

Sustainable Development Goals:

Implementation in Europe

Conference - Thursday 12 November 2015

Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

UNEP Regional Consultation meeting for Europe - Friday 13 November 2015





UROPEAN

NVIRONMENTAL





We acknowledge the support received from UNEP (Regional Office for Europe, DELC/InforMEA and SGB/MGSB) and the Norwegian Ministry of Environment for providing seed funds to facilitate the successful organization of the 2015 UNEP Regional Consultation Meeting (RCM) for Europe.



Report produced by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB).

Preamble

The new United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted at the UN world summit on 25-27 September, sets out an unprecedented broad action plan for people, the planet and prosperity. With 17 Sustainable Development Goals addressing all cross-cutting issues faced by human societies, this new agenda goes beyond the previous Millennium Development Goals: all countries, including developed European countries, are now called upon to act and speed up transition towards greener, fairer, more inclusive development patterns by 2030. An ambitious strategy will be key for a proper implementation of the SDGs in Europe, requiring both a thorough review of public policies and an open partnership with civil society and non-state actors, which are the ultimate drivers of change.

In order to initiate and facilitate an open dialogue platform, the EESC, UNEP and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) jointly organised on 12 and 13 November in Brussels a two-day conference on "Sustainable Development Goals - Implementation in Europe" and preparations for the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA2) in 2016. The message of the more-than-220 participants representing a wide range of stakeholders was very clear: Business-as-usual will not work because the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda "Transforming the World", is also an agenda for "Transforming Europe" and much has to be done in order to comply with the 17 SDGs. Citizens have to be informed, listened to, involved and included in all necessary steps. Strategies and actions have to be set now, where the focus has to be redirected from a solely economic growth and jobs agenda towards well-being, conservation of nature, decreasing resource use and closing the inequality gap.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Implementation in Europe – United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Opportunities for Engagement of Major Groups and Stakeholders

12-13 November 2015, Brussels

AGENDA

Thursday 12 November 2015 EESC – Van Maerlant Building, 2 rue Van Maerlant, 1040 Brussels- Room VMA3

Implementation of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in Europe

Moderator: Karl Falkenberg, Hors Classe Senior Adviser, European Political Strategy Centre

9:00 – 9:15 Opening

Georges Dassis, President of the European Social and Economic Committee (EESC)

Leida Rijnhout, Director Global Policies and Sustainability, European Environmental Bureau (EEB) Jan Dusik, Director Regional Office for Europe, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

9:15 – 11:00 The United Nations 2030 Agenda and Europe

Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Welcome address (video message)

Presentations

Michele Candotti, Chief of Executive Office, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Embedding the environment in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Marguy Kohnen, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, Luxembourg, on behalf of the Presidency of the EU Council

Astrid Schomaker, Director Strategy, DG Environment, European Commission *The role of the European Union in SDG implementation*

Chris Vanden Bilcke, Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Belgium, Member of the UNEA Bureau

Q & A

Coffee break

11:20 – 13:00 Responsibility of Europe for implementing the 2030 Agenda globally

Introduction

Alina Padeanu, Policy Coordinator Global Issues, European External Action Service Martin Heather, Policy Officer, DG DEVCO, European Commission

Civil society views

Martina Bianchini, Chair of the ICC Green Economy Task Force Paola Simonetti, Coordinator Development Policy, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) Leida Rijnhout, Director Global Policies and Sustainability, EEB Tanya Cox, Acting Head of the EU Office, Plan International Klara Hajdu, Senior Policy Officer, CEEweb for Biodiversity

Plenary debate

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch Break

Light lunch in front of the conference room

14:30 – 16:00 Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Europe

Presentations

Arthur Dahl, President of the International Environment Forum, Co-Author of the GEO-6 Outlook Report

Andrea Innamorati, Senior Policy Adviser, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy Lutz Ribbe, Member of the EESC, Vice President of the SDO

Monika Linn, Principal Adviser, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Luc Bas, Director EU Office, International Union for Conservation of Nature

Lars Fogh Mortensen, European Environment Agency (EEA), International Cooperation and Partnerships

Q & A

16:00 – 17:45 Governance structures for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Introduction

Derek Osborn, President of the Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future

Panel discussion

Brenda King, President of the Sustainable Development Observatory of the EESC, Chief Executive ACDiversity

