

Rio+20 and its implications for Sustainable Development Policy at the EU and national level

European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN)
in cooperation with the Danish EU Presidency

ESDN Conference 2012

28-29 June 2012 in Copenhagen, Denmark

[Conference Programme](#)

Venue:

Mogens Dahl Koncertsal
Snorresgade 22, 2300 Copenhagen, Denmark

Wednesday, 27 June 2012

15:00 – 18:00 **RESPONDER Workshop on linking sustainable consumption and growth debates – for interested policy-makers**
(RESPONDER is a research project, funded under FP7, and closely related to ESDN)
Danish Ministry of the Environment, Børsgade 4, Copenhagen

18:00 – 19:30 **ESDN Steering Group – internal meeting**
Danish Ministry of the Environment, Børsgade 4, Copenhagen

19:30 **Welcome Reception for conference participants: Celebrating 10 years of ESDN**
Danish Ministry of Environment, Børsgade 4, Copenhagen

Welcome addresses by

- *Søren Søndergaard Kjær, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Danish Ministry of the Environment*
- *Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director, European Environment Agency*
- *Elisabeth Freytag & Wolfram Tertschnig, ESDN Co-chairs*

Conference moderator: Peter Woodward (Quest Associates, UK)

Thursday, 28 June 2012

08:30 **Registration**

09:00 – 09:30 **Introduction**

09:00 **Welcome address**
Søren Søndergaard Kjær, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Danish Ministry of the Environment

09:15 **Objectives of the Conference**
Elisabeth Freytag & Wolfram Tertschnig, ESDN Co-chairs, Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

09:30 – 10:45 **Session 1: 20 years of UNCSD and growing socio-economic challenges in Europe**

09:30 **From Rio to Rio+20 – The ongoing challenge of integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in Europe**

William M. Lafferty, ProSus Perspectives, Norