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### **Integration of environmental and employment policies: Assessment of the EU experience to date**

The European Union is facing a double crisis: on the one hand, it is facing a high level of structural unemployment, on the other hand, its economies are exploiting the natural environment in an unsustainable way. The crucial question is, will the resolution of one of these problems make the resolution of the other easier or more difficult? Protecting the environment and reducing unemployment, despite their evident interactions and synergies, are normally dealt with separately, with the public authorities in charge preferring to avoid mixing the two issues. Therefore, the question that has to be raised is whether environmental and employment policies can be tailored and implemented in a way that makes them complementary, mutually beneficial or even mutually reinforcing.

The methodology for this paper was developed with the following objectives in mind:

- the need to develop an analytical framework to guide identification and understanding of the different forms of integrating environmental and employment policies
- to understand the rationale for such integration approaches
- to gain an overview of the major drivers of these initiatives.

To meet these objectives, the paper will be primarily concerned with similarities and differences in experiences of top-down approaches pursued at national or state level across the EU. It will be based on examples identified by literature review and country-specific information to survey the features and experiences of national or state initiatives calling for integration of employment and environmental objectives. The presentation is to show:

- which types of national or state approaches are in practice
- what are their effects in terms of employment, social inclusion, environmental improvements and wider policy impacts
- what measures appear to work
- what are the factors of success or failure

what policy conclusions can be drawn.