

ESDN Conference - Table thoughts from day one, evening

Government and Policies

- Citizens are not customers, but owners of the res publica (public goods and institutions)
- Roadmap for DE growth: How to convince politicians? Start with changing thinking of voters/public. Distinction between countries needing growth and those that don't
Define resource limits (planetary/boundaries). Need for more scientific research.
- Measures and good monitoring of SD policies!
Act quickly!
- Action – Shift from political debate to implementation
- Credible Governance structures to ensure that strategy's objectives are put into action, including monitoring via indicators.
- Strong and binding targets for the resource efficiency roadmap and resource policies in general.
- More direct links within trade policies. More holistic approach even within environmental sector (still too much "silo" thinking, for example CO2 etc.). Leave room for innovations (not too strict guidelines since you cannot know what kinds of innovations you are going to have in five years.
- Awareness raising is important and long term thinking and decisions (also for politicians)

Economics

- Business is key: public/ private partnerships need to be developed as new business models. Broaden the network base of ESDN (not only env. officials, also other departments and business)
- Raise public awareness, information tools for consumers
- The GDP decoupled or not must grow in the current unsustainable economic system. We recommended to put more emphasis on the basic driving force at the GDP growth and the money system.
- Green and social tax reform.
- Government in Driver's seat: Eg. Regulate innovation framework for business, long and short term transparency.
- Social dimension missing- human capital is also an issue: rich versus poor, quality of jobs, development versus growth.

Others

- The rise of efficiency is important but not enough: it is also necessary for the limitation of the use of resources (material inputs)
- Broad education: communication aimed at people's motivation traits to change attitude and behavior.
- Introduce resource cap.
- Sustainable public procurement. (J.F.D.I. – just focus and do it!)