

Summary report of the conference
'Time for Action — Towards Sustainable Consumption
and Production in Europe'
27–29 September 2007, Ljubjana, Slovenia

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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING



UNEP/WUPPERTAL INSTITUTE COLLABORATING
CENTRE ON SUSTAINABLE
CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

European Environment Agency



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1. Executive summary: Recommendations towards sustainable consumption and production in Europe

Three sets of three top-priority recommendations towards sustainable consumption and production in Europe were developed at the conference:

To the European Commission: in the proposed Action Plan on SCP consider the following:

- **a Directive on green public procurement (GPP)** to make responsible purchasing mandatory for all public authorities;
- **concrete steps to “get the prices right”**: develop and implement a range of fiscal instruments to ensure that the ecological consequences of using natural resources and pollution are reflected in the prices; and
- **clear sustainability targets**, both at the EU and national levels (e.g. on resource use and emissions, GPP and products etc.);

To national governments, in cooperation with business and civil society:

- **develop long-term national visions and frameworks of SCP**, with due respect to available evidence, national context and the sense of urgency;
- **work out and implement national Environmental Fiscal Reforms** which shift taxes from labour to pollution and resource use; and
- **identify and communicate to stakeholders the “beacons of sustainability”**, i.e. models and examples of sustainable living that can be an inspiration for others

To the United Nations within the Marrakech Process:

- **encourage national governments to integrate SCP objectives into ministries beyond environment**, particularly by means of national SCP programmes;
- **develop a world-wide campaign / communication strategy to promote the concept of SCP**, with due respect to regional, cultural and other differences and targeting all relevant stakeholder groups; and
- **engage the public and private financial community in the process**, the first step towards which could be the preparation of a marketing strategy targeted to these institutions;

2. Conference objectives and approach

The conference “*Time for Action – Towards Sustainable Consumption and Production in Europe*” was held on 27-29 September, in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Nearly one hundred experts, representing governments, research institutions, civil society, business and international organisations participated in the conference and worked together to formulate recommendations towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP), in line with the objectives of the conference.

The conference had the following three objectives:

1. Formulate recommendations for the development and implementation of the *EU Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production* – focussing specifically on the production-consumption areas “*Housing*”, “*Food and drink*” and “*Mobility*”, which have been identified to cause the highest environmental impacts.
2. Formulate recommendations for action towards SCP in European countries and encourage related collaboration and partnerships between public authorities, business and civil society.
3. Discuss European inputs and recommendations to the United Nations’ *Marrakech Process* to develop a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production for the period of 2012-2022.

The overall goal of the conference was to develop three top-priority recommendations for each of the above fields.

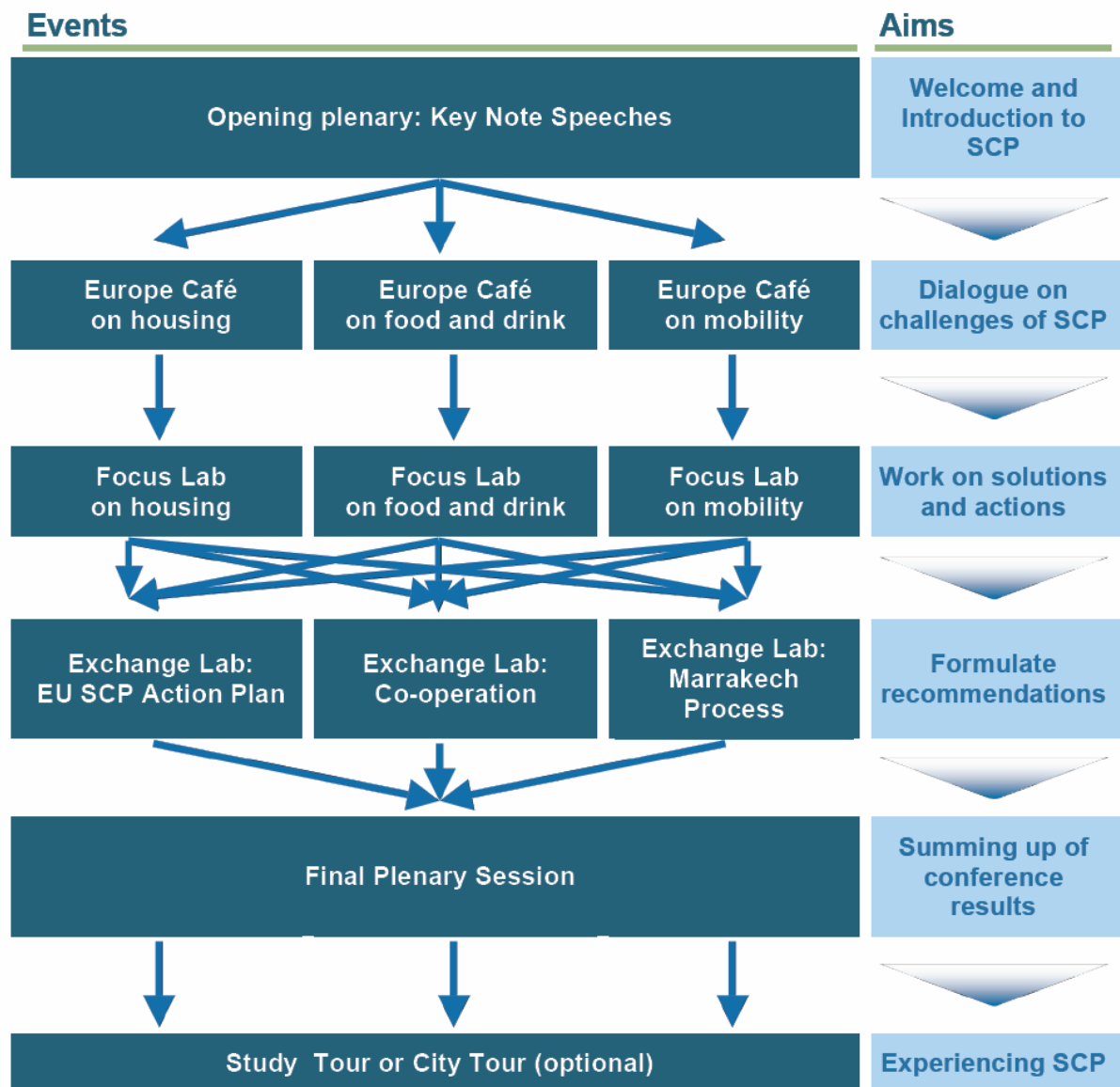
The conference was highly participative: after the keynote speeches participants discussed and worked on challenges, actions and solutions towards SCP in the *Housing*, *Food and drink* and *Mobility* areas (in the “*Europe Cafés*” and “*Focus Labs*”) and developed recommendations for the *EU Action Plan on SCP*, the *Marrakech Process* as well as on collaboration between stakeholders and on national level action (in the “*Exchange Labs*”).

For an overview of the conference programme please refer to *Figure 1*. More detailed information about the background, methodology etc. of the conference can be found in the *Conference Paper* and the *Conference Programme*.

The objective of this *Summary Report* is to present the outcomes of the conference by focusing on the potential solutions and actions proposed and the recommendations developed in the *Focus Labs* and the *Exchange Labs* as well as on the panel discussion of the final conference plenary. The outcomes of the “*Europe Cafés*” are not included in this report because they mainly served as an input for the discussions on the actions, solutions and recommendations. Furthermore, a brief analysis of the conference outcomes is provided. This focuses on a comparison of the types of recommendations made in the *Focus Labs* on the areas of *Housing*, *Food and drink* and *Mobility*.

All conference documents, including this Summary Report, an additional report listing all the participants’ contributions, the conference presentations, the conference paper which has been updated with the conference results, the background paper on National SCP policies as well as the conference programme are available at <http://www.mop.gov.si/en/> (under “events”).

Figure 1 - Conference overview



3. Proposed solutions and actions in the three focus areas

In three parallel sessions (*Focus Labs*), solutions and actions for the focus SCP areas of the conference, *Housing*, *Food and Drink*, and *Mobility*, were developed. All proposals were clustered into themes and participants then developed concrete solutions and actions under each theme. The solutions and actions are presented by means of “mind maps” (figures 3, 5, 7). These were developed following the conference, based on material produced by the conference participants.

Housing

The participants of this session proposed a large number of potential solutions and actions² and clustered them into seven main themes (see the text box on the right).

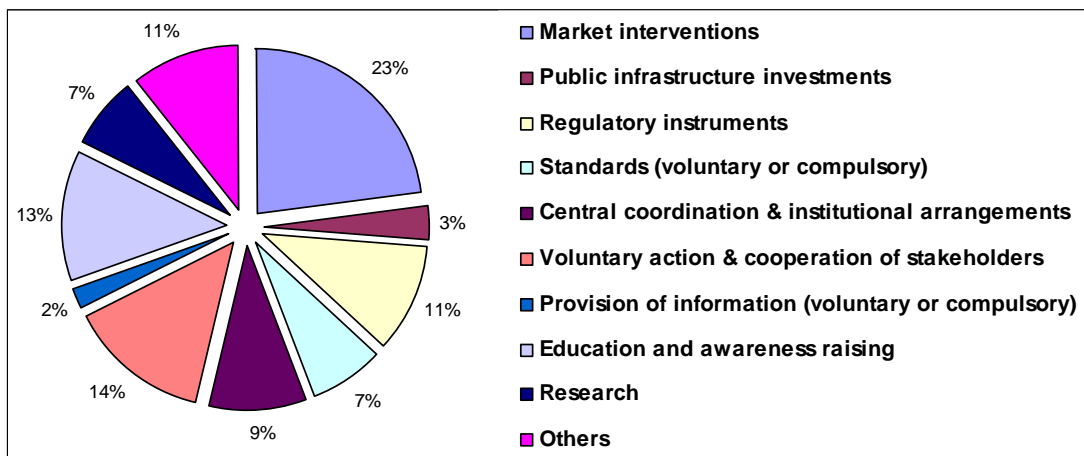
The split of proposals in terms of the type of policy tools and instruments or other approaches towards SCP is shown in *Figure 2*, below.

