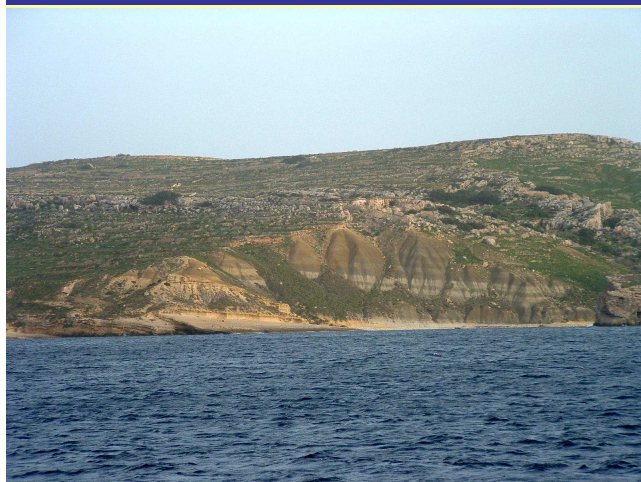


EU WHITE PAPER

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE: TOWARDS A EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION (COM (2009) 147/4)



Overview

- Adaptation as a response to climate change impacts
- EU White Paper: overview
- Climate Change Impacts in Malta
- What needs to be done locally
- Implications of EU White Paper
- Way forward

Climate Change

Mitigation

Adaptation

IPCC definition:

Limit and reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions

any adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected adverse effects of climate change. Adaptation action is thus aimed at reducing the vulnerability and increasing the resilience of ecological, social and economic systems to climate change impacts

EU Communications:

- June 2007: Green Paper: Adapting to climate change in Europe – options for EU action [COM(2007) 354]
- April 2009: White Paper ‘Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action’ [COM (2009)147/4]

White Paper: overview

1

- Identifies Southern Europe and the Mediterranean Basin as most vulnerable regions in Europe; islands face particular problems
- States that climate change will impact a number of sectors:
 - agriculture
 - fisheries and aquaculture
 - coasts and marine ecosystems, biodiversity
 - tourism
 - Infrastructure
 - human health
 - animal and plant health
 - water resources.

White Paper: overview

2

- Preventive action brings clear economic, environmental and social benefits:

COSTS OF TAKING ACTION TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE WILL BE MUCH LOWER THAN THE COSTS OF INACTION OVER THE MEDIUM TO LONG TERM

- Action at EU level required:
 - Solidarity among EU Member States
 - Ensures EU action in sectors integrated at EU level through the single market and common policies
 - Facilitates coordination and the exchange of best practices between Member States on climate change

White Paper: overview

3

OBJECTIVE:

- To set out an EU Adaptation Framework to improve EU's resilience to climate change that supports the overarching EU objectives on sustainable development

PROPOSES:

- Comprehensive EU adaptation strategy

PREPARATORY WORK (4 pillars of action):

- building solid knowledge base
- Integrating adaptation into EU key policy areas
- Employing a combination of policy instruments to ensure effective delivery of adaptation
- Stepping up international cooperation on adaptation

White Paper: overview

4

PILLAR 1: DEVELOPING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE

- need for sound knowledge on climate impact and vulnerability to allow appropriate policy responses
- Proposes establishment of a clearing house mechanism as an IT tool and database on climate change impact, vulnerability and best practices on adaptation.

PILLAR 2: INTEGRATING ADAPTATION INTO EU POLICIES

- In each policy area – a review of how policies could be re-focused or amended to facilitate adaptation:
 - What are the actual and potential impacts of climate change in the sector?
 - What are the costs of action/inaction?
 - How do the proposed measures impact upon and interact with policies in other sectors?

White Paper: overview

5

FINANCING

- identifies the need for improving the uptake of adaptation action by Member States and for targeting better the use of available financial resources and instruments.
- relevant sectors should develop strategies and cost estimates for adaptive actions so that they may be taken into account in future financial decisions.
- refers to the use of revenue generated from auctioning allowances under the EU ETS for adaptation purposes

White Paper: overview

6

IMPACT AND ADAPTATION STEERING GROUP:

- composed of representatives from the EU Member States involved in the formulation of national and regional adaptation programmes;
- will play a role in developing the EU strategy and prepare national adaptation strategies by the Member States.

EXTERNAL DIMENSION:

- adaptation should be mainstreamed in all of the EU's external policies;
- makes reference to the Framework for Action on Adaptation;

Climate Change Impacts in Malta

FIRST NATIONAL COMMUNICATION TO THE UNFCCC:

- Drought;
- Deterioration of freshwater quality and availability;
- Increased risk of floods;
- Increase in soil erosion and desertification and associated impacts on agriculture;
- Increased risk of storms and severe weather incidence;
- Accelerated coastal erosion;
- Changes in sea water mass characteristics;
- Sea level rise;
- Biodiversity loss and degradation.

What needs to be done...

- **Data and information** on climate change impacts and Malta's vulnerability:
 - the importance of informed decisions to ensure resources are not used for mal-adaptation
- **Integration** of adaptation in all national policies and plans throughout all sectors:
 - Ensure synergies throughout all sectors
- **National Strategy on Adaptation:**
 - Based on sound knowledge, information and vulnerability assessments
 - Addresses all sectors – strategy to be mainstreamed in all sectors
 - Ensures synergies amongst sectors and adaptation measures
 - Ensures synergies between mitigation and adaptation

Implications of White Paper

- **Data and information**
 - Clearinghouse mechanism
 - *Need to highlight consideration of small states*
- **Integration** of adaptation in EU policies
 - implement adaptation through meeting EU requirements
- **EU Strategy on Adaptation:**
 - Provide a framework for the development of a National Strategy on Adaptation
 - *Need to ensure EU strategy is applicable to Malta: hence considers geographical differentiation and specificities*
- **IASG:**
 - advisory role for the development of a National Strategy on Adaptation
 - are we willing to devote the appropriate resources (financial, human, etc.) to the IASG?

Way forward

- **Data and information**
- **National Strategy on Adaptation**

Sectoral level:

- Do we have enough knowledge of climate change impacts that may affect each sector?
- How vulnerable is the sector to these climate change impacts?
- What are the costs of such impacts in the medium and long term?
- What are the options for the sector to adapt to climate change impacts in a cost-effective manner?
- What would be the cost of adaptation action?
- Will such adaptation action impact on other sectors?
- Can the sector diversify or is it limited by Malta's resource-base?
- How can we promote diversification?
- How can we ensure sustainability within the sector?
- Given our vulnerability, should Malta invest in participating in the Impact and Adaptation Steering Group and how?