



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



European Economic and Social Committee



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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.



Jan Dusik, Director Regional Office for Europe, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

This is the first time since Agenda 21 that sustainable development is the centre of the agenda, with targets attached to it. In May 2016, the second UNEA will focus on the implementation of the environmental dimension of Agenda 2030. This meeting helps to get key messages from the EU to UNEP headquarters.



Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

(By video message) **FULL SPEECH**

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends

Welcome to this policy dialogue we are proud to co- host with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and also the European Environmental Bureau (EEB).

This meeting at this particular point and time, and in this year 2015, is not just a routine meeting. Indeed for many of you who have followed just a few weeks ago, the rather unusual enthusiasm that we saw emanate from the General Assembly hall in New York points to the fact that in the context of sustainable development arena and also the policy agenda, we have witnessed remarkable development. In that sense, I want to begin by pointing to those as also a reason for both encouragement and acknowledgement.

Encouragement in the sense that the year 2015 for many of you and certainly for us in UNEP we have reached a point that the sustainable development agenda has matured. The summit was not another routine adoption of a set of goals and agenda points.

But it truly marks an evolution in both the maturity and ambition of a SD agenda being negotiated by the 193 MS of the UN.

At the Earth Summit in 1992 we first worked on the three dimensions of SD and we found ourselves encouraged and energized by a new vision for development, but in another sense we found ourselves entrapped in those three pillars, or three silos, where the economic remained the dominate force. The social dimension was sometimes looked upon when social discourse forced society to address grievances that had got out of control because of inequity and other drives of social inequality. The environmental pillar remained very often the one we should have looked at, but was in reality the one we looked at last once we had solved other problems, concerns and priorities.

We have paid a heavy price for this logical or unwise chronology of priorities in the past twenty years, and it is one issue that has been ultimately challenged at the Rio+20 summit and well articulated in the Future We Want outcome document. For some the Future We Want outcome may have been viewed as an abstract document – and perhaps was a moment in time when the world was not ready for a transformative future. But looking back on this journey, and examining what we have today - a new 2030 agenda with a set of 17 goals that are qualitatively different compared to the MDGs and other global development plans and visions we had in the past.

Two issues that many of you have already reflected on – through national, regional and global consultations on the post-2015 agenda - stand out: universality and in the context of the policy dialogue that you are engaged with MGS across Europe this is particularly relevant.

Not only in terms of a leadership role is Europe often cited as rightly claiming to be trying to address the challenges of social, economic and environmental sustainability in its own development vision and pathway, but also in the sense of challenging itself not to be complacent that those 17 SDGs imply a significant challenge in terms of domestic European action and in taking responsibility in a planetary context for the kind of footprint that Europe represents - for its over 500 million citizens, its economy and ultimately its opportunity to act or not to act.

I also said it is an opportunity for acknowledgement. The 2030 agenda is not only a moment where the global community adopted a set of goals, it was also illustration of how vital civil society, the scientific community, but also progressive leaders in the business community were to this process.

For the United Nations, the 2013 agenda and the SDGs represented unprecedented engagement of the public at large across the globe, but I want to particularly pay tribute to the environmental community, because without it and without its very active engagement in this process, we may not have arrived at another distinguishing character of this new agenda; its level and degree, and ambition in terms of integration.

We now have a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) that never before have been as diligent, as ambitious in trying to link these three dimensions, and traditionally silos, of sustainable development action.

For us in UNEP, the year 2015 represents a milestone that we can also trace back to the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment that led to the establishment of UNEP. It has been a four decade struggle and journey – in the public policy arena, in the civil society movement, in the world of economic decision making – to recognize there is no future for seven and soon ten billion people on this planet that is based around the notion of trade-offs as the only rationale for making public policy, investment decisions or indeed decisions in any sector, be it energy, land use, recycling, waste management etc.

The combination of the social, economic and environmental is fundamental to having great prospects for development in the future. This is the message we need to carry to the European policy area, but also through actions and leadership in Europe into the global policy arena.

No agenda, and no set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) is likely to have much of an impact if it remains an abstract global aspiration. The future of this agenda and the relevance of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) will be defined by the degree and speed at which we can domesticate them, socialize them in the context where people make real decisions and where the consequences of those decision are visible.

The real opportunity for action arises and therefore the first point of reference must be in our societies, in our communities, but also in our cities, in our municipalities, legislative assemblies, our national parliaments. It is when the executive and legislative begin to have a discourse around the sustainable development goals (SDGs), and civil society and the public at large monitoring and scrutinizing, the progress or lack thereof that the sustainable development goals (SDGs) will become part of the fabric of national development planning, debate and also ambition.

In that sense, the role that many of you will play in the coming months and years, in the European region, in particular, is central to making sure that what happened this September at the UN General Assembly hall does not remain in the realm of document and ambition.

The second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) will be held - under the overarching theme: Delivering on the Environmental Dimension of the Post-2015 Development Agenda - from 23-27 May 2016 at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

I want to appeal to you to look very carefully what the potential significance of this new environment assembly within the UN represents. It will only be the second convening of UNEA after the decision in Rio to establish a universal membership environment assembly in the UN.

A remarkable development and one full of promise, but no guarantee that automatically translates into actions, impacts and consequences.

Not only do we need Europe as a region firmly, actively and proactively engaged in setting the agenda, and also defining the ambition of the environmental dimension of this post-2015 agenda, and also the environmental DNA in the Sustainable Development Goals.

We need civil society, business leaders, academicians, the scientific community and other stakeholders to view the UNEA as the parliament of the world for the environment under the UN.

Nor the size of the economy or political power alone defines the right to be represented and for voices to be heard. The importance of having small island developing states (SIDS), small economies, African nations, Latin American nations, alongside the Europeans, Asians, North Americans giants of our global economy be seated together in a hall and define not only the necessity to act in terms of the science and what it is we know has to happen, but also to forge the kind of alliances, shared trust and belief in the capacity to act together is going to be a hallmark we hope what UNEA can facilitate, catalyse and amplify in the years to come for people and the planet.

Let me also end by making a brief reference to a very significant process that still to happen this year - COP21 on climate. I am aware many are looking at the weeks ahead in November and December with a great concern and rightly so. We have taken well over 20 years to try and bring a collective response to an ever more threatening prospect of global warming and climate change to become a reality.

I would like to appeal to you, in the weeks leading up to Paris, we do not and should not engage in a doom and gloom scenario, but rather that we should encourage leaders in public policy, in the business world, in the economic world and also in our communities and societies to recognize Paris for what it is - yet another milestone, yet another stepping stone in a very complex and challenging, and sometimes painfully disappointing journey that however is attempting something unprecedented in the history of modern humanity.

Aligning, synchronizing and accelerating the efforts of 7 billion people and moving towards a low carbon economy and hopefully somewhere in the second half of this century achieving a zero net emission global economy. This is an unprecedented project in terms of economic transformation, but also in terms of geopolitical consensus building.

I would like to encourage you to not only look at the struggles and yes sometimes bitter failures of the negotiating process that is an inevitable hallmark of this convention platform.

Something else happened just in the last few weeks that should make us sit up and realize how vital, how profound, how in the long term absolutely irreplaceable this convention process and platform is to our common future.

The intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) that have just been released and presented to the world by over 150 nations are not simply documents – they mark a significant milestone and evolution of the convention. We now have for the first time 90% of the world emissions being managed in a low carbon and decarbonisation pathway as never before. The UNFCCC has just become a universal convention. The debates over the last 20 years between north and south, large countries, emitting countries, are being overtaken by the realization that the compelling argument for acting together is beginning to prevail.

Paris still could be complicated; Paris could still have setbacks, for instance, on the equation of action, commitments and financing. But many of the countries in the global south have made extraordinary steps forward, it is in many ways an active faith in the international community and its promise of solidarity, collaborative action, and yes financial resources will be part of this equation and significant change and pace and commitment to act together.

Let us use the next few weeks to put the pressure on all leaders - leaders in both North and South, the business world, in the energy and transport sector – essentially all part of our economy to not let Paris be turned into another theatre of disagreement. We may not get the perfect outcome, but we must build on the continued acceleration of progress. Let us build on national action and actions of different stakeholders to increase the acceleration we have made.

Do use the next two days to reflect on the significance of the topics you are dealing with, and the central role Europe plays in that potential new future whether related to climate or the 2030 agenda.

Reflect on the vital role and contributions of MGS have to play next year in UNEA. Without your presence, without your agenda setting function and without your engagement already from now and onwards, including through our new portal that hopefully will be useful to you myUNEA.org which is our attempt to try and make a major groups stakeholders engagement for UNEA rise to a whole new level of activity and also quality.

Without that level of engagement, we would not be able to look to UNEA2 next May in Nairobi as another milestone in that journey where the environmental dimension of sustainable development, but also science, environmental governance and rule of law remain integral to the prospect for a better future.

Thank you for allowing me to join you, at least, by means of this video message, and again thank you to our partners in Europe for the extraordinary partnership, friendship and support that you have given to this very unique programme in the United Nations system, and ultimately to our common future.

Thank you.



United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Europe



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

One of the many challenges is that the development community will need to change not just the topic but also the mind set, to make sure that their programmes are fit for purpose. Hard core emergencies always come up, are fast tracked and make it hard to keep focussed on the 2030 Agenda. UNEP's challenges are to turn the UNEA into an Environmental Parliament, to keep giving inputs in the science-policy interface, to make sure that our medium-term strategy is fit for purpose and to ensure sustainable means of implementation, by mainstreaming private sector investments in the implementation of the agenda.



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

The Council is concerned about the coherence between poverty reduction, inequality reduction and climate change objectives and will make sure that they come together. At the Council of 26 October on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, there was agreement that the framework is very valid and useful. We agreed that we need sustainable growth and solidarity, leaving no-one behind. We should indeed make sure that everything we do is fit for purpose.



