



European Sustainability Leaders, Champions and Front Runners Preparing Rio+20

**Sharing Natural, Financial and Knowledge-based Resources
Towards New Progress for Humankind
and
Innovation Opportunities
*European Conference, 21st December 2011***



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REPORT

Well aware of the challenges of the coming UN Conference 2012 and risks in front of our generation and for Europe, while 'the world is on the edge', the Conference of European Leaders, Champions and Front Runners of Sustainability of December 21st 2011, highlighted the potentials of the Twenty first Century *Prosperity for All* Paradigm shift.

Pictures of the conference can be found at:

<http://gallery.me.com/solutions21#100139&view=grid&bgcolor=black&sel=273>

Co-hosts :

Staffan Nilsson, President of the EESC,

and

Günther Bachmann
Fritz Barth,
Jerome Beilin,
Sandrine Bélier,
Gilles Berhault,
Pietro Bertazzi,
Marta Bonifert,
Margaret Brusasco,
Hubert David,
Jan De Smedt,
Sandrine Dixson-Declève,
Willy De Backer
Mark Dubrulle,
Kjetil Ebbesberg,
Orsten Ekengren,
Jean-Pierre Hannequart,

Patrick Itschert
Ronald A. Kingham,
Simon Landolina,
Bettina Laville,
Sylvie Lemmet,
Elisabeth Louvet,
Jacqueline McGlade,
Roland Moreau,
Cédric Mulier,
Jeannette Mullaart,
Lucy Neal,
Derek Osborn,
Anne Panneels,
François Passant,
Lionel Platteuw,
Riccardo Petrella,

Leida Rijnhout,
Michael Scoullous,
Walter Stahel,
Magda Stoczkiewicz,
Gertjan Storm,
Marco Torregrossa,
Veerle van de Weerd,
Raymond Van Ermen,
Geneviève Verbrugge,
Tom Vereijken,
Geraldine Walsh,
John Wante,
Jeremy Wates,
Graham Watson,
Ernst Ulrich von
Weizsäcker.

Suddenly, it is like the birth of a new earth. People from across our planet are becoming the caretakers of their own destiny, building an expensive web of solidarity and social invention.

Ya Wanananchi Agenda. Paris. December 1991.

International NGO conference for preparing Rio 1992.

Rio+20 can mark the start of an accelerated and profound, world-wide transition towards a green economy.

European Commission, 2011.

Conference Partners with financial contributions:



Conference Partners:



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Message to the Conference of

President Van Rompuy, President of the European Council

Sustainable Development is a key priority for the EU, as reflected in the EU 2020 Strategy. The past decades, we have made important progress in Europe.

We have developed ambitious environmental policies. We have played a leading role in the climate negotiations and on biodiversity.

But we need to do more to tackle the challenges, including at global scale. Green and inclusive growth should be part of that answer.

The EU “green growth agenda” is based on the firm conviction that economy and ecology go hand in hand. Environmental policies and actions do not hamper growth. At the contrary, they create growth opportunities and even conditions for growth.

Therefore, we want the EU to further develop with a stronger focus to resource efficiency and low-carbon growth.

Of course, sustainable development is a global challenge. The UN Summit on Sustainable Development next year in Rio de Janeiro offers a good opportunity to share ideas and practices at global scale.

For Europe, the Rio +20 Summit is a very important Summit. We want it to reach a successful outcome on which the world can work further towards green and sustainable growth, which can be beneficial for all.

Conference Summary

The conference addressed how leaders¹, front runners² and champions³ of the green economy and sustainability agenda can get organized, thanks to friendly cooperation and networking. It aimed to enable more 'efficient' collaboration and 'scale up' successful partnership initiatives in Europe and in the world to share natural, financial and knowledge-based resources with a view to move towards greater security, prosperity and well-being.

Participants focused on how to reinforce the 'web of solidarity and social innovation' now in place, and addressed actions launched by public and private economic actors, from Investors and Companies to Cities, Civil Society groups and households. *As today's innovators are showing how to create a different future by learning how to see the larger systems of which they are part and to foster collaboration across every imaginable boundary⁴* the conference reviewed opportunities to accelerate systemic and technological change through innovative thinking and paradigm shifts.

Yes, there are new models to *SHARE resources, finance and knowledge*; a new vision of *Resource Abundance* by instilling new shared values, new definitions of *quality* of good life, *performance* of products, services and investments, finance and knowledge sharing.

Yes, in this time of crisis, the new economical, social, ethical and cultural model is ready. *"You never change the world by fighting the existing model. Build a new model, which makes the existing model obsolete"*. These Gandhi words are a perfect summary of what has been done by European pioneers of the green economy, since the 1992 UN Conference on Environment & Development in Rio. Europeans have to share with the world:

- new business models, including addressing sustainability and poverty
- new Companies accounting systems
- strong transition regions, islands, towns, communities initiatives
- new environment sharing information system
- eco-innovations
- new financial mechanisms to mobilize public and private capital and secure long term investments in support to sustainability
- global value chain initiatives focused on sustainability

Yes, we have European CHAMPIONS of the green economy 'revolutions' in the field of low carbon, resource efficiency, bio-economy, zero waste, sustainable finance, sustainable housing and cities. European diplomats, companies, private financial institutions, universities, NGO's, but also cities, trade unions and individuals are increasingly active in sustainability partnerships in all the regions of Europe and beyond. Being part of global value chains and international networks these frontrunners therefore contribute to 'scale up' best multi-stakeholders partnership practices to: (i) move to 'sustainable products and services' and 'sustainable banking' from niche market to mainstream market, (ii) develop

¹ European leaders: forward-thinking policy or strategy-makers, trust builders.

² European champions: recipients of awards, developers of successful niche markets or best practices.

³ European front runners: agents of change, eco-innovators, Covenant of Mayors (CoM) signatories.

⁴ Sence, Smith et al: *The Necessary Revolution – How individuals and organizations are working together to create a sustainable world*. Ed. Doubleday.

new global value chain partnerships addressing how to share natural, financial and knowledge resources, and (iii) empower citizens and communities.

For the EESC conference “Go sustainable! Be responsible!” on 7./8. February 2012 on European civil society contributions to Rio+20 (see programme attached), the December 21st meeting has been a valuable input.

For the Resource Efficiency Alliance and its partners, leaders, front runners and champions of the green economy and sustainability agenda, the meeting led to:

- *a Roadmap Rio+20, Progress for Humankind*, it includes a Collective Accountability Systemic Review System, tools to better protect the global commons, pilot transformative partnerships poverty and the green economy (see attachment);
- *5 tools* for partners to be individually and collectively more efficient and successful: SHARE, PEP21, ACCORD, LONG TERM INVEST, PHOENIX EUROPE (see attachment).

Yes, more needs to be done at EU level in terms of ‘cooperation’ between EU Institutions Leaders (Council, Parliament, Commission, Economic and Social Committee, Committee of Regions) with Champions and Front Runners of the Green Economy and Sustainable Finance towards a “*green and inclusive growth*”. In a globalised economy, European public and private market actors need to have, as the Member States, an *open-coordination system with the EU Institutions* to accelerate change at ‘wartime speed’.

As far back as the Stockholm Conference of 1972, Europe has significantly contributed to man’s developing consciousness through taking environmental issues into account in connection with the right to development and justice. Since the Climate Conference in Copenhagen 2010, however, we have learnt that the role and place of Europe are at issue.

With the events generated by the debt crisis, the European Union has lost a great deal of its lustre in the face of its citizens and emergent countries. The EU has the capacity to come out stronger from this crisis. Champions and Front Runners of the Green economy can help in this respect.