The most ideas were listed under the category *Market Interventions*. Central topics in this area were ecological tax reform and individual pieces of economic instruments in the housing sector (e.g. differentiated VAT rate for zero emission buildings and subsidy schemes for renewable energy etc.), along with the greening of public infrastructure investment.

The second greatest number of proposals were made in the *Voluntary action and the cooperation of stakeholders* category, and mainly featured voluntary green purchasing and building codes; the use of environmental declaration schemes; and the establishment of European networks for professional cooperation.

Clusters of proposed solutions and actions ¹	
➤	Financial instruments
➤	Standards & labelling
➤	Education
➤	Empowerment of inhabitants and bringing stakeholders into networks
➤	Procurement
➤	Spatial planning and land use
➤	Research

Figure 2 Split of participants' proposals in terms of the type of policy tools and instruments or other approaches towards SCP in the Housing Focus Lab



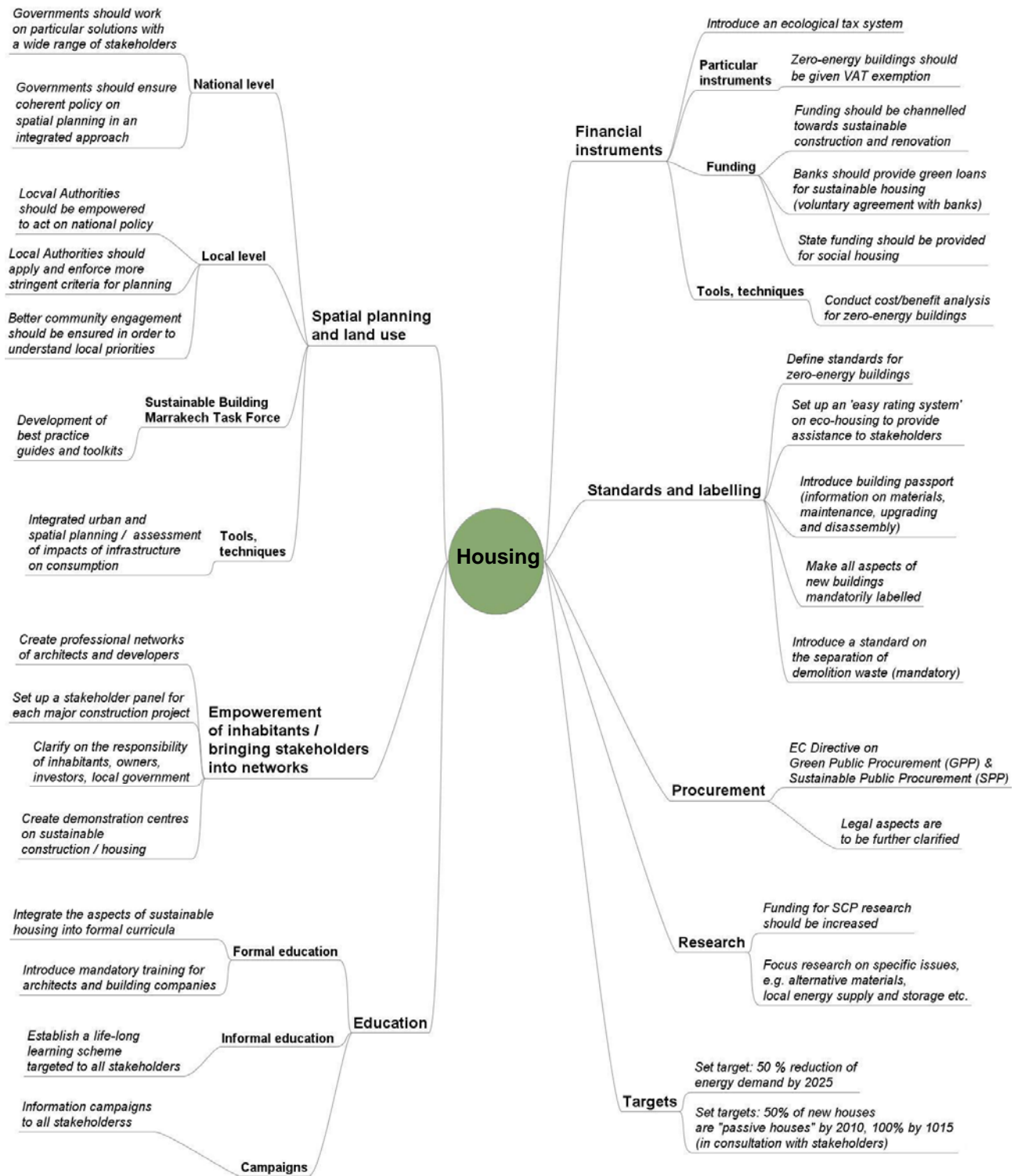
The most important examples of proposals under the categories of *Education and awareness raising*, *Regulatory instruments* and *Central coordination and institutional arrangements* included the integration of housing-related sustainability aspects into formal curricula, establishment of training schemes to professionals in this area; mandatory implementation of EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) and green public procurement for public authorities; and increased coordination amongst state agencies and the different levels of public administration for improved policy-making.

The mind map derived from the solutions and actions developed in this session is shown in *Figure 3*.

¹ The themes are listed according to the number of proposals associated with them (the most ideas were listed under the theme on top of the list)

² For the individual solutions and action please refer to the “*Report on Participant’s Contributions*”

Figure 3 Solutions and actions developed by the participants in the area of housing³



³ For reporting purposes the clusters identified during the conference have been extended with the theme "Targets"

Food and drink

The participants of this session proposed a large number of potential solutions and actions and clustered them into nine main themes (see the text box on the right).

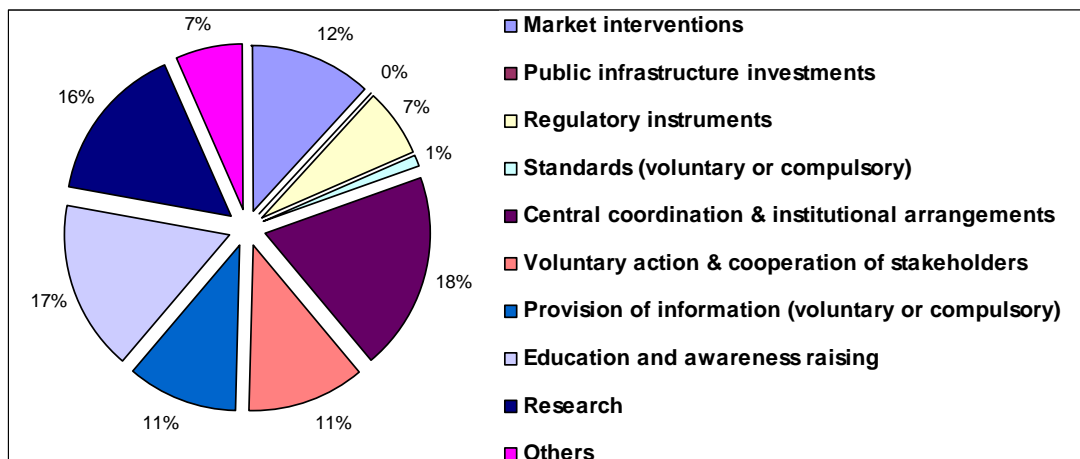
The split of proposals in terms of the type of policy tools and instruments or other approaches towards SCP is shown in *Figure 4*, below.

Most proposals were made in the category *Central coordination and institutional arrangements*. Key topics in this subject included: better cooperation between ministries in charge of the environment, agriculture, health and energy; priority setting along the food chain; conducting stakeholder dialogue on sustainable food system in Europe; negotiation of global trade rules and launch of a debate at the EU level on the question “land for food, energy or biodiversity”.

The joint second most common themes for proposals were *Education and awareness raising*, together with *Research*. Under *Education*, the most important proposals were related to the integration of food SCP aspects into formal curricula and training and campaigns to a wide range of stakeholders including farmers, food providers, restaurants and retail (e.g. lifelong learning schemes for farmers, making citizens aware of the real prices of food etc.). As regards *Research*, most proposals were related to the defining of targets, the identification of priorities for action along the food chain, and to the performance of organic agriculture.

