The title of my thesis is “Evolution of EUs Environmental Policy, 1987-2007”. The reason for choosing environment as an area is because its not just a buzz word or a popular rhetoric, but has become a serious concern for the very existence of mankind. The present changes in environment has had its severe impact from one pole of the earth to the other. One cannot close his eyes and just observe all the challenges which the humanity is facing, as has already been highlighted in the Stern Review - if we are not going to be serious on this issue then the whole world must be spending 5% of its GDP on these environmental problems.

Since 1960s the much ignored environmental problems started coming to the fore, challenging the very existence of human species. Various scientists, academics, researchers, politicians and NGOs started finding solution for these environmental changes. In this march the EU has played a pioneering role and has attempted to tackle this challenge with the support of its member countries. The environmental laws were not so clearly written in the EU before 1987, as it was scattered here and there. It was also either linked with economic, bilateral, trade and other laws. Though, later on with the making of Single European Act (SEA) in 1987, it has finally constituted all the environmental laws under one umbrella.

The post-SEA policy has denied all the countries to be a member of EU until and unless they follow the environmental rules. The EU has tried to make all the environmental laws so stringent that it has come to contributed its little but towards a clean and safe environment. The institutionalisation of environmental laws has spread its area with the enlargement of the number of member countries. Although, the eastern enlargement of the EU was totally a financial burden but the requirements for becoming a member has helped them out in it.

The EU deals with lot many issues of environment as: agriculture, trade, climate change, soil, biodiversity, acid-rain, bio-degradable etc. In my thesis I have tried to look into the issue of climate change. There are devastating effects of climate change on the current atmosphere such as: desertification, de-forestation, sea-level rise, acid rain, dust storm, hurricanes, typhoons, ozone depletion, flood and drought etc. The report of
IPCC has also supported and laid its evidence of these climatic changes as disastrous natural phenomena. Rapid industrialisation has lead all the countries for this devastating effect of nature. It has been said that there is a need to control the Green House Gas (GHG) emission at the level of 2%. The report also says that if the countries will not take required action regarding this, then it will have devastating consequences. Therefore, making it the base the EU has honestly followed the emission cut under the Kyoto- protocol and further proceed with the alternative route for post- Kyoto period. In this sphere the role of EU is appreciable. The EU announcement of 8 % GHG emission cut is also in the process to be fulfilled.

The role of political groups, political parties and NGOs cannot be neglected in the environmental awareness of the public. Europe is a birth place for all the environmental NGOs and Green Party. It has given promotion to any civil society who is interested in building the environmental awareness, sensibility and responsibility among the people. Taking Europe, as a research area, I have compared the two countries; one from Western Europe- Germany and another from Eastern Europe-Hungary. The motive behind taking these two countries is to look into the debate between developed and developing countries in framing the environmental laws and what hurdles do they face while implementing it in their domestic framework.

Germany has been taken as a case study, firstly, it is a precursor for whole of Europe in electing the Green party and giving mandate to them. Secondly, the role of Green Party is very strong but then there are also other parties who support the idea of green economy like CDU/CSU. Although there is a huge lobby of industrialists, business tycoons who are against these developments as it is expected to hamper their conventional source of work. Thirdly, over here there are lots many NGOs who have been functional in a very active manner and pressurised the government as well as EU to make the law in favour of environmental concerned issues. The Germany is also an important member of the EU due to its economic stronghold.

On the other hand, Hungary is a growing economy and struggling with the balance between the environmental laws and economic development. Hungarian economy is 80% dependent on the traditional source of energy. It has also started facing the environmental movements since 1970s and 80s. The environmental NGOs has been a strong lobby for pressurising the government to frame the laws in a more environment
friendly manner. But the reason for failure of the inclusion of stringent environmental laws in the policy framework can be attributed to an unstable government.

The last chapter of my thesis is on the comparative study between SAARC and EU. EU has been an inspirational source for all the regional organisations. In my thesis I have discussed how the SAARC can proceed it further for enacting and implementing the environmental laws without compromising with its fastest growing economy. As we know the South Asian countries have started facing the environmental challenges in some or the other manner. It has not yet been able to inhibit any appropriate solution. The “sustainable development” as an idea can grow only when these countries are able to acquire technical or scientific assistance from European countries in any form. The financial helps which EU gives to these countries for solving the environmental problems is not enough as they are lacking in the infrastructure. Thus, SAARC needs to be more energetic and vigorous in facing and solving these hurdles. It needs to make itself more approachable to the member countries so that it can execute collective force to pressurize the member countries to follow the environmental code.

To conclude one can say that the world is facing these environmental challenges in each nook and corner and there is an urgent need to reformulate the policy in a manner that would ensure a safer future for the forthcoming generations. Therefore, my thesis will broadly highlight the two queries; one how the EU implements its environmental laws through its institutional framework and whether the laws are also giving equitable burden and differentiate responsibility in sharing the emission cut by the newly member countries. Secondly, it focuses on how far EU has been an instrument to solve the post-Kyoto problem.