

spring alliance

<http://www.springalliance.eu>

Initiated by

European Environmental Bureau

European Trade Union Confederation

Platform of European Social NGOs

Concord [umbrella of national platforms of development NGOs]

[presentation to ESDN 18/6/09]

PURPOSE

To mobilize civil society across Europe

To convince EU's Decisionmakers to change course: from competitiveness and growth to focus on people and planet: creating an EU characterised by sustainable development, in particular respecting nature's carrying capacity and quality of life for all, economic policies that deliver these, and a positive role globally in meeting social and environmental challenges

Specific Targets: New Commission and Spring Summit/neo-Lisbon Strategy

Longer term potential: joint involvement in debates on Financial Perspective 2014-2020 – CAP – Structural Funds, SDS etc.

WORK ON A MANIFESTO

Kick-off Conference 29-30 January

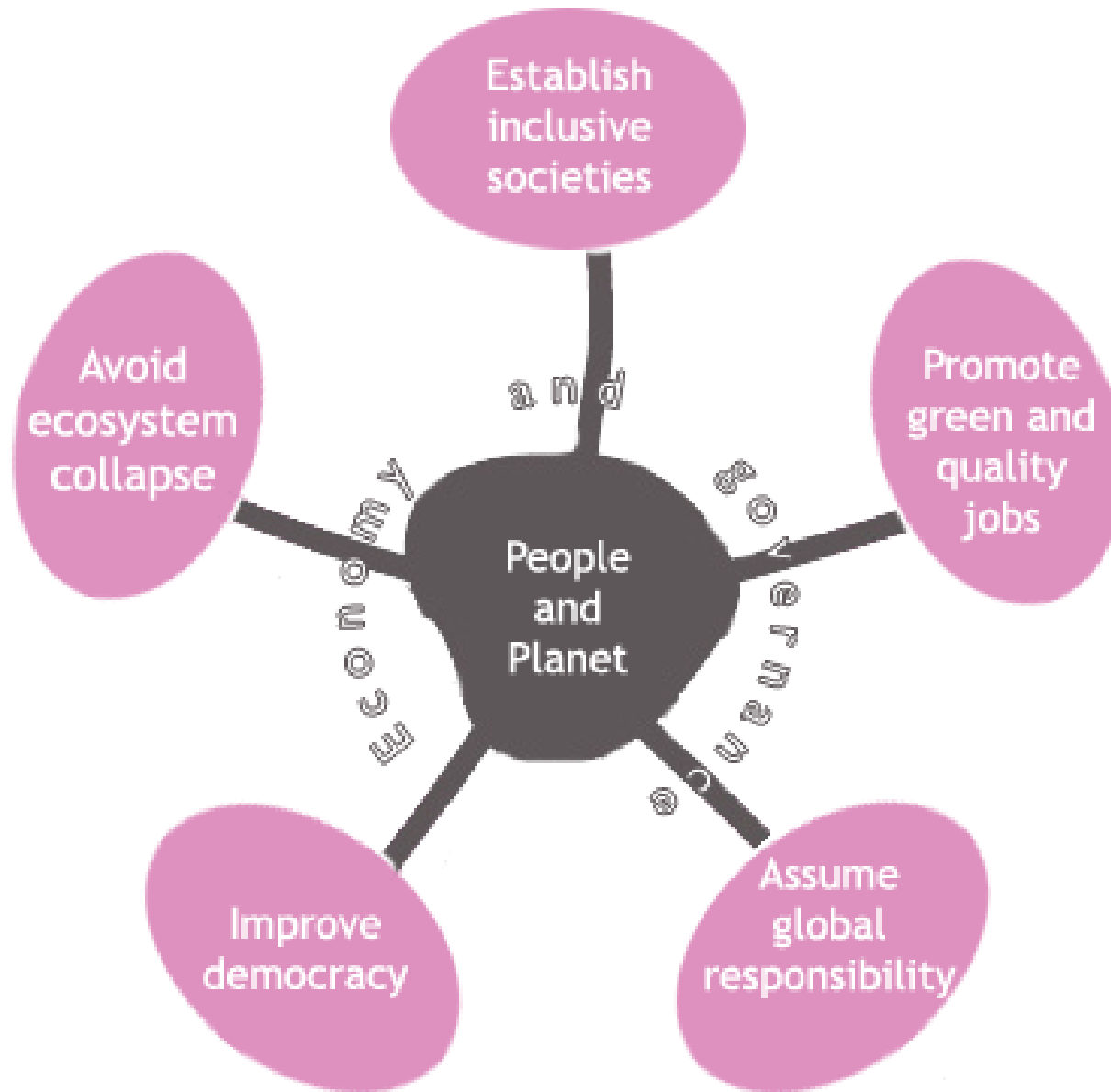
Working Groups/meetings on specific issues (climate/energy, resource use, infrastructures, economic development, tools/instruments, EU budget)

From end April: drafting a Manifesto on basis of Working Groups results

3 June: first official draft Manifesto – input gathering

17 June: Conference to discuss the Manifesto [also with business representatives]

Early July: finalization and subscription by the initiators and other European/national organisations





THE DRAFT MANIFESTO DEMANDS

A. Preserve ecosystem

- 1. Reduce resource use and energy consumption**
- 2. Prevent dangerous climate change**
- 3. Make agriculture and fisheries sustainable**
- 4. Adopt a “Biodiversity Rescue Plan”**

B. Establish inclusive societies

- 5. Reduce inequalities and eradicate poverty**
- 6. Guarantee universal access to essential and public services**
- 7. Combat discrimination and racism and respect migrants and ethnic minorities' rights**

C. Promote green and quality jobs

- 8. Reinforce quality jobs and improve access for all**
- 9. Ensure a just transition to quality jobs, and help workers move into new emerging activities**



THE DRAFT MANIFESTO DEMANDS

D. Assume global responsibility

I0 Reform global governance

I1. Guarantee policy coherence to achieve development goals

I2. Increase and improve development aid

E. Economy and governance

I3. Put in place a new economic strategy

I4. Revise the Better Regulation instruments

F. Improve democracy

I5. Invest in dialogue with European citizens, trade unions and civil society

I6. Improve access to and scrutiny of decision-making

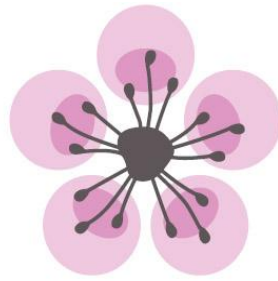
I7. Strengthen the governance of EU strategies and of the Open

Method of Coordination



BIGGEST CHALLENGES

- **Tone: insist on urgency, dramatic change, at the same time want to have influence in current context.**
- **Making the manifesto relevant for national level.**
- **Consensus about ambitious climate policy [the most concrete part of the environmental agenda] in times of rapidly growing unemployment.**
- **Giving the social dimension its proper place/weight: underestimated by environmentalists: the increasing inequalities; the people in our society that cannot cope with today's challenges and/or that are dependent from public services/support;**
- **The mobilisation of business: might buy the environmental dimension, not the social one or international solidarity one.**



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Mid July: Finalized Manifesto

- 25 July: presentation at Informal Environmental Ministers Council
- 28 September: Conference in Brussels, debate with EU decisionmakers and others (Barroso, Olofson?,)
- Autumn: setting up national Spring Alliance support platforms – for debate with national governments, MP, MEPs
- Autumn: SDS and eco-efficient economy conclusions in Councils
- Approach individual (nominated Commissioners)
- Possibly: conference early 2010: Copenhagen Summit and consequences for the new Lisbon Strategy.