Clusters of proposed solutions and actions
➤ Education – Communication - Information
➤ Research
➤ Labelling of food
➤ The economic framework
➤ The global food chain
➤ Coordination
➤ Sustainable diets
➤ The retail sector
➤ Development aspects

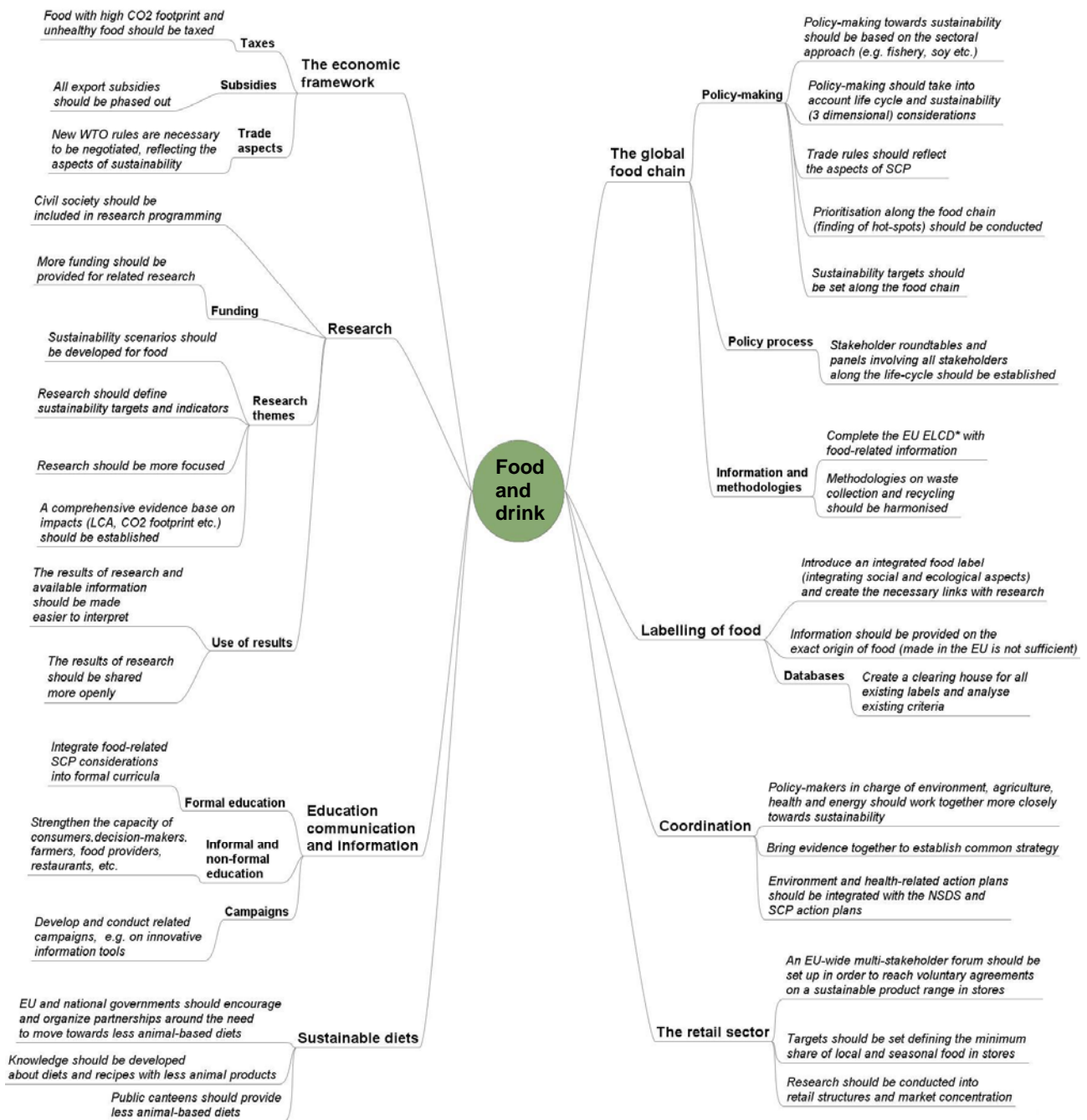
Figure 4 Split of participants’ proposals in terms of the type of policy tools and instruments or other approaches towards SCP in the Food and drink Focus Lab



Under *Market interventions* the central themes of proposals were ecological tax reform, the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy subsidy scheme (CAP) and the price of meat. The most relevant examples from the *Voluntary action and the cooperation of stakeholders* category are voluntary agreement with retailers on a range of sustainable food and voluntary green purchasing by public canteens. In the category *Provision of information*, most proposals were related to the creation of an integrated food label (covering all aspects of sustainability) and/or carbon-footprint label, as well as label certifying local or regional origin.

The mind map derived from the solutions and actions developed in this session is shown in *Figure 5*.

Figure 5 Solutions and actions developed by the participants in the area of food and drink



Mobility

The participants of this session proposed a large number of potential solutions and actions and clustered them into eight themes (see the text box on the right).

The split of proposals in terms of the type of policy tools and instruments or other approaches towards SCP is shown in *Figure 6*, below.

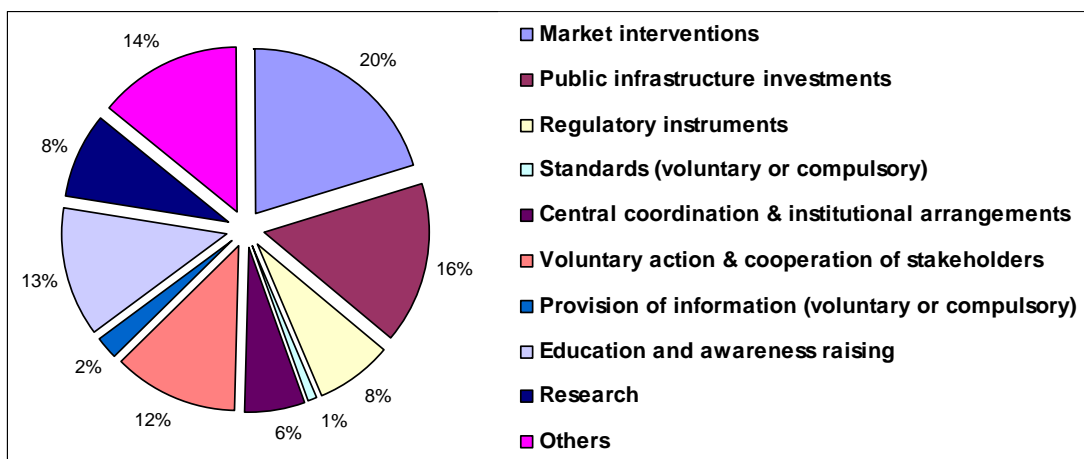
The most proposals were given in the category *Market interventions*. Central themes of this area included traffic charges (congestion charge and road charging schemes), reduced VAT on energy efficient vehicles, taxation of aviation, tradable permits, as well as subsidies to both conventional and renewable energy and carbon offsetting.

Infrastructure investments was rated the second most important category in terms of the number of proposals. The most frequently listed potential solutions in this category were related to public transport and other sustainable mobility infrastructure (train, bicycle), as well as to the improvement of intermodal passenger and freight transport. The categories of *Education and awareness raising* and *Voluntary action and the cooperation of stakeholders* were also considered important. Examples of proposals under the former include informing citizens about the life-cycle impacts of mobility, campaigns on regional products and the promotion of slow/local/green holidays, whilst in the latter car free days, voluntary green purchasing and the involvement of civil society in car sharing could be highlighted.

Clusters of proposed solutions and actions

- Infrastructure and spatial planning
- Financial instruments
- Provision of information, behavioural aspects and education
- Policy-making
- Business responsibility
- Research
- Home working
- Tourism

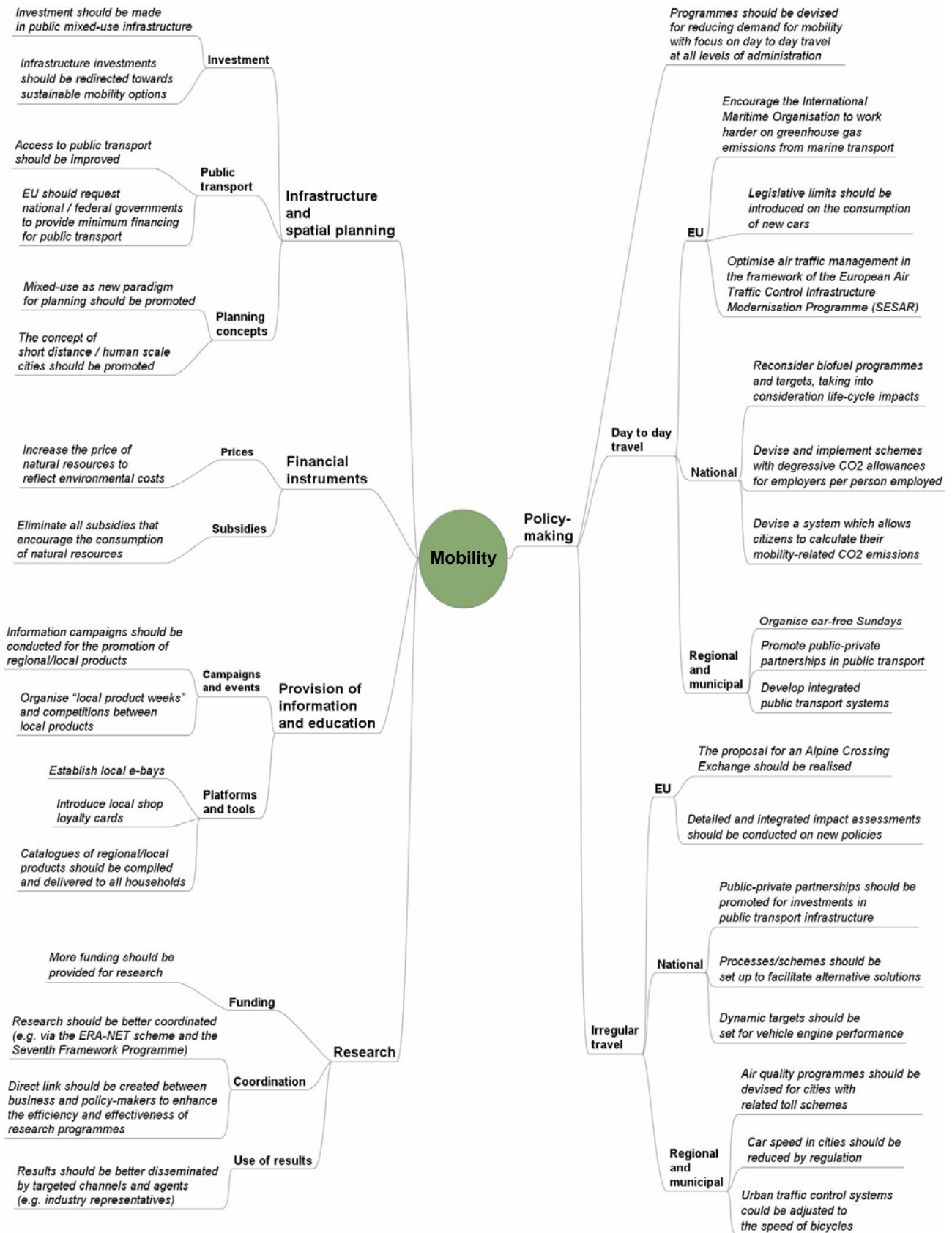
Figure 6 Split of participants' proposals in terms of the type of policy tools and instruments or other approaches towards SCP in the Mobility Focus Lab