Astrid Schomaker, Director Strategy, DG Environment, European Commission: The role of the European Union in SDG implementation ([click here for presentation](#))

Vice President Timmermans was clear at the General Assembly of the UN in telling us that we need to rethink everything we do. We want to be big on big issues and this is a big issue. We need to maintain what is good in the Europe 2020 strategy, but we also need to go further. The European Commission will come with a detailed strategy next summer and there will be many chances for participation before that. Public financing will not be sufficient so we need to bring the private sector on board.



**Chris Vanden Bilcke, Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Belgium,
Member of UNEA Bureau ([click here](#) for presentation)**

This is the first time that the Sustainable Development agenda is really getting mainstream in the UN system. The schizophrenia of working on sustainability in one agenda and on development cooperation in another agenda is finally solved. Most key stakeholders are not aware of the SDGs yet. Are we able to keep communicating well on the SDGs? Do we realise the opportunity that the HLPF gives us? Do we realise that this is a meta-agenda that will change all international organisations? The HLPF should not scare governments. They should not see it as a controlling institute, but as a platform that allows member states to showcase best practices and exchange knowledge. UNEP will need to solve the stakeholder participation issue it is currently facing. UNEP's inquiry into the design of a sustainable financial system has a huge potential. Progress is also needed on system-wide strategies. There's no need to stay silent on the narrow funding base of UNEP. More EU member states need to accredit missions to UNEP.

Q&A

Derek Osborn, Stakeholder Forum: What is the position of the Council presidency on *the report* published recently by the EESC, entailing recommendations on civil society participation in SDG implementation in Europe.

Marguy Kohnen: we shared the report with representative of European Members in the council. The Agenda 2030 would not be as it is without all the participation of the stakeholders.

Prof Janssen: the integration of the 17 SDGs requires new global governance infrastructure and I do not see it, where is it?

Chris Vanden Bilcke replies that after the creation on international level the HLPF we should also start institutional reforms on the other levels, and focus on civil society participation from the bottom up.

Jan-Gustav Strandenaes warns about the reform of the HLPF, hoping that participation will not be reduced or closed, to avoid it becoming a High Level Political Fiasco.



Responsibility of Europe to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda globally



**Alina Padeanu, Policy Coordinator Global Issues,
European External Action Service**

There is already a fair consensus on the 2030 Agenda. It would not be fair to say goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) is the most important because we want to implement them all. But we want goal 16 to be implemented by everyone. We in Europe need to lead by example in order to ask others to implement the SDGs properly. Existing EU policies provide already strong elements to build upon. In future we will have to improve coherence with a view to an effective implementation of SDGs. This will also have to be considered in the ongoing strategic review of the EU foreign and security policy.



Martin Heather, DEVCO

We continue to be the world's largest provider of development aid, but domestic means of implementation is much bigger than all ODA combined. DEVCO is looking forward to ensure that the SDGs are implemented in a coherent way.

Civil Society views:



**Martina Bianchini, Chair of International Chamber of Commerce
(ICC), Green Economy Task Force**

The ICC developed a Business Charter for SD. In our earlier versions (in 1992 and 2000) mentioned sustainable development strategies were there, but they were merely environmental management strategies. Now there's a more holistic approach. The engagement of business is critical in the implementation of the SDGs. ICC has developed a "SDG compass" as a tool to help businesses to explore the business opportunities in the implementation of SDGs and define their contribution.



Paola Simonetti, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

ITUCs first recommendation is to be consistent and coherent on sustainable development and to follow a human rights based approach. For ITUC the priority goal is of course SDG 8: decent work and economic growth. This can only be achieved with social dialogue between employers and employees. The collective bargaining coverage rate is an indicator that ITUC values a lot. Social dialogue reaches out also to governments and is a mean to promote democratic governance and address social inequality.



Leida Rijnhout, Director Global Policies and Sustainability, EEB

Our European lifestyles depend heavily on natural resources from the South. Extractive industry, deforestation, land-grabbing, electronic waste dumping: these problems do not fall from heaven and Europe has a large responsibility there. We can speak of “reversed development aid”: the Global South is financing the Global North: there is an active process of enrichment and impoverishment. In Europe we still believe that the CAP, our trade agenda, TTIP and subsidizing fossil fuels can be coherent with the SDGs. This is mainly a policy agenda. The elephant in the room is unequal power relations. We need to put big corporations back in their place. They have a role to play, but they should start with paying their taxes and enforce social and environmental laws.



Tanya Cox, Plan International EU Office

The recently presented EC work programme for 2016 sets out the EC’s intentions. They are extremely worrying considering the lack of sustainability ambitions. The SDGs are mentioned, but only in the internal section, not the external section. It seems that only EU interests really count. Unsurprisingly, there is a continued emphasis on economic growth as the answer to everything. But this is creating increasing inequalities, damage to the environment and it already crosses planetary boundaries. Approaches like the circular economy can do something, but is it enough and fast enough? I question this focus on growth. Have they done any modelling? Have they looked at other options? Even the EU Sustainable Development strategy is not mentioned. There is also not a single mention of policy coherence for SD.



Klara Hajdu, CEEweb for Biodiversity ([click here for presentation](#))

Coherence can mean very different things and there are many things that are indeed not coherent yet. There is a clear trade off between a better environment and food prices. The only way to solve it is to reduce the pressure on land use. Our strategies should not shift environmental pressures from national to other levels, but reduce them. Therefore, a dietary shift is a very important part of the game. Another is a plan to phase out fossil fuels. The SDGs speak about decoupling but absolute decoupling is not done yet.

Q&A:

Martina Bianchini: policy coherence has been discussed a lot, but market incentives are also very important

Martin Heather: there is a reference to SDG implementation in the 2016 work plan, that is already something.

Victor Usov, executive director of the Russian national committee for UNEP: we are worried about the right to environmentally sound working conditions, is it in the SDGs?

Martina Bianchini: policy coherence has been discussed a lot but market incentives are also very important.

Ana Barreira: yes, market instruments and incentives are needed. But what happens when consumers don't have clear information? See for example the case of Volkswagen. Second point: even for NGOs it is very difficult to get information, for example on coal power plants. Third point: there are too many derogations and exceptions to what is normally good environmental policy made by the EU.

Paola Simonetti: social dialogue is one of the core issues for us. International Framework Agreements are instruments where social partners can come together to create a more sustainable business approach. Social partners need to have equal weight.

Martina Bianchini: Goal12 'ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns' on consumers, goal 12 is not new, it goes back to Agenda 21. As long as there is a market and the consumer has purchasing power, businesses will provide demand. We live in the age of transparency but the challenge remains to find the right data and the right facts. It is very difficult to understand what our footprint is. Whose role is it to educate the consumer? That is not the role of business alone.

Alina Padeanu: there is an action plan since the summer on European labour rights and we are moving to consolidate social negotiations with all social partners.

Tanya Cox: one thing is making consumption and production more sustainable, but another thing is to REDUCE consumption so others can consume too. Reducing demand is not in the interest of business. We should not automatically think of the market. We need to think of how to influence the market in order to reduce consumption.

Brendan Burns: what is the role of the consumer? We business are really driven by our customers.

Tanya Cox: what are we trying to achieve through growth? Once we know that, then we can see how we get there. Maybe it will become clear that growth doesn't get us there.

Leida Rijnhout: economic growth can not be the objective. We have to get our objective right. Coherent with what? Do the trade agenda or environmental policies have to be coherent with the economic growth agenda or with the sustainable development agenda?

Klara Hajdu: we cannot grow resources so we need to tackle the problem there. What we actually need is energy budget schemes broken down to country levels.

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Europe



**Arthur Dahl, President of the International Environment Forum,
Co-Author of the GEO-6 Outlook Report ([click here](#) for presentation)**

Europe is in a privileged position to work on the SDGs: it can take the lead for other parts of the world because of its great experience in supra-national cooperation. But challenges remain, fine-tuning of the targets needs to happen and there are some obvious conflicts where choices need to be made. For example on Goal 15, about ecosystems and biodiversity: there are conflicts between that goal and agriculture and settlement patterns. Another example are the fisheries subsidies that create overfishing all over the world or target 12-c on harmful fossil fuel subsidies. We also need to retrain workers that are employed in unsustainable businesses.



**Andrea Innamorati, Senior Policy Adviser, Ministry for the Environment,
Land and Sea, Italy ([click here](#) for presentation)**

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda is a milestone in global agreements. MDGs were top down, SDGs are bottom up. The social cohesion and ecological footprint in the EU are not good and the Agenda 2030 gives us the opportunity to correct that. We definitely have to step out of our comfort zone but we can and will do that.



Lutz Ribbe, Member of the EESC, Vice President of the SDO

The universality of the SDGs is a great achievement. But, do we have consensus in Europe that Europe really needs to do something? SD policy lacks credibility: e.g. 5.3 trillion dollar per year of environmentally harmful subsidies spent on polluting fuels, according to the IMF. On the other hand, on COP21 we are trying hard to get 0.1 trillion dollar of climate adaptation money per year. This way we will never make any progress. Moreover, politicians have lost the long-term vision. We need a long-term political strategy, which take into account the interests of future generations. The EU Sustainability Strategy from 2001 is dead and the EU2020 strategy is far from a sustainability strategy. Civil Society is ready to step beyond the comfort zone, but in many cases politicians protect obstacles to the required transformation processes instead of creating an enabling framework.



Monika Linn, Principal Adviser, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe ([click here for presentation](#))

For the UNECE region (from Canada to Kazakhstan), there are many common challenges compared to the challenges in the EU (EU members are half of all UNECE members), but some are different, for example, for our Eastern member states. The UNECE helps with issues like transport agreements, vehicle regulations, labelling of chemicals, environmental conventions, standards on trade facilitation, agricultural quality and PPP standards, classification for energy and minerals and more. The UNECE is looking into the linkages from the High Level Political Forum with the regional forum for SD, between the regional review mechanisms and the national review mechanisms. The regional review mechanisms, the environment and innovation performance reviews and the review mechanisms for conventions need to be aligned to the SDGs.



