

Climate Policy in Germany

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on
LONG TERM PROSPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY
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Climate Policy in Germany: Underlying philosophy

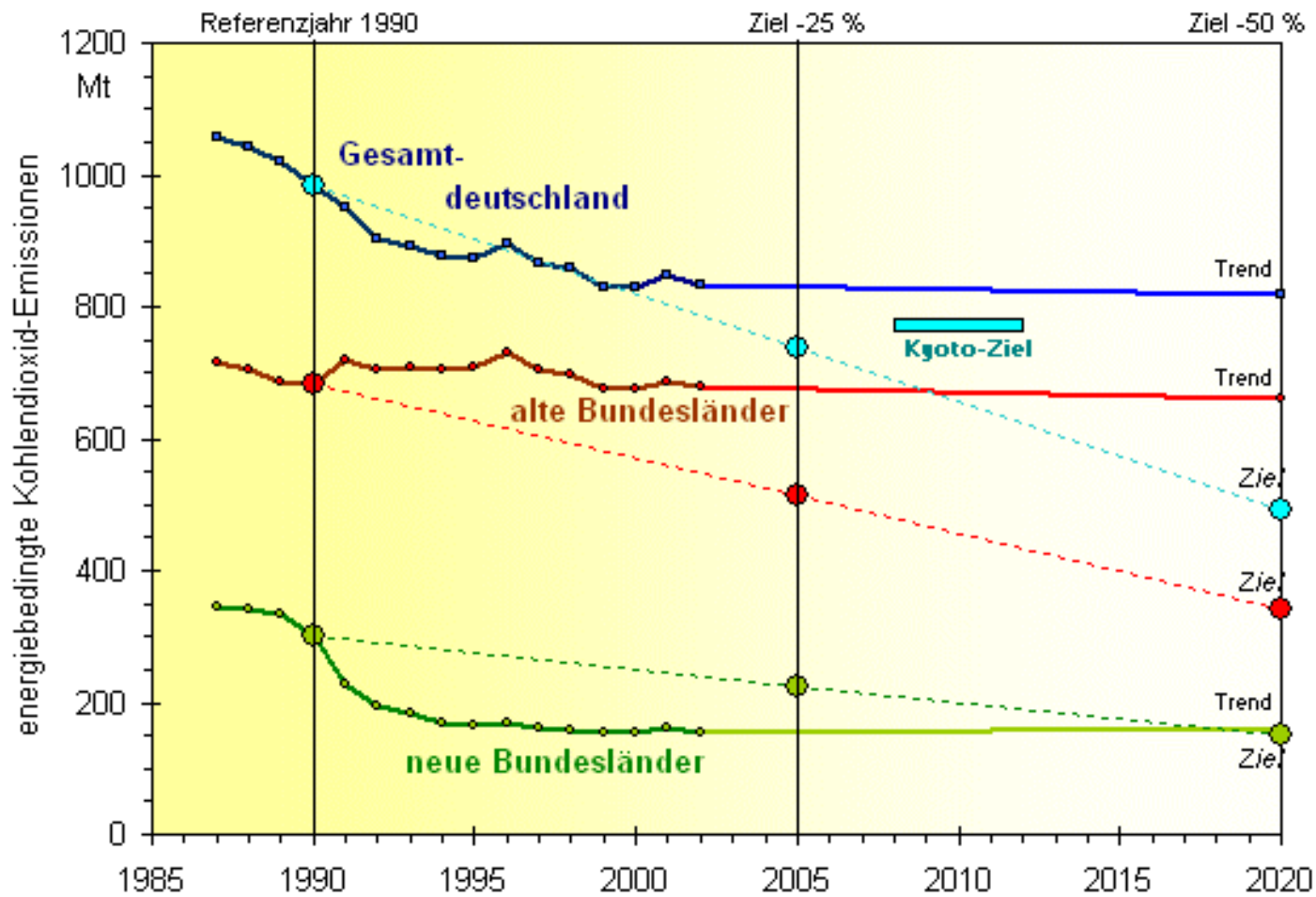
- Precautionary principle
- Idea that our way of life, our standard of living could be generalized (every person in the world has the same right)
- Fulfill the target domestically
- No sinks
- No nukes
- Opportunities for new technologies in energy efficiency and use of renewables for export