The Rio+20 process should be an opportunity for the world and for Europe to create a “new human impetus” which should develop in people’s hearts. It should also be an opportunity for focusing and mobilizing energy on the levers for a “new affluence”, actually created by sharing natural, financial and knowledge resources as well as by the vision of a circular economy, the capacities of the information society and the new business and sustainability models, including financial ones. The EU has a number of assets to turn to good account at international level if it can – faster and better than the others – propose new governance models that can foster the sharing of natural, financial and knowledge resources towards a *Good Life for All* society.

European Sustainability Leaders, Champions and Front Runners Preparing Rio+20 on December 21st

1. Opening Session

Speech Mr. Staffan Nilsson

President of the EESC

<http://vimeo.com/34809565>



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I very much welcome all speakers and participants of this conference. In particular I would like to welcome Mr Vereijken, the President of European Partners for Environment, Mr Lalonde, the UN Executive Coordinator for the Rio+20 Conference, Mr Anders Rune Bjerrum, Special Advisor to the Danish Minister for the Environment on Rio+20, and Commissioner Janez Potočnik.

The European Economic and Social Committee as the institutional representation of organized civil society at EU level has happily accepted the proposal of the Resource Efficiency Alliance to co-organise this conference which brings together European leaders, champions and front runners in sustainable development.

I do not need to explain to this audience the urgency of a global change towards sustainable development. I would like to underline that promoting sustainable development is also on the top of my agenda in my presidency at the EESC.

It has become clear that our current economic development is not sustainable: environmentally, socially and also economically. We need to bring our societies in line with a long-term sustainability perspective. We need a shift towards qualitative economic growth that helps to eliminate poverty and social injustice. By greening the economy the global use of natural resources has to be aligned with the limits of our planet. We need to ensure global prosperity for a growing world population whilst preserving natural resources for future generations.

The UN Rio Earth Summit 1992 has laid down the principles of sustainable growth and initiated the transition process 20 years ago. The UN conference Rio+20 next year will be a unique opportunity to reinforce this process. On the Rio+20 conference political leaders will have to send out a clear signal to the world community that we have to and we can and we will make the global change towards a development which is sustainable.

However, we all know about the constraints of the political process and the weaknesses of governance structures in particular when it comes to meet challenges at global level. And it is there where civil society has an increasingly important role to play. In the end it is only civil society that can make the change to a sustainable and greener development happen. The transition needs innovative business strategies and changing consumption patterns and life-styles. Thus, it is the civil society which has to take up global responsibility.

When I read the impressive list of speakers assembled here I would say that you are the ones who already show us how to make this change happen!

I therefore very much appreciate the initiative of the Resource Efficiency Alliance to bring together sustainability leaders, champions and front runners to build up bottom-up leadership and establish partnerships for sustainability and innovation. I am personally very eager to engage in dialogue with you, to profit from your exchange of experiences, to listen to your proposals.

As you may know we at the EESC consider the preparation of the UN Rio+20 Conference as one of our key priorities. We have therefore decided not only to adopt an opinion as we usually do but to engage in dialogue on Rio-related topics with our main partners. We have adopted a two-track approach.

At international level, the EESC is using its network with organised civil society outside Europe (Brazil, China, South Africa, Russia) to discuss Rio matters and explore the possibilities to present a joint declaration for the Rio Summit. We have already started this process by introducing the topic of sustainable development in our regular meetings. For example, the last meeting of the EU-Brazil civil society Round Table which took place in Porto beginning of November, was entirely dedicated to the preparation of Rio+20, and we have decided to organise our next joint meeting in Rio immediately before the UN Conference.

At European level, we plan a major conference on 7 and 8 February entitled "Go sustainable - be responsible! European civil society on the road to Rio+20" here in this very same building and we are actively preparing it also with our main partners outside the EESC.

As of this week I can add a third dimension to our dialogue process since we have now launched the EESC Rio+20 online platform which will give you the possibility to keep informed on Rio+20 related activities and to engage in further discussions. I invite you to join us on that platform and to continue sharing the experiences you share here at the conference also on the net!

I wish the conference a creative debate and a successful outcome.

Speech Mr. Tom Vereijken

on behalf of the Resource Efficiency Alliance

<http://vimeo.com/34215720>

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,



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In Preparation for Rio + 20, and invited by the European Economic and Social Committee, I am pleased to welcome you on behalf of the Resource Efficiency Alliance. You are considered pioneers, front runners and champions of the green economy.

You are active in Public Institutions, Universities, Companies, Trade Unions, and NGOs. We wish to say to you, first of all: thank you for being here, and moreover, thank you for your efforts in greening our economy! That is an extremely difficult challenge these days.

We don't forget to highlight the important role played by the European Union along the years to promote an environmental policy. Without such leading role, the green economy agenda would not be as it is today, a source of new jobs, skills, performances, behaviours. We are all well aware of the challenges of the coming UN Conference 2012 and risks in front of our generation and for Europe. This is why gathering here today with President Nilsson of the European Economic and Social Committee, with Mr Brice Lalonde, UN Rio+20 Executive Coordinator, with Mr. Anders Rune Bjerrum, Special Advisor to the Danish Minister for the Environment on Rio+20 and with Commissioner Potočník is a great opportunity. The picture to be taken at the end of this opening session should be a reminder of an important milestone for Europeans.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The European Union rarely had to tackle so many challenges! I do believe that with the sovereign risk crisis, a great deal of EU's lustre and international influence is at stake.

The increase in raw material and energy prices has severely affected the annual earnings of a growing number of businesses, while citizens have seen the inflation rise.

Given the effects of climate change and the poor results achieved on the international scene in terms of commitment to reduce CO₂ emissions, a whole strategy should be redefined.

Both the "*We are the 99 Percent*" worldwide movement and the need to mobilize citizens in connection with the transition to a low-carbon, a resource-efficient economy demand a "*new societal pact*". It will also be necessary to reform the tax system.

The "efficiency" and coherence of Europeans should therefore be questioned on the basis of three decisive levels relating to the position of Europe in the world:

- at political level within the framework of EU-27, Euroland-17 and the UN;
- at economic and financial level with economic recovery issues linked to a "green economy" in a difficult budgetary environment;
- at value level with a questioning on issues such as ethics, solidarity, equity, just transition .

How can the credibility of the European Union be "rebuilt"? The rebuilding process should in our view focus on three themes: *peace*, *prosperity* and *democracy*. This is why our today meeting in view of Rio+20 is crucial. This meeting could be seen as an opportunity for front runners of the green economy to give themselves a roadmap in the present political hurricane.

In many ways the EU is, these days, addressing a 'transformation agenda' and political leaders understand the need to accelerate the transition towards a sustainable economy, simply to preserve peace and security, re-establish a European leadership and foster innovation towards a resource efficient Europe.

How can we be more effective in helping to peacefully accelerate the transition, foster societal innovation and make a success of Europe's "*transformation agenda*"? This is the central issue to be addressed today, and for which we will need all your experience.

While 'the world is on the edge', to paraphrase Lester Brown, we want today to do 3 things:

Firstly, we want to highlight the potentials of the Twenty first Century Paradigm shifts:

In a time of financial and economic difficulties for Europe as well as major new opportunities of cooperation with our neighbours, indeed several revolutions have been engaged: a low carbon economy revolution, a resource efficiency revolution, a bio-economy revolution, revolutionary business models addressing the needs of the poor.

Now the time has come for a financial revolution and a new EU *Prosperity for All* paradigm.

To contribute to 'the EU "*Transformation Agenda*" and to facilitate the transition towards a low carbon and resource efficient economy, we will need a new '*European Social Contract*' and a new vision of *Resource Abundance* by instilling new shared values, new definitions of *quality of good life, performance* of products, services and investments, finance and knowledge sharing.

