

ESDN Conference 2024

05 - 06 June

Upgrading Europe: Building Transformative Policies to Reach the Sustainable Development Goals

Draft Agenda

05 - 06 June 2024

Résidence Palace
Wetstraat 155, 1040 Brussels

Organized by the

European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN)
in cooperation with the
Belgian Federal Institute for Sustainable Development
&
The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

Day 1: Wednesday, 05 June 2024

17:30 – 22:30 CEST

Conference Kickoff and Dinner

Résidence Palace

Wetstraat 155, 1040 Brussels

17:30 – 18:30 CEST

Registration & Pre-Conference Networking

Sustainable finger foods and drinks.

18:30 – 19:10 CEST

Conference Kickoff

18:30 – 18:35

ESDN Opening

Marguy Kohnen, ESDN Vice President, Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Biodiversity, Luxembourg

&

Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler, ESDN Vice President, Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Austria

&

Taru Savolainen, ESDN Vice President, Prime Minister's Office, Finland

18:35 – 18:40

Host Welcome

Dieter Vander Beke, ESDN Advisory Board Member, Director of the Federal Institute for Sustainable Development, Belgium

18:40 – 18:55

Achievements of the Commission's Last Term and What Still Needs to be Done for the SDGs

Jutta Urpilainen, EU Commissioner for International Partnerships, Belgium

18:55 – 19:10

Ingredients for Making Sustainable Development Policies Transformative

Peter Schmidt, President of the Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment Section (NAT) at the European Economic and Social Committee, Belgium

19:10 – 19:50 CEST

Session 1: Setting the Stage on Necessary Transformations for Sustainable Development and the SDGs

19:10 – 19:30

Science to Policy - Pathways for Accelerating Transformations

Åsa Persson, Research Director and Deputy Director, Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden, (TBC)

19:30 – 19:50

SDGs for All: Developing Strategic Scenarios

Sandrine Dixson-Declève, Co-President Club of Rome and Project lead for Earth4All, Belgium, (TBC)

20:00 – 22:30 CET

Dinner

Day 2: Thursday, 06 June 2024

08:30 – 09:00 CEST Registration and Networking Coffee

Résidence Palace
Wetstraat 155, 1040 Brussels

09:00 – 09:40 CEST **Welcome and Opening**

09:00 – 09:10

ESDN Welcome

László Borbély, ESDN President, State Counsellor, and National SDG Coordinator, Prime Minister's Office – Department of Sustainable Development, Romania

09:10 – 09:20

Accomplishments of the Belgian EU Council Presidency on Guiding Europe towards Transformations for the SDGs

Wim Schaerlaekens, Chair of the EU Council Working Party on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Belgium

09:20 – 09:30

Society and Transformative Requirements – How does Europe get it right?

Oliver Röpke, President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Belgium

09:30 – 09:40

Moderator Welcome and Conference Overview

Gerald Berger, Conference Moderator

09:40 – 11:40 CEST

Session 2: Ingredients Needed to Sustainably Transform and Upgrade Europe

09:40 – 09:55

Driving Europe Forwards – ESDN Youth Voices on European Transformations

ESDN Youth Network Members, (TBC)

09:55 – 10:10

Enhancing European Governance for Transformative Policies

Patrizia Heidegger, Deputy Secretary General, Director for EU Governance, Sustainability and Global Policies, European Environmental Bureau, Belgium, (TBC)

10:10 – 10:25

Bringing Together all Sectors in Society to Cooperate on the SDGs for Integrated Policymaking

Judith Maas, Director SDG Nederland, Netherlands

10:25 – 10:55 CEST

Coffee Break

10:55 – 11:10	Transformative Capacity of the European Green Deal and its Social Dimension (TBA)
11:10 – 11:25	Transformative Ideas - Ensuring a just share of progress for all Kalina Arabadjieva, Senior Researcher, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI), Belgium
11:25 – 11:40	Sustainable Development Transformations in the Private Sector Jan Noterdaeme, Senior Advisor & Co-Founder of CSR Europe, Belgium, (TBC)
11:40 – 12:15 CEST	Panel Discussion – Discovering the Way Forward
11:40 – 11:50	Questions from the Keynoters to Policymakers
11:50 – 12:15	Policymaker Responses from the ESDN Advisory Board
12:15 – 13:15 CEST	Explaining the “Exchange Spaces” & Lunch
13:15 – 16:45 CEST	Exchange Spaces – Practical Examples in Transformative Policies for Sustainable Development
13:15 – 14:15 CEST	Exchange Space 1 – Government Good Practices
13:15 – 13:45	Round 1
	Table 1: Belgium – Just Transition Process Martine Vandervennet, Federal Institute for Sustainable Development, Belgium
	Table 2: Netherlands’s National Sustainable Development Report – Linking the SDGs to 6 Major Transitions Sandra Pellegrom, ESDN Advisory Board Member, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands
	Table 3: Germany – Addressing Transformation in the National Sustainable Development Strategy Stefan Bauernfeind, ESDN Advisory Board Member, Federal Chancellery, Germany, (TBC)
	Table 4: Flanders -