The categories *Research* and *Regulatory instruments* were also considered relatively important. Examples under the former include conduction of studies into consumer behaviour and the use of car, as well as into the life cycle impacts of biofuels and the drivers of demand for transport, whilst in the latter the regulation of vehicle engine performance and mandatory employer mobility plans could be highlighted.

The “*Others*” category mainly included recommendations related to the introduction of planning techniques, solutions and ways/methods of measuring related consumption or environmental pressure and impact assessment, last but not least general directions of desired development (e.g. localisation, counter urban sprawl). The mind map derived from the solutions and actions developed in this session is shown in *Figure 7*.

Figure 7 Solutions and actions developed by the participants in the area of mobility



4. Policy recommendations

In line with the objectives of the conference, in the *Exchange Labs* three top-priority recommendations in each of the following fields were developed:

- A) *EU Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production,*
- B) *Collaboration between public authorities, business and civil society and national level action,*
- C) *the Marrakech Process.*

Starting with many different proposals, the conference participants narrowed them down step-by-step to three priority recommendations per area. In the following sections the results of the three *Exchange Labs* are summarised and presented in the following way:

The top-priority recommendations are included in the graphs (funnels) illustrating the three-stage process of developing the recommendations in the *Exchange Labs*.

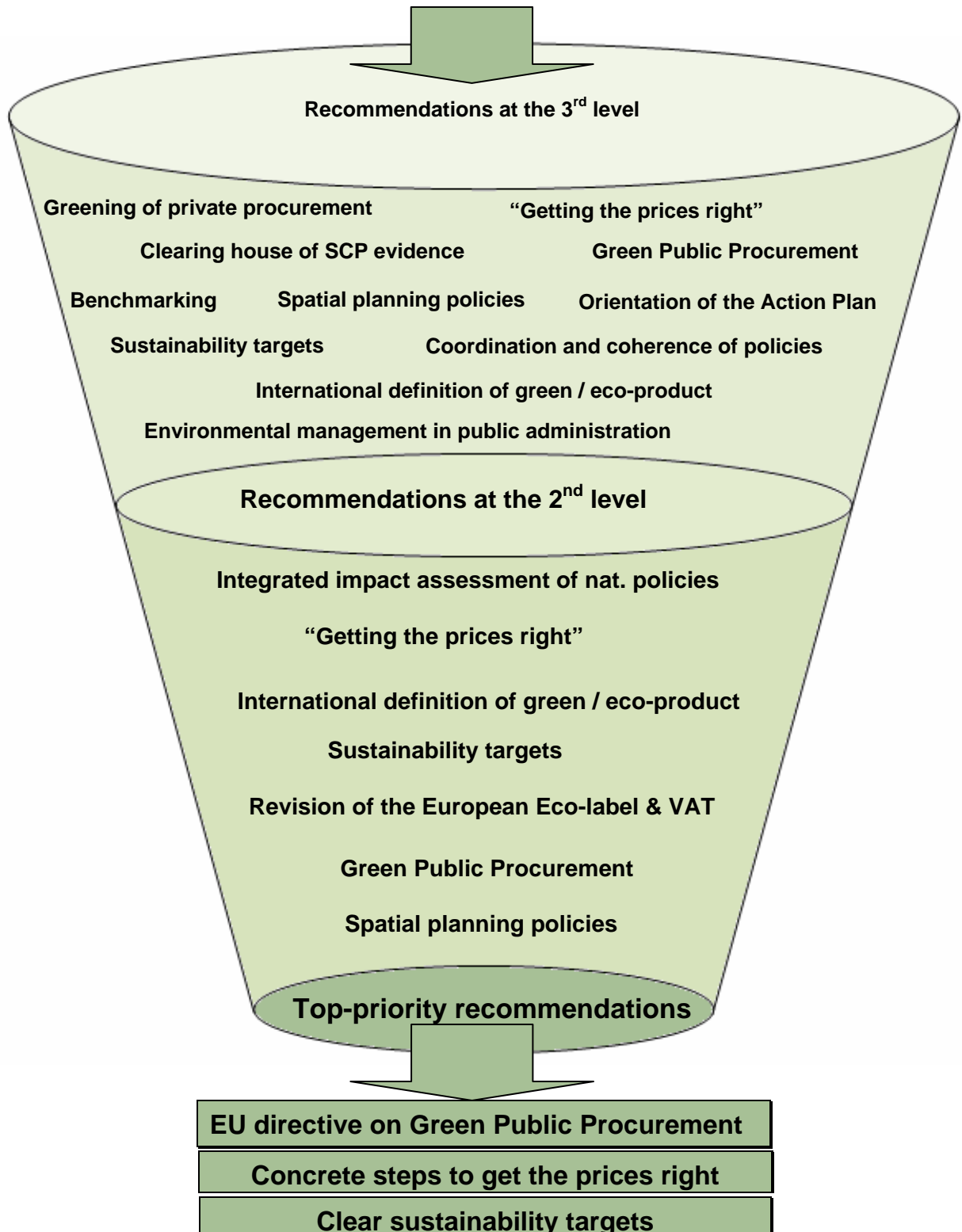
The recommendations at the second level are summarised in text boxes. To avoid reiteration in the presentation of results, the recommendations have been grouped by key points.

Recommendations developed by the participants at the third and most detailed level are presented by means of mind maps. These were derived following the conference, using materials produced by participants. Similar recommendations made by different groups have been combined and presented under a single entry.

EU Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production

The three-stage process of the development of recommendations is illustrated in *Figure 8*.

Figure 8 Recommendations for the EU Action Plan on SCP: visualisation of the discussion process



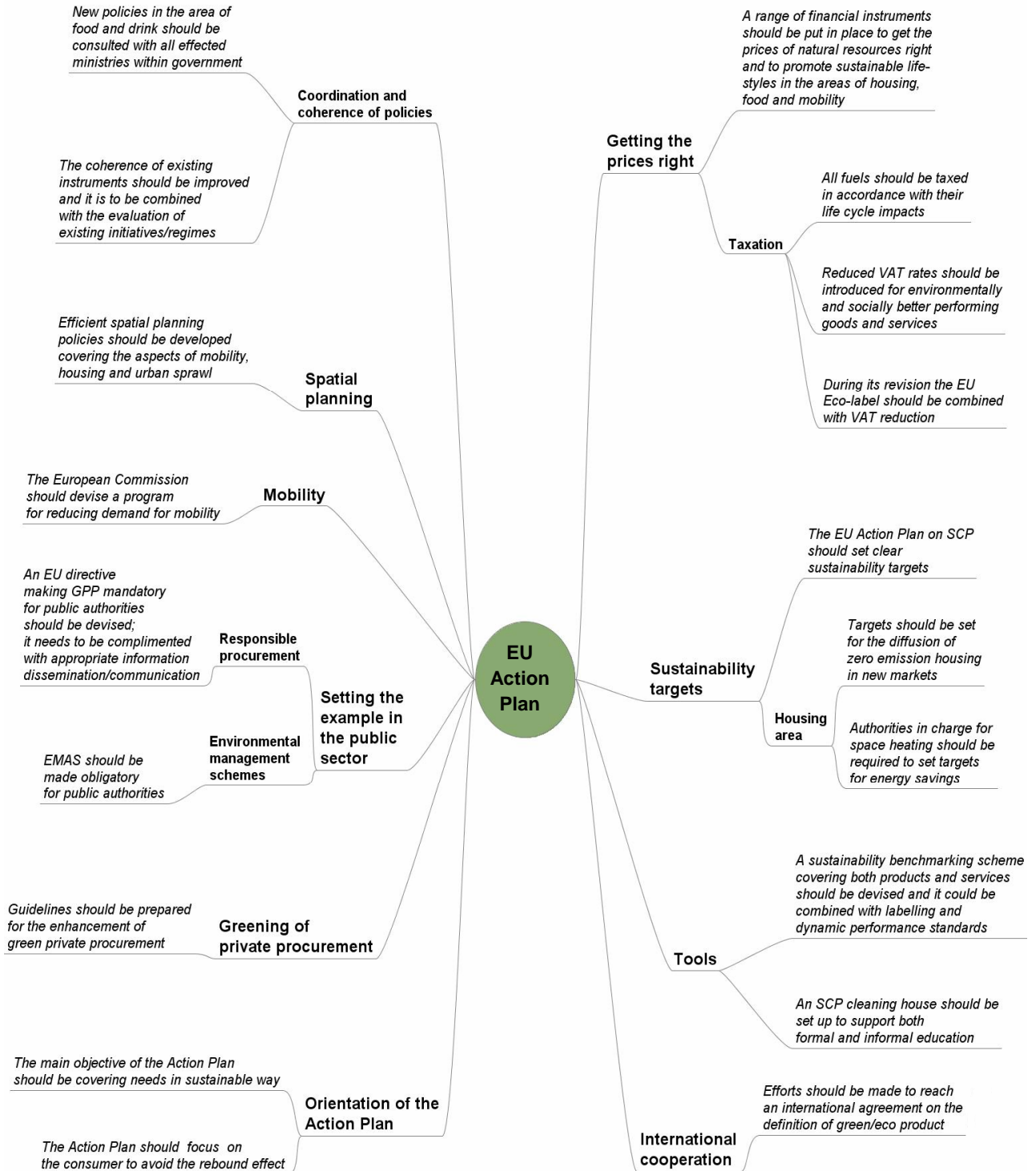
The recommendations developed at the second level are summarised in the text box below.