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

The success of the SDGs is that a healthy environment has never been so central before. A lot of countries in Europe regress on their environmental policy. Europe is in crisis management, from Greece to refugees, and the environmental issue can be a uniting European project. When we talk about environment in Europe it is too much about energy, which is only a part of the story. For example, the talk on greening the semester is all about energy, but not about nature. The circular economy package needs to be ambitious. There is an incredible amount of unsustainable consumption. It's not just the way we consume, but it is about the quantity. That is an uncomfortable truth. It's not about saving the planet; she will survive, but about saving an environment in which we, as humans, can thrive. Nature-based solutions are often low investment and high return.



Lars Fogh Mortensen, European Environment Agency (EEA), International Cooperation and Partnerships ([click here for presentation](#))

The UN 2030 Agenda is an opportunity for systemic changes in Europe by 2030. In Copenhagen, 50% of people bike to work. There is car sharing. You can now even lease baby clothes. Tesla has home batteries to store your own renewable energy. Such business examples can be upscaled. Knowledge is needed to underpin systemic changes. There are several systems and several agencies. Integration is the key and the SDGs can be the umbrella for this. Global SDG indicators need to be continuously improved. You need a hierarchy of indicators, with headline indicators. There should be less focus on the existence of strategic documents and more on actual conditions. A balance between indicators relevant for both developing and developed countries is needed.

Q&A

Jan-Gustav Strandenaes: Can we have a full day in every national parliament to evaluate the progress that ministers make on the SDGs? How about partnerships where civil society takes a role where governments should actually take? And should civil society do shadow reporting?

Jan Dusik, UNEP: citizen science is important.

Audience: The current educational system does not prepare us to deal with the current complexity of interdisciplinary research that is needed.

Natalia Kravciuk, Gutta Youth Club, Moldova: your problems are similar to our problems. Rural people are leaving; we need to create the infrastructure to support them.

Arthur Dahl: I agree about the educational comment. We train too much specialists. We need more generalist training and also more training on values, to have the motivation. On indicators: there is language of beyond GDP in the SDGs. Civil society can play a lead here, to show governments that other indicators work better.

Andrea Innamorati: I like the idea of a full day in parliaments to evaluate the SDG work. Yes, but also a plan that goes beyond the five-year plan of a politician. I also like the idea of a shadow reporting.

Lutz Ribbe: on education: I agree, but it should not be an excuse to wait with everything to do anything. It is the responsibility of the governments to quickly define a framework in which Sustainable Development can be pursued.

Luc Bas, IUCN: long-term planning is needed, but we cannot allow it to become an excuse. And yes there is complexity, but doing away with fossil fuel subsidies is not complex. It requires political will. We can't just get beyond GDP, but we need to start tweaking it.

Lars Fogh Martenson, EEA: good to have a call for an indicator beyond GDP in the SDGs.

Karl Falkenberg: we tried to get beyond GDP in the EU, but have not yet convinced our systems.



Governance structures for the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development



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

Invites the audience to check the report Stakeholder Forum has made putting forward recommendations for governance tools for the implementation of SDGs: *“Building the Europe we want. Models for civil society involvement in the implementation of the Post-2015 agenda at the EU level.”* The report deals with how civil society has been engaged in some of the more progressive places in Europe. Three crucial requirements for an effective implementation have been identified:

1. We need an overarching EU framework or strategy for long-term sustainable development bringing together the review of the EU2020 strategy with the implementation of SDGs.
2. Building upon this strategy we need key programmes and action plans for transformational change in sectors of key importance for long-term sustainable development, e.g. in the mitigation of climate change, sustainable water management and protection of the oceans, sustainable cities, tackling social inequalities and setting new economic paradigms beyond GDP.
3. We need a rigorous monitoring & review process for the implementation of SDGs. The availability of indicators is not sufficient. We need a processes and structures which enable governments and non-governmental stakeholders to draw political conclusions about what’s going right or wrong.



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

It is true that the EU SD strategy is dead. But in the 2016 work plan the EC announced a new initiative on sustainable development. This initiative is a unique opportunity to rekindle the policy concept of sustainable development in European policy making and strategic planning. There will be a public consultation on this coming up. We want to engage in that discussion and we encourage you to do the same. The EESC has recently published a report recommending the establishment of a European Forum for Sustainable Development which would bring together policy actors from EU institutions, including Commission and Council, with a broad range of civil society representatives and provide the required regular, stable, structured and independent framework for civil society dialogue and debate on sustainable development at EU level. This forum should be facilitated by the EESC in partnership with the European Commission and the main civil society organisations.



Cédric Van de Walle, Federal Institute for Sustainable Development – Belgium, member of the ESDN steering committee ([click here](#) for presentation)

The ESDN is an informal network of civil servants working on SD strategies on national levels, sharing best practices. ESDN supports the European SD Week. Implementation of the SDGs is on top of their agenda, but they depend on political commitment. An overarching policy framework is needed - can be a new EU SDS or another kind of commitment. Immediate action and horizontal integration is needed. National implementation is key.



Peter De Franceschi, Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) ([click here](#) for presentation)

A local currency like the Bristol Pound is an example of bottom-up changes from the local government. The SDG Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities is good. Germany was the first government to support it. We already have Agenda 21 since the Rio Summit in 1992, but the SDGs are complimentary. We need to use the SDGs as the floor, not the ceiling. ICLEI will release seven policy briefs on “Cities and the SDGs” by the end of the month. Today there was talk of the SDGs being a “Game changer. Unprecedented. Out of comfort zone.” That sounds like a blockbuster movie. But who will be the hero? Can visionary mayors be the agents of change?

Q&A

Justin Byrne, Irish NGO network: you are asking a lot from civil society, but we are mainly doing this as volunteers so we need funding to play our part in it.

Jouni Nissinen, EEB vice-president: how do we get this implemented at national level? Our Prime Minister is interested, but there is a lot of work needs to be done. How do we realise this in practice. How do we bring systems together? How can I convince my government to use another indicator than GDP?

Inge Niestroy points Brenda King to a publication that might interest her: *The role of science, technology and innovation policies to foster the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*.

Antoni Vicens, Gov of Cataluña, NRG4SD: Regions greatly contribute to the implementation of the SDGs on the ground. For example, it does on regional land planning.

Olga Ponizova, co-chair of the Eco-Forum, Eco Accord, Russia: to ESDN: please share national implementation best practices in the EU with non-EU countries in the UNECE region.

Derek Osborn agrees that implementation needs to be done at all levels.

Cédric Van de Walle says that the ESDN is open to non-EU countries so you can get the information on national implementation by joining.

Peter De Franceschi: we have to take our ecological rucksack into account. If a smartphone already represents a 70kg footprint, what does a smart city represent? So we need to be careful with new technologies.

Summary made by Karl Falkenberg

The good thing is that you are all reflecting that we need comprehensive approaches. We still need to bring that out better, to find a collective narrative. How do we convince national and local authorities, consumers and ourselves that this agenda is important? Seventeen Goals and 169 targets are complex. By and large I was pleased that most people who spoke said that they are all important. We can't just do little islands here and there. A good narrative that people understand and politicians can work with in their speeches is something we need to continue working on. Then we need process. The SDGs are not something until 2030, we want to be sustainable forever. Future challenges will undoubtedly come up so we need institutionalised processes ensuring integrated and holistic solutions to upcoming problems and avoiding finding solutions for one problem while digging holes for other problems. What we also need to do more is looking into specific policy areas. Sustainability has to be mainstreamed into all policy making. We need to identify where our policies are sustainable and where not. If you take the SD report that Derek referred to, you see a lot of information in there that is measured and with trends. You will see that for Europe a lot of trends are not going in the right direction and when they do they don't go fast enough. Like with climate change: the direction in Paris looks good but the science tells us clearly that we are not fast enough. The current pledges point to 3 or 4 °C warming, which is beyond the human comfort zone. The way we produce food, and energy or how we handle finance: whether all of this is sustainably organised needs to be studied. We need to find ways of more clearly associating social elements to it. When do social inequalities within a society become unsustainable, when do they become disruptive? If inequality is too big, and the gap is widening, social cohesion is lost. Furthermore, we need to keep up the political momentum. I heard the notion of urgency here. If we stop moving we fall, like on the bicycle. The scale of the challenges also deserves a moment of reflection about how to approach SDG implementation most effectively. We need to transpose the SDGs at all levels now. Last but not least at the individual level: we need to convince Europeans. The last open issue in my own thought is this idea of the comfort zone. When I look out of the window in our present policymaking environment I find it not so comfortable. We just had a huge crisis in Europe and we still see major parts of Europe on income levels, on access to any form of better life, we see refugees streaming into Europe. It doesn't look like Christmas comfort cosy. Moving to sustainability actually is going to create for all of us more of a comfort zone, instead of the struggle I see outside, when not thinking about sustainability. That is why I don't think we can say we need to step out of our comfort zone. It has to be clear that SDGs are not a painful austerity programme; they are going to make life better for all of us. That is why we should move into that direction as soon as we can.



Summary made by Isabel Caño Aguilar



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

She stressed **6 keywords**:

1. **Justice**: social cohesion is needed, between countries and generations.
2. **Universality**: It is not a sequel of the MDGs: it is different, more fundamental and ambitious.
3. **Meta agenda**: we need an integrated approach.
4. **Financing**: we need to rethink development aid - role of private investors.
5. **Action**: we need an agenda that transforms society, economy and production patterns - focus on implementation. This is a test of the leadership of the European Union.
6. **Governance**: SDG 16 – credibility, transparency and strategic planning, institutionalisation of SD, and civil society participation on all levels.