The title of this conference is addressing how to '*share natural, financial and knowledge resources*' to secure new progress for Europe!

We hope to discuss this in the workshops and the final session.

Secondly, we want to underline that in this time of crisis, the new economical, social, ethical and cultural model is ready. "You never change the world by fighting the existing model. Build a new model, that makes the existing model obsolete". These Gandhi's words are a perfect summary of what has been done by European pioneers of the green economy, since the 1992 UN Conference on Environment & Development in Rio.

Today, I believe that we see the result coming: a mature new economical, technological, social and ecological development and business model, increasingly supported by millions of inhabitants and companies is making the 'old model obsolete'.

Very often these innovations are driven or supported by innovative local authorities, and companies, usually SME's. This will also be a theme today.

In a time of turmoil, we want to address a positive message to European political leaders and European citizens. I want to be optimistic: The new model that makes the existing one obsolete is there.

For example: a most recent and well-thought decision has been the energy policy shift of Germany, made possible precisely because technologies were ready, innovative systems (as the feed-in-tariff, copied now all over the world) were in place, citizens were supporting the change and ... Fukushima gave the last pitch. In my opinion, Germany is back as the leading environmental European country and its model is studied from Beijing to Seoul and Brasilia, and debated in many European capitals.

This is why our priority should be, to scale up !

Thirdly, in this time where we are confronted with a possible recession and the need for a new economic recovery plan, we need to be more efficient to accelerate the required transition to make Europe more resilient and more happy.

For this to happen the Resource Efficiency Alliance aims at mobilizing our power to scale up successful sustainability initiatives.

European diplomats, companies, private financial institutions, universities, Ngo's, but also Cities, Trade Unions and individuals are increasingly active in sustainability partnerships in all the regions of Europe and beyond. Being part of global value chains and international networks these frontrunners therefore contribute to 'scale up' best multi-stakeholders partnership practices to:

(i) move to 'sustainable products and services' and 'sustainable banking' from niche market to mainstream market,

(ii) develop new global value chain partnerships addressing how to share natural, financial and knowledge resources and

(iii) empower citizens and communities.

For example, recently the European Water Stewardship was launched here in Brussels, in the presence of Euro-Commissioner Potočnik. This Stewardship is a voluntary protocol for sustainable use of water in Industry and Agriculture, built, tested and now implemented by stakeholders like BASF, Coca Cola, the paper industry, and even by European farmers and airports. I believe this explicit support is extremely important to accelerate these developments, and I thank the Commissioner for that.

By doing so Europe will accelerate the transition to a sustainable, low carbon, resource efficient economy, fairness and equity.

In this respect, a *Platform for Engineering Partnership (PEP)* which will be presented this afternoon, which will focus on how to scale up successful best practices partnership.

To be more efficient as well, the Resource Efficiency Alliance aims to coordinate with the EU Institutions and the Danish Presidency to make the Rio+20 'process' a progress for Europe.

Similarly, much more needs to be done at EU level in terms of 'cooperation' with front runners of the Green Economy and Sustainable Finance. In a globalised economy, European public and private market actors need to have, as the Member States, an open-coordination system with the EU Institutions to accelerate change at 'wartime speed'.

An Annual European Green Economy Leadership Meeting between the President of the EU Institutions and the Front Runners the Green economy, is recommended to report on, and mobilize for the implementation of Europe 2020 Strategy and EU Objectives 2050.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I do believe that we have the right model, we have examples, and we feel the urgency to scale up.

Let's accelerate our approach, starting today,

Speech Mr. Brice Lalonde

UN Rio+20 Executive Coordinator

<http://vimeo.com/34216816>



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Speech Mr. Anders Rune Bjerrum

Special Advisor to the Danish Minister of the Environment on Rio+20

<http://vimeo.com/34810377>



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Ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the incoming Danish Presidency I would like to thank the organisers for convening this event, providing us all with an opportunity to meet and share thoughts concerning green economy and sustainability.

I would like to talk about the involvement front runners and champions of the green economy who are some of the key actors in the global transition to a more sustainable world economy

In this regard Rio+20 is a unique opportunity to frame the international thinking on green economy and the involvement of key actors such as, civil society and business

Denmark is therefore strongly committed to the Rio process making it a high priority for the new Danish Government during our Presidency.

[The Challenge]

The world is facing two fundamental crises - the financial and the environmental - and they are both to be handled in a fast changing world with an emerging new world order.

The two crises are closely interlinked. And as the focus of this conference implies, this provides a unique opportunity to rethink the current perception and thinking of growth, consumption and how we utilize our scarce resources.

We therefore see the green economy as a way to implement or drive sustainable development in practice.

[Opportunities and engagement]

This can only be successful through involvement of key actors and there are a lot of expectations in this regard

Let me stress this point again: key actors have the important answers and the technological solutions

In our view there will be ample opportunity for the 3 C's - cities, civil society and companies - to deliver leading up to and at the Rio conference

You are a precondition for an economic transition – and can walk the talk.

Cities count for more than 50 percent of the world's population which is to rise rapidly in the coming years making cities global centres for growth, knowledge and consumption now and in the future.

Therefore a focus on sustainable cities as a theme in Rio is welcomed by the EU

As regards companies the “greening” of business is high on the agenda. For instance Newsweek recently published a Green Giants list stating a top 10 for green front runners

Two of these top 10 front runners are Indian companies underlining that this is not just a western trend

In other words Resource-efficient business solutions should and will contribute to the protection of the natural capital on which our future growth simply depends.

Further the thoughts on a global CSR convention encompassing guide lines for green accounting, is worth elaborating further on.

Finally there will be ample opportunity for initiatives as regards public affairs and the new concept of transformational partnerships between the UN and business providing a holistic multi-stakeholder approach to systemic challenges, for instance on procurement, waste reduction or efficient use of water.

In relation to civil society the recent thinking on a global Aarhus convention in relation to the Rio principle 10, is an interesting proposal regarding involvement and access of civil society that I am sure we will hear more about

Further it is extremely important that governments involve civil society on national level in the preparations for Rio.

There will be a very large exhibition space at the Rio conference. This is where you should show what you can deliver and contribute with in terms of greening of the economy.

And there will be greater access to decision-makers leading up to the Conference. You could also seize the opportunity to attend roundtables and formal and informal consultations and discussions.

In this regard the Brazilian government is planning roundtables for non-state actors on thematic issues just before the Conference on the 16th to the 19th of June which will feed into to the formal negotiations

EU process

In relation to the EU process The Danish Presidency intends to build upon the EU's position from the October 2011 Council Conclusions together with the 30 pages UN DESA submission of 1. November. These are our starting position.

It is our intention to have Rio+20 on the agenda for the environment Council meetings in March and June and to adopt Council conclusions in March elaborating EU's position in the Rio negotiations in the light of the zero-draft which will be presented in mid-january.

We will also have discussions between the Environment ministers at the informal Environment Ministers Meeting in Horsens on the 20. of April where we intend to envisage the strong involvement of key actors

Furthermore, we envisage that The European Council will deal with Rio+20 at one of its meeting before the Conference.

Finally Denmark is currently leading a subgroup together with the European Commission on means of implementation in relation to Rio+20 under the environment council formation aiming at preparing an EU position on this very important topic.

The same is prepared for discussions on Sustainable development Goals (SDG's)

To sum up: overall, it is our intention and ambition as Presidency to be efficient, effective, transparent and open-minded – and an honest broker – in close cooperation with key actors

Let me assure you all that the Danish government and Presidency sees the Rio+20 conference as a window of opportunity to build a platform on which the global society can eradicate poverty, green the economy and create sound and long-lasting sustainable development.

