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# G7 Workshop on Resource Efficiency

12-13 March 2015, Berlin

## Chair's Conclusions

### G7 High Level Event and Workshop

On 12 and 13 March 2015 delegations of all G7 members met in Berlin to consider national resource efficiency policies and experience and to exchange views on possible action by the G7 on resource efficiency. The first part of the meeting was dedicated to a public High Level Event. The meeting continued in the afternoon of 12 March 2015 and the morning of 13 March 2015 in a Workshop format with G7 delegations and invited guest speakers from the UNEP International Resource Panel, from the OECD and from the private sector. Finally, G7 government delegations met in the afternoon of 13 March 2015 to discuss possible deliverables of the G7 summit on this subject.

### Suggested deliverables for the G7 Summit

All G7 delegations expressed their support to address resource efficiency at the G7 summit on 7 and 8 June 2015 and to take joint action. As a result of the Workshop, the following points should be taken into consideration as possible deliverables of the G7 summit:

#### 1. Statement on importance of resource efficiency

The G7 could reaffirm the high importance of the protection and efficient use of natural resources and the positive impact on all three equally important dimensions of sustainability – economy, ecology and social aspects. In doing so, we are strengthening the competitiveness of industries, safeguarding jobs and boosting environmental protection.

With a projected world population of more than 9 billion people in 2050 and rapid economic growth in newly industrialising countries, demand for natural resources, especially raw materials, is expected to continue to rise strongly. Against this background, increasing resource efficiency is an important factor in delivering environmental and climate protection, employment, social benefits and sustainable green growth. Resource efficiency offers opportunities to reduce the burden on the environment while strengthening the sustainability and competitiveness of the economy. This requires the productive interplay of stakeholders from policy-making, business, academia and consumers. The G7 could add significant value by taking joint action to speed up the development towards a resource-efficient economy in order to make life in the boundaries of the planet achievable.

#### 2. G7 Alliance on Resource Efficiency

The G7 should establish a “G7 Alliance on Resource Efficiency” which would be at the heart of the work carried out in this field. The G7 Alliance on Resource Efficiency would provide a forum to exchange and promote best practices and foster innovation together with business (Business 7) and other stakeholders, including from the public sector, research institutions, academia, consumers and civil society, on a voluntary, non-binding basis. The G7 Alliance on Resource Efficiency would aim at closing gaps by promoting



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exchange of concepts on how to tackle the challenge “resource efficiency”, of best practices and experience, and by initiating the creation of information networks.

A series of workshops on best practices could initiate this process. Subjects which could be addressed in several workshops under the G7 Alliance on Resource Efficiency could include:

- Business initiatives and best practices (in cooperation with Business 7)
- Policies to create favourable framework conditions
- Life-cycle-based decision-making, data, concepts and definitions of resource efficiency
- Industrial symbiosis
- Support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- Green public procurement, eco-design, sharing economy and remanufacturing
- Fostering research and innovation for resource efficiency and integrating resource efficiency into education and training
- Relevant activities in international fora and International Organisations
- Experience from bilateral cooperation with developing countries
- Potential of substituting non-renewable resources by sustainable renewable resources

The use of virtual workshops and videoconferences should be explored so as to maximize benefits while limiting travel requirements.

### **3. Study by International Resource Panel (IRP)**

Work on resource efficiency could benefit from an intensified cooperation with engaged International Organizations. The International Resource Panel (IRP) of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) could be mandated by the G7 to prepare a synthesis report highlighting the most promising potentials and solutions for resource efficiency in industrialized countries as well as in emerging market economies and developing countries. The synthesis report could build upon existing work and main findings of the IRP and engaged International Organizations, such as the OECD and UNEP. The synthesis report could be provided by the second half of 2016. It could be supplemented by work of the OECD, inter alia on policy recommendations.

### **4. Commitment to ambitious national action**

The G7 could commit to take ambitious national action to improve resource-efficiency, building on existing national and regional initiatives and taking into account their respective economic structures.