



# **From the Czech to the Belgian Presidency: the evolving institutional and political context of EU Environmental Policy**

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Senior Fellow, IEEP**

# Structure of presentation

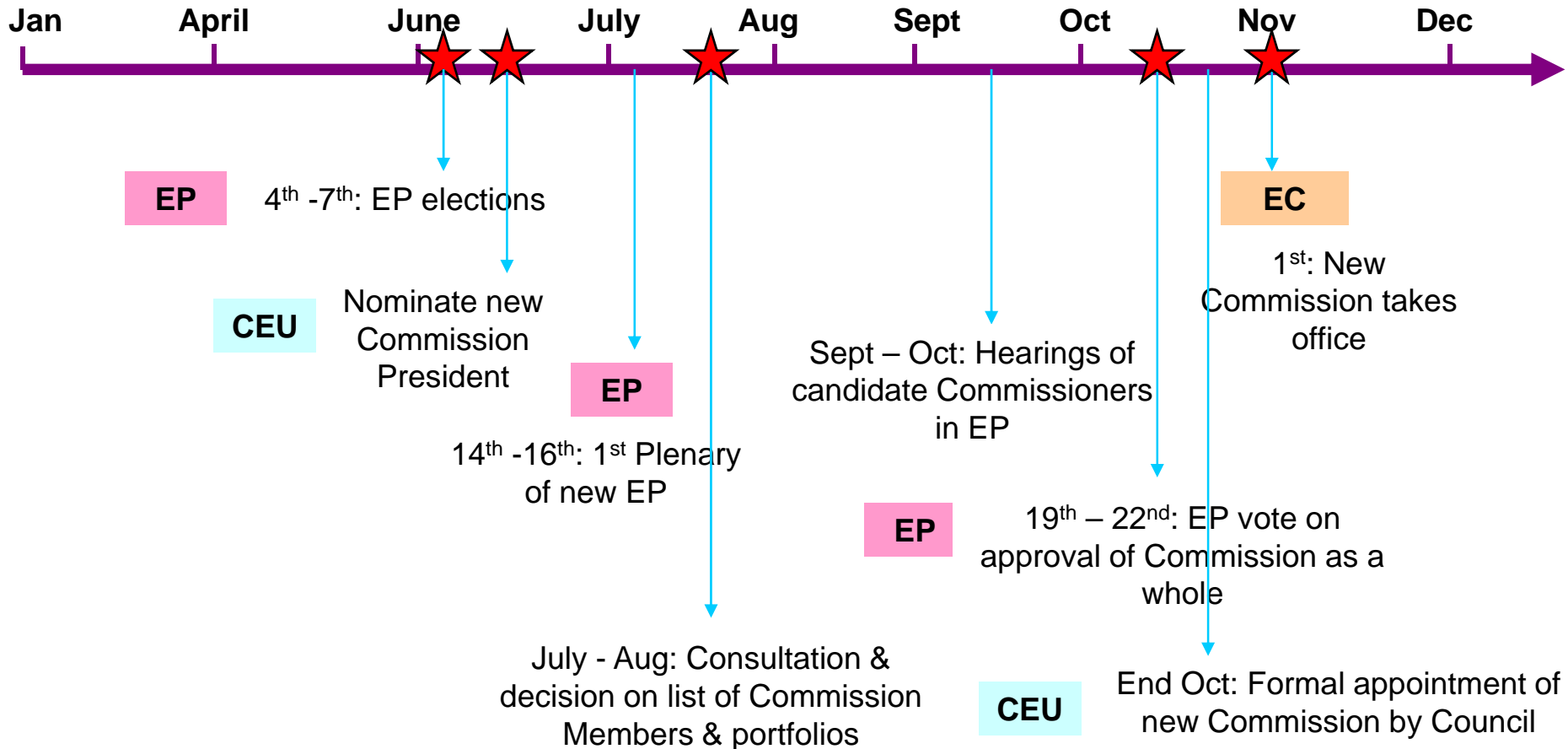


- Institutional context
- Strategic policy processes
- Main substantive areas of environmental policy

# Institutional Events in 2009



★ Critical Point in the process





- Power structurally weakened
- Formally retains right of initiative
- Personalities of new President & Members
  - Barroso II?*
- Portfolios: new Climate portfolio?
- Administrative structures: new Energy (&Climate?) DG?
- Seeking to recover power through delegated comitology rule-making & agenda-setting high-level « advisory » groups (struggle with EP and Council!)



- Political composition after elections? *Increased influence of conservative and eurosceptic parties?*
- Balance of power between major groups
- Personalities of President and Chairs of key Committees
- **Increased power of Rapporteurs & Shadow Rapporteurs** and loss of transparency as a result of « fast-tracking » legislative procedures
- Ability to effectively exercise control of Commission activities and new scrutiny powers under comitology?



- Effects of new « triple presidency » if Lisbon enters into force? Shift of power from Council Presidency to European Council President and High Representative?
- No immediate change in balance of power between MSs: QMV but strong tendency to work towards consensus – « *Directoire* » of large MSs?
- Referral of issues to European Council weakens Community method/QMV decision-making
- Any impact of Gonzalez Reflection Group in 2010?