Speech Mr. Janez Potočnik

European Commissioner for the Environment

<http://vimeo.com/34219223>



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Mr President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting me to attend this Conference. I am honoured to be among so many leaders, champions and front-runners in a cause which I wholeheartedly pursue – sustainable development.

Today you will have the opportunity to exchange views on - what I hope - will be concrete proposals for the Rio+20 Conference next year. Equally important will be bringing those proposals back to the communities you come from and creating a momentum for positive outcomes.

Rio+20 can give renewed political impetus to sustainable development and mark the start of a profound, world-wide transition towards a green economy: An economy that takes into account the environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainable development.

To obtain results, we will need global agreement on an ambitious vision and on clear objectives. This will be important, but this will not be enough. We will need to chart a clear path towards this vision, setting out the process and the milestones we need to reach along the way to achieve that vision - At global level but also in the EU. One could call it a roadmap to a green economy, as we called it in the EU contribution.

The EU is already doing a lot and will do all it can to go in this direction by building on decades of sound environmental and social policies, and most recently the most ambitious climate and energy policy package in the world. We want to continue with the transformation. We have placed "moving to a resource efficient low carbon economy" at the core of our economic strategy, and despite the enormous challenges the EU is facing with the ongoing financial crisis - we will stay on this path.

There is no denying that some will always call for short term fixes, quoting all sorts of fears, real and perceived. I think there are four key elements in response to these fears:

First, the challenge of global resource constraints and consequences of their overuse and unequal distribution has been only made more - not less clear - in the past 20 years.

Second, the world economic crisis is not a consequence of overambitious sustainable development progress over the past 20 years - if anything - the truth is the opposite.

Third, we agree that progress should be global. But, emphasis here is on the word **progress**. Our objective cannot be to reverse progress in some continents, but rather to accelerate it there and elsewhere. But I agree that we have to take the concept of global responsibility for global fate seriously.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, sustainable development which combines social, environmental and economic progress works. And you can and must be best witnesses to this fact.

You represent a key sector of our society. Businesses can contribute in making a green economy a reality and many already do. They are the engines of the green economy we aspire to; they combine economic growth, job creation, resource efficiency and environmental improvements.

The green technology sector is growing rapidly in Europe and in many areas European companies have a lead on world markets. But we can - and - need to do more! Green economy is not about green business, it is about **greening** the business.

To fully seize the economic opportunities of a transition to a green economy, we will need to define a clear path and set concrete objectives. Where do we want to go? What is missing to get there?

Today, you can make a very important contribution by providing the answers to these questions. What do businesses need to make the most of the opportunities offered by a green transition? And what can we - EU, national, local authorities - do to help in this transition?

How can we demonstrate the potential for development opportunities and poverty eradication and what do we need to do, to allow our international friends to benefit from these opportunities?

More concretely ...

Business commitments and partnerships are already important for several natural resources such as water, energy, food, the marine environment and biodiversity. **How** can we develop these further and create more business opportunities in using resources more efficiently?

Sustainability management across the supply chain as well as corporate accounting and reporting practices are very important. All social partners have a role to play to strengthen the sustainability of the organisations they manage or work in. **How** can we make progress? What is missing?

The cost savings in investing in ecosystems can be significant, but the incentives to invest are lacking because there is no market for biodiversity. Concepts such as habitat banking need to be developed further alongside incentives to lever more private sector support. **How** can we make it more attractive for the private sector to invest in resource efficiency and protect our natural capital? What incentives are missing?

How can private capital be mobilized? Opportunities for investment just in productivity gains are in trillions, by 2030 according to some studies. This dwarfs any potential government transfer, no matter how generous it might be.

These are some aspects I believe we should develop further during today's discussions. But, I am sure you will think of many more.

The essential point is that to succeed in Rio we need to focus on tangible, effective action that can bring about real change.

We have made the EU proposals as concrete as possible. We have proposed a "green economy roadmap" which includes a set of horizontal and thematic actions at international level and specific time-frames, to ensure commitment well into the future.

The proposal also includes advice and best practices for national actions. Because, although a green transition will require global action the key players of this transition are the local actors.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Rio+20 provides a very important opportunity to push forward the "green economy" agenda, both within the EU and world-wide. Global and local actors - both - have a heavy responsibility to make Rio+20 a success. What we need is change and change means innovation and imagination. I mentioned at the beginning, that evidence of progress at global level is one of the key four elements for supporting the European drive for sustainability.

As you know last week after lengthy and intensive negotiations the UN Climate Change conference in Durban ended. My colleague, Connie Hedegaard, did an excellent job out there.

The conference did not end by providing us with a solution, but it ended with a **message of hope**. Hope that the world – we - understand the seriousness of the challenges we are facing in the area of environment and hope that international cooperation in environmental area under UN umbrella could be an effective way to deal with these challenges.

The same message of hope I witnessed in Nagoya a year ago when we reached important agreements in the area of biodiversity (UN CBD). The trust established among international partners and willingness to act together is something worth to build on next year when we will meet again in Rio, 20 years after the historical 1992 Summit.

We are more interconnected and interlinked than ever. We share the planet which is becoming a global village. We share the responsibility to protect it for future generations.

I wish you a fruitful meeting and look forward to your contributions and to continued cooperation. Let's make Rio twenty years later work!

Thank you for your attention.



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2. Four Workshops: an exemplary, accelerating and partnering Europe.



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Gilles Berhault,
President Comité 21
France, Chair of the
Wrap Up Session



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The 'Rapporteurs' of the four workshops

Workshop 1: Sharing Scarce Natural Resources

Chair: Staffan Nilsson, President ECSC

Panel:

- Sylvie Lemmet, UNEP Director
- Ernst Ulrich von Weizsacker - UNEP International Resource Panel
- Kjetil Ebbesberg - Executive Vice Chairman Hydro
- Prof Michael Scoullos - MIO-ECSD
- Leida Rijnhout - ANPED
- Gael Gonzalez - Orée
- Walter Stahel - Geneva Association



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Rapporteur: Lionel Platteuw, EUCETSA - The Resource and Energy Efficiency Partnership

Key themes

- **Knowledge and science**
 - e.g. need for science triggered the International panel in 2007 and also its financing
 - "appreciation" meaning understanding and awareness of how resources impact
 - e.g. how coastal zone management is coordinated with outflow estuarial water (integrated water management maritime plus land) (MOI-ECSD)
- **Measurement**
 - GDP outdated and universally seen as



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Sylvie Lemmet from UNEP

inadequate - but improvements elusive! (UNEP et al)

- “Good” prices i.e. real costs (UNEP)
- Biodiversity accountability framework (Orée)
- **Commitment**
 - from governments, from industry and others
- **Enforcement and accountability to commitments**
 - Sterility of argument “Regulations versus Voluntary”. Yes, days of simplistic questioning of “need for Regulation” are gone, we need much more sophisticated regulatory systems, adapted to international context
 - Mechanisms to monitor progress and promises – will differ from stakeholder to stakeholder government to industry
- **Political Strategy**
 - Prof van Weizsäcker view of Durban – EU and Asia on same agenda but blocked by others (e.g. US and UK)
 - Can EU engage with Asia and hope Wall Street will follow?
 - Mandates of varying groups
- **Innovation routes and divergence**
 - Innovation, products processes and business models
 - Ex Reports assessing stock in progress, and then recycling which showed all high tech metals e.g. indium, lithium – all of these have recycling rates below 1%.
 - Conditions for innovation depend on many stakeholders
 - Government, consumers etc – the actual change is dependent on industry, for example – recovery of rare metals e.g. indium, lithium – with poor levels of recovery below 1%.
 - Correct buyer information
 - right choices; Planet 7 to 8 bn in 20 yrs – vast majority want a better life – in addressing those challenges – do we have greater wish for disposability or durability. Combine efforts between legislators and industry; we have a rep for global standards, including products reuse.
 - Resource cap coalition wants to cap resource use, ANPED, Ecologistas en Accion (“CeeWeb”)
 - Quotas on resource use (cc Biodiversity Carbon use per capita)
 - Exploit prevention and sufficiency strategies
- **MESSAGES**
- Timing and chronology
 - we’ve come this far since Rio92 and we urgently now need:
 - To push for implementation of proposals and work in hand



