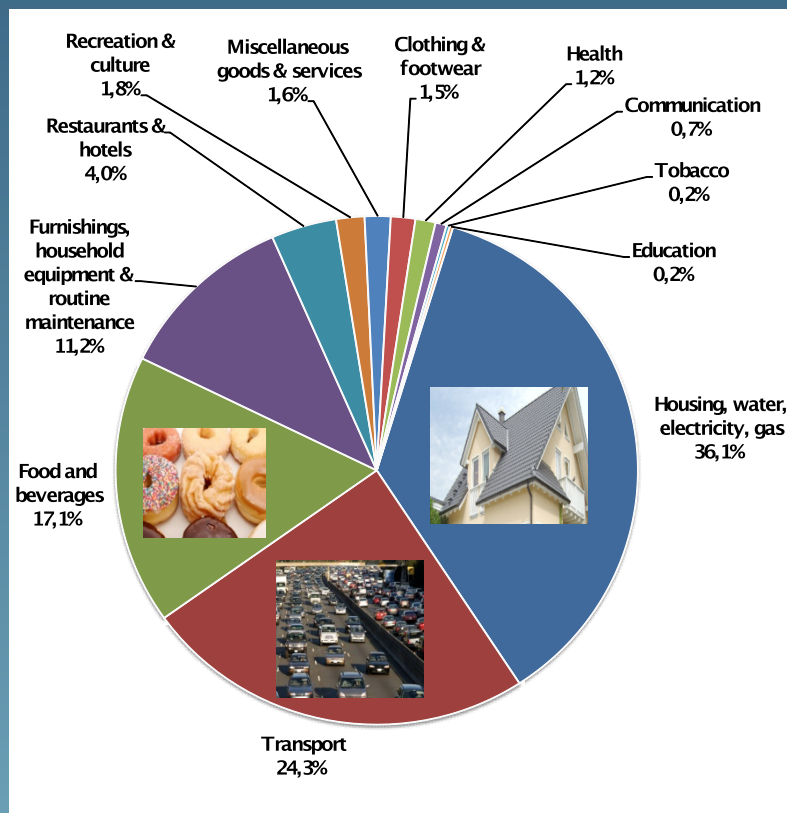
Two points

1. Environmental pressures and impacts from consumption and lifestyles
2. Potential policy action to change consumption and lifestyles in a sustainable direction

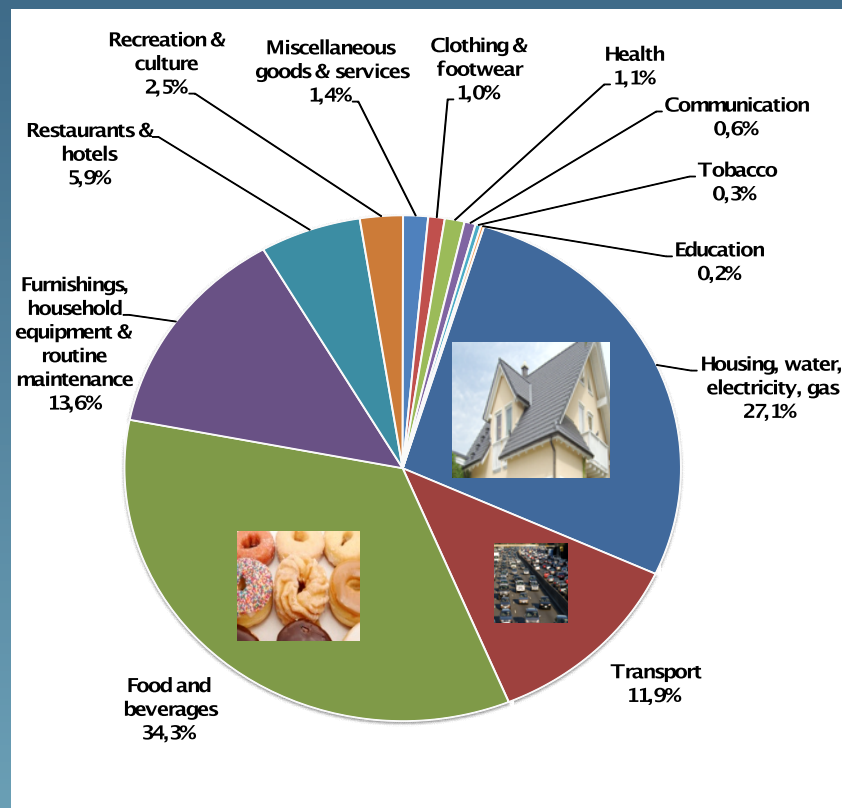


Consumption of food, housing and mobility has the highest climate, resource and environmental impacts