Recommendations to the European Commission when developing the EU Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production:

- **“Getting the prices right”** –devise and implement a wide range of financial instruments to ensure that the environmental consequences of using natural resources and pollution are reflected in the prices.
- **Green Public Procurement (GPP)** – develop a directive on mandatory GPP for public authorities.
- **Spatial planning policies** – develop efficient spatial planning policies that cover aspects of mobility, housing and urban sprawl. This should be informed by an analysis of why existing legislation is not effective.
- **Sustainability targets** – define clear targets, based on sound and robust indicators, both the level of EU and Member States.
- **Revision of the European Eco-label** – revise the Eco-label and combined it with VAT differentiation.
- **Integrated impact assessment of national policies** – make the Head of Government responsible for ensuring that all aspects of sustainability are accounted for in setting new policies.
- **International agreement over the definition of ‘green’/‘eco’-products** – initiate an international process to reach agreement on the definition of green / eco-products.

The derived mind map of recommendations at the third level is presented in *Figure 9*.

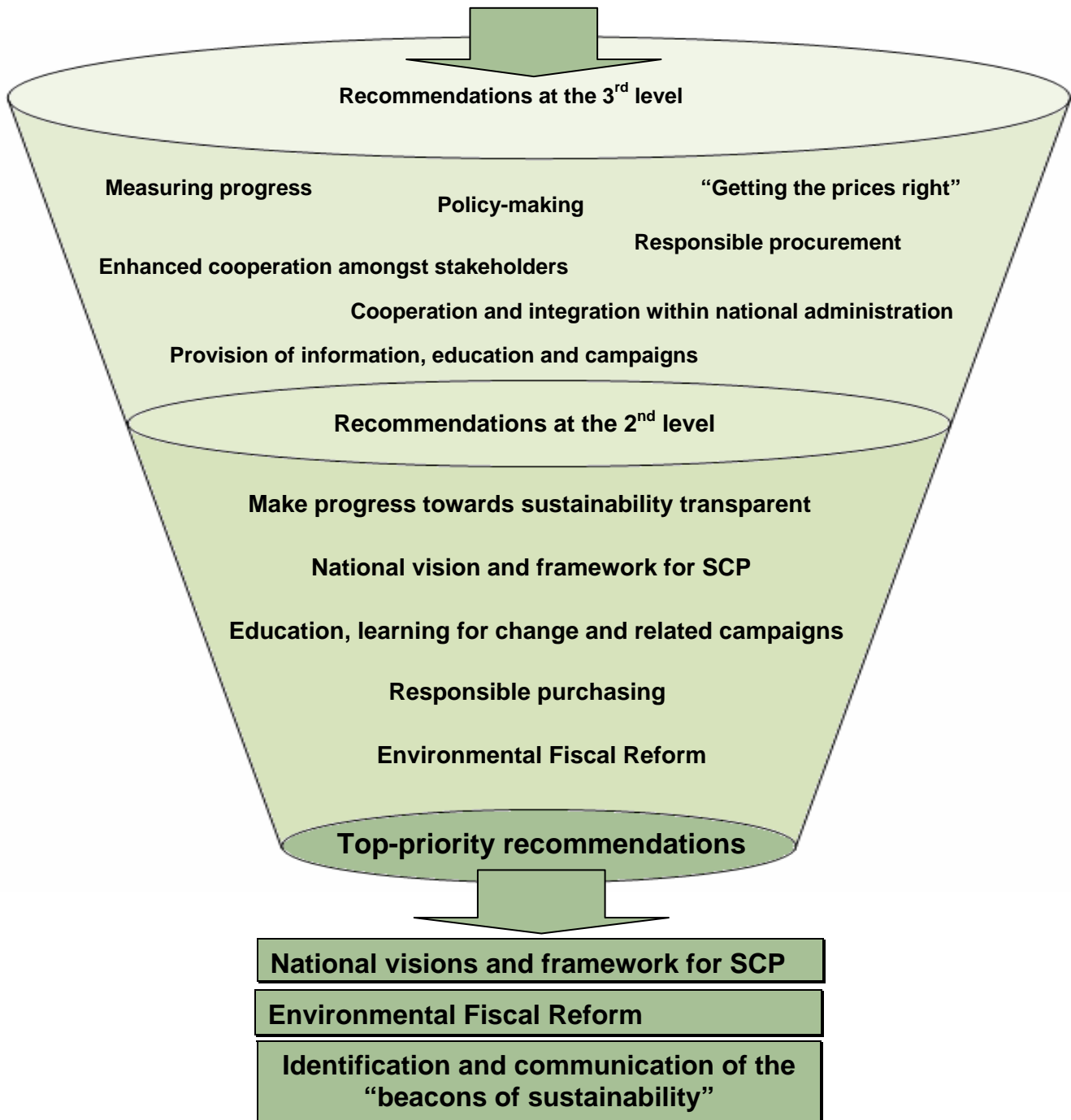
Figure 9 Third level recommendations on the EU Action Plan on SCP



Collaboration between public authorities, business and civil society and national level action on SCP

The three-stage process of the development of recommendations in this session is illustrated in *Figure 10*.

Figure 10 Recommendations for collaboration between stakeholders and national level action on SCP: visualisation of the discussion process



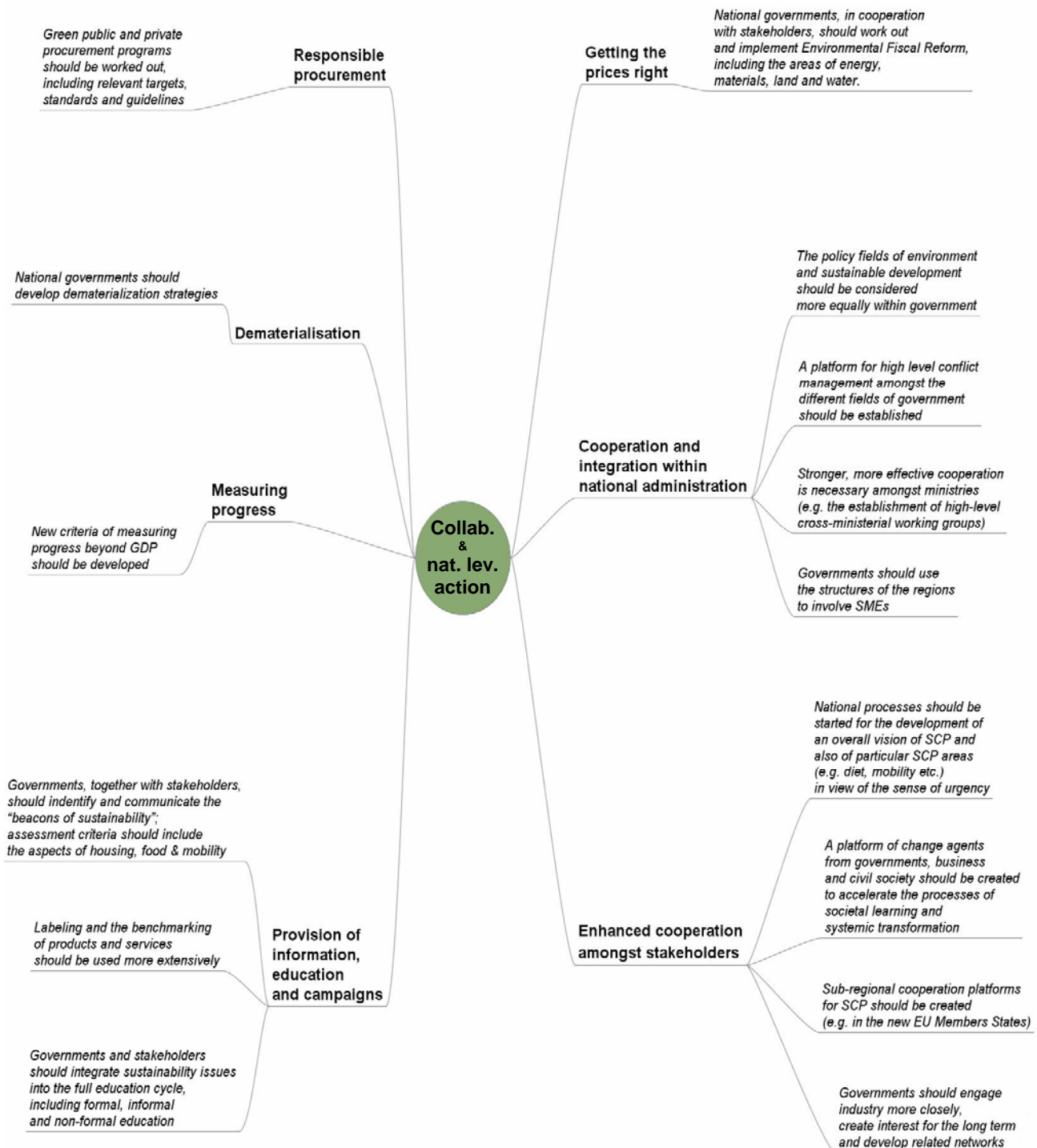
The recommendations developed at the second level are summarised in the text box below.