UNEP Regional Consultation Meeting for Europe

Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

Friday 13 November 2015



Introductions:



Jan Dusik, Director, Regional Office for Europe, UNEP:
Briefing on the preparations for UNEA-2

The Road to UNEA-2 started with the organisation of CPR subcommittee meetings, informal consultations and briefings. In February 2016, it will continue with the Open-ended CPR 2nd meeting where the inputs from Informal multistakeholder consultations and Regional forums will be added. The road will finally come to an end at the UNEA2nd session the 23-27 May 2016.

During the resolutions preparation for UNEA -2, we will focus on clustering and prioritizing the existing proposals for draft resolutions into a manageable list, which is based on consensus and which demonstrates the strong leadership of UNEA on environmental matters.

The Open-ended CPR 2nd meeting will conclude with outstanding draft resolutions for transmission to UNEA-2. It will try to increase political awareness as well. Also on the agenda will be, political issues, such as the informal consultations on Stakeholder Engagement Policy (SEP) and decisions such as changing the UNEA cycle will be addressed.

In the organisation of UNEA-2, two main topics are being developed. The interactive ministerial policy review is focusing on “healthy environment – healthy people”. The second topic, “Mobilizing resources for sustainable investments”, tries to answer three key questions:

- Why – under what circumstances should measures be taken to ensure that the financial system takes fuller account of sustainable development?
- What – what measures have been and might be more widely deployed to better align the financial system with sustainable development?
- How – how can such measures best be deployed?

Key conclusions to take into account to answer these three questions:

- Financing for sustainable development can be delivered through action within the financial system, as well as the real economy.
- Policy innovations from developing and developed countries demonstrate how the financial system can be better aligned with sustainable development.
- Systematic national action can now be taken to shape a sustainable financial system, complemented by international cooperation.

Link to presentation: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/resources/docs/dusik-jan.pdf>



Ulf Björnholm-Ottosson, Head of the UNEP Brussels Liaison Office : UNEA-2 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Basically we need to convince organisations that UNEA-2 will create a great opportunity and this meeting is needed if we want to keep the environment on the political agenda.

UNEA is very relevant for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is a place where stakeholders and policy-makers can come together. It also reveals itself as essential in order to have a strong political voice regarding policy coherence and about to integrate the environment with the political agenda.

The environment has always been in the back seat whereas economics and social matters have been favoured, sitting in front. If you boost the environment you can help the economy and also the social matters. It is a fact that we become richer every year. A possible solution could be to invest this growth in Sustainable Development. We are on the right track about getting Sustainable Development on the agenda but we need to keep working. We need a strong platform to get results and UNEA is already an important platform.

What can UNEA give to the 2030 Agenda? It's a forum for debate between stakeholders and policy-makers. It has a strong mandate and has a strong link with the High Level Political Forum. We can bring important input to discussion.

How can UNEA deliver the 2030 Agenda? We will have a very strong voice and we are a source of inspiration. We can engage stakeholders. However, we need to be bold when implementing the 2030 Agenda, to be more effective. UNEA can provide the means for it.

It is our last chance to include environment in the core of the political agenda.



Helge Elisabeth Zeitler, Policy Officer, DG Environment, European Commission : The European Union view on the role of UNEA

UNEA-2 will be an important event because it gives us the chance to build on the Rio +20 outcome document "The future we want". The 2030 Agenda brings together the three dimensions of Sustainable Development and UNEA 2 will be an important occasion to focus on the implementation of environmental dimension. UNEP secretariat is providing good material and the more immediate consequence of this is that we will be more prepared. We have the feeling at the EU that preparations are going well.

It is important to focus in the high level segment on the umbrella theme of "implementation of the environmental dimension of Agenda 2030" and the focus on this shouldn't be overtaken by the other topics. Mobilizing private financial resources to achieve Sustainable Development is also important and we welcome that UNEP plans a symposium on this topic. The EU will propose resolutions on oceans and SCP (Sustainable Consumption and Production). Here of course taking into account the philosophy of the circular economy.

We had long negotiations in UNEA 1 with no tangible results on the stakeholders' engagement. Now we want to find a compromise that lives up to the mandate for a strengthened stakeholder engagement policy.

Regarding the UNEA2 cycle: we agree with the change to odd years.

Issues in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda? The environment is somehow represented in all the goals. This shows it is very important for UNEP to have a strong role in supporting the implementation of the Agenda. Integrated UN support to Member States should be strengthened. We would like to see more collaboration between the UN bodies and governments. UNEP has a lot of experience to share and possibilities to engage the private sector and financial institutions.



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

For civil society, there are several levels of engagement with UNEP: agenda setting, decision making and implementation. Something that needs to be addressed is the concern of some governments regarding the involvement civil society into decision making processes. This can be done by always clearly stating that the intergovernmental character of organisations such as UNEP is respected by civil society. It has also been observed by UNEP that often organisations that engage with UNEP in implementation, do not engage in political agenda setting and decision making processes, e.g. through the UNEA. Currently there are many opportunities for civil society to participate and engage with UNEP. This is not limited to organisations that are formally accredited to UNEP. Partnerships are open for all kinds of organisations and UNEP is well aware that it needs partnerships to implement its mandate.

At the moment a process is underway at UNEP to finalise a new stakeholder engagement policy that should be based on best practices from multilateral institutions and that should promote transparency.

Day to day coordination of UNEP with Major Groups and Stakeholders is done through the MGFC (Major Groups Facilitating Committee). Their participation in the Open Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR) and the UNEA is financially supported by UNEP. Meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives which take place regularly Nairobi are open for participation by accredited organizations. This unique opportunity to influence agenda setting and decision making is however rarely used. A challenge for UNEP is the limited engagement from large international civil society organisations with UNEA and the somewhat limited interest from Major Groups and other Stakeholders to engage. This might be due to a limited understanding of UNEP's mandate as the leading environmental authority within the UN and the important role that UNEA plays in this context. Overall it can be stated that Civil Society has not yet taken "ownership" of UNEA. A new avenue to engage with UNEP and UNEA is the interactive website: *MyUNEA.org*. This is a unique opportunity to get involved, not only for Major Groups but also the public at large.

Link to Alexander Juras' presentation:

<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/resources/docs/juras-alexander----chebly-juan.pdf>

Link to Juan Chebly's presentation: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/resources/docs/chebly-jan.pdf>

Link to the interactive website www.myunea.org



Jeremy Wates, Secretary General, European Environmental Bureau (EEB): Expectations from Major Groups and Stakeholders for UNEA 2

As Major Groups, we can be satisfied that we at least partially succeeded at Rio+20 in strengthening UNEP, by moving to UNEA, with universal membership, but still we need to strengthen the environmental voice at a global level. The fact that the environment is considered the sick and less important of the three dimensions of sustainable development is a danger. We are going through difficult times regarding environmental policy-making. UNEA needs to keep the vanguard role for the environment. Major Groups from this region need to bring their expectations to the UNEA. Doing this, we can not only provide our input to the global outcome but thereby have positive rebound effects for this region. In the EU, the SDGs now provide leverage to challenge a political climate which is hostile to environment and SD, implying changes to the Junckers Commission's top 10 priorities. We are moving to the implementation of the SDGs with the UNEA-2. At EU level the circular economy package is one component to implement them. We can't forget the general disillusionment after the Volkswagen scandal which has generated mistrust both in governments and the private sector. The failure to achieve a final decision on stakeholder's engagement policy at UNEA-1 was disappointing. One of the reasons was the fact of having texts on the table that went backwards. It surely didn't help. Having UN Headquarters and the UNEA meetings in another continent doesn't help either, even if Europe is closer to Nairobi than some other continents. UNEA is about implementing the SDGs for the next 15 years, but we shouldn't forget another systemic issue: we were confronted with a fairly low ministerial participation. What can we do to increase that?

(Helge Elisabeth Zeitler replied that the EU will work hard to improve its participation this time, but for that, UNEA needs to make the format as attractive as possible: Ministers like when their statements are heard).



Panel discussion: Healthy environment – Healthy people



Roberto Bertollini, Chief Scientist and WHO Representative to the European Union

Mr. Bertollini shared some reflections on how he saw the relationship in the future between health and the environment. Concerns about health have been growing in the political agendas. SDG goal 3 focuses on health issues, but also health is linked to other SDGs. The ways we are studying the relations between health and environment are lineal, which doesn't reflect the reality. It's a minimalistic approach. A new approach should be taken showing all the complex interactions between different actors.

Obesity and diabetes are two examples of how health and the environment are intertwined. Apart from the issues on physical activities, some chemical exposures are proved to effect bodies and increase obesity. Unfortunately there are other interactions with chemicals that we just can't know whose effects remain unknown for now.

We need to look in a comprehensive way at the commitments. SDGs are a nice frame, but the need policy coherence. We shouldn't forget the agreements in other platforms like the Health 2020 overarching policy framework. The challenge now is the interaction between the different sectors, which requires a high political lead and coherence.

Link to presentation: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/resources/docs/bertollini-roberto.pdf>



Genon Jensen, Executive Director HEAL

A Healthy Environment, Healthy People reflects HEAL's vision we set out a decade ago and our motto. Many of the goals and targets are relevant for our work at HEAL, but action is key!

To meet the Health SDG 3 goal to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, the EU can a leading role to reduce by one third premature mortality from all non-communicable disease (NCD) through prevention from environmental risk factors (Target 3.4). EU laws on chemicals like REACH, pesticides, biocides, and EDCs as well as air quality emissions can contribute significantly to preventing early deaths and reducing chronic diseases, and improving well-being. For this a greater focus on the health benefits of reducing exposure and healthcare savings is needed.