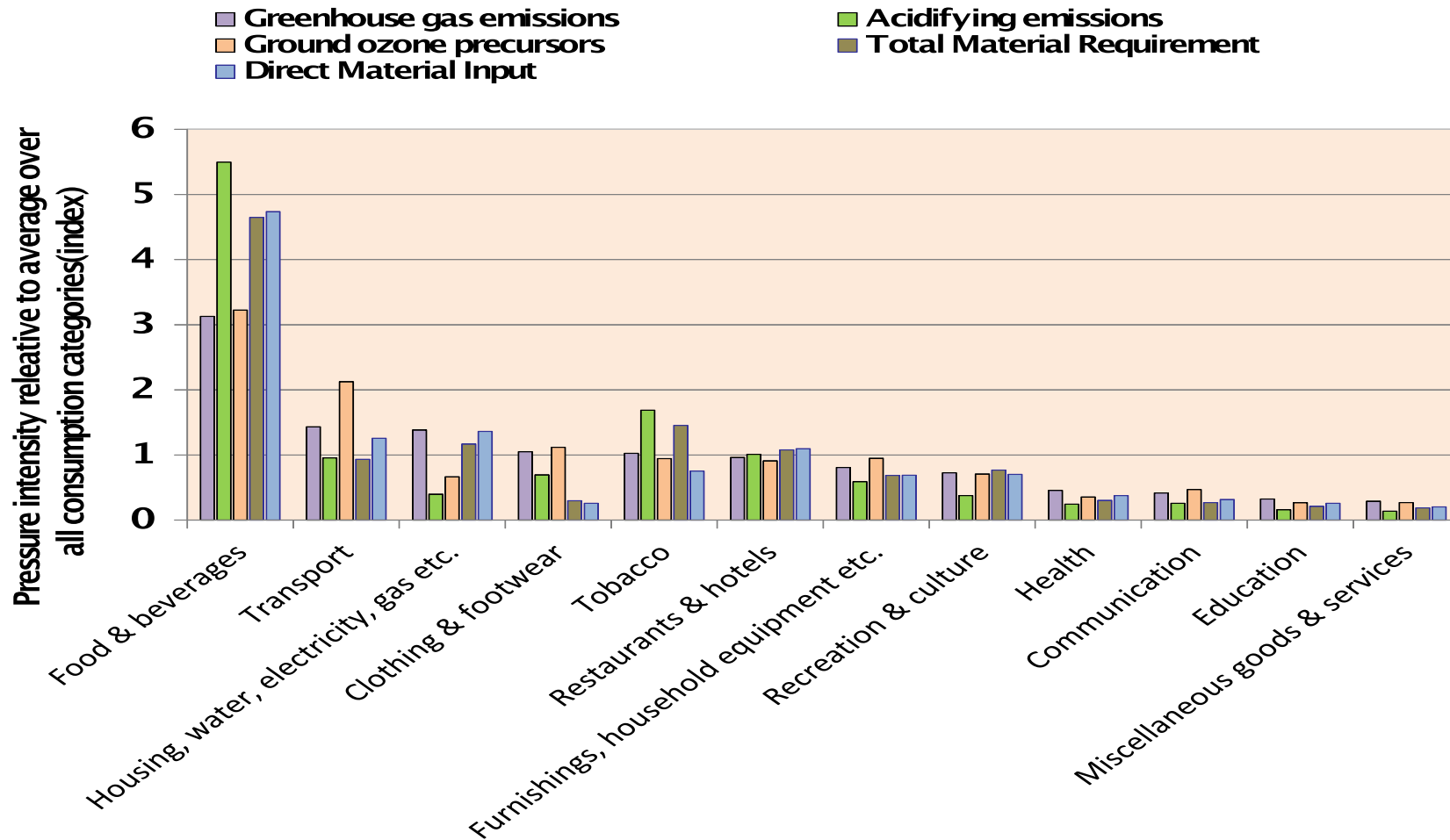
GHG emissions (EU8, 2005)