⇒ Strong support for the Kyoto Protocol

History of German Climate Policy

- **1987** Warning of German Meteorological Society and German Physical Society on the foreseeable dangerous climate change
- **1990** Report of Federal Parliamentary Commission on preventing climate change,
demanding a reduction of the CO₂ emissions of Germany by
 - 30 % until 2005
 - 50 % until 2020
 - 80 % until 2050compared to 1987 levels (unanimously)
- **1990** German government decision to reduce CO₂ emissions of Germany by 25 % until 2005
- **1998** German Kyoto target as part of EU burden sharing: -21 %

Overview of German CO₂ Emissions



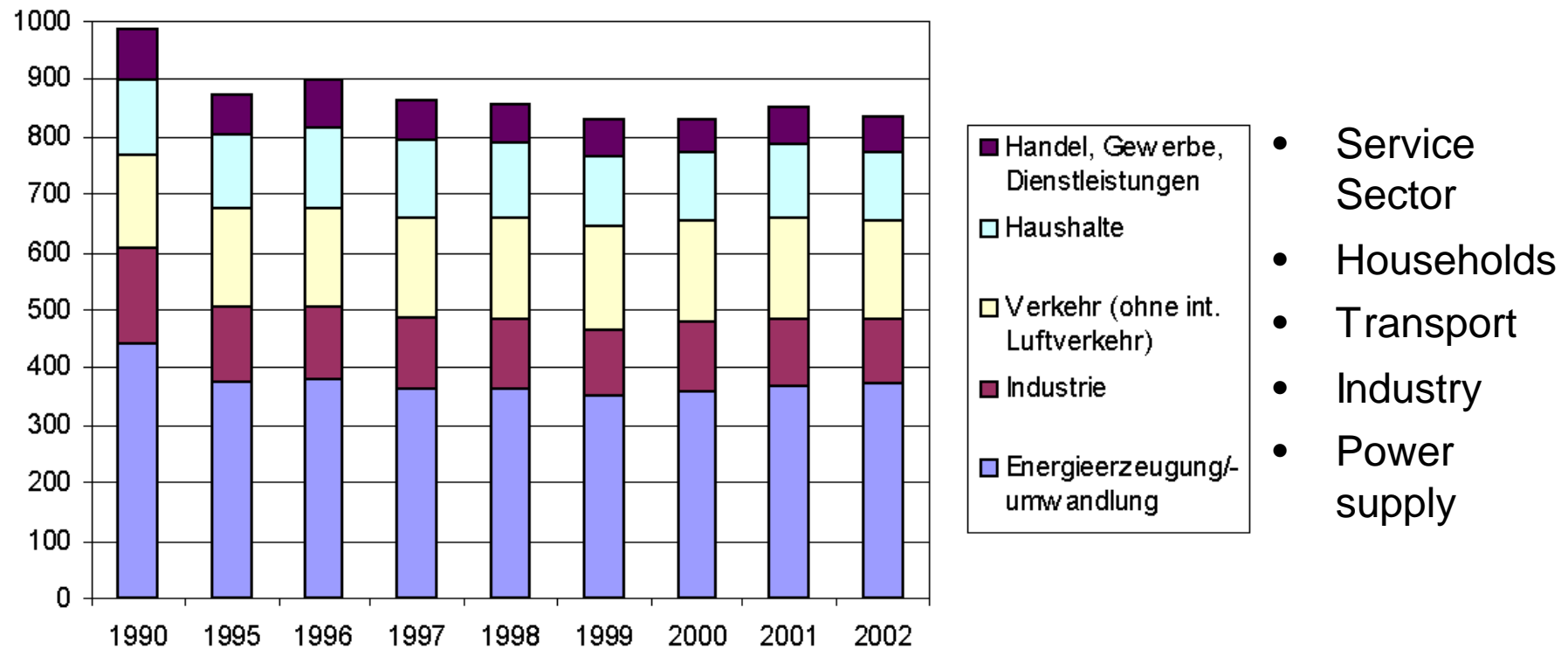
Source:
www.volker-quaschnig.de

Effective Policies and Measures in Germany

- Renewable energy act (EEG)
- Ecological tax reform (in 1999)
- Reform of the Railway system