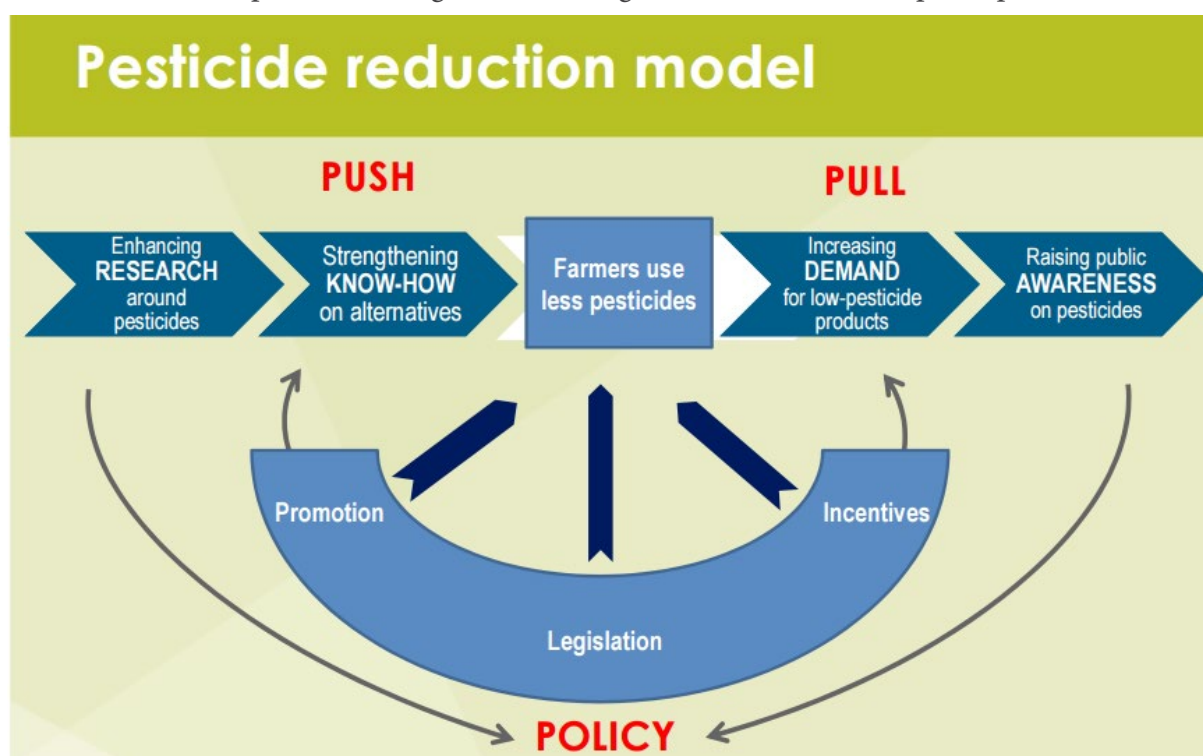
EU and member states should be leading the way in transforming to a low carbon society and urgently phase out subsidies for fossil fuels, which will have significant health benefits.



Gabor Figeczky, Advocacy Manager, IFOAM - Organics International

Pesticides are all across the SDGs. They are the perfect example that links health and environment: short term produces nausea and headaches and chronic impacts provoke cancer, reproductive harm, birth defects, autism, Parkinson's disease, obesity, diabetes and endocrine disruption. Pesticides are detected in rain, air fog or snow at different times of the year. Over 98% of sprayed insecticides and 95% of herbicides reach a destination other than their target species.

We need to reduce pesticides in agriculture using the reduction model: push- pull.



Solutions proposed for pesticide reduction on the know-how and advice (PUSH side) include: investment in research of alternatives, use potential of self-regulating systems, improved information, training and advice, promote GAP, IPM, agroecology or biocontrol and collaboration among stakeholders.

Solutions in the processing, retail, consumers (PULL side) include: informing consumers on good food, introducing resistant varieties, strengthen/organise consumer voices, retailers engaging in (improved) labels addressing pesticides, promoting of «safe» food – competitive advantage and CSR - Rating of companies for their efforts.

At EU level, EU risk assessment must be improved and an important recommendation is that the EU implements a strategy to address high hazardous pesticides.

Link to presentation: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/resources/docs/figeczky-gabor.pdf>



**Elena Lymberidi-Settimo, International Co-coordinator,
Zero Mercury Working Group**

We made a lot of progress at the global perspective. Mercury pollution is linked to the goals 12, 3, and 14... Back in 2005, we created the group that followed negotiations at the UN level. Now that we have the treaty and we are working on implementing, finding projects on the ground in developing countries, etc.

Mercury is highly toxic and concentrates through the food chain. Mercury travels long distances around the world, with no respect for national or regional boundaries. It causes damage to the nervous system and it is particularly harmful to the development of unborn children.

The Minamata Convention on Mercury was adopted in 2013. 128 countries have signed but only 18 have ratified, which is a problem because we need 50 in order for it to enter into force. Some key elements of the convention are cutting emissions from priority air sources, reducing global supply or phasing out mercury uses in products and processes.

We are in the interim period until treaty ratification when countries should get ready for the convention and ratify it so that it enters into force. Particularly, the EU not ratifying the treaty is the main reason that delays it from entering into force. Meanwhile, we have been helping NGOs to assist their governments in implementing and helping the governments too.

Link to presentation: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/resources/docs/lymberidi-elena.pdf>



Sandra Vermuyten Head of Campaigns, Public Services International

We remain critical regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Throughout the SDGs and negotiations on Financing for Development (FFD3), PSI has held the opinion that this agenda could end up being a vehicle for privatisation and maintaining the status quo. We still do not see the unconditional criteria that are needed to ensure that private sector intervention is in line with the public interest, especially where public resources are used to support the private sector. Too much money has already been spent on regulatory reform, over too many years, to try to make market dynamics work in sectors such as water, health and education that actually do not really respond to the market. In health systems around the globe, including in the EU, the public sector health system is being systematically eroded through deliberate underspending which impacts on quality of service, and thus creating a self-fulfilling prophecy with regard to inefficiency of public services that then justify further cuts. This process ultimately results in a two track health system, where people who can afford to will seek private services, whereas those who cannot will wait even more and suffer low quality services and poorer outcomes. These developments are in complete contradiction with the 2030 development agenda that calls for universal access to essential health-care to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (Sustainable Development Goal 3). We need alternative ways to get a more balanced approach.

The use of EU development funding should be monitored so as to avoid that tax payers' money being used to support the expansionist policies of certain companies and not to strengthen public institutions that have to deliver on their human rights obligations. We also have to look at trade agreements and to what extent they are compatible with the SDGs and human rights obligations of both the EU states but also the partner countries. One of the preferred vehicles for the implementation of this agenda is the creation of Global Partnerships. We need clear governance structures and accountability of such Global Partnerships. Overall, we think that wherever business is present – workers have to be represented at the same level.



Panel debate: Mobilising Resources for investments for Sustainable Development



Nick Robins, Co-Director UNEP Inquiry

I will use my five minutes to present the key results of the UNEP Inquiry into the Design of a Sustainable Financial System - unepinquiry.org.

The Inquiry was launched in January 2014 to advance policy options to better align the financial system with sustainable development. We have focused on the rules that govern banking, insurance, investment and capital markets; we have not directly looked at public finance. We have worked in 15 countries Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Colombia, France, Kenya, India, Indonesia, the Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland, the UK and the USA - and developed a global knowledge network, involving over 40 research partnerships with central banks, financial regulators, international financial organisations, as well as commercial banks, pension funds and insurance companies, universities and civil society.

Launched in October 2015, its global report, **The Financial System We Need** has three main findings:

1. Financing sustainable development requires action within the financial system as well as policy measures in the real economy. The reasons for taking policy measures in the financial system are to tackle market failures which prevent progress (eg short-termism, misaligned incentives); drive positive financial innovation; build resilience to environmental shocks; and ensure coherence between financial regulation and other policy priorities.
2. A 'quiet revolution' is underway - with over 180 measures being taken to incorporate sustainability factors in banking, insurance, investment and capital market rules, regulations and regulations. These fall into five areas: enhancing market practice (e.g. disclosure, fiduciary duty), harnessing the public balance sheet (e.g. fiscal incentives, central banks), directing finance through policy (eg priority sector requirements, liability rules), transforming culture (e.g. behaviour, capabilities, incentives, structure) and strengthening system governance (e.g. principles, mandates and metrics for financial policy and regulatory bodies). Key examples of innovation include Brazil, China, France and the UK. Importantly this process has involved a mix of market, policy and social innovation.
3. We face a moment of opportunity - taking a more systematic approach at the national level (eg through national compacts) and deepening international cooperation: it is striking that this week the Financial Stability Board has announced the launch of a Climate Disclosure Task Force. In terms of international cooperation, five priorities stand out: tracking progress towards sustainable finance (e.g. through a shared set of performance metrics); building new tools (e.g. sustainability stress tests); developing common principles and standards (e.g. green bonds); drawing up practical guidance (e.g. for insurance regulators to address natural hazards, climate impacts) and strengthening the policy architecture (e.g. China's promotion of green finance in its 2016 G20 presidency).

In terms of recommendations for UNEA, it's perhaps a bit more difficult for me as someone from UNEP to suggest recommendations. But from our work, three themes emerge:

- First, deepen work to promote the integration of the sustainability dimension into the international policy architecture for financial regulation.
- Second, work with countries to develop practical diagnostic and planning tools to support national plans and compacts.
- Third, take forward a multi-stakeholder approach to financial reform for sustainable development, involving policy makers, financial institutions, civil society and academia.



Anna Roggenbuck, EIB campaign coordinator, CEE Bankwatch

We monitor public financing in Eastern Europe, including the EU financing. There is an urgent need for global actions. We can change our production and consumption patterns.

The role of national fiscal policies, public spending from budgets and international financial institutions in making them lead on fundamental changes in the way their societies produce and consume, changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns which would lead to the creation of a space for developing countries to accelerate their sustainable development.