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Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker from the UNEP International Resource Panel (left), Kjetil Ebbesberg from Hydro (right)



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Gaël Gonzalez from Orée

- Avoid re-initiating research as we can't afford another decade of negotiations
- Political strategy
 - Will we see legal framework on natural resources?
 - Predicting pressures to come up with a convention for resources?
 - Extraordinary challenge – mission impossible - of balancing interests and demands
- Hence necessity for concertation and preparation (new methods)
- New models, Innovation and change
 - EU strong model (MIO-ECSD), powerful for ocean strategy (and reconciling national interests)
 - Driven by “citizens”, means also “beneficiary e.g. healthcare/consumers/users/purchasers” bearing in mind that sometimes the actors can be individuals, or a public authority or industry, social entrepreneur etc.
 - Principles of sustainable taxation (W. Stahel)
 - Do not tax renewable resource e.g. work and human labour
 - Tax the consumption of non-renewable resource
 - Create a virtuous loop (circular economy) and “no need for new regulations”



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Prof. Scoullos from MIO-ECSD

Workshop 2: Sharing Abundant Financial Resources

Chair: Sir Graham Watson, MEP, GLOBE- BEE 3 Financing 2020

Panel:

- Robin Edme, EPE, GLOBE
- Klaus Krummrich, European Association of Saving Banks
- Guiseppe van der Helm, Eurosif
- Daniel Pentzlin, Friends of the Earth Europe



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Sir Graham Watson (right), Sandrine Dixon-Declève (middle), and Robin Edme (left)

Rapporteur: Sandrine Dixon-Declève, The Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership

Robin Edme – GLOBE

Robin Edme focused his intervention on the work of GLOBE and its Bee working groups in particular Bee3 focusing on finance.

There has been a lack of long term vision and dialogue between business and MEPs – This is why the GLOBE Bee working groups were established.

We know that money is available; the issue is allocation and integration of ESG criteria across the full finance value chain!

The 3 pillars of responsible finance are:

1. Extra financial information in lending
2. Developing a responsible banking and funding management process
3. Contribution to EU 2020 objective -
 - a) private financial institution covenant should be adopted
 - b) open to all financial institutions, savings and asset managers, pension funds
– full finance value chain

The Bee3 working group is working on financing EU2020 objectives and has promoted the European Covenant to Mobilize Private Capital to Finance Europe 2020 Strategy Objectives between MEP's and financial industry signatories.

The objective of the Covenant is to establish a partnership scheme between Members of Parliament, Ministers of Finance, public private banks etc..., with a view towards:

1. Attracting savings and finance with neutral impact on public funds
2. Funding bank/guarantee systems
3. Enabling access to finance SME's,
4. Scale up private and public capital

The focus of this exercise and the work of Bee3 is to undertake a back casting exercise and organise a 2012 conference concentrating on Europe 2020 and long term finance options such as the mobilisation of capital for a low carbon resource efficient Europe.

The French government's long term finance initiative shows that financial actors don't care about what they finance as long as they know that what they are investing in is low risk and makes sense. This means that you may need more regulation provided both by the EU and Member States to create investment certainty.

Klaus Krummerich – European Savings Banks

Mr. Kummerich focused his intervention on the work of the European Association of Savings Banks in the area of green finance.

The savings banks have created a resolution towards greener savings and retail banking plus a charter of responsible business.

In general, green criteria have been integrated in Savings banks via the 3 R's:

- Retail
- Regional
- Responsible business

The association and its members have taken an active role in financing the shift to low carbon, decentralised energy supply and a more social model.

Giuseppe van der Helm – European Sustainable Investment Forum

Mr. van der Helm focused his intervention on the Dutch Green Fund Scheme investing in green projects. The scheme allocates start up seed funding for green projects through an innovative public- private partnership.

The Banks give low cost loans after an economic assessment is undertaken. A further assessment of green criteria is undertaken by the government. The money comes from the consumer who has a tax deduction if it place money in the fund.

The projects receiving investment are varied: nature, forests, sustainable buildings, renewables, biodiversity, social/cultural projects. A large percentage of the fund goes to organic farming projects.

This is a useful best practice example of small project financing!

- 7.3bil€ has been invested since 2008
- Financing of 5,000 projects not existing otherwise
- The fund has been responsible for 50% of the growth of socially and environmentally responsible projects
- Each 1€ the government invests brings 40€ in investments in green projects from the private sector

Mr. Daniel Pentzlin, Friends of the Earth Europe

Mr. Pentzlin focused his intervention on risk. Risk is the crux of the investment dilemma. In order to really create a paradigm shift you need to integrate sustainable risk in a total risk assessment and address the following issues:

- More risk = more profit – we have to get the drive out of the financial system regarding profit seeking

There is €46.5 trillion available for long term sustainable investments

- How can this be reflected in financial market policy?
 - Make banks sustainable – insert into capital requirements regulation such as Basel III e.g. higher capital requirements into brown economy vs lower for green economy.
 - Set requirements for credit rating agencies that take account of ESG criteria in bank credit rating plus ensure that credit advisors are able to account for sustainability in managing risks. This entails:
 - Sufficient capacity and knowledge
 - Remuneration/codes of contacts
 - Strengthen system stability and resilience so take out some risk e.g. apply changes of sustainability criteria into capital reserve systems of banks plus put in punitive requirements to get money from non sustainable companies
 - Stop investing in the economy directly regarding sector policies e.g. extend Equator principles to lending to business plus blacklist unsustainable business practices. Don't rely on "best in class" approach. Does not help if you finance the "most efficient" deep sea oil drill as what is needed is a model shift away from high carbon fossil energy such as coal and oil.

- At least 30% of the structural and cohesion funds should be allocated to the energy revolution. This should be taken on board by the EBRD as well.

There is no lack of capital we just need to re-allocate, curb unsustainable finance and reckless risk taking. At the end of the day we need to focus on financing a green economy via less finance for the brown economy.

Q&A and debate:

Sir Graham Watson, MEP

There is a need to put at least 2% into financing the transition to a green economy creating 6 million new jobs. In addition it is imperative to confront the following obstacles:

- CO2 price
- Financing of high cost new technologies and lag time
- Policy clarity

We need €6 billion over 2014-2020 to switch to a green economy. EIB has taken the lead with Green Bonds, Green mortgages and green indices, and a low carbon transition fund. But we need to get more funding from mainstream financing e.g. €3billion from investment funds, €2billion from R&D funds and €1 billion from development aid funds.

The European covenant to mobilise private capital proposed by GLOBE applies the principles of the Covenant of Mayors to Green finance and is a constructive way to bring together key business and policy actors in partnership .

The key questions therefore are:

- How do we mobilise private capital?
- What type of private/public partnerships do we need?
- What changes do we need to make sure the money goes where necessary?
- What indicators do we use to screen projects?
- What mandates and guidelines are needed on Boards?

Robert Moreland (EESC)

According to other discussants from the audience the main focus of banks is restoring liquidity – thus we need to get them to that stage before they can finance sustainability projects.

Pension funds are a perfect vehicle for long term investment but most pension funds have no sustainability principles attached.

Riccardo Petrella

How can we have a real partnership between the public and private sector when no public money is available? And yet we must have governments paying up.