Recommendations to national governments, business and civil society:

- **National vision and framework for SCP** – start processes for the development of national visions and frameworks of SCP, both in general and specific to SCP areas (e.g. on less animal based diet; and on reducing demand for mobility); the process and the vision should be based on available evidence and aimed at inducing systemic change.
- **Make progress towards SCP transparent** – develop and implement a framework of indicators for the monitoring of progress towards sustainability and new means of providing sustainability-related information (e.g. enhanced use of labels).
- **Environmental Fiscal Reform** – governments should take the lead and work out and implement national Environmental Fiscal Reforms, focusing particularly on the areas of energy, materials, land and water; the process should be carried out in consultation with stakeholders.
- **Responsible purchasing** – governments and the business community should prepare green procurement programmes and define relevant targets; the programmes should be supported by relevant standards and guidelines.
- **Education, learning for change and related campaigns** – create new platforms for education and the exchange of information and knowledge in the subject of SCP; they should be accessible at all levels (national, regional and local) and should ensure the flow of information between different stakeholder groups; the “beacons of sustainability” need to be identified and communicated to stakeholders.

The derived mind map of recommendations at the third level is presented in *Figure 11*.

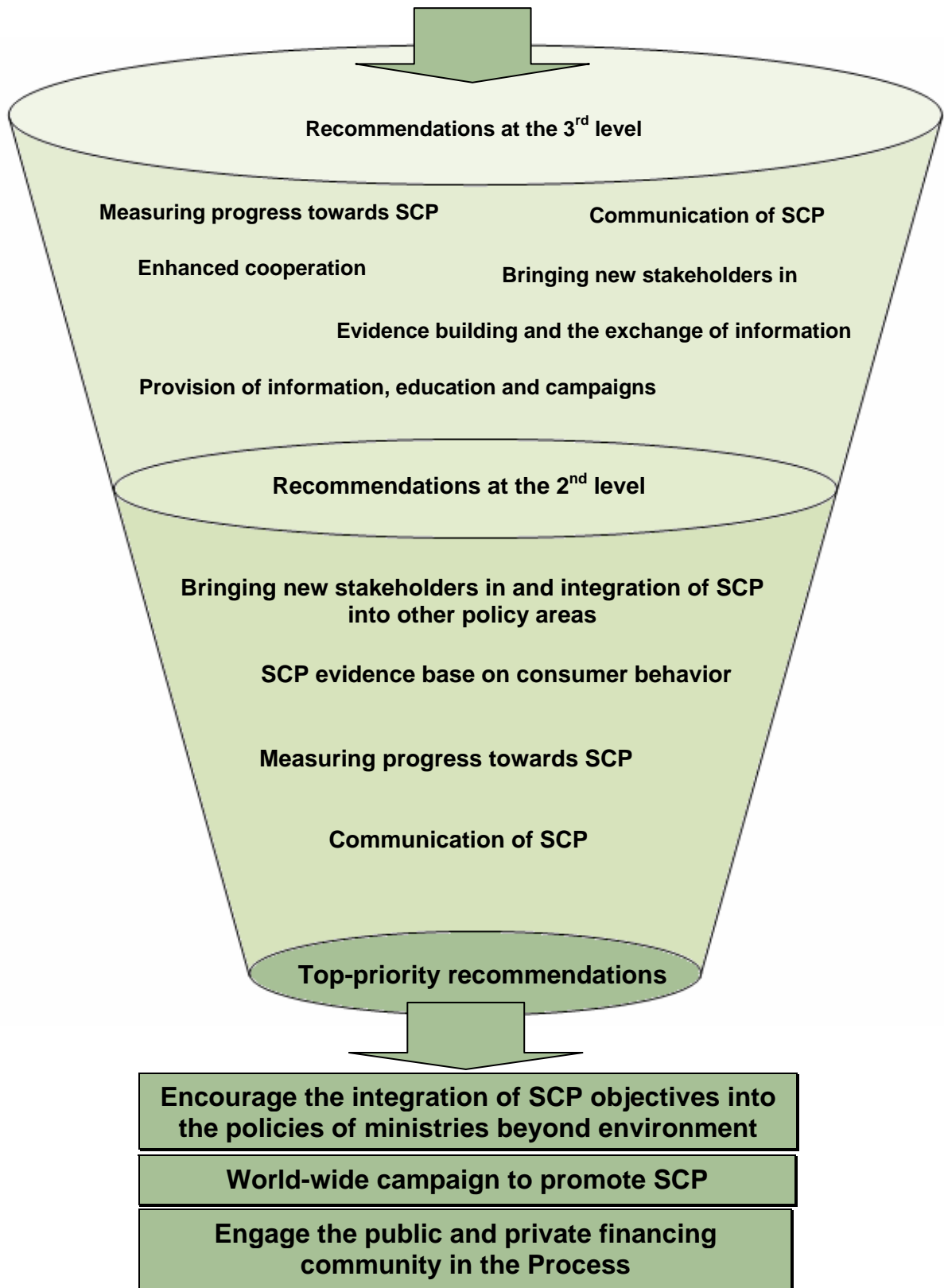
Figure 11 Third level recommendations on collaboration between stakeholders and national level action on SCP



Marrakech Process

The three-stage process of the development of recommendations is illustrated in *Figure 12*.

Figure 12 Recommendations for the Marrakech Process: visualisation of the discussion process



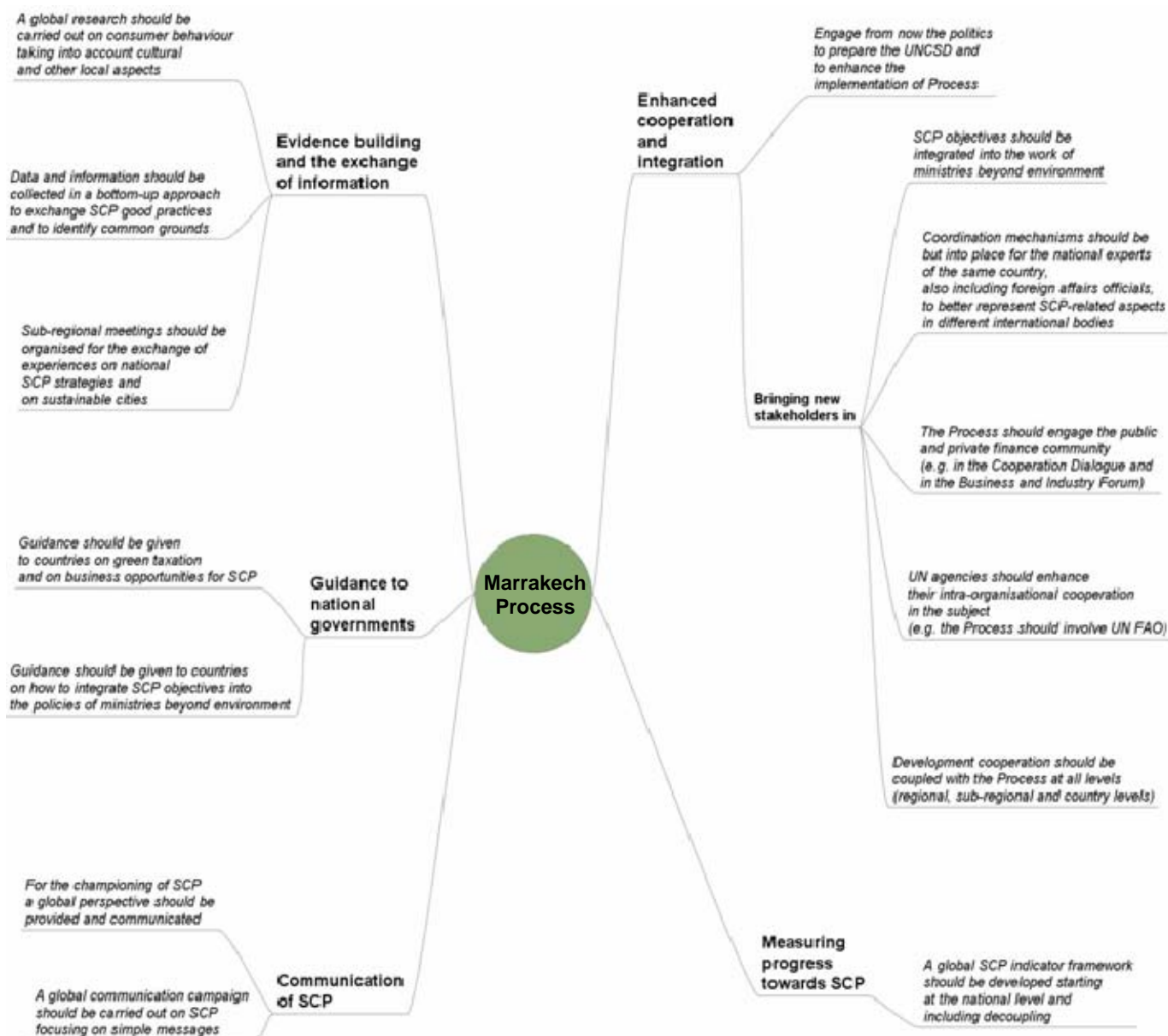
The recommendations developed at the second level are summarised in the text box below.