- Dilution of individual MS power due to enlargement (whether Nice QMV or Lisbon)
- Growing influence of activist minority coalitions built by few large MSs (with or against Commission) backed by « silent majorities »
- Diminishing influence of political negotiations at ministerial level and personal chemistry
- Growing influence of pre-legislative processes and informal lobbying and coalition-building



- **Jan-Jun 2009: Czech Republic**
  - First presidency for new MS at a critical moment
  - Unstable coalition government
  - Strong influence of climate sceptics and eurosceptics in government but Green environment minister
  - Key priorities: internal market and energy security
- **Jul-Dec 2009: Sweden**
  - Successful 2001 presidency played key role in Kyoto Protocol 'rescue' and launch of SDS
  - Commitment to environmental issues and capacity to handle presidency
  - Global climate deal at Copenhagen likely to be key priority of Presidency
  - Strong interest in budget reform ("1% Club")



- **Jan-Jun 2010: Spain**

- Often perceived as 'laggard' among 'old' MSs; difficulty in meeting Kyoto targets
- But leader in renewables
- Water resources key political priority but sceptical about EU role
- Likely resistance to CFP reform

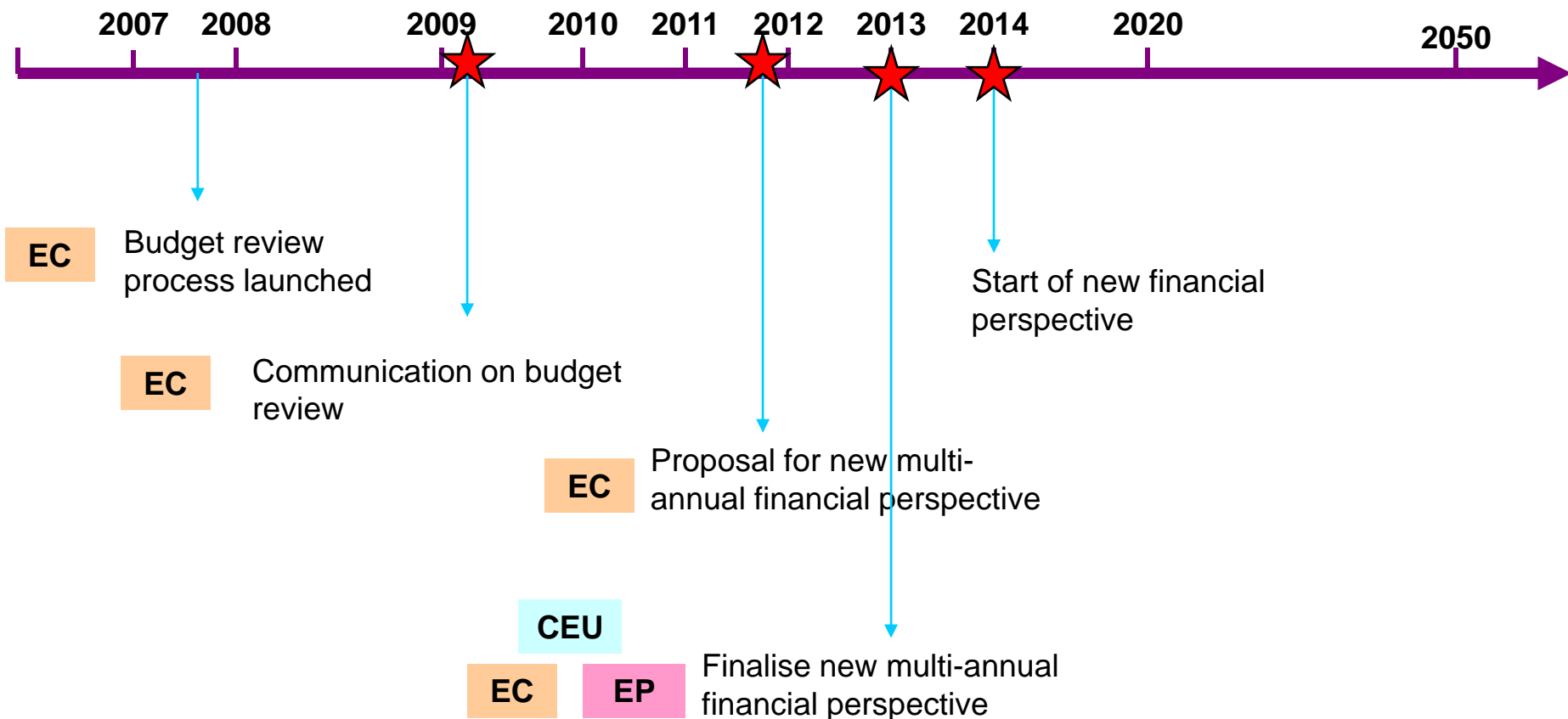
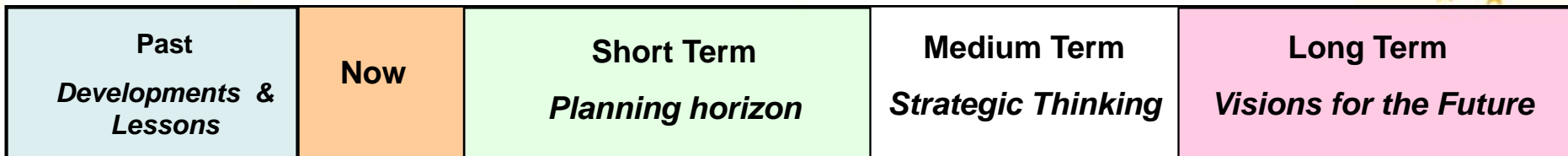
- **Jul-Dec 2010: Belgium**

- May have crucial role in climate negotiations if no final global agreement is reached in Copenhagen in 2009