We were investigating how public funding is expanding in Central and Eastern Europe. We noticed that in terms of climate actions, 15-20% of the EU funds are for these actions. This is low; we can't build energy without efficient infrastructure.

- How to overcome the inconsistency that the subsidy of coal industry is subsidised?
- Are we able to make courageous decisions, for instance, such as about fossil fuels extraction and power generation is not at, and to remove all supported by the from public funds? When and under which conditions?
- Where and how to direct a public money stream that would leverage other sources of finance?
- How to overcome inconsistency between ambitious pledges in the SDG UN Resolution and existing practice in using public finance for sustaining unsustainable development?
- What financial institutions for Sustainable Development Goals? Reflection on Multilateral Development Banks "From Billions to Trillions" pledge.
- Shall we welcome the pledge or be scared about its impact?
- Reflection on institutional reforms and policy changes needed in these institutions (from human right and tax havens to energy, industry and climate policies).
- How to make them finally transparent and accountable?
- No trade-offs in SDGs finance! The need to establish criteria which would eliminate trade-offs such as food security versus sustainable agriculture, climate change mitigation versus biodiversity and human rights protection.



Jean Letitia Saldanha, Senior Policy Advisor, CIDSE

The Third Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa in July 2015 was one of the three major international consensus building moments in 2015 along with the Sustainable Development Summit and COP21. While its mandate was to follow-up and advance on international commitments on financing for development made in Monterrey in 2002 and Doha in 2008, industrialised countries engaged in the Conference only as a space in which to negotiate how to implement Agenda 2030.

While Agenda 2030 increased focus on environmental sustainability and welcomed political support for integrated (environmental, social, economic) policy making, the reality is that many trade-offs are being made.

- The first and biggest trade off: Claiming that the agenda is too big for governments to finance on their own, governments shrug off responsibility with the objective of transferring responsibility to private financial actors, without a framework in place to secure the human rights obligations of such actors and inadequate regulation in place to prevent the “billions to trillions” dream from turning into a nightmare.
- Second trade off: The failure to enforce existing set of commitments on international domestic resource mobilisation (particularly on tax governance), public finance, trade, sovereign debt and systemic issues.
- Third trade off: A missed opportunity to thoroughly tackle the continued deficiencies of global economic and financial governance almost six years after the 2008 financial crisis, with an unfinished financial regulation agenda and unilateral action by the largest economies to restore (their own) economic stability through interest rate politics. The UN Conference on the Economic and Financial Crisis in 2002, rather than being forgotten should have been built upon.

Based on these observations, the question I would like to raise is how do we truly ensure the ending of the silo approach to sustainable finance which leads to such trade-offs? Some recommendations I could suggest for consideration:

- Louder and stronger support from the environmental movement for regulation and mandatory human rights obligations for private finance (Could one of the outcomes of the UNEP Conference be a statement of support for a binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights?).
- Supporting human rights linkages being made with specific financial issues (debt, fiscal policy, trade and investment).
- Louder and systematic challenging of basic presumptions that underlie economic policy making (most obviously GDP growth as an essential condition for human and planetary well-being, but also a specific assumption such as international trade contributes to sustainable development).
- A call for a fair and honest discussion on a post-fossil fuel world that moves away from an extractivist model of unsustainable consumption and production and the impacts of this transition on commodity-export dependant countries.



Stephanie Hime, Representative of Natural Capital Coalition

Here are the main bullets I would like to talk through:

- Access to finance for initiatives that support SDGs.
- Issues with new innovative technology being unfunded.
- Working with different types of organisation to help direct funding.
- Linking with current initiatives.
- Increasing engagement with small business.

In my daily work, we look at how we can change the behaviours of business so that they take into consideration the environment. We can't forget that some actors don't support Sustainable Development. In a business context, you are fighting a financial system that doesn't recognise what the environmental aspect that can bring to your business. A clear example is the way we do assessments now, which don't take into account the environment.

From personal experience, I think it makes a difference if the CEO or the all company incorporates environment into their company.

There are barriers to the access to get the green funds (above all for SMEs) which makes the change in behaviour more difficult.



BREAK OUT sessions:

During the break out sessions, Civil society organisations¹ representing several Major Group constituencies, discussed and contributed to the overall theme of UNEA-2 that focus on delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 sustainable development agenda, including the implementation of SDGs, and in particular on the themes of the UNEA high-level ministerial policy review devoted to “Healthy environment – healthy people” and the Symposium on “Mobilising resources for Sustainable Investments”. Worthwhile mentioning here is that although the UNEA Symposium is entitled on “Mobilizing resources for sustainable investments”, the RCM felt resources should be mobilized for investments for Sustainable Development.

Participants came from countries representing the European Union (EU) and Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asian (EECCA). All organisations expressed their willingness to be actively involved in the UNEA-process (via myUNEA.org and other means available) and support the national implementation of the SDGs with active involvement in their respective countries.

Outcome joint position statement

“HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT - HEALTHY PEOPLE”

Environmental Health and the SDGs

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are all interlinked, based on the evidence that only a balanced development with sustainable consumption, production and lifestyle patterns, and protecting people’s health and the health of natural eco-systems, can ensure long term well being and survival of humanity.

When the environment is polluted and destroyed, the people dependent on the environment also suffer. A number of multilateral agreements and conventions already exist to phase out hazardous substances which cannot be safely used, such as mercury and asbestos, and for which safe alternatives exist.

These agreements protect people and the environment, but much more needs to be done to apply the precautionary principle and to avoid future environmental damage with irreversible health impacts on humans, animals and nature. For example, currently many daily-use products contain potential ‘endocrine disrupting chemicals’ which create life-long health damage, as well as many pesticides which are increasingly suspected of doing harm to human health, including birth defects and development of cancer.

UNEP plays an important role in developing guidelines for environmental health and coordinating the conventions addressing the substitution of hazardous substances, but as the SDGs have stated, much more needs to be done to ensure a healthy planet for healthy people.

The Major Groups and Stakeholders from Europe have identified the following key recommendations for action on Environment and Health:

1 See annex for the list of participating organisations

Mercury

- UNEA to call on countries who have not yet ratified to immediately ratify the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- UNEA to call on all countries to implement mercury reduction activities following the requirements of the Minamata Convention. Countries should make funding possibilities available, to support the ratification efforts; this could include work on preparing a mercury inventory, a legal gap analysis, and awareness raising activities, capacity building and promotion of good practices.
- Support should also be available for the development of a National Action Plan on Artisanal Small Scale Gold Mining, for the relevant countries to seek for.

SDGs and environmental health

- UNEA to call on all countries to prepare assessments of the impact of existing programs, policies, subsidies, incentives etc., including identifying those conflicting with the SDGs, i.e. do an integrated assessment of environment, sustainability and health and how this approach can be taken in development planning processes.
- Encourage UNEP to approach SDG integrally, by building on its ‘integrated approach to environmental sustainability in development planning’ initiatives at the national level.
- UNEA can take the lead to develop further accountability and compliance and implementation mechanisms (linking to the finance part of UNEA agenda).

Healthy ecosystem

- UNEA to agree on a global program to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem protection into national health, economic, agriculture policies and investments, and to reduce the total environmental pressure on land use, including action plans to specifically:
 - Create a dietary shift towards low meat, locally and ecologically produced food, to reduce land and water use pressure as well as non communicable diseases (NCDs)
 - Move to only organic local agriculture.
 - Work towards a transition of agricultural systems, including supporting farmers actively with subsidies for integrated pest management, producing organic products, animal welfare, and phase out all subsidies for industrial farming which will imply huge savings for the budget too.
 - Social support for low-income population to access safe ecologically clean food, water and air. UNEP can play a major role here in addressing SDG 10 on reducing the growing inequalities we are confronted with in Europe.

Armed conflict impact remediation and prevention

- Stress the role of UNEA regarding negative environmental impacts of armed conflict – building off from on its work on poaching and illegal logging (charcoal trade) – also coal mafia, oil mafia etc.
- Address the role of UNEA in facilitating preventive measures to reduce conflict when these are linked to land degradation, climate change, pollution, etc.
- Migration and refugees: address the role of UNEA in ensuring access to safe water, sanitation, safe natural resource management, for migrants, refugees and internal displaced peoples. Share knowledge and expertise in the field of migrant’s vulnerability to climate change, and build capacity for resilience and early warning and response.

Waste

- UNEA to develop guidelines and an action plan to reduce waste, working towards eliminating waste landfilling and incineration globally – in order to reduce water and air pollution, in particular eliminating very hazardous as well as medical waste discharge to sewerage system as waste water treatment plants are unable to manage such pollutant in an environmentally sound manner.
- UNEA to develop recommendations for a binding international tax on chemical and pharmaceutical sales for clean up and health protection (this is an existing proposal SAICM – like Tobin tax, a 0,001% tax on total turnover achieving 4 billion Euro or so annually).
- UNEA to agree as part of the financing of the SDGs to strict application of polluter pays principle, including obligatory insurance of all economic activities that have a negative impact on environment and health.
- Recognise responsibility of Member States and corporations also to pay for future clean up as well as clean up of old liabilities in particular the toxic chemicals such as PCBs and old pesticides, mercury from small scale gold mining and other extractive industry pollution.

Equitable and coherent policies to protect environmental health

- Add specific sex- and age-disaggregated indicators to be added to the basic global SDG indicators so that specific vulnerability of women, children, (e.g. early life exposure to Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals in daily products and pesticides) and elderly people are addressed.
- Link UNEP's Gender GEO and the GEO6 Chapter on "Healthy Planet, Healthy People" to the global monitoring of SDGs effort to ensure greatest coherence and engagement of all sectors.
- UNEP to be given the mandate and resources to ensure that at country level civil society is meaningfully participating in environmental and SDG policy development, investment planning and implementation.
- UNEP to increase its engagement with major groups of civil society, and in particular continue its involvement with environmental NGOs, women, youth and indigenous peoples groups not only because they are more vulnerable but also as agents of change and leaders in transformation.