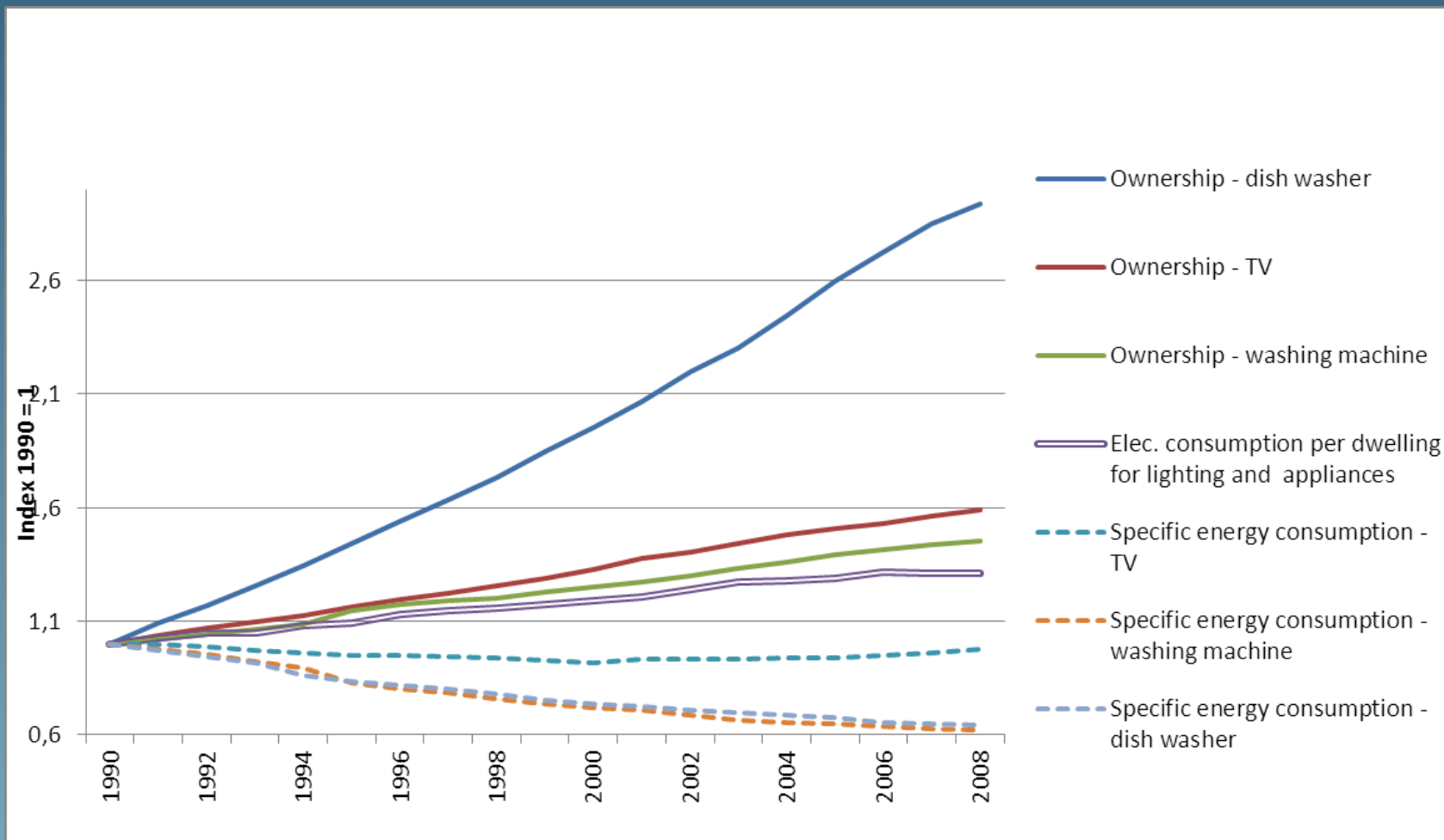
Total material requirement (EU8, 2005)



Food and drinks, mobility and housing also have the highest pressure per Euro spent (EU8, 2005)