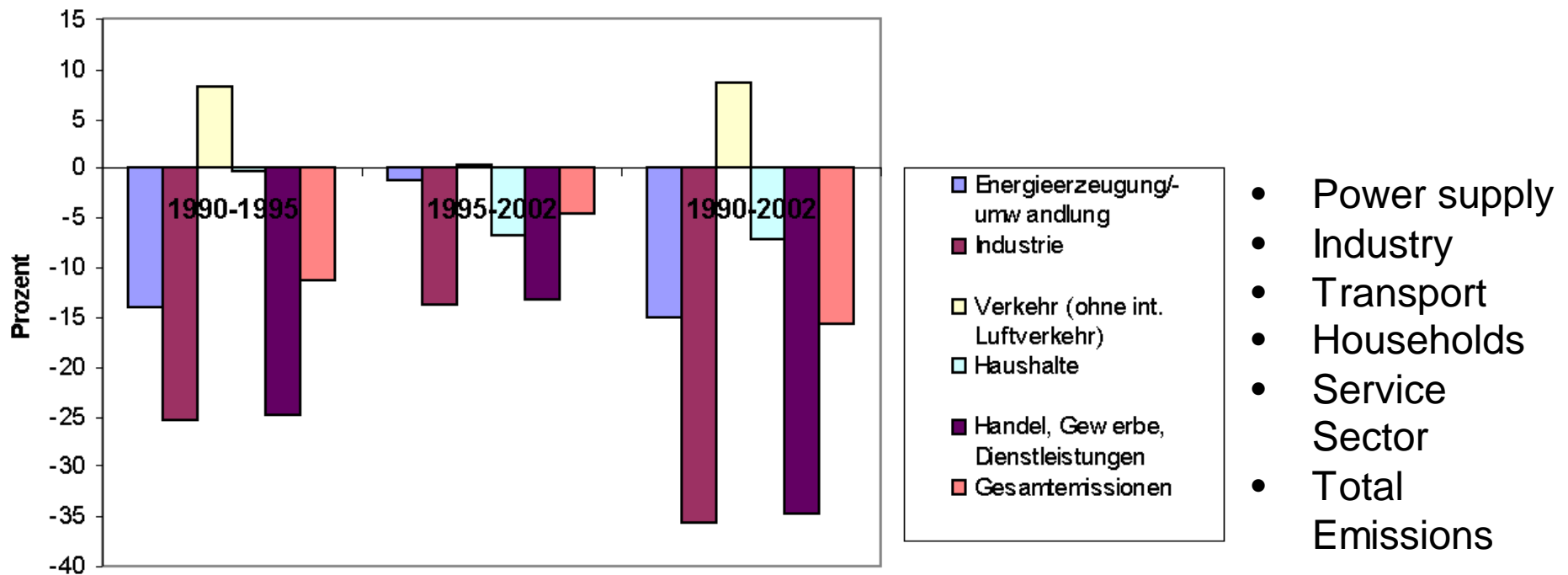
⇒ will also have effects on future emissions

Map on German climate policy landscape



Source: DIW

Changes in Sectors from 1990 until 2002



Source: DIW

Weak points of German Climate Policy

General

- > Successes are not sufficient to fulfill the “minus 25% goal” for 2005 of the German government

Underlying problems:

- Not enough investment in energy efficient buildings by private households
- Freight transport on the road
- Increase in cogeneration (combined heat and power production) disappointing (influence of coal lobby)