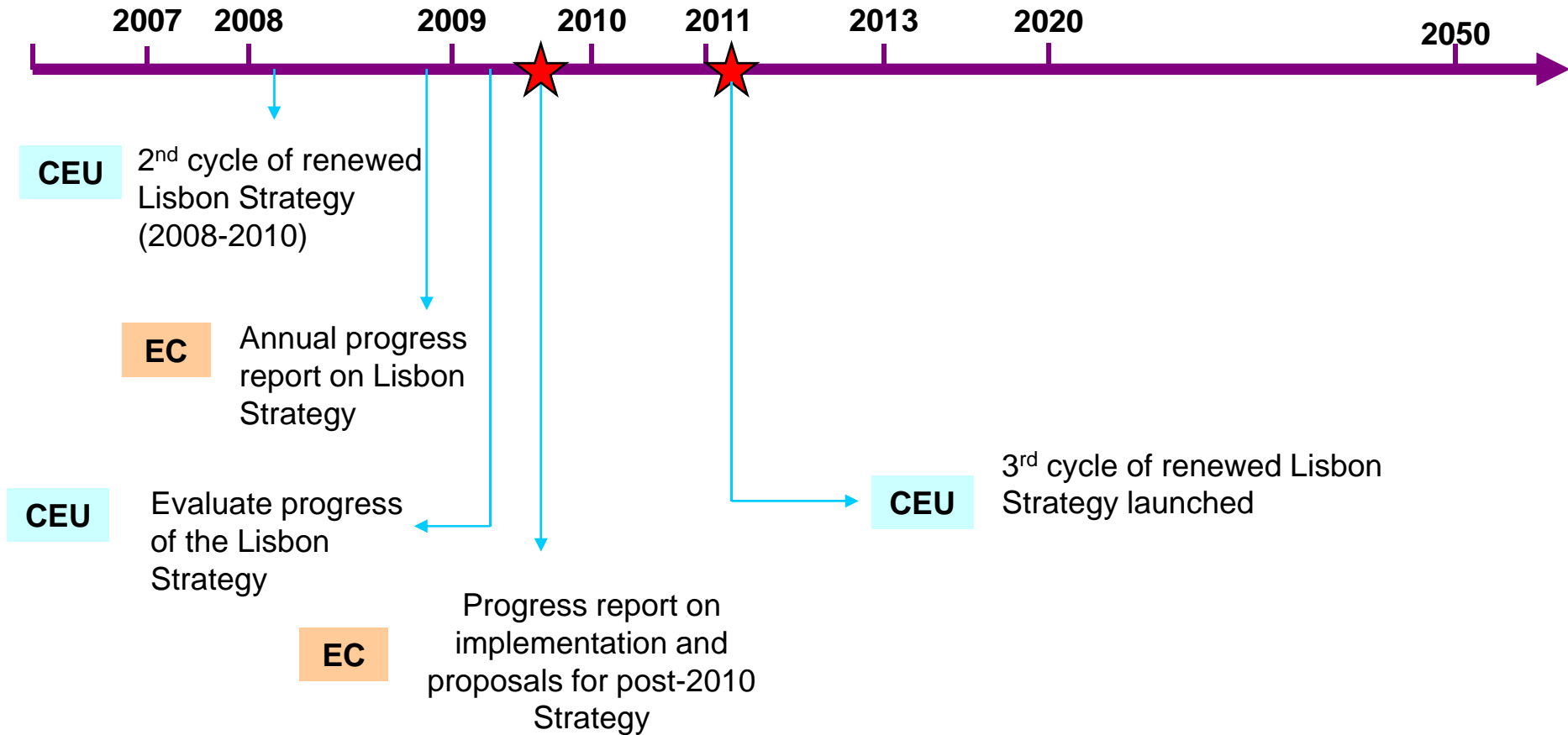
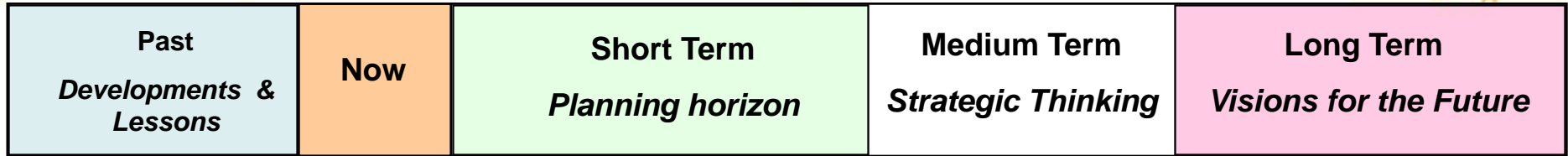


- ❑ EU Budget Reform (2008/9 Budget Review and Financial Perspective 2014-)
- ❑ Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs (start of review for post-2010 period)
- ❑ Better Regulation (third strategic review)
- ❑ EU Sustainable Development Strategy (second progress report/road map 2009)
- ❑ Environmental Action Programme (final evaluation 6EAP /preparation 7EAP)