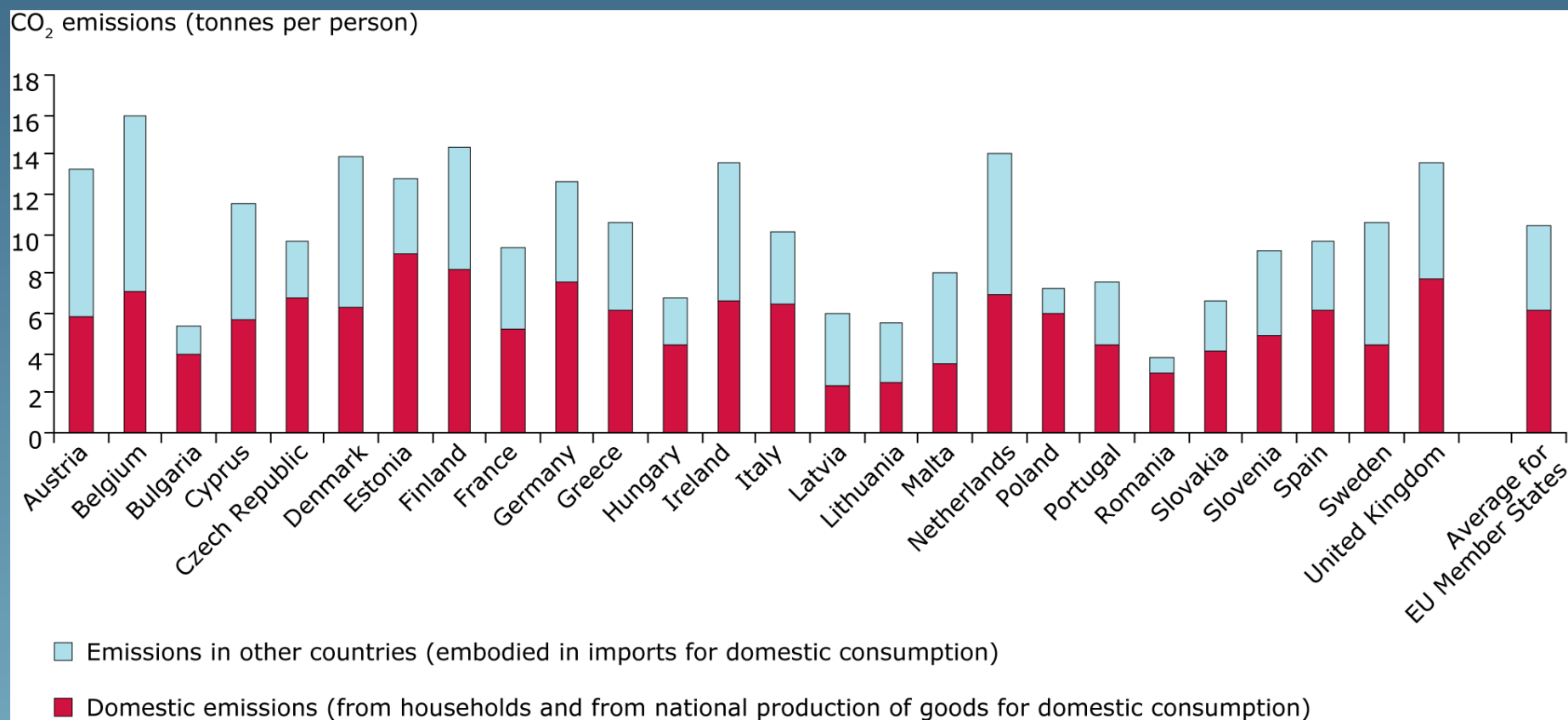


More energy efficiency often does not lead to less energy consumption (re-bounce effect) (new updated data)



A large part of environmental and climate pressures from Europe are embodied in from imports from other countries

CO2 emissions caused by consumption in 26 EU member states, 2004



EEA, 2010; from Davies and Cadeira 2010

Well-known but changing environmental challenges

- Climate change
- Ecosystems and biodiversity
- Water and air pollution
- Waste and resource use
- Risk and uncertainty
- Trade patterns
- Lifestyles



Challenges require integrated solutions

Increased complexity

- Climate change
- Ecosystems and biodiversity
- Water and air pollution
- Waste and resource use
- Risk and uncertainty
- Trade patterns
- Lifestyles

Integrated solutions

SCP Action Plan



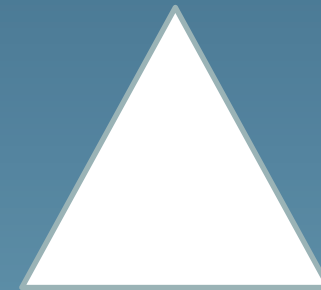
RE road map



7th EAP

Common but differentiated responsibility

EU/Governments



Business

Consumers/
citizens



Sustainable consumption and production (SCP)

Selected policy processes

Global Marrakech process on SCP



Rio+20 : governance; green economy; sustainable development goals; global framework of programmes on SCP

2008 Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and Sustainable Industrial Policy (SIP)



