



A Maritime Policy for the EU

Maritime Geography of the EU



Almost half of the Union's population lives less than 50 km from the sea.

It derives much of its livelihood and much of its quality of life from activities linked to the oceans



AND...



20 Member States are coastal States

The total (continental) EU coast line is 70 000km long

The maritime territories of the EU 's Member States represents 12 millions km²

Overall Objective



"the particular need for an all-embracing maritime policy aimed at developing a thriving maritime economy and the full potential of sea-based activity in an environmentally sustainable manner."

Strategic Objectives of the Commission for 2005-2009

International trends



"the problems of ocean space are closely inter-related and need to be considered as a whole"

The Preamble to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982

"Ensuring the sustainable development of the oceans requires effective coordination and cooperation"

2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Several countries, including Australia, Canada, and more recently the USA, have been developing new integrated ocean policies.

The Commission Response

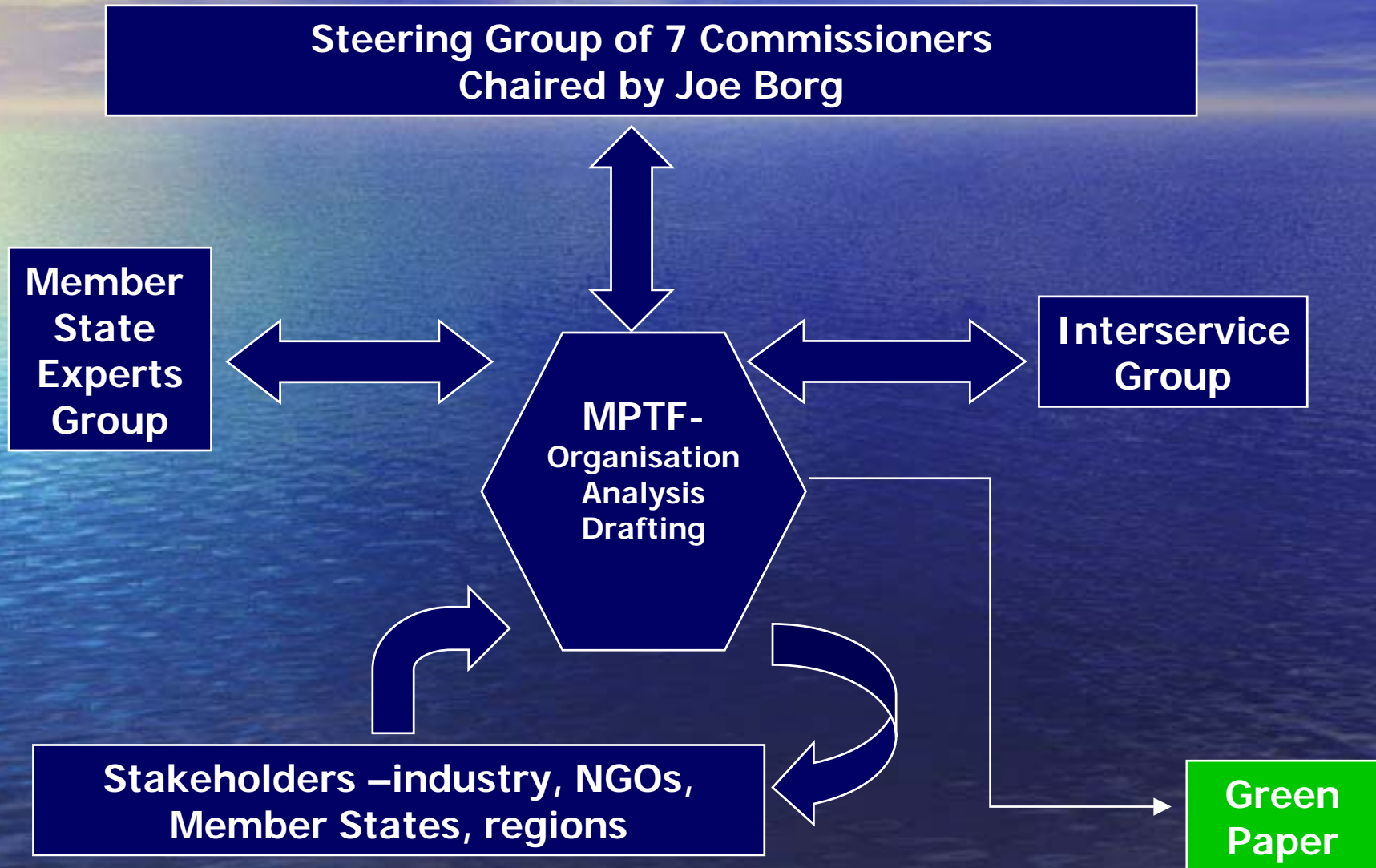


President Barroso asked Commissioner Borg
"to steer a new Maritime Policy Task Force with the aim of launching a wide consultation on a future Maritime Policy for the Union."