Actors other than the government

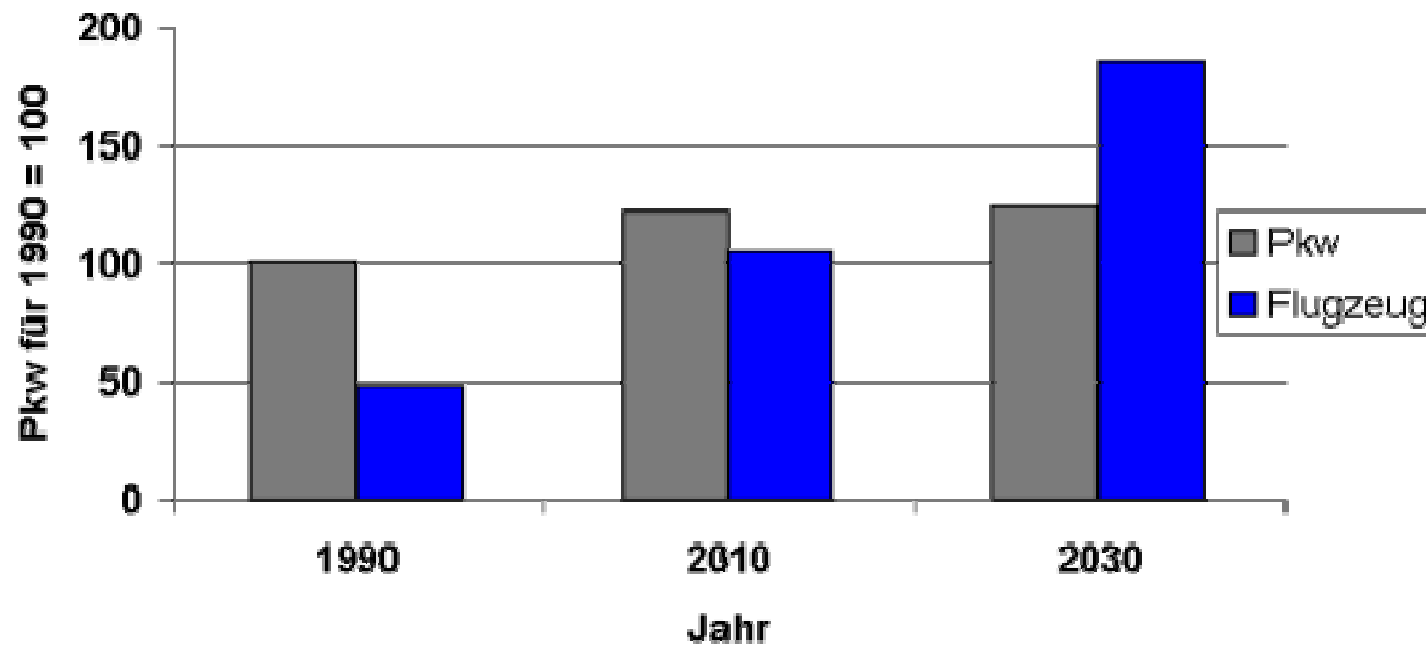
- Industry
Voluntary commitments - 45 M t CO₂ reduction until 2012
- Individual Companies
(e.g. German railways: minus 25 % of specific emissions until 2005; last week: further minus 15 % and additional 10 % if the framework conditions are correct)
- Private Consumers
- NGOs

Future Steps of German Climate Policy

- **Emissions trading system starting in 2005**
as implementation of a directive of the European Union
 - ⇒ will be a major step to regulate emissions from large point sources such as refineries or power plants
 - ⇒ This cap-and-trade mechanism restricts nearly half of the overall emissions of the European Union (EU) and is essential to reach the Kyoto target.
 - **Most recent development:**
German industry is objecting an effective emissions trading system
- **New National Climate Strategy of the German Government**
... after decision on law on emissions trading (this spring)
 - ⇒ Germany intends to reduce its absolute emissions by 40% until 2020 if the EU agrees on a 30% target

Aviation sector

- One of the weakest points in German climate policy
- ... is the mode of transport with highest impacts on global warming
- On the international arena there are no limitations of these emissions, and none are in sight



Germanwatch Project

“Offsetting emissions to limit damage from climate change”

First step is voluntary. If a flight cannot be avoided:

- The warming effect from aviation emissions are calculated.
- Through an additional fee on the ticket price new projects can be financed.
- Projects are situated mostly in developing countries
 - ⇒ lead to lower greenhouse gas emissions while meeting high quality standards under sustainability aspects (**Gold Standard**).

Example for “Offsetting emissions to limit damage from climate change”

Return flight Manfred Treber from Düsseldorf to Tokyo

- Emissions: 2 t CO₂
- RFI Value (Radiative Forcing Index) 4
- Price 8 Euro per ton CO₂

- Costs for emissions offset
(including 4 Euro transaction costs) of the flight: **68 Euro**

Thanks to the conference participants for offsetting the emissions of my flight!