EU roadmap on resource efficiency

Revised Action Plan on SCP and SIP?: Eco-design; Eco-label; GPP; EMAS; Retailers

Key EEA activities

SOER2010 consumption and the environment

SCP indicators reporting

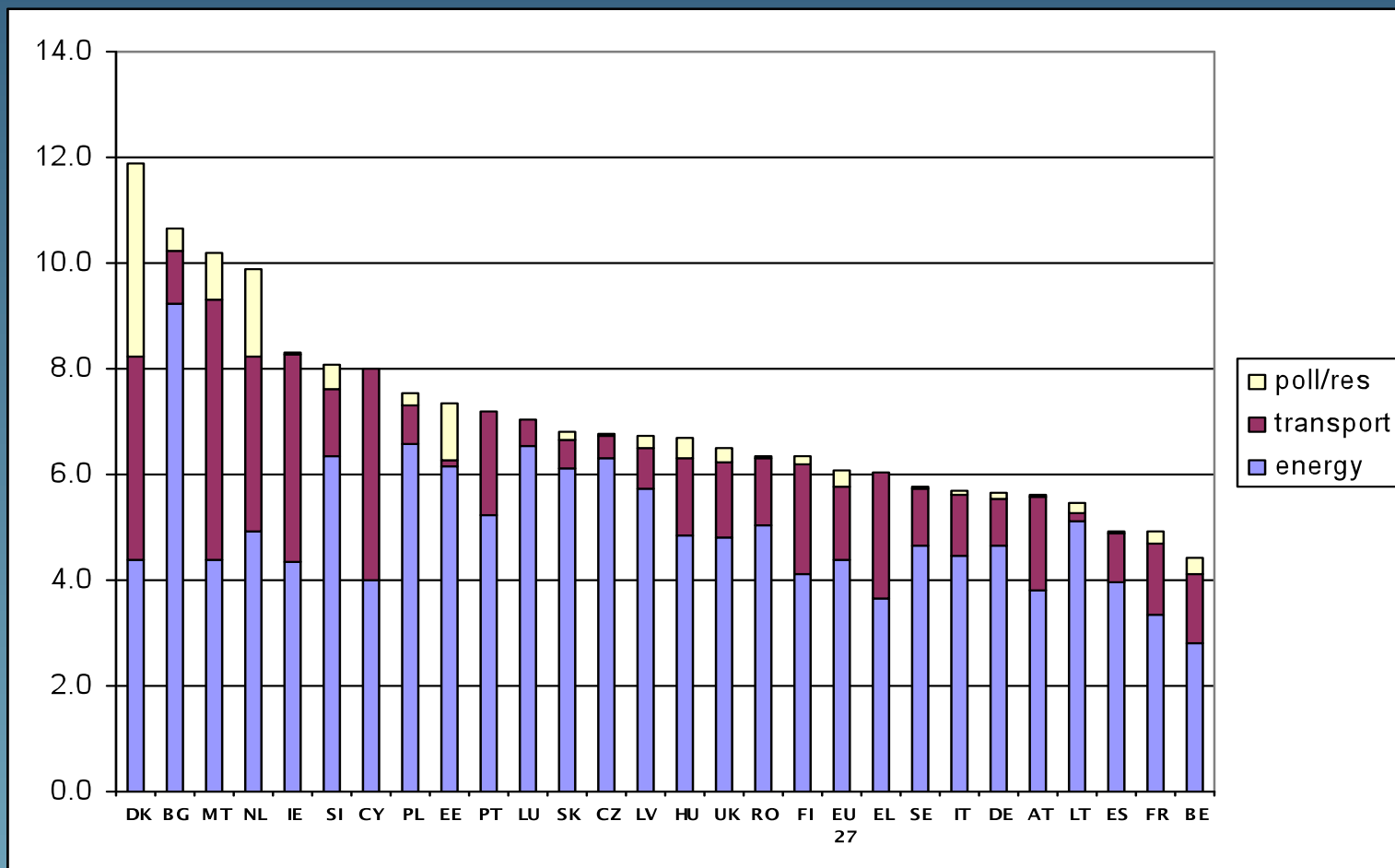
Environmental pressures from consumption

Cooperation with policy makers, business and consumer organisations

European Environment Agency



Green economy: Environmental tax revenues in EU-27 (2008, in % of total tax revenue, source: Eurostat)



Conclusion: Need a paradigm shift in environmental policy?

Past

Reduce environmental impacts from production

Protect national and regional environment

Technology is the solution

Governments responsible

Future

Reduce global life-cycle impacts from our lifestyles and consumption

Protect the global environment

Technology and changes in behaviour is the solution

Common but differentiated responsibility in a triangle of change