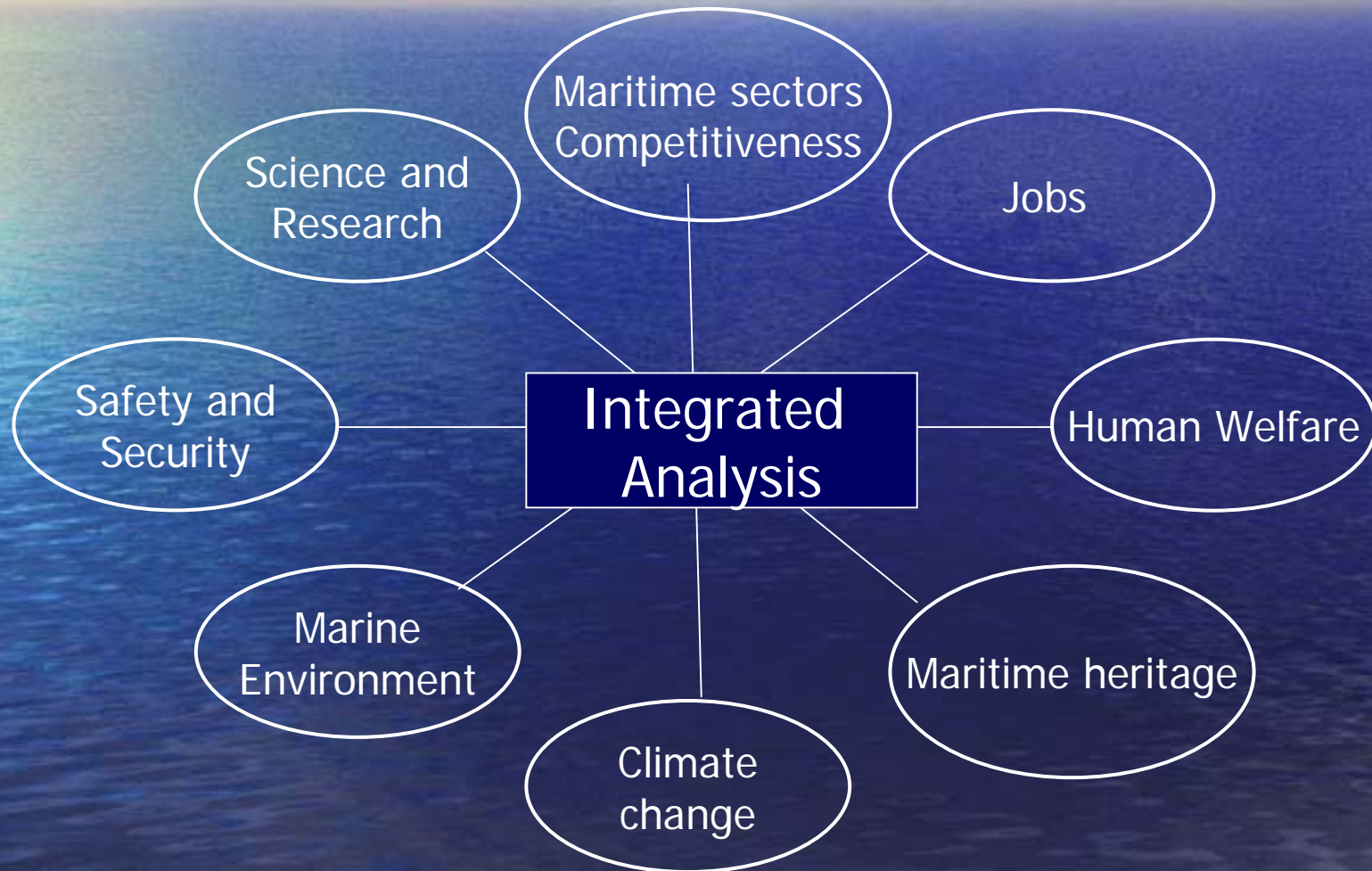
**Maritime Policy
Task Force
Steering Group**

Vice-President for Enterprise and Industry
Vice-President for Transport
Commissioner for Environment
Commissioner for Regional Policy
Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (Chair)
Commissioner for Research
Commissioner for Energy

Task Force Interactions



Subjects





Objectives

- Maximisation of the european maritime sectors' assets
- Creation of an EU added value for the benefit of the maritime sectors
- Create and take advantages of the linkages beetween the current sectoral maritime policies
- Improve maritime governance



Themes

- Retaining Europe's leadership in sustainable maritime development
- Maximising quality of life in coastal regions
- Providing the tools to manage our relations with the oceans
- Maritime governance
- Reclaiming Europe's maritime heritage and reaffirming Europe's maritime identity

Contribution to the Lisbon strategy



- Growth, jobs and sustainable development
- The future maritime policy considers the oceans and seas as a productive resource which has to be protected if we want to maximise the multiple profits we can derive from them.



Linkages

- Promotion of the quality of life in the coastal regions
- Creation of new marine spatial planning mechanisms
- Acquisition of knowledge
- Promotion of greater integration for the offshore activities of governments



Linkages

- Geographical maritime realities of the European Union
- The Community position in the International bodies (IMO, UNCLOS...)
- The protection of the Europeans' interests (seafarers and Trade)



Green Paper Agenda

- April- November 2005: pre-consultation phase
- December-January 2006: drafting phase
- February-April 2006: interservices consultation
- 31May 2006: adoption by the College of Commissioners
- 1 June 2006- 30 June 2007: Consultation phase

A policy combining



The lessons of the past



And the promise of the future

