

Netherlands speaking points on industrial development IPM CSD15

We align ourselves with the position expressed by Germany on behalf of the European Union

Sustainable industrial policies form an important contribution to global sustainable development. The sustainable use of natural resources must be an essential component of such policies. A necessity which is underlined by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

But we also see strong synergy between competitiveness, resource efficiency, environmental protection and social cohesion. In the Netherlands we have a slogan: Clean, Clever, Competitive. Governments have an important role in fostering this synergy. One way to do this is to stimulate Green Public Procurement. Governments can serve as launching customers for sustainable industrial products. The Netherlands therefore has the ambition to make sustainability an important criteria in 100% of public procurement decisions by 2010. We invite other governments to adopt similar ambitions.

Another way to create this synergy, is by stimulating education and innovation. Innovation can lead to new employment in new and sustainable sectors. If we educate young people with the focus on these sustainable sectors we can simultaneously address the worrying problem of youth unemployment. This way youth has a double dividend: environmental preservation and new jobs.