What is the motivation of the banking system to really promote



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Riccardo Petrella from IERPE

green and social investment? Need more control from governments on banks

Willy de Backer said that green finance is still at a minimum. Although the Covenant is interesting it is voluntary and therefore in-effective. We should focus on the Nationalisation of banks!

Klaus Krummerich:

On the issue of Resilience, the German model is based on positive incentives to invest in renewables – the burden is born by consumer PPPs

The Results from the German model are that in 2011:

- 1/5th electricity consumption from renewables
- 35% feasible by 2020
- Investment in renewable energy €27billion

2 key factors of success to mobilise private capital:

- + rate of return
- Less risky system supported by feed in tariff – 20yr stable revenues thus clarity to banks

Giuseppe van der Helm:

- Liquidity is important but there is enough money around that needs to be invested so we need to look at all asset classes including pension funds, bonds, private equity etc.
- Research is showing higher returns and lower risk in sustainable investments – 97% still do not go into green investments or have ESG factors integrated
- Engagement between investors and companies is essential. Ask companies what they expect e.g. Shell just cut its entire renewables investment portfolio
- Role of government important. Sustainability needs to be more than law and mandates. Need to engage with government.
- Member States own banks as shareholders and need to pressure banks towards sustainability

Daniel Pentzlin:

Supports Covenant idea as facilitates public discourse – yet needs to be accompanied by regulation and level playing fields.

Pension funds need high profits thus high risk taking.

Robin Edme:

If things were so simple then we would have already transformed capital markets by now.

The Covenant may not be perfect but trying to get regulation agreed in this area between EU27 is very



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Robin Edme (L) and the panel of workshop 2

difficult.

French treasury says no agreement can be taken in the area of finance without the agreement of finance community.

Need proof of investment. All new engagements in the area have had no impact on actual systems change and new investment strategies. We need new instruments, the problem is how do you calculate externalities and put in place valid floor prices or default values.

You also need the integration of extra finance criteria and the right of vote in funds.

Workshop 3: Sharing Abundant Knowledge-based and Immaterial Ressource

Chair: Jacqueline McGlade, European Environmental Agency, Executive Director



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Panel:

- Pietro Bertazzi, GRI: Corporate Sustainability Reporting Coalition
- Dr. Günther Bachmann, Director, German Council for Sustainable Development: The German Sustainability Code
- Cédric Mulier, Carbon Disclosure Project
- Patrick Itschert, ETUC, Deputy General Secretary
- Vaïa Tuuhia, NGOs coalition, Citizens Summit Rio 2012
- Jeremy Wates, EEB



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Rapporteur: Leonardo Rocha, ANPED

Mrs. Jacqueline McGlade, European Environmental Agency, Executive Director

Mrs. Jacqueline McGlade has made a brief presentation of the EEA, its networks and its role building shared information systems linked to policy making, especially in the EU Southern and Eastern neighborhood. She highlighted that reporting and verification are issues to be improved in these countries and that as reality has been changing faster than theory, we must build more coalitions and share knowledge.

Rio+20 has the potential to make these many coalitions possible and in the most different sectors such as fiscal, training, campaigning and networking, best practices and knowledge share. She believes that in order to tackle the challenges we face today and change the way we live, we must improve measuring, sharing environmental information and enabling the participation of all actors. To enable that, the EU has launched the “Eye on Earth” program, to share not only data but intelligence and opportunities; a platform that binds networks of knowledge together and brings the most cutting edge science into the hands of those that are perhaps in remote regions. EEA is encouraging more participation from individuals and governments. They envision training people and communities to be able to report on their

realities through social media and they have encouraged Governments to make their cadastres public. The idea is that knowledge should be shared in a nervous system way of the planet.

Mr. Pietro Bertazzi, GRI: Corporate Sustainability Reporting Coalition

Mr. Pietro Bertazzi, speaking on behalf of the Global Reporting Initiative, has referred the actual call for more responsible or sustainable capitalism and the importance of markets as key actors in delivering solutions for sustainable development. Research data and business experience have proven that companies that integrate sustainability into their business are performing well. Sustainable capitalism is a framework that seeks to maximize the long term economic value by reforming markets to address the real needs while integrating environmental, social and governance matrix throughout the decision making process. Investors should use the ESGI (Environmental Social Governance Information) to identify companies to invest in and all market actors should be mobilized to monitor and disclosure their sustainability information, as it is still a niche. Rio+20 is a good opportunity to discuss this topic, as it calls for Governmental action, and there is momentum for this now as there is an increase of practices of sustainability reporting and wide governmental policies promoting sustainability information disclosure.

Mr. Pietro Bertazzi, has also mentioned that Corporate Sustainability Reporting Coalition has been working to influence policy to force companies introducing their sustainability information into their reporting cycles or explaining why they chose to not do so. He has also stressed the role of measurement and compliance of this idea of mainstreaming sustainability reporting. When questioned on the meaning of sustainability information Mr. Bertazzi explained that it refers to the input that companies are doing in 3 pillars of sustainability but also the aspect of governance of the organization as in the ESGI an acronym (Economic, Social, Governance Information).



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Cédric Mulier, Jeremy Wates, Pietro Bertazzi, Jacqueline McGlade (from left to right)

Dr. Günther Bachmann, Director, German Council for Sustainable Development: The German Sustainability Code

Dr. Günther Bachmann, has explained that in absence of a Economic and social council in Germany they have established a German Council for Sustainable Development, a multi-stakeholder body with representatives from Government, NGOs, trade unions, churches and wider civil society and it advises the federal government.

On governance we have experienced that the existing system of governance is in transition and we explicit in the corporate community, as the performance of corporations has been changing and as their attitude towards sustainability. The essence of this change is the approach shift, now companies are no longer focusing only in minimizing risks but they are looking to maximize the advantages of sustainability business. Sustainability reporting ranking and public awarding mechanisms have stimulate this greening of the economy as the energy change, passing now from the nuclear to renewable options. By adopting the GSC, which has key performance indicators within 21 criteria designed together with the

investor and financial sector, companies performing under sustainability parameters can profit from their practices but also incentivize those not yet doing so, to join these practices.

Dr. Bachmann has said that GSC is going to be in the German Sustainability Strategy, just before the Rio+20 and that he is working to make this Code a European one. The perspective to achieve that is that of the financial investment on this field, developing sustainable finance from the niche to mainstream.

Mr. Cédric Mulier, Carbon Disclosure Project

Mr. Cédric Mulier presented us the CDP as a charity business that received a mandate of about 551 financial institutions to go to all companies so they disclose the Governance, the risk associate to the climate change, the opportunities they see, the measures they take to reduce the climate change and carbon footprint and water. After 10 years, they achieved 3.700 companies disclosing this information. So there is comparable and consistent data, across regions and sectors, available.

Besides the program for companies they created one for cities and 2 years ago the supply chain program. CDP gather this data, this information, benchmarks, and best practices in reports and make them available on the internet.

Considering Durban results, we should not lose 8 years until 2020 and for that they have chosen the supply chain program (that counts with 800 suppliers) as showcase, because this field represents between 50 - 70% of emissions and this program could be a way to go forward without the legal boundary frame.

Patrick Itschert, ETUC, Deputy General Secretary

Mr. Patrick Itschert, representing the trade unions, sees the financial crisis and Rio+20 as an opportunity to draw the attention of investors and financial markets to sustainable investment. EU has to do more in order to go forward, for example by developing more regulations, transparency, promoting sustainability reporting, creation of quality jobs focusing mostly in the youth and social responsibility of companies. The EU needs a transition roadmap and more sustainable development investment, especially in the public procurement sector. It is also vital to create SD and Future Generations Councils in order to guarantee social equality in Europe.