Recommendations to the United Nations for the implementation of the Marrakech Process:

- ***Bringing new stakeholders in and integration of SCP into other policy areas*** – bring the public and private finance community on board (e.g. in the Cooperation Dialogue and in the Business and Industry Forum); integrate SCP objectives into the work of ministries and agencies beyond environment, particularly via national SCP programmes; make national experts working at international bodies as well as foreign affairs officials part of the Process for an enhanced SCP cooperation both in the intergovernmental and in the international contexts; bring development cooperation agencies into the process and integrate SCP into their daily work.
- ***Building of an SCP evidence base*** – carry out global research on consumer behaviour, taking into consideration the different cultural and other aspects; the results of the research could inform the preparation of a communication strategy and the development of indicators.
- ***Measuring progress towards SCP*** – develop SCP indicators in order to be able to measure progress at the global level, in harmonisation with regional and national indicators.
- ***Communication of SCP*** – develop and implement a central communication strategy together with a world-wide campaign on SCP, with due respect to regional and other differences and focusing on simple messages and the champions of SCP.

The derived mind map of recommendations at the third level is presented in *Figure 13*.

Figure 13 Third level recommendations on the Marrakech Process



5. Reflections and statements by the members of the final plenary

The three top-priority recommendations developed in each *Exchange Lab* were presented to the participants of the parallel sessions in the final plenary. The reflections to the recommendations and the statements made by the panel members are summarised as follows:

Timo Mäkelä (Director, Sustainable Development and Integration, DG Environment, European Commission)

Based on the results of the conference the European Commission is encouraged to continue with the development of the Action Plan, according to the original directions. Many of the ideas and recommendations put forward by the conference could be implemented already and it is not necessary to wait for and/or to expect their inclusion in the Action Plan. So we in the Commission will be working hard to produce an SCP Action Plan for the EU which is robust, concrete and operational to make a difference. Working with prices and taxes is important, at the same time the difficulties of progress in this area at EU level are well-known: e.g. taxation requires a unanimous vote in the Council. But progress can take place at individual member states and we will support this process. Although the topic poses a big challenge to the Commission, the setting of sustainability targets in the areas such as energy and resource efficiency, is necessary in order to move forward. Informed policy-making mandates the establishment of a much better knowledge and evidence base. In the subject of housing the existing building stock is a big challenge and this topic was underrepresented in the conference discussions. Finally, we foresee progress in the area of product policies and you can expect some new initiatives in this area.

Jacqueline McGlade (Executive Director, European Environment Agency)

The EEA is committed to the following activities to bring SCP forward, and the discussions at the conference have reinforced what the Agency is planning to do:

- environmental and resource accounting both at a European and global level;
- address how to ‘get the prices right’ and support development of indices beyond GDP
- develop a framework of indicators to measure progress towards SCP;
- produce “country factsheets” on SCP, containing information on what measures have been implemented by EU Member States to promote SCP and to share best practice;
- analyse the effectiveness of Green Public Procurement (GPP) in selected EU Member States;
- provide information on the impacts of consumption to citizens across Europe (beyond the Ecological Footprint) and analyse the drivers of consumption;
- start a process to make the EEA canteen more sustainable, especially with respect to high-impact food such as meat;

Mitja Bricelj (Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Republic of Slovenia)

The results of the Conference are highly relevant to the national policy making process and will be very useful for Slovenia during the EU Presidency next year when the draft EU Action Plan is presented. The results point to the really important structural issues that are at the heart of the problems of sustainability. So far we haven’t resolved many of them, e.g. fiscal reform or green

procurement. To have any chance of success in the future it is important to address SCP and devise related programmes of action at least at the following five levels of administration: global, EU, national, regional and local. It is essential that the process of developing the programmes of action be flexible enough; the different levels at which challenges should be tackled as well as regional differences are to be taken into account.

For the practical implementation of SCP manageable functional units will be necessary at a level below the entire community. Ecoregions such as the Mediterranean or the Alps could be considered in this context and given opportunity to develop distinct patterns of sustainability within their ecological and social context.

Charles Arden-Clarke (Head of Unit, SCP Branch, UNEP DTIE)

A key challenge is how to mainstream SCP and integrate related objectives into the work of ministries beyond environment. It is particularly crucial to integrate SCP objectives into the investment plans of the public and private sectors, as well as to make the general public more aware of the importance of doing this.

To achieve this integration, the benefits of SCP need to be quantified and communicated. One also needs objective and widely agreed definitions of green products to help direct investor and consumer choices.

Potential areas of cooperation on these issues and mechanisms will continue to be discussed and analysed in the Marrakech Process, through the international, regional and national consultation and dialogue with key stakeholders, as well as through the work and activities with the Marrakech Task Forces and the Cooperation Dialogue with development agencies.

Mohan Peck (Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Policy Integration and Analysis Branch, Division for Sustainable Development, UN DESA)

A lot of good ideas were put forward by the conference that should be further discussed and realised. The Marrakech Process needs to involve local authorities and at the same time the broader engagement of UN agencies is necessary. Sub-regions with similar problems (e.g. Eastern Europe) should work together. The peer reviewing of national activities could be useful. It is necessary to establish a Marrakech task force or a partnership on agriculture and food consumption. Discussions on the potential establishment of a task force on SMEs are ongoing. A communication strategy for SCP is being prepared. It is necessary to speed up the preparation of the 10-year framework of programmes so that stakeholders are involved at an early enough stage and strong consensus can be reached.

Brigitte Tantawy Monsou (Director, Sustainable Value Chain, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, WBCSD)

The recommendations put forward by the conference are welcome. As regards related policy-making, the business community needs clearer, better integrated and longer term policies. The members of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development are already committed to Life Cycle Thinking, although it needs to be further integrated as part of business models. Through the provision of products and services the business community is “part of the solution”, in an active way. The business community is keen to contribute positively to the debate and to work in partnership with governments and civil society to build a more sustainable society.

Anamarija Slabe (Vice President, European Environment Bureau)

It is necessary that the Action Plan includes clear and binding targets. Furthermore, wherever it is possible, mandatory measures should be given priority. The role and involvement of environmental NGOs as part of civil society in policy-making is important, e.g. the question of Ecological Tax Reform has been taken up and supported by civil society for years. The EU research agenda needs a vision and civil society should be substantially involved in the steering of research, i.e. it should be part of the Research Platforms. Furthermore, civil society should be better involved in related dialogues, e.g. dialogue on agriculture and food systems. It is necessary to define what the optimal and feasible use of the agricultural system is, i.e. how much land should be used for food and how much for biofuels.

6. Brief analysis of results

This brief analysis can input into the relevant policy making processes and in particular facilitate the integration of these considerations into the policy. It is structured along the following elements:

Solutions and actions on the three focus areas housing, food and drink, and mobility

- i) The split of participants' individual proposals in terms of the type of measures and tools at the aggregate level of the *Focus Labs*;
- ii) Particular measures and tools most commonly recommended in the *Focus Labs*;
- iii) Recommended measures and tools, which were specific to the thematic SCP areas; and
- iv) Key decision-makers and stakeholders per thematic SCP areas according to the recommendations / the character of the recommendations;

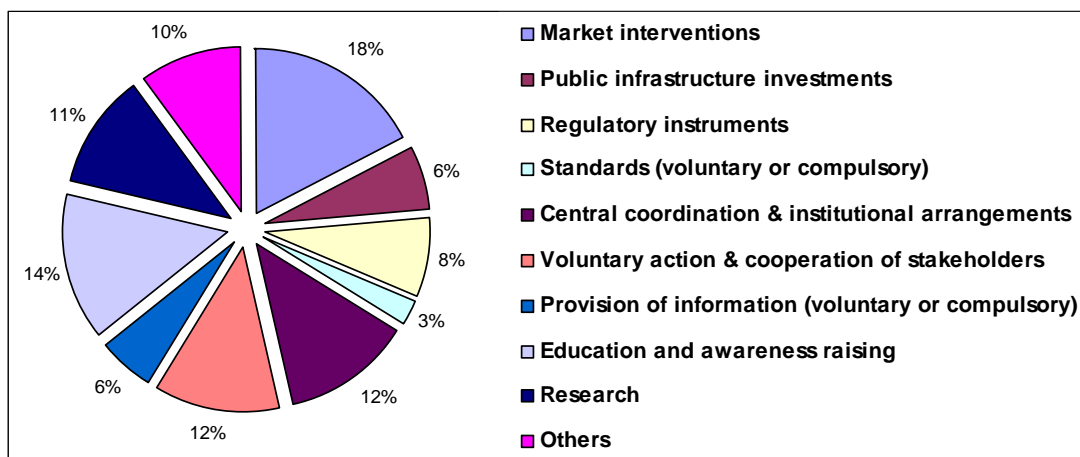
Recommendations

- I) Potential fields of close cooperation between the European Commission, national governments, the Marrakech Process and other stakeholders, based on the conference recommendations.

Solutions and actions for the three focus areas

The split of participants' proposals in terms of the type of policy tools, when considering all three *Focus Labs* together, is shown in *Figure 14*.

Figure 14 Split of participants' proposals in terms of the type of policy tools and instruments or other approaches towards SCP in the three parallel Focus Labs



Most proposals made by participants fell into the category of action *Market interventions* followed by the category *Education and awareness raising*.