Research and pro-active awareness raising and advocacy

- UNEP to support Civil Society Organisations and Environmental NGOs with strong 'advertising' campaigns which warn – just as with anti smoking messages – about the hazards of burning coal in chimneys, mercury in fish, of EDCs in plastic, food, toys and cosmetics etc. and that contained in the link it is made very clearly to people that they are responsible for their own health, (e.g. your risk of heart attack).
- Make the co-benefits of environment and health very clear: longer and healthier lives thanks to clean environment, more resilient communities against climate and other natural disasters, value of nature for mental and emotional health, etc.
- UNEP to further integrate the values of environmental education and education for sustainable development in the implementation of environmental dimensions of the SDGs and in its programme of work in order to creating social, economic and environmental capital.
- Raise awareness on and support the participation of civil society in the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), including the use of InforMEA e-learning tools.

Increase trans-boundary cooperation and good governance

- Support Programs to work in border regions (similar to Interreg) on common pollution (water, air, mountain etc).
- Convince the Member States to halt the deregulation and cancelling of environmental legislation and legal tools, based on the rationale that it is undertaken to fight corruption or good for the economy. On the contrary we need to promote more legal frameworks.
- Promote and build on inter-sectoral partnerships based on green economy, environment and health, CCAC, etc good practices.

“MOBILISING RESOURCES FOR INVESTMENT IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

The Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030 tackle global issues that require a harmonised and cross-sectoral (government, business, finance and civil society) mobilisation of resources. At the Regional Consultation Meeting for Europe, the results of the UNEP Inquiry were welcomed, and representatives from the Major Groups formulated key-recommendations for priority actions that member states at UNEA-2 can request of UNEP to undertake. Where relevant, the recommendations are annotated with the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

The Major Groups in Europe urge UNEA 2 to take the next step and develop a global and harmonised regulatory approach for mobilising resources for investments in Sustainable Development, and for demobilising resources invested in unsustainable developments. Regretfully, unsustainable behaviour is often left rewarded as it rides freely and unfairly on the benefits of those in the corporate and financial community that do choose to adopt sustainable strategies.

As such different major groups from the European Region recommend that member states at UNEA-2 ask UNEP to develop harmonised instruments in the following areas:

Public Finance: Subsidies and Taxation

In line with Sustainable Development Goals and their subsequent targets (2.b, 7, 12.c, 13.a, 14.6, 17.14) as well as paragraph 31 Of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (A/CONF.227/L.1), member states at UNEA-2 should aim to:

- Stop public finance flows to unsustainable practices.
- Stop the subsidisation of fossil fuel exploration and use, and redirect subsidies in favour of renewable energy forms.
- Replace the subsidisation of other unsustainable practices in favour of sustainable alternatives.
- Enable developing countries to increase their income from taxation, by eliminating the use of tax-havens and other tax-avoidance mechanisms by multi-national enterprises.
- Installation of a global intergovernmental tax body.
- Increase the green taxation policies in Global North and South.

Multi-stakeholder and Public Private Partnerships

In line with SDG 17, targets 16 and 17, seek and determine the conditions for effective and optimized partnerships, multi-stakeholder as well as Public Private Partnerships, where it is recommended further:

- That the aim of these partnerships is to leverage private investment for sustainable practices in line with the Sustainable Development goals and targets. In designing them, it is imperative that roles between public and private finance be made absolutely clear.
- To, based on the Bali Guiding Principles on partnerships (WSSD and CSD 11), and in conjunction with the ongoing work on partnerships at the UN, (UNDESA and ECOSOC), further contribute to formulate principles on partnerships at the global level that will enable the above. This should include accountability mechanisms.
- To encourage that these set of principles for partnerships once agreed on by member states, be utilized also at the nation-state level.

Trade, if fair and green

The participants stated that all need to recognise the importance and potential of trade as a source of resources for sustainable investments, especially in the East and in the Global South, and therefore that member states at UNEA-2:

- Ensure that in the process of trading that there is a full respect for the environment, and that trade should not violate any of the principles or rights expressed in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.
- Ensure that trade will support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Ensure that all trade practices are based on principles of good governance, such as transparency, accountability and the rule of law.
- Request that negotiations in the framework of the WTO will explicitly contribute to eliminating unsustainable trade and material and financial flows, and encourage only trade flows that support sustainable development; Regional trade and investment negotiations need to be transparent and also totally in line with all SDGs.

Governance based on vision, not in reaction to environmental disaster

Conclusions from the UNEP Inquiry on design of a sustainable Financial System – called “The Financial System we need” as published in October 2015, tell us that the financial and corporate community are willing to incorporate sustainability concerns in their investment decisions. This behaviour is induced by the fact that companies and financial investors worldwide are experiencing the impacts of the disruptive effects of ecosystem degradation and climate change on their operations. The major groups believe that a pro-active approach will be more cost-efficient to the economy and will cause less (irreversible) damage to nature. Member states at UNEA-2 should therefore:

- Pro-actively anticipate the disruptive effects of climate change, ecosystem degradation and therefore choose to regulate unsustainable behaviour. This will prevent that changes in the financial sector and in the private sector will only occur as a result of environmental disaster and at high cost and not as a result of a positive and sustainable vision.

- Provide UNEP with a mandate to support a global dialogue on strengthening the regulatory framework in favour of sustainable development.
- As the effects of climate change and ecosystem degradation become clear, and are felt at the company and investor level, request UNEP to implement an educational campaign to inform business and finance of the impacts of environmental degradation on their balance sheet – building onwards on the work of TEEB, UNEP FI, the Natural Capital Coalition and the Natural Capital Declaration.
- Considering the increasing scarcity of resource flows to development cooperation across the world, UNEP should strive to mobilize additional resources for the implementation of environmental dimensions of the SDGs and its programme of work from private sector in line with the UN principles.

Election of Regional Representatives for UNEA-2

As UNEP provides the opportunity to two civil society representatives per region to engage in its processes (in addition to the more general opportunities available to all MGS representatives), elections were held on who would have that responsibility for UNEA-2. The current Regional Representatives Leida Rijnhout (ANPED/EEB) and Olga Ponizova (EcoAccord) stepped down. The election process and criteria for candidates were discussed:

- Candidates will have an observer role for the upcoming UNEA-2 for the region, and will therefore align with the regional outcome document. They will coordinate with the Major Group Facilitating Committee (MGFC).
- Candidates should invest time and energy in the preparations of the UNEA-2 meeting, mobilise and support the facilitation of civil society inputs from the region, together with the MGFC.
- It was agreed that both geographical and gender balance were desirable in the selection of candidates but that since the overall gender balance would be affected by the gender of the candidates put forward from the other regions and given the clear political differences between the eastern and western parts of the 'European+' region, priority should be given to ensuring geographical balance within the region as this could not be compensated by other regions. It was therefore agreed that one candidate would be chosen from the East and one from the West, and gender could be taken into account when making nominations and voting. While it was recognized that there could be different views as to whether certain countries were East or West, it was agreed not to define this precisely but rather to leave it to candidates putting themselves forward to identify which 'seat' they wished to stand for.

Following this agreement on the procedure, several candidates presented themselves, and after the voting the meeting came with the following result:

Eastern seat: [Olga Ponizova \(re-elected\) EcoAccord Russia](#).

Western seat: [Jouni Nissinen \(new\) Finnish Association for Nature Conservation \(FANC\)](#).



Annex: List of participants

Last name	First Name	Organisation
AGER WOJAK	Julia	European Economic and Social Committee
ALANKO	Tiina	European Economic and Social Committee
ALVAREZ	Sergio	Spanish Perm Rep
ANDERSEN	Jacob	European Economic and Social Committee
ASNAKE	Wondwosen	UNEP
AUCKLAND	Emily	Bioregional
AUVRAY	Margot	Région rhône-alpes
AZH DAROVA	Sabina	International Dialogue for Environmental Action
BALDINI	Elisa	CBM
BARON	Cesar	UHN
BARREIRA	Ana	IIDMA
BAS	Luc	International Union for Conservation of Nature
BASHTA	Andriy-Taras	Association "Fauna"
BAULCH	Sarah	Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)
BELLANI	Chiara	LUISS University
BENCE	Jean-François	European Economic and Social Committee
BENEDETTI	Lisa	BirdLife Europe
BERENTSEN	Koen	European Economic and Social Committee
BERIA	Miroslav	Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the European Union
BERTOLLINI	Roberto	WHO Representative to the European Union
BIANCHINI	Martina	ICC Green Economy Task Force
BIJKERK	Tom	Vewin & Dutch Water Authorities
BJOERNHOLM-OTTOSSON	Ulf	United Nations Environment Programme
BOLY	Masala	IDAY-International
BONADONNA	Ester	Sacchi Consulting
BRATIC	Lena	Center for Energy Efficiency
BROZEK-EVERAERT	Stella	European Economic and Social Committee
BURJANI	Blerim	Institute of Kosovo for Policy Development (IKPD)
BURNS	Brendan	European Economic and Social Committee
BYRNE	Justin	Irish Environmental Network
CANDOTTI	Michele	DG Environment, European Commission
CANELLAS	Nirea	nrg4SD - Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development
CAÑO AGUILAR	Isabel	European Economic and Social Committee
CHEBLY	Juan	United Nations Environment Programme
CHIARETTI	Carla	EurEau
CHIOTAN	Cristina	EuroHealthNet
COSTANTINO	Lorenzo	IDP European Consultants
COULL	Kenneth	Scottish Fishermens Federation
COX	Tanya	Plan International
CRONIN	Aishling	DG AGRI
CURTIS	Brian	European Economic and Social Committee
DAHL	Arthur	International Environment Forum
DALL	Magdalena	DSW
DASSIS	George	European Economic and Social Committee
DATTLER	Raffaella	IPPF European Network
DE BURCA	Deirdre	World Vision
DE CROMBRUGGHE	André	APNU - Association pour les Nations-Unies
DEFRANCESCHI	Peter	ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
DESLANDES	Marcio	World Cycling Alliance / European Cyclists' Federation
DLOUHÁ	Petra	European Economic and Social Committee
DOKOVSKA	Natasha	Journalists for human rights
DOM	Ann	Seas At Risk
DOMINGUES	Ana Rita	European Economic and Social Committee
DRUILHE	Zoe	FAO
DUBETA	Noelani	Climate Action Network Europe
DUSIK	Jan	Regional Office for Europe, UNEP
FALCHI	Francesca	LUISS Brussels Desk
FALKENBERG	Karl	European Political Strategy Centre
FEJDIOVA	Zuzana	Ministry of Environment
FIDAN	Ilke	Hanns-Seidel-Foundation
FIEVEZ	Guy francis	MGP Group
FIGEZKY	Gabor	IFOAM - Organics International
FILCAK	Richard	European Environmental Bureau
FOGH MORTENSEN	Lars	European Environmental Agency
FRICKEL	Witse	European Environmental Bureau
GABIZON	Sascha	Women in Europe for a Common Future
GABRIELE	Camilla	University of Cassino
GANSBLANDT	Conrad	EESC
GAONA SAEZ	Susana	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
GARCÍA CALVO	Beatriz	Castilla y León Permanent Delegation to the EU
GELHAUS	Katharina	United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC)
GEYER	Teresa	Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the EU
GITTI	Giulia	IEEP - Institute for European Environmental Policy
GOICOECHEA	Sonia	European Environmental Bureau
GROß	Sabine	Edeka
HAILU EBA	Getachew	UNEP
HAJDU	Klara	CEEweb for Biodiversity
HAMALAINEN	Riitta-maija	EuroHealthNet
HAUSER	Harald	
HEATHER	Martin	European Commission, DG DEVCO
HIME	Stephanie	Representative of Natural Capital Coalition