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Patrick Itschert from ETUC

Mrs. Vaïa Tuuhia, NGOs coalition, Citizens Summit Rio 2012

Mrs. Vaïa Tuuhia belongs to Association 4D and represents the Collectif Rio+20, created specifically to prepare Rio+20 and has noted that the agenda lacks immensely on ambition and political engagement. The goals are still very unclear. Civil society urges for a socio-economic transition that recognizes the need of a responsible use of natural resource and regrets that emerging economies are not looking to lead this transition forward sustainable development. We must have more political engagement in Rio+20 but in all these "Earth Summits". Collectif Rio+20 endorse ANPED in the urge for global equality and alerts for the danger of confronts born in this inequality, even in a national level as we have seen today. It is important the development of a new civilization that respects the limits of the planet and

engage in the development of a sustainable economy focused on the efficacy of resources to guarantee access to all, more quality of life in a truly democratic system. Social protection has to be adopted universally. It is also need to re-build the trust in business sector.

Mr. Jeremy Wates, EEB

Mr. Jeremy Wates highlighted the need for more consistency and leadership and a more pushing approach to spread consciousness and good practices; a legislative approach. Leaders should play a more active role in supporting that, to move beyond the dichotomy of mandatory versus voluntary. Mr. Wates shows a concern that federations that speak on behalf of business don't always represent even the average of the business spectrum but often actually represent a anti-sustainability agenda and leaders have a duty to really reject that and speak out, leave these federations or public confront them.

Mr. Jeremy Wates believes that sustainability concept reporting should be clearer, more specific, and based in more focused impact assessments such environmental, strategic or social ones. Reporting is about what happens afterwards, the impact assessment is about before and they should be used in a harmonized approach. World treaties to start working in these two mechanisms would be a very nice outcome from Rio+20 and another one would be a global version of the Aarhus convention, like the treaty proposed by Brazil and supported by the EU.

Plenary Session

During the plenary session it was highlighted the importance of adopting a 4th Cultural pillar to Sustainability as we can't forget the multicultural diversity aspect and its value as cultural and natural patrimony.



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It was also mentioned the fear some developing countries have that the green-economy debate is a kind of a green-protectionism and the importance of raising the issue of North-South technology transfers, patenting of products or no patents at all and the free sharing of techno-knowledge.

Workshop 4: Transition of Regions and Towns – the place for innovation

Chair: Michael Lebrun, Member of the Committee of the Regions

Panel:

- Stephane Dupas, Energy Cities
- Lucy Neal, Transition Towns
- Panos Coroyannakis, The Pact of the Island on behalf of ISLENET
- Richard Tuffs, ERRIN – European Regions Research and Innovation Network
- Jean-Pierre Hannequart, ACR+, Waste Management



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Rapporteur: Richard Tuffs, ERRIN

Michel Lebrun, Committee of the Regions opened the session with four key messages from the Committee of the Regions.

- 1) Urbanisation should be explicitly recognised as an emerging issue
- 2) A road map for the green economy is needed in the form of:
 - Encouraging the building and mobilising new forms of financing
 - Promoting an international Covenant of Mayors and Regions
 - activate – from signature to investment
 - broaden – from focus on energy to resource efficiency
 - cooperate – open up to beyond the Mediterranean and the East
- 3) Rio+20 is a new impetus for local and regional agendas 21
- 4) Regions and local authorities need to have a place in the institutional framework alongside Member States and calls for a standing committee for sub-national and local governments.

<http://www.cor.europa.eu/pages/HomeTemplate.aspx>

Stéphane Dupas – Energy Cities

Two newcomers ‘energy’ and ‘territory’ are coming together and how do we make them compatible? We need to move from a city input/output model to a recycling/renewable model based on a consume less and consume local model in order to create low energy cities with a high quality of life.

To achieve this objective, a multilevel initiative is required. This could especially involve local initiatives involving a wide range of stakeholders at the regional, national and EU level.

Stéphane proposed five initiatives to help prepare Rio +20:

- 1) Energy mapping – looking for synergies at the local level
- 2) Organise local energy visioning exercises – up to 2050
- 3) Develop local energy forums
- 4) Invest in soft measures with a more societal and less technical
- 5) Develop alliances between local energy actors.

<http://www.energy-cities.eu/>

Lucy Neal, Transition Towns Network

Transition Towns is a new network that started 4 years ago in South West England and has now grown to 830 towns in 35 countries. Transition Towns offers community scale solutions to the problems engendered by what future generations might term as the petroleum interval in world history. Response to ‘peak oil’ and climate change will come from people not committees.



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Lucy Neal from the Transition Towns Network

Communities are encouraged to vision positive narratives for the future building on a set of ingredients applicable across cultures. Transition Towns has developed as a fun-based,

project based network which pays more attention to inner processes rooted in learning from practice with strong roots in local economic development.

Transition is not a known quantity but more a social experiment that cannot wait for governments to catch up. If the individual has little power, the community level can produce change.

<http://www.transitionnetwork.org/>

Panos Coroyannakis introduced the Pact of Islands ISLENET

which started in 1993. The Pact of Islands is supported by the European Parliament and the European Commission and has the objective of developing concrete plans for sustainable growth and develop specific investments supporting sustainable growth. In 2011, 62 island authorities had signed the Pact.

Panos pointed out that islands could be at the forefront of the fight against climate change as illustrated by the following goals of the Pact of Islands:

- 1) To contribute to Europe's 20/20/20 targets
- 2) To use islands as test and demonstration sites
- 3) To develop a declaration of the Pact of the Islands based on the 'Covenant of Mayors
- 4) Develop Island Sustainable Energy Action Plans ISEAPs
- 5) Identify specific projects
- 6) Involve local communities.

An example of the involvement of the local community is Samsø – an island in Denmark which with a population of 4,500 has developed wind power schemes on and off shore, bio mass plants, etc where local residents become shareholders. These renewable energy plants now produce 140% of the islands energy needs so they can export energy.

A recent initiative by the islands is to get themselves recognised as an official EU initiative for which they need 377 MEPs to sign – they are not far having been promised 365 signatures.

<http://www.islenet.net/>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/sep/21/renewableenergy.alternativeenergy>

Richard Tuffs ERRIN European Regions for Research and Innovation Network

Richard explained that ERRIN was a Brussels based platform of over 90 regions interested in research and innovation. Regions are key players in research and innovation and the fight against climate change as they combine critical mass and proximity to bring together a range of stakeholders who can work in partnership both within the between regions.

ERRIN was founded 10 years ago and has seen the expansion of research and innovation budgets. Horizon 2020 – the EU's new research and innovation programme 2014-2020 will have a budget of over 80 billion Euros and has a specific part of the programme dealing with

societal challenges such as climate action. The climate action sub-programme will receive over 3.5 billion Euros over the seven years of the programme.

Another future EU policy that will contribute to innovation and sustainable development is the Cohesion Policy which has eleven thematic priorities – 4 of which are related to climate change. Coupled to these priorities, developed regions will be asked to place 80% of their Structural Fund budget into research and innovation, sustainable energy and SME support.

Future cohesion policy will also include smart specialisation policies where regions can choose priorities for their region and place more EU finance in a more limited set of sectors – the so-called smart specialisation. This was an area that could therefore benefit from more sustainable regional policies.

Increasingly, innovation is a networked activity involving a variety of actors and is no longer just in the hands of Silicon Valley garage owners!

www.errin.eu

Jean-Pierre Hannequart ACR+, Waste Management

Dealing with waste needs two approaches – developing a green economy and better governance. The green economy must be based on a low carbon economy, material resource efficiency and better waste management involving the R+ concepts of rethink, redesign, reduce, reuse, repair, recycle... to produce a closed cycle economy.