Cédric Van de Walle, Federal Institute for Sustainable Development – Belgium, member of the ESDN steering committee

Peter Defranceschi, Head of Brussels Office, Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)

Plenary debate

Summary of day 1

Rapporteur Isabel Caño Aguilar, EESC member, Vice President of the SDO

Closing by the moderator

17:45 - 18:00

Leida Rijnhout, Director Global Policies and Sustainability, EEB

Brief introduction to day 2

Overview and scenario for day two on preparations for the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2), and report back on UNEA-1 Major Group and Stakeholder participation

18:15 – 20:30 Networking reception

EESC - Jacques Delors building, 99 rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels

FOYER 6th floor

Friday 13 November 2015 EESC - Jacques Delors building, 99 rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels - Room JDE 62

UNEP Regional Consultation Meeting (RCM) for Europe

Preparations for the 2nd session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2): Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development

9:00 - 11:00

Moderator: Brenda King, President of the Sustainable Development Observatory of the EESC, Chief Executive ACDiversity

Presentations

Jan Dusik, Director, Regional Office for Europe, UNEP Briefing on the preparations for UNEA-2 Ulf Bjoernholm-Ottosson, Head of the UNEP Brussels Liaison Office UNEA-2 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Helge Elisabeth Zeitler, Policy Officer, DG Environment, European Commission The European Union view on the role of UNEA Alexander Juras, Head of Major Group and Stakeholder Branch, UNEP and Juan Chebly, Lead Adviser for UNEP How to strengthen engagement of Major Groups and Stakeholders in UNEP and UNEA Jeremy Wates, Secretary General, European Environmental Bureau (EEB) Expectations from Major Groups and Stakeholders for UNEA 2

Q & A

11:00 – 12:00 Panel discussion: "Healthy Environment - Healthy People"

Moderator: Sascha Gabizon

Roberto Bertollini, Chief Scientist and WHO Representative to the European Union Genon Jensen, Executive Director HEAL Gabor Figeczky, Advocacy Manager, IFOAM - Organics International Elena Lymberidi-Settimo, International Co-coordinator, Zero Mercury Working Group Sandra Vermuyten Head of Campaigns, Public Services International

Q & A

12:00 - 13:00 Panel discussion: "Mobilizing resources for sustainable investments" - lessons from Europe

Moderator: Pieter Van der Gaag, Consultant

Nick Robins, Co-Director UNEP Inquiry Anna Roggenbuck, EIB campaign coordinator, CEE Bankwatch Jean Letitia Saldanha, Senior Policy Advisor; CIDSE Stephanie Hime, Representative of the Natural Capital Coalition

Q & A

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 16:00 Working Groups / Breakout sessions (rooms JDE 62 & 63)

Main expectations of Major Groups and Stakeholders regarding the UNEA-2 themes "Healthy Environment - Healthy People" and "Mobilizing resources for sustainable investments"

16:00 – 16:45 Plenary (room JDE 62)

Moderator: Jeremy Wates, Secretary General, European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Presentation of key messages from working groups and discussion

16:45 – 17:30 Election of Regional Representatives

Alexander Juras, Head of Major Group and Stakeholder Branch, UNEP

17:30 – 17:45 Closure of the meeting

Welcoming words from the organisers



George Dassis, President of the European Social and Economic Committee (EESC)

With the UN 2030 Agenda world leaders agreed on a common vision and roadmap addressing the key challenges of our time. In its core this global agenda is about equity and fairness: it is about how we share our economic and natural resources fairly in a world with a growing population and limited natural resources. SDGs are not only important for European external and development policies, they are also critical for our domestic policies. Ending poverty and reducing inequality, "leaving no one behind" continues to be a huge challenge in the EU. The European Economic and Social Committee is ready to support a full implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda and suggests to set up a European Sustainable Development Civil Society Forum, in order to make the voice of civil society truly heard in this process.



Leida Rijnhout, Director Global Policies and Sustainability, European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

In light of the current global political context, the SDGs are probably the best set of universal goals that we could get. There are still hurdles such as the threat to reduce full participation of civil society in the UN system, although we are hopeful that we will win this fight as many member states and the EU are on the side of civil society. Civil Society is ready to start work on monitoring the implementation, but is also waiting for a EU strategy and action plan to implement all the 17 goals in Europe.

an Dusik, Director Regional Office for Europe, United Nations

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