Heleen Voeten, Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities, VVSG, Belgium, (TBC)

Table 5: Nordic Toolbox - Local level examples of transformative policies

Åsa Hildestrand, Senior Project Manager, Nordregio, Sweden

Table 6: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Representative from the Committee of the Regions (CoR), (TBA)

Table 7: Slovakia - Steering transformative policies for sustainable development from the center of government

Valéria Bankóová, Chief of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Section, Office of the Government, Slovakia

Table 8: Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI-Europe) –

Jasmin Miah, Head of ICLEI's Berlin Office, ICLEI-Europe, Germany, (TBC)

Table 9: Romania - Developing the sustainable development competences of public sector staff

Iris Constantin, Counsellor, Prime Minister's Office – Department of Sustainable Development, Romania

Table 10: Spain

(TBA)

Table 11: Country Example

Table 12: Country Example

13:45 – 14:15

Round 2

Speakers remain at their tables and everyone else switches tables for round 2.

14:15 – 14:45 CEST

Reporting Back from Exchange Space 1

14:45 – 15:45 CEST

Exchange Space 2 – Stakeholder Good Practices

14:45 – 15:15

Round 3

Table 1: International Resource Panel – Dematerialization of the Economy

Hans Bruyninckx, International Resource Panel, Belgium, (TBC)

Table 2: Future Generations

Derek Walker, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, United Kingdom, (TBC)

Table 3: Effect of European Transformative Policies on other World Regions – Global Gateway

Violeta Jelić, EESC Member and General Secretary of the Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts, Croatia, (TBC)

Table 4: Circular Economy

Cillian Lohan, Vice-president NAT Section, European Economic and Social Committee, Belgium

Table 5: Well-Being Economy

Christiny Miller, Institute for Future-fit Economies, Germany, (TBC)

Table 6: Sustainable Food Systems

Gianluca Brunori, University of Pisa - Department of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Italy, (TBC)

Table 7: Transformative Education for Sustainable Development

Zoë Austin, Project Lead on Sustainability Education, Generation Climate Europe, Belgium, (TBC)

Table 8: European Business Roadmap for Just Transition

Andreas Brieger, SME United, Belgium, (TBC)

Table 9: Energy Transition

Adel El Gammal, Secretary General of the European Energy Research Alliance (EERA), Belgium, (TBC)

Table 10: Societal Transformation to Sustainability

Giuseppe Feola, University of Utrecht, Netherlands, (TBC)

Table 11: Transformative Pathways and Levers for Sustainable Development

Meritxell Rota Claret, Advisory Council for Sustainable Development of Catalonia, Spain, (TBC)

Table 12: Institutional Innovation - Accelerating the sustainability transition in times of increased institutional complexity

Philipp Pattberg, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Institute for Environmental Studies, Netherlands, (TBC)

15:15 – 15:45

Round 4

Speakers remain at their tables and everyone else switches tables for round 4.

15:45 – 16:15 CEST

Coffee Break

16:15 – 16:45 CEST

Reporting Back from Exchange Space 2

16:45 – 17:15 CET

ESDN Conference 2024 Closing

16:45 – 16:55

ESDN 2024 – Next Steps

László Borbély, ESDN President, State Counsellor, and National SDG Coordinator, Prime Minister's Office – Department of Sustainable Development, Romania

16:55 – 17:05

Reflections from the European Economic and Social Committee

Peter Schmidt, President of the Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment Section (NAT) at the European Economic and Social Committee, Belgium

17:05 – 17:15

Take Home Messages from the ESDN

Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler, ESDN Vice President, Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Austria
&

Taru Savolainen, ESDN Vice President, Prime Minister's Office, Finland

17:15 CEST

End of ESDN Conference 2024

17:30 – 20:00 CEST

After Conference Reception and Networking

European Economic and Social Committee Headquarters
rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 99-101
1040 Brussels