HOLLE	Frederique	Women for Water Partnership
HONING	Lisa	Partos
IBELLI	Luca	Cefic
INNAMORATI	Andrea	Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy
ISKREVA-IDIGO	Diana	Women for Water Partnership
IZQUIERDO	Eva	European Environmental Bureau
JENSEN	Genon	HEAL
JONES	Philippa	EEB
JOVIC	Dusan	Citizens for Europe
JURAS	Alexander	United Nations Environment Programme
KAMIENIECKI	Krzysztof	European Economic and Social Committee
KAT	Susanne	Unilever
KHOJAYAN	Gohar	Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment
KING	Brenda	European Economic and Social Committee
KINNA	Valters	Green Liberty
KOHNEN	Marguy	Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, Luxembourg
KOKOSIS	Konstantinos	European Bureau for Conservation and Development
KOLAROVA	Alena	ELARD
KORFF	Meike	Royal Philips
KORKHMAZYAN	Margarita	Association for Sustainable Human Development
KOSTAKOS	Georgios	Foundation for Global Governance and Sustainability (FOGGS)
KRAUSOVÁ	Darina	ELARD
KRAVCIUK	Natalia	Gutta-Club National Center
KRUCHTEN	Zoe	World Cycling Alliance / European Cyclists' Federation
KUPPER	Clemens	Committee of the Regions
LACHOVA	Lenka	ELARD
LALLEMAND	Benoit	Finance Watch
LAMA CAMACHO	Francisco Javier	European Economic and Social Committee
LAMBIN	Tatiana	WWF European Policy Office (EPO)
LASZLO	Cécile	European Economic and Social Committee
LAU	Matthias	Hanse-Office
LEZROY	Josiane	civil society
LINN	Monika	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
LONG	Tony	Global Governance Institute, Vesalius College
LYMBERIDI-SETTIMO	Elena	European Environmental Bureau / Zero Mercury Working Group
MAHR	Caroline	European Landowners' Organization
MALKOVA	Kateryna	Information Center "Green Dossier", Charitable Organisation
MAMAJ-HAFIZI	Jonida	EDEN Center (Environmental Center for Development Education and Networking)
MANNELLA	Alessia	Federchimica
MANNO	Giorgia	ENI
MANSOUR	Melhem	Green Growth Initiative, UN ESCWA
MELLORE	Kateryna	
MENDONÇA MIRA	Duarte	European Economic and Social Committee
MERTENS	Jan	FRDO-CFDD Belgian Federal Council for Sustainable Development
METZL	Jan	Vysočina Region representation in Brussels
MEYER-RÜHLE	Olaf	OMR Conseil
MEYNEN	Nick	European Environmental Bureau
MILSKOVIC	Goran	
MIRA	Luis	European Economic and Social Committee
MOREAU SABATINI	Yasmina	European Economic and Social Committee
MORGADO	Maria	UNEP
MORINA	Florije	Kosovar Institute for Rule of Law
MULLEN	Donna	Irish Environmental Network
MÜLLER	Matthias	Saxony Liaison Office Brussels
MUSCH	Marie-Annick	Ghent University
NAGELKERKEN	Sannah	Foundation Max van der Stoep
NEYENS	Steffie	Light for the World
NICHOLSON	Sally	WWF
NICOLĂDES	Julie	European Commission
NIESTROY	Inge	International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
NILSSON	Staffan	European Rural Community Alliance. ERCA and All Sweden shall live.
NISSINEN	Jouni	Kepa Finland/ the EEB
NORONKO	Kateryna	European Environmental Bureau
OLEJNIK	Aleksandra	City of Lodz
OLEJNÍKOVÁ	Hana	ELARD
OLIVEIRA	Ana	EuroHealthNet
OSBORN	Derek	Stakeholder Forum
PADÉANU	Alina	European External Action Service
PANIAGUA	Berta	Conexx-Europe
PAVLIDOU	Kyriaki	European Economic and Social Committee
PEJCIC	Aleksandar	
PELISSÉ FLOUR	Anne	Independant
PETIT	Caroline	United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC)
PITRONE	Luca	European Economic and Social Committee
PLASMEIJER	Anouska	IUCN European Regional Office
PONIZOVA	Olga	Ecoforum
PONTHIEU	Eric	European Economic and Social Committee
PORCHER	Fabien	European Economic and Social Committee
PORT	Donatella	ENEA
PUUSEPP	Liisa	Tallinn University, School of Natural Sciences and Health
RAGONNAUD	Guillaume	European Parliament
RAGUZ	Tania valerie	WORLD ANIMAL PROTECTION

RIBBE	Lutz	European Economic and Social Committee
RIJNHOUT	Leida	European Environmental Bureau
RIVIERE	Josiane	EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
ROBINS	Nick	UNEP Inquiry
ROGGENBUCK	Anna	CEE Bankwatch
ROMAN ESCOBAR	Yblin	European Environmental Bureau
ROSENSTOCK	Manfred	European Commission
RUDA	Marta	UNENGO "MAMA-86"
RUDOLFOVA	Aneta	Lumos
SALDANHA	Jean Letitia	CIDSE
SANCHEZ	Ana belen	ILO advisor
SCHMID	Marylise	Belgian Italian Chamber of Commerce
SCHOMAKER	Astrid	DG Environment, European Commission
SHIMA	Salva	Liaison Office of the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia
SIMONETTI	Paola	International Trade Union Confederation
SLESARENOK	Svitlana	NGO Black Sea Women's Club
SOHET	Karine	ACT Alliance EU
SOMVILLE	Yves	European Economic and Social Committee
SPEECKAERT	Annabelle	ELO
SPURRELL	Heidi	City University
STANTZOS	Athina	European Economic and Social Committee
STEC	Stephen	Central European University Hungary
STECHER-RASMUSSEN	Soren	Consultancy
STRANDENAES	Jan-Gustav	Stakeholder Forum
SÜLE	Katalin Elza	European Economic and Social Committee
TOFFOLI	Jessica	ICLEI
TOLOTTO	Margherita	European Environmental Bureau
TOMEI	Verónica	German Council for Sustainable Development
TRANCHE	Irati	Delegation of the Basque Country to the EU
TRELA	Tomasz	City of Lodz
TSOLAKIS	George	Ecocity
TURTUREAN	Dorina	
URBÁNKOVÁ	Veronika	Representation of the South Moravian Region to the EU
USAVA	Iryna	NGO "EKAPRAEKT"
USOV	Victor	Russian National Committee for UNEP (UNEP/COM)
VACCARO	James	Triodos bank
VADKERTI	Zoltan	COFACE
VAN DE WALLE	Cédric	Federal Institute for Sustainable Development – Belgium, member of the steering committee of ESDN
VAN DER GAAG	Pieter	Niet Onverschillig
VAN ERMEN	Raymond	European Partners for the Environment
VAN HOUWELINGEN	Arjan	World Animal Protection
VAN KALMTHOUT	Danielle	Gezinsbond
VANDEN BILCKE	Chris	Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs
VERMUYTEN	Sandra	Public Services International
VERNARELLI	Claudio	IHF asbl
VERNAY	Florian	Unilever
VERSMANN	Andreas	European Economic and Social Committee
VICENS-VICENS	Antoni	Governmenet of Catalonia. Representation to the EU
VIDAN	Toni	European Economic and Social Committee
VIVAS LALINDE	Irene	ALDA
WATES	Jeremy	European Environmental Bureau
WENTINK	Carsten	European External Action Service
WILLIAMS	Leo	Beyond 2015
WILLIAMS	Rhys	ECDPM
WILMINK	Aaron	Demeter International
WILMS	Hans-Joachim	European Economic and Social Committee
YERITSYAN	Grigori	European Economic and Social Committee
ZANDER	Francesca	Independent
ZEITLER	Helge Elizabeth	DG Environment, European Commission
ZELLER	Marie-louise	UNEP
ZUGIC-DRAKULIC	Natasa	Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development