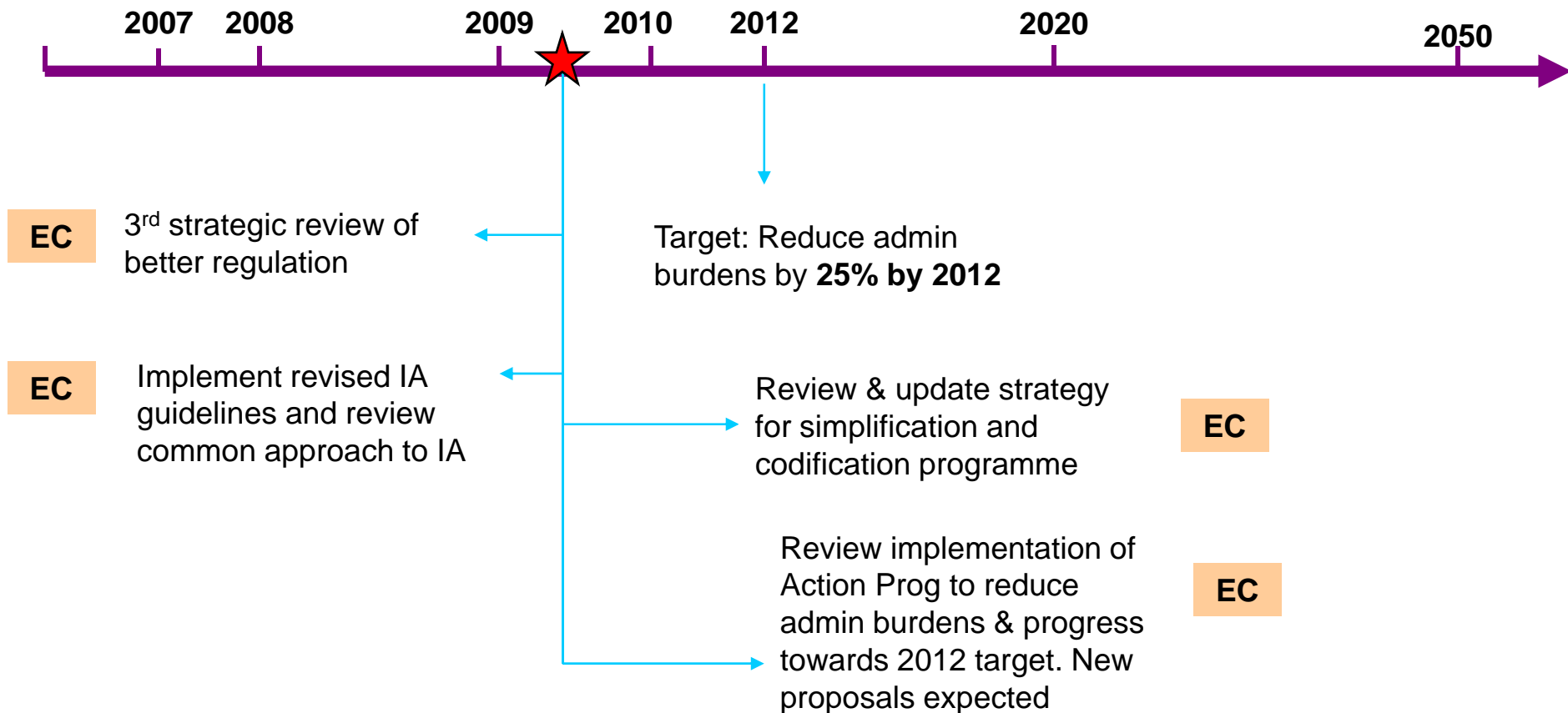
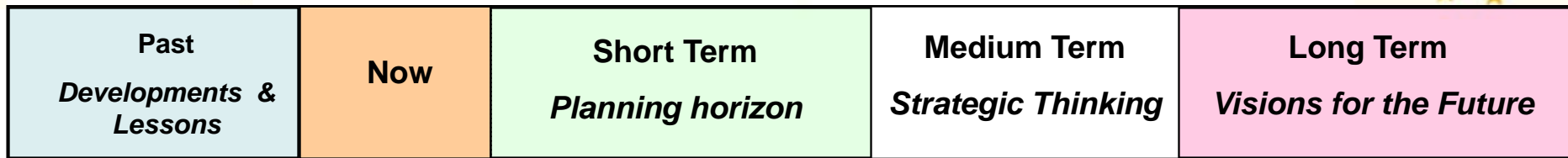
# Budget Reform



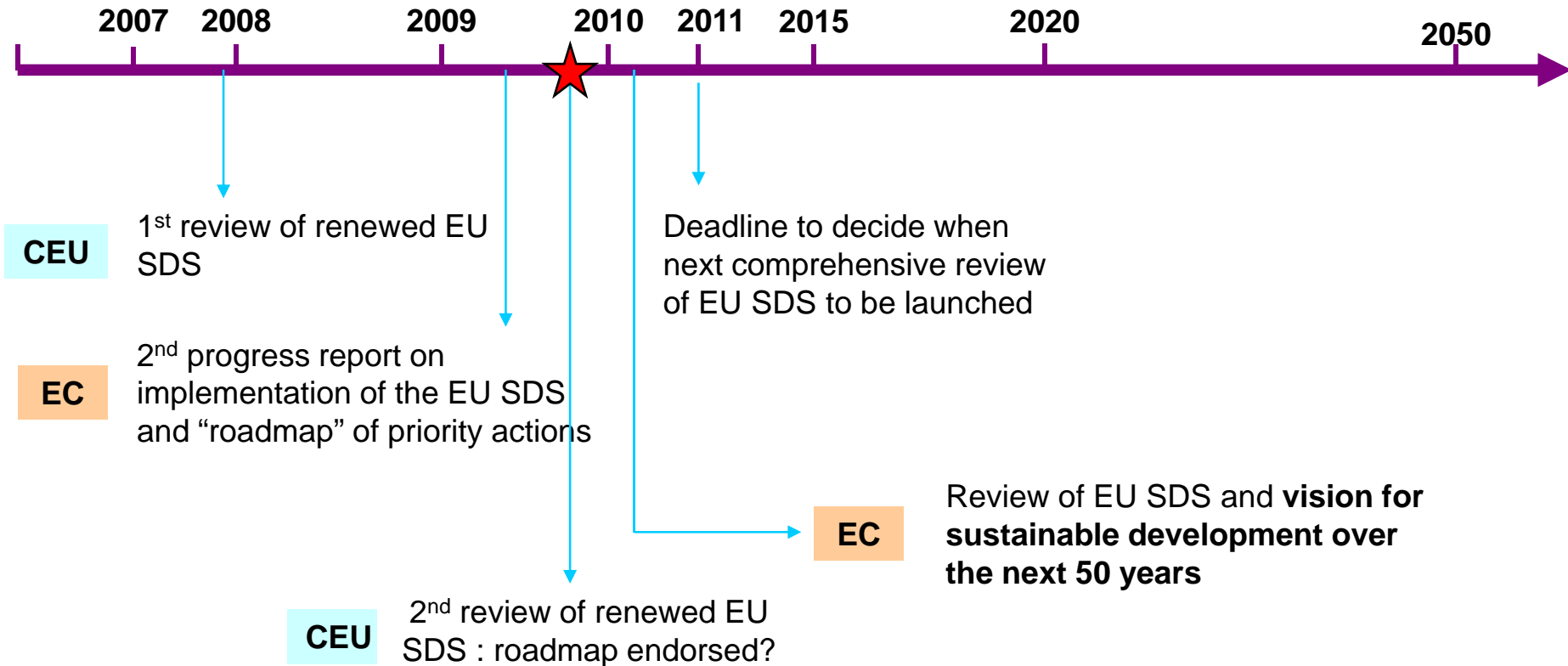
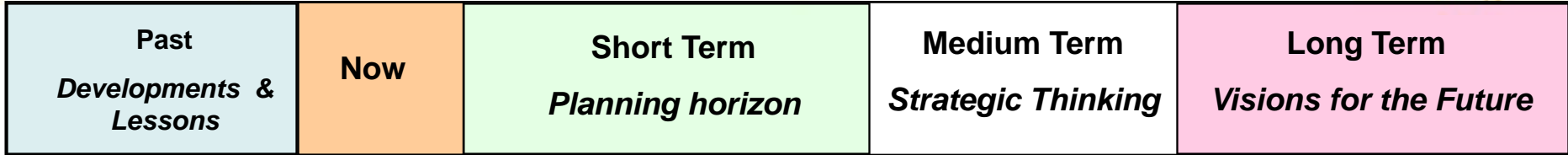
# Lisbon Strategy