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Jean-Pierre
Hannequart from
ACR+

Better governance means involving local and regional actors in the waste process to deal with issues such as waste control, procurement strategies and awareness raising.

The Association of Cities and Regions for waste recycling was formed in 1994 and now has 95 members in 22 countries. One area of activity is a Euro-Med network for integrated sustainable management of the Mediterranean.

According to Jean-Pierre four actions are needed to develop thinking towards Rio +20:

- 1) Develop R+ management of waste
- 2) Develop new economic instruments such as green certificates and other possibilities such as green innovation vouchers
- 3) To involve more local and regional authorities in international waste policy
- 4) To support international networking.

<http://www.acrplus.org/about-us>

Discussion

Various questions were raised in the general discussion. One participant raised the issue that tele-working and flexible working time could reduce traffic problems and lamented the fact that there seemed to be less emphasis on tele-working than a few years ago.

The role of islands as enclosed test beds of new innovative pilot projects was promoted.

One speaker from the floor noted that a change of mentalities was the key issue and noted that movements such as Transition Towns were unable to obtain grant funding due to their lack of a legal status.

This attention to the bottom up approach involving a variety of stakeholders was then questioned – was there too much talk about ‘governance’ and not enough about ‘government’. Most of the discussion had centred on involving stakeholders and actors, but few people had raised the role of local government and regional parliaments and indeed the Committee of the Regions.

This led to a wider discussion on the role of the Committee of the Regions in raising awareness of what local and regional authorities were doing and how to get the voice of local and regional authorities into the decision chain.

Conclusions by Raymond Van Ermen, EPE Executive Director.

How can we contribute to progress for mankind and for Europe through the Rio 2012+20 process? What would be the conditions in which we could hope for Rio 2012+20 to be a milestone in man’s progress, while people have difficulty in managing the consequences of globalization and we are faced with the need to take the plunge and carry out the major transformation entailed by the economic, demographic, social and ecological context?

The title of the Conference provided for a double theme:

- simultaneous "sharing" in three closely interconnected areas: natural resources, financial resources and knowledge;
- a broad range of innovation, with the territories, regions and cities that can help accelerate the transition acting as levers to create a scale effect.

Sharing natural resources should be based on a plunge into all kinds of technological innovation, business models and patterns of use. There is therefore an essential link to be established with sharing knowledge and innovation. It should also be noted that innovation is no longer North/South, but also South/South and South/North. Such an investment in a low-carbon, resource-efficient society implies a different management of financial resources.

Sharing financial resources goes hand in hand with a moral revolution. The financialization of the economy, with an 80% automation of stock exchange trade orders together with disgraceful salaries and bonuses, clearly raises an ethical issue. The revolt of indignant citizens against the elites that have built up or supported the current unfair, ineffective system, reminiscent of other revolutions in past centuries, is an ethical awakening. Even Jean-Claude Trichet has indicated that he is paying attention to this movement.

In these three areas, “sharing” involves a new cooperation method. Ethical rules within the framework of globalization are of major importance. Ethics and efficiency come together to point to the fact that lying, which is a fairly harmless problem in a small group, becomes a

course in large social organizations such as those we need for organizing “sharing”⁵. This is why the themes of transparency, access to information and empowerment and Environment Social Governance (ESG) monitoring, verification, reporting, rewarding are so important. Brice Lalonde underlined that “ *a collective accountability system needs to be invented*”. While co-operating for this at UN level, we intend to create at EU level a “convergence process” between multiple regulatory and voluntary initiatives related to ‘reporting’ and ‘access to information’ in order to demonstrate at European level that an “*Accord on Market Actors’ Rights and Responsibilities*” on ways to monitor, verify, report and reward can work and will accelerate the transformation process.

With the events generated by the debt and euro crisis, the European Union has lost a great deal of its lustre and international influence in the face of emergent countries. The EU has a number of assets to turn to good account at international level if it can – faster and better than the others – propose new governance models that can foster the sharing of these three types of resources. It is strongly to be feared that the Union’s credibility has been reduced to ashes in the eyes of many of its citizens. Hence the name of the initiative, PHOENIX EUROPE, inspired from a bird’s ability to be reborn from its own ashes: a new form of co-operation between organisations as the conference partners and enlightened policy makers.

Sharing in these three areas (natural resources, finance and knowledge) entails a “positive” vision, or should I say an optimistic vision, in spite of the huge challenges and disasters to be addressed. I would like to propose this positive vision as a desire to grow in two directions: our capacity to manage complex issues, and the human awareness of our interdependency.

In the face of such challenges, the Rio+20 process should be an opportunity for the world and for Europe to create a “new human impetus” which should develop in people’s hearts. It should also be an opportunity for focusing and mobilizing energy on the levers for a “new affluence”, actually created by sharing as well as by the vision of a circular economy, the capacities of the information society and the new business models, including financial ones.

To share this new impetus, this desire for growth, the potentialities for this new affluence, a new mechanism should be created for “sharing ideas, ambitions, problems and resources” on the basis of “two centres of action”, separate and conjoined – the cooperative management of complexity and the growing awareness of the need for human solidarity and a fair transition.

This is why it is becoming so important to take part in a “chain of values”. This is also why EPE, which has a long experience in the field of managing the value chain and mobilizing market actors, has initiated the Conference on behalf of the Resource Efficiency Alliance and with the support of the French Ecology Ministry and Grontmij.

It is no longer enough for us to do what we can on our local patch or in a bilateral dialogue or within the framework of a business/NGO partnership. We must be part of the management of a value chain which is concerned with the upstream and downstream aspects as well as with the weakest link. We are all interdependent and we must learn to manage this interdependency in order to better share out the three types of resources which were the subject of our meeting and create affluence.

⁵ Teilhard de Chardin. *The Future of Man*, chap. 13 “*The human rebound of evolution and its consequences*”, Trad. Norman Denny, Ed. Image Books Doubleday.

3. Co-hosts Dinner December 20. From 1992 to 2012. Passing the Relay

This dinner celebrated the 20th anniversary of the conference *The Roots of the Future* which took place by December 1991 in Paris, an event where 1200 NGO's representatives from all over the world came together to prepare the Rio Conference. It was the first time that such big civil society gathering was taking place to prepare a UN conference. And gave an opportunity to share the experience and lessons between the 1992 and the 2012 processes. "Picture page" of the dinner can be found at <http://gallery.me.com/solutions21#100134>. Here are a few:



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Brice Lalonde: 1992 French Minister of the Environment, 2012 UN Rio+20 Executive Coordinator

Ron Kingham - and Jeannette Mullaart - were the drafter of the 1991 conference conclusions 'The Agenda Ya Wananchi', 2012: Environment & Security Institute



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Geneviève Verbrugge: 1991 French Environment Ministry, European desk officer, 2012 Consultant.

Jeannette Mullaart and
Derek Osborn, President Stakeholders Forum



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Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker

1991 Wuppertal Institute, 2012 Co-Chair UNEP Resource Panel

Raymond Van Ermen 1991 EEB Secretary General, 2012 EPE Executive Director,



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And the Rio+20 2012 generation

Fritz Barth UNDP and Ana-Cristina COSTEA Member of the EESC President's Cabinet



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Leida Rijnhout and Leonardo Rocha, ANPED

Lucy Neal, Transition Towns Movement



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Jeremy Wates, EEB Secretary General

Sandrine Dixson-Declève, Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership



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Tom Vereijken, Director Grontmij (left)

Lionel Platteuw, Executive Director EUCETSA (middle)

Kjetil Ebbesberg, Vice-President Hydro (right)

François Passant, Eurosif (middle)

Cédric Mulier, CDP (right)



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