The measures and tools most commonly recommended were:

- Overall environmental fiscal reform, enhanced use of economic instruments (specifically differentiated VAT and other taxes);
- Integration of SCP aspects into curricula (formal education) and large-scale targeted campaigns;
- More funding for more specialised research, along with better coordination, more transparency and the easier interpretation of results;
- Labels and tools (e.g. benchmarking, evaluation tools)⁴;
- Green/Sustainable Public Procurement (voluntary or compulsory);
- Laws and regulations⁵;
- Setting of specific targets⁶ as well as of the setting of target / indicator frameworks;
- Life Cycle Impact Assessment for policy-making, priority setting and communication⁷;

The proposed area-specific measures, tools and key actors in the three thematic SCP areas are indicated in *Table 1*.

Table 1 Recommended area-specific measures and tools and area-specific key actors in the three thematic areas

	Recommended area-specific measures and tools or SCP approaches	Area-specific key actors based on the recommendations
Housing	Standards, demonstration centres, integrated spatial planning, tradable certificates, green loans from banks to private owners and other investors	Standardisation bodies, Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs), architects and city planners, construction and refurbishment firms, banks (green loan), SMEs and local communities and inhabitants
Food and drink	trade rules, sub-sectoral approach, localisation (consumption of local food)	WTO, a large variety of ministries are to be involved (ministries of environment, health, agriculture and energy), farmers and factory farms, food providers, retailers (SMEs), restaurants and public canteens
Mobility	Infrastructure investments, public-private partnerships, tradable permits, renting schemes, mixed-use infrastructure, localisation (local, regional products)	Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs), spatial planning authorities and city planners, banks and other investors (public-private partnerships), manufacturers of passenger vehicles and companies (travel plans)

⁴ E.g. Housing: energy performance certificates; Food and drink: integrated food label and carbon foot-print label; Mobility: methods, tools etc. to calculate the impact of (personal) transport and the provision of information on local and regional products

⁵ E.g. Housing: mandatory separation of demolition waste; Food and drink: information is to be indicated on the exact origin of food; Mobility: environmental performance of passenger cars

⁶ E.g., housing: market diffusion of zero emission buildings; food and drink: availability of local and seasonal food in stores, canteens etc.; mobility: vehicle performance

⁷ E.g. Housing: rating system for eco-buildings, building passports etc.; Food and drink: identification of hot-spots along the life cycle; Mobility: impact assessment of biofuels

Recommendations

Priority fields for collaboration amongst the three areas, based on the conference recommendations, are identified in *Table 2*. Overlapping and matching recommendations for the three areas of policy-making (EU Action Plan, Collaboration and national level action, Marrakech Process) are presented.

The table is filled in with all top-priority recommendations and with as many recommendations as possible at the second and third levels, for each field. The top priority recommendations are indicated in red, the recommendations at the second level are indicated in green and on the third level in blue.

Table 2 The top-priority recommendations of the Exchange Labs and second and third level recommendations in the same broader fields of action

	EU Action Plan	Collaboration and national level action	Marrakech Process
Getting the prices right	Concrete steps to get the prices right	Environmental Fiscal Reform	Guidance to national governments on green taxation
Responsible purchasing	Directive on GPP	Responsible purchasing	
Measuring progress towards SCP	Clear sustainability targets	Make progress towards sustainability transparent	SCP indicators at the global level, in harmonisation with local frameworks
Communication of SCP to stakeholders		Identify and communicate to stakeholders the "beacons of sustainability"	Develop a world-wide campaign to promote SCP
Evidence building and the exchange of information	Sustainability benchmarking scheme for products and services	New platforms are to be created for education and the exchange of information and knowledge in the subject of SCP national visions are to be based on available sound evidence	Global research on consumer behaviour
Bringing new stakeholders in and integration of SCP into other policy areas		Stronger, more effective communication amongst ministries	Encourage the integration of SCP objectives into ministries beyond environment; engage the public and private financial community
Vision and framework for SCP		Develop long-term national visions and frameworks of SCP	

I - Identified fields for potential close cooperation amongst the European Commission, national governments and the Marrakech Process, based on the conference recommendations

The top-priority cooperation field is:

- *“Getting the prices right”;*

Second level cooperation fields are:

- *Measuring progress towards SCP; and*
- *Building of an evidence base and the exchange of information;*

II - Identified fields for potential close cooperation between national governments and the Marrakech Process

- *Communication of SCP to stakeholders; and*
- *Bringing new stakeholders in and integration of SCP into other policy areas;*

III - Identified fields for potential close cooperation between the European Commission and national governments

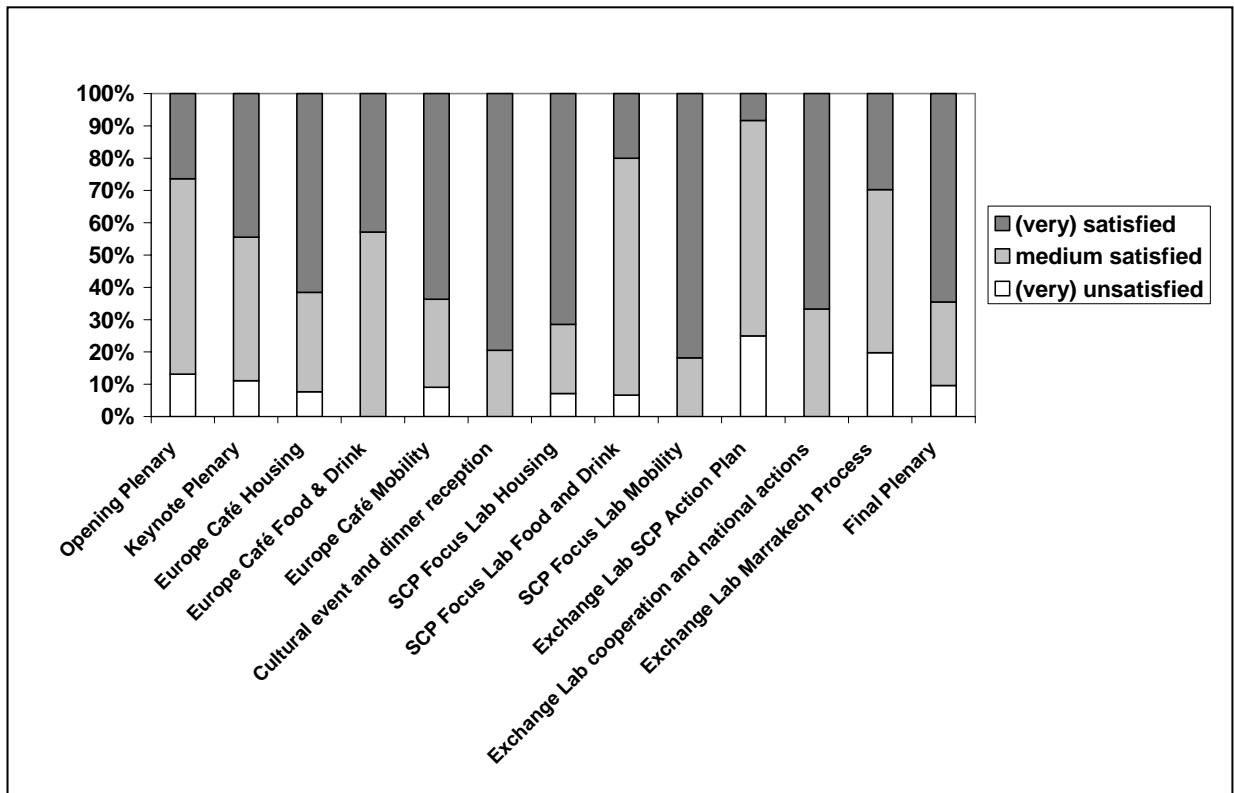
- *Responsible purchasing;*

7. Evaluation of the Conference

The conference organisers asked the participants for feedback on the conference, and 44 % returned the respective questionnaire. The large majority of participants were satisfied with the overall quality of the conference and the provided background papers. *Figure 15* presents the results for the different sessions in more detail.

For future conferences in a participatory format, participants suggested, for example, to have more time for interactive discussions and more targeted or more provocative key presentations. The opening session was generally felt to have been too long and the final plenary too short. Some asked for prepared key questions or policy action to better focus the discussions. Others suggested making participants provide their own written input for the group work as a basis for the dialogue in the Europe Cafés. It was proposed to communicate better from the beginning how the discussions and results would be reported. Overall, participants very much welcomed the participatory format and congratulated the organisers for the preparation and organisation of the conference.

Figure 15 Feed-back from conference participants



Authors and Acknowledgement

This *Conference Summary Report* was compiled and written by Jozsef Szlezak of the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)⁸ and Almut Reichel of the European Environment Agency⁹, under guidance of and with contribution from the conference organisers.

The summary is based on the “*Report on Participant’s Contributions*” (by Prospex bvba who facilitated the conference) and the notes of conference rapporteurs on the parallel sessions and the plenaries.

Conference rapporteurs were:

Sarah Resouly (DEFRA, UK): “*Housing*” and “*EU Action Plan on SCP*” sessions;

Jernej Stritih (on behalf of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia): “*Mobility*” and “*Cooperation and National Actions on SCP*” sessions;

Jozsef Szlezak (REC): “*Food and drink*” and the “*Marrakech Process*” sessions;

Contributors from the organising institutions were:

Almut Reichel and Lars Mortensen (European Environment Agency);

Alenka Burja (Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia);

Michael Kuhndt and Nadine Pratt (UNEP/Wuppertal Institute Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production)

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This summary report, together with the other conference documents is available on the internet at:

<http://www.mop.gov.si/en/> (under “events”)

⁸ Chapters 1 - 6

⁹ Chapters 2 and 7