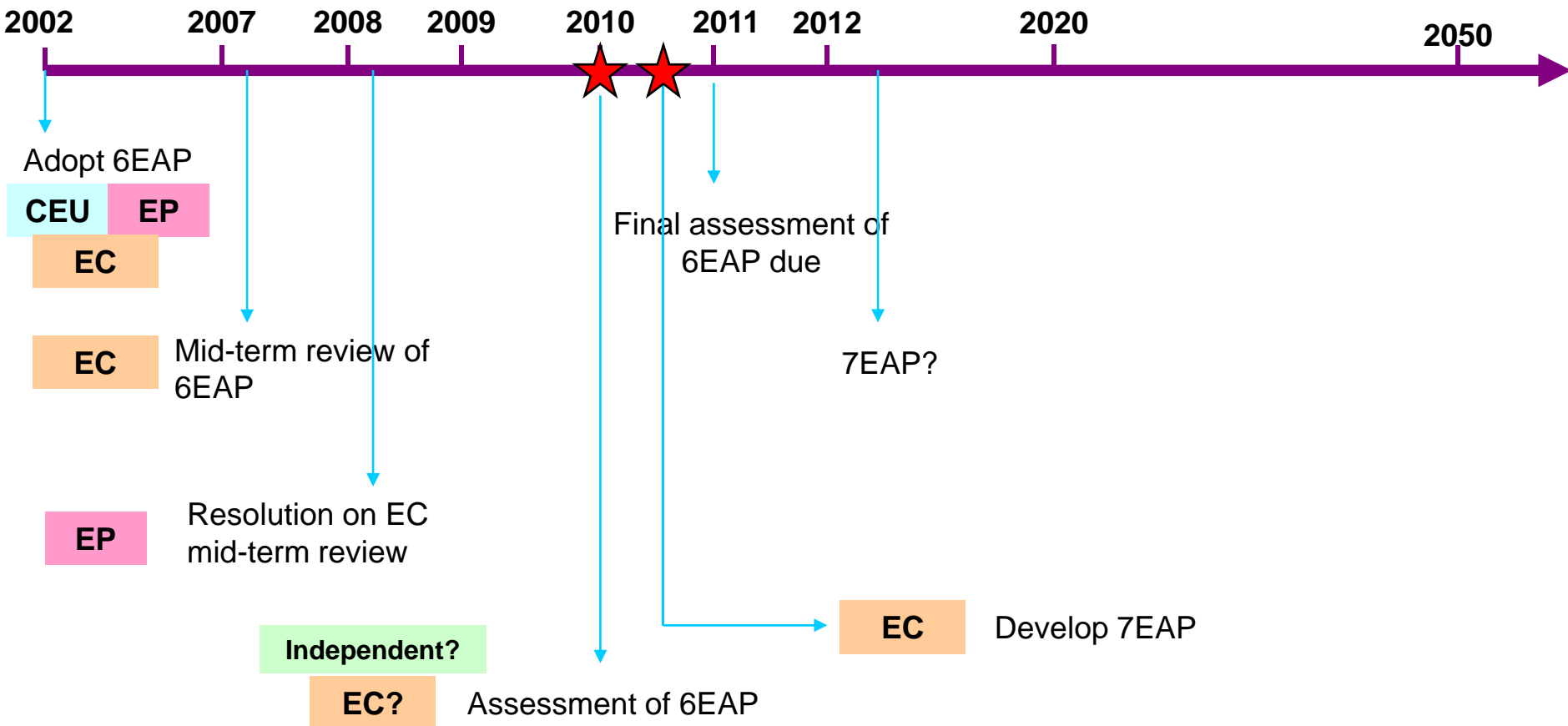
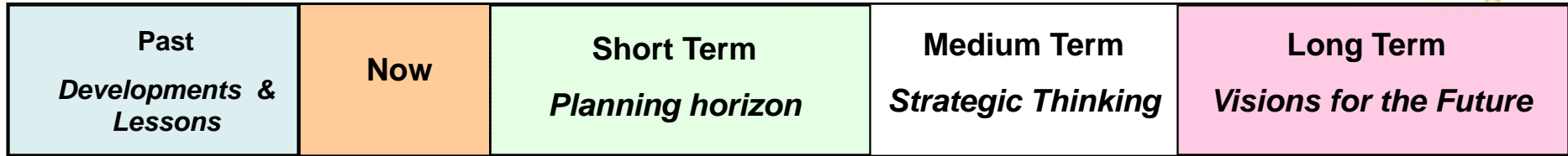
# Better Regulation



# Sustainable Development Strategy



# Environmental Action Programme

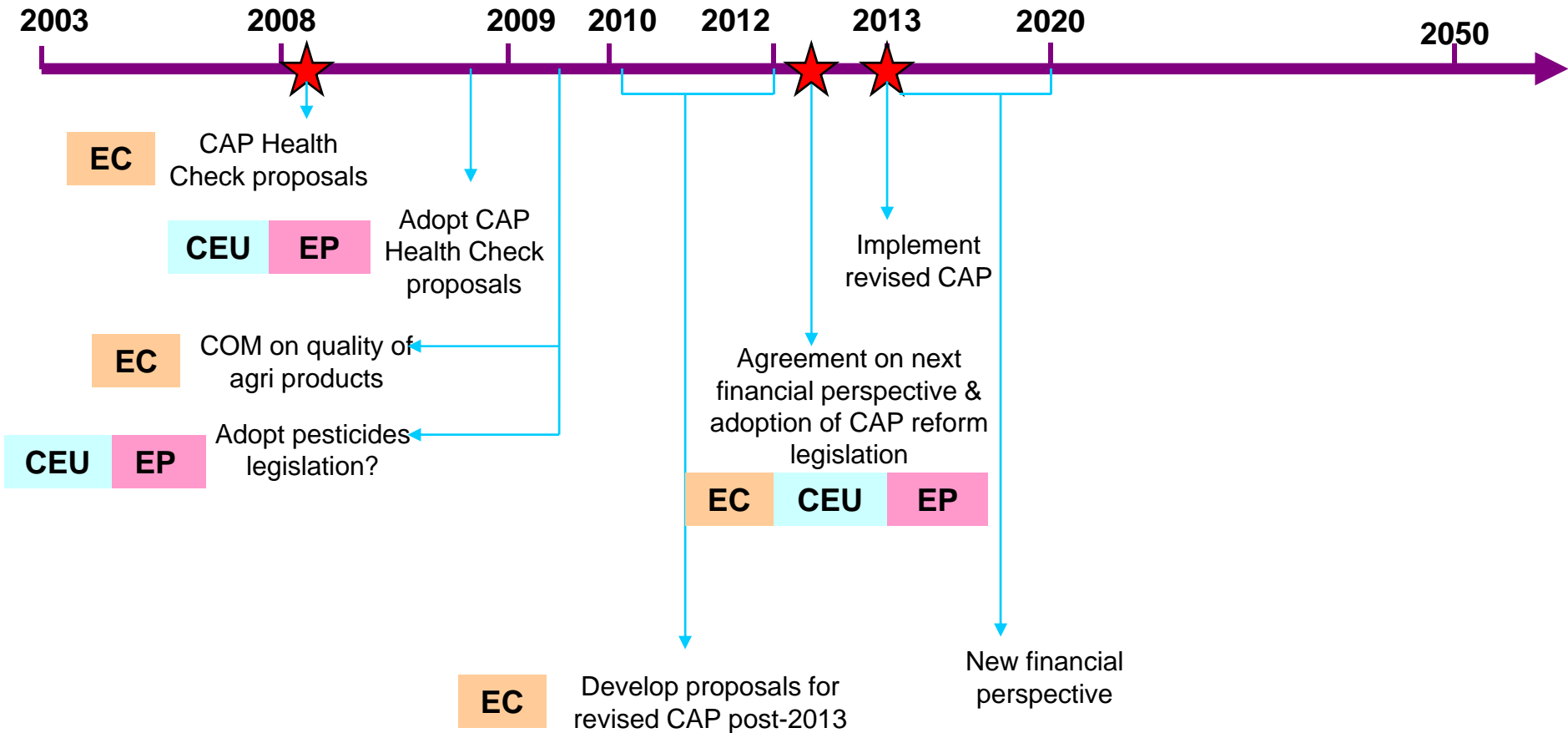
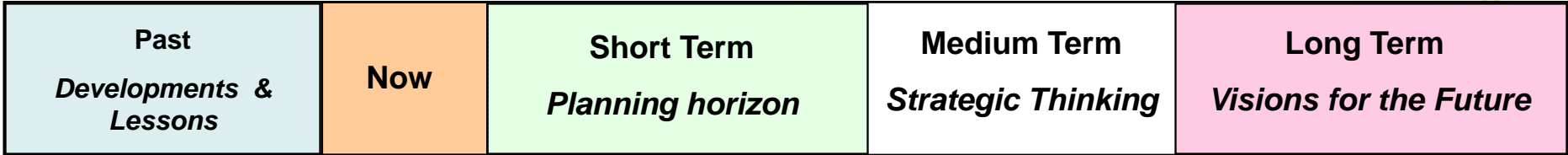


# Key substantive policy areas

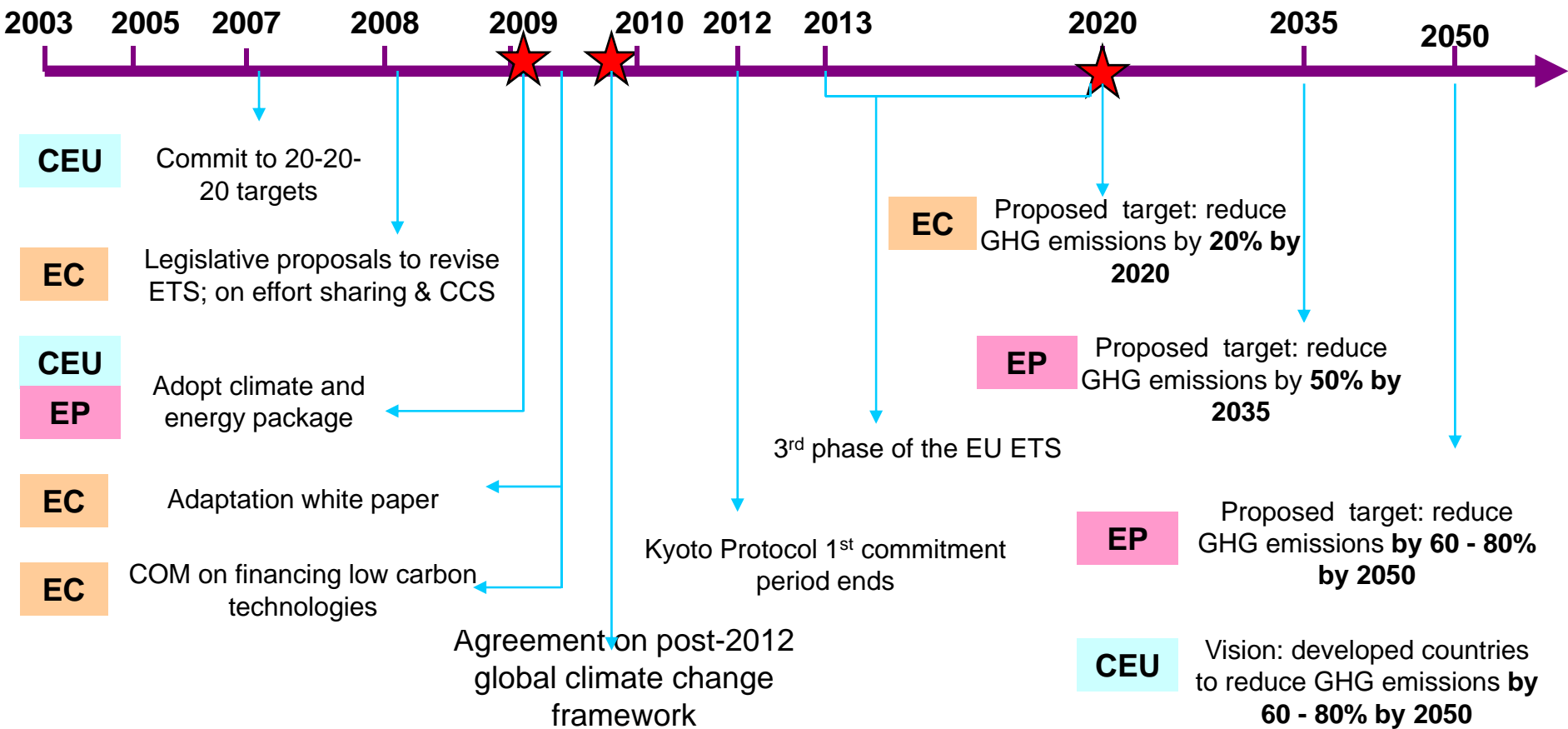
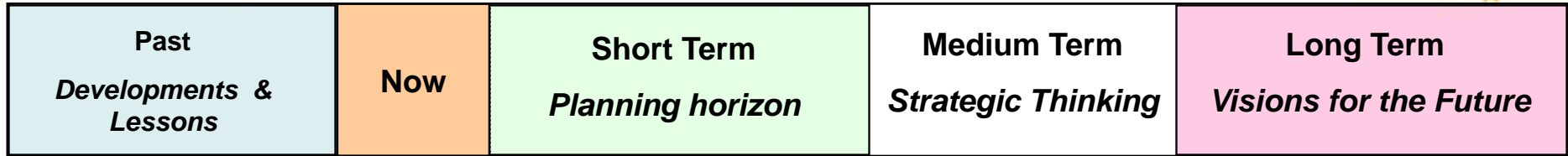


- Climate Change
- Agriculture (CAP Reform)
- Biodiversity
- Marine Environment
- Sustainable Consumption & Production

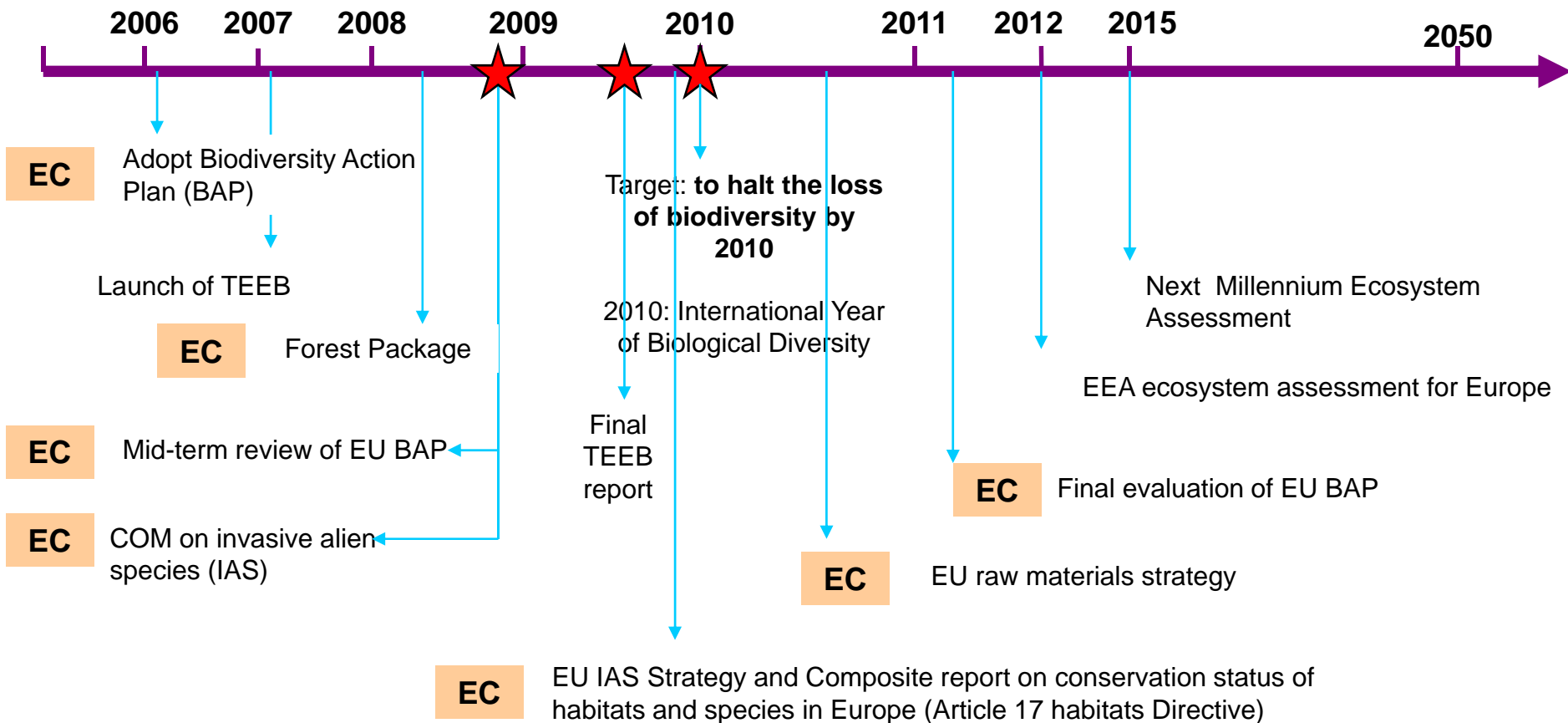
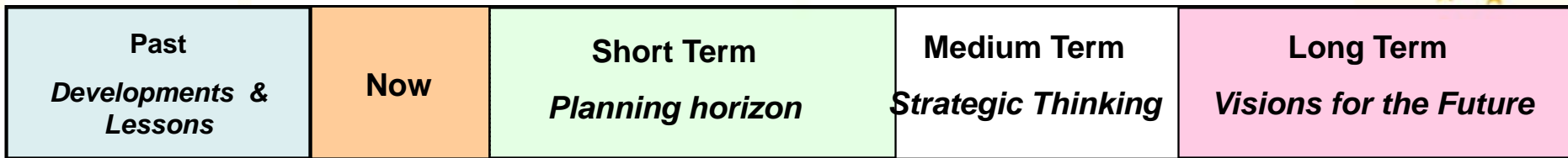
# Agriculture



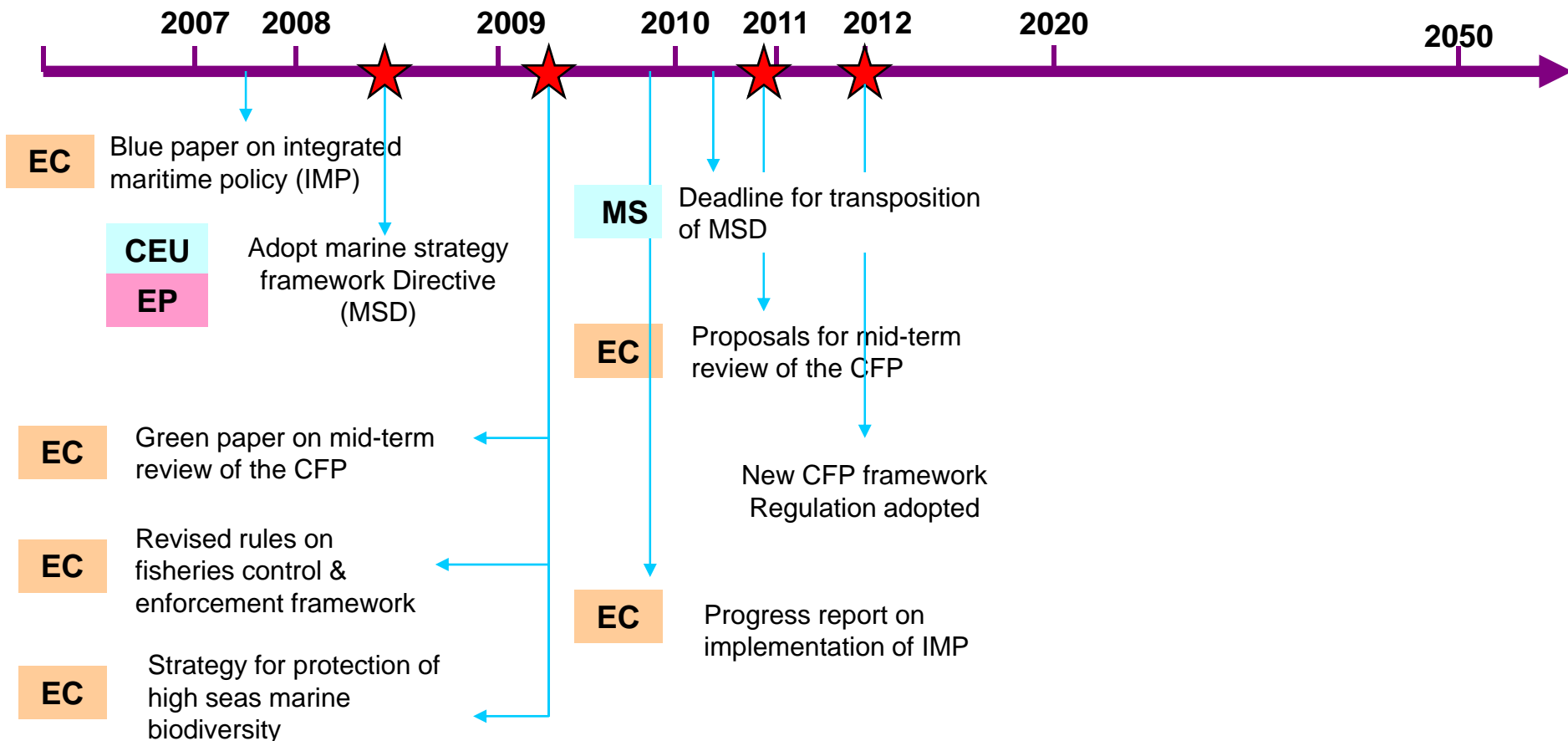
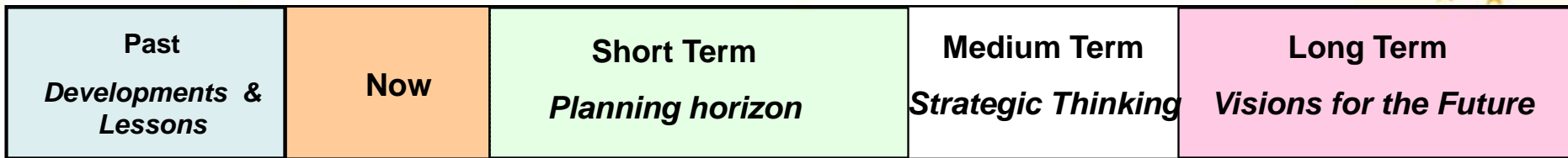
# Climate Change



# Biodiversity



# Marine environment and fisheries



# SCP and Market-Based Instruments

