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## **Climate change – implications for and activities of German social partners**

Joint European Social Partners seminar on  
„The employment impact of climate change policies“

Brussels, 29 June 2010



# Overview on actors and aims of climate change policies in Germany

- Climate change and the reduction carbon emissions are central elements of the environment policy of the German government.
- The German government has proclaimed to reduce carbon emissions until 2020 by 40% and until 2050 by 80% (compared to the level in 1990).
- German enterprises are among world leaders in offering innovative, energy efficient machines, goods and services.
- Over 5% of the production of German industry is on environmental friendly products – with the share growing rapidly.
- The German “green” economy is SME dominated. 60% of “green” goods and services are being produced by SME.

# Structures and players of German climate change policies

## Federal level

- Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU)
- Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWt)
- Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development (BMVBS)

## Regional level with 16 states (“Bundesländer”)

- Consequence: Wide range of programmes, initiatives etc. (a flyer of the BMU lists more than 1000 support programmes for energy saving measures on the federal and regional level).

# Role of German social partners

## Climate change policies and social dialogue

- **Characteristics of German social dialogue:**
  - A fundamental right guaranteed in the German constitution (Art. 9 GG)
  - Strictly bilateral structures (only employer federations and unions)
  - Main competence: The organisation of core working standards (wages, working time, holidays etc) mainly via collective agreements.

## Social partner initiatives

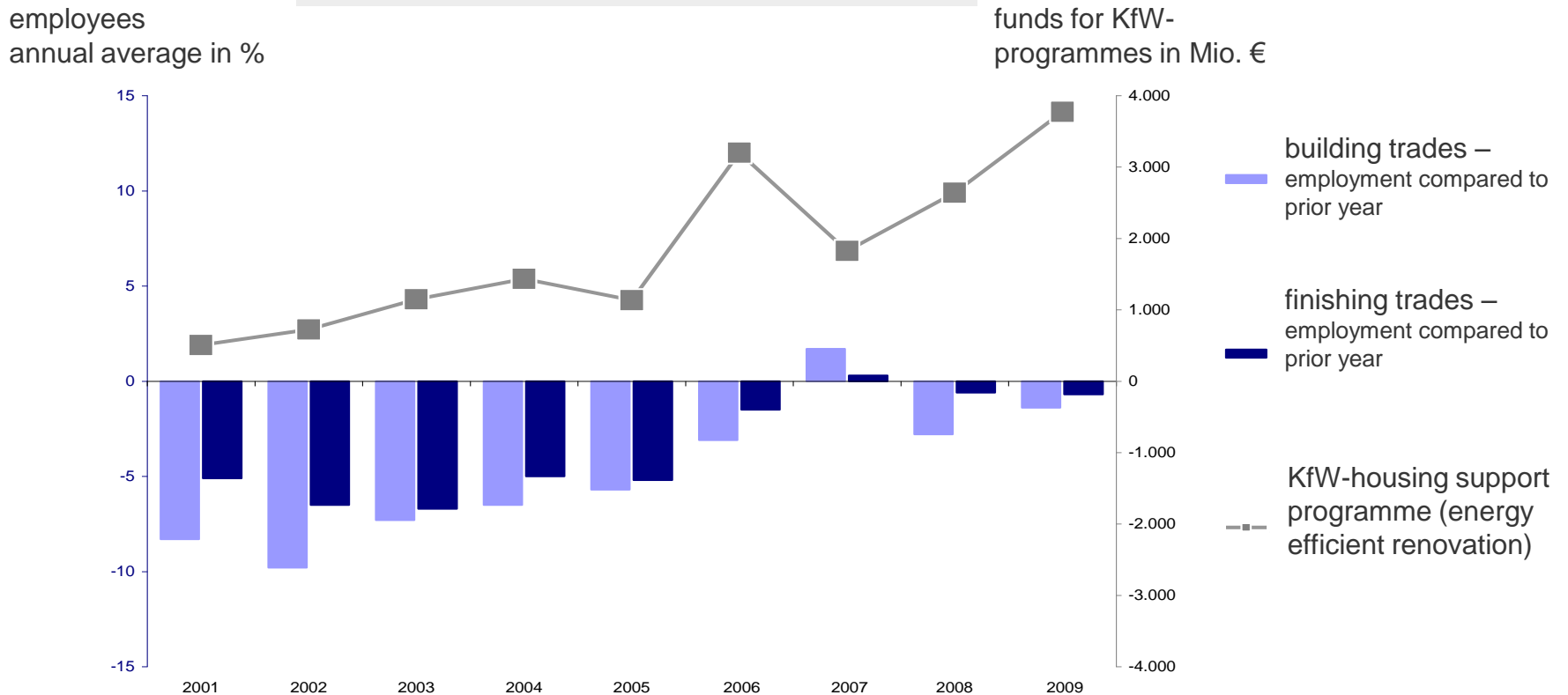
- There are hardly any initiatives of German social partners on „green employment“ at the national level because of the regional and sectorial structures of social dialogue in Germany.
- **However**: There are countless „green“ initiatives of German social partners together with public institutions on the national, regional and local level.

# “Green” initiatives with social partner / business organisations participation

- “Politics and business dialogue on climate protection”, initiated in 2009 by the Minister for Environment Protection, Mr. Röttgen.
- “The craft sector (**ZDH**-German Confederation of skilled crafts) together with the **KfW** has initiated various programmes for the energy-efficient building and renovation of houses.
- The **ZDH** together with the **Federal Environment Foundation** (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt) has launched in 2009 a project “Energy-saving housing – profits for all” with the aim to qualify craft employees to perform energy checks for private homes.
- “Partnership for climate protection”, an initiative of BMU, BMWi together with the **DIHK** (Association of German Chamber of industry and commerce) launched in 2009 with the aim of qualifying employees to “energy managers” in 3.300 enterprises.
- “Business and climate protection”, an initiative of **BDI** (Federation of German Industries) of 2009, in which 40 large enterprises and federations promote diverse energy saving measures.

# Employment effects of KfW\*-programmes on energy efficient housing renovation

KfW-housing support programmes and their employment effects in skilled craft construction sector



\* KfW = reconstruction loan corporation

Quellen: KfW - Förderstatistik / Statistisches Bundesamt

# Overall employment effects of environment protection measures

- BMU states that in 2006 nearly 2 million persons were working in the “green” economy in Germany (an increase of 4% compared to 2004).
- There is a direct link between climate protection measures financed by public authorities and job creation.
- Especially support programmes for energy-efficient housing trigger additional investments by private consumers with a ratio of 1 to 9.
- The political and economic challenge: Need to strike the right balance between the appropriate level of public financed climate protection measures, the overall tax burden for companies and citizens as well as sound public budgets.
- Federal government has just announced to cut subsidies for energy efficient housing programmes by two thirds – employment effects?

# Thank you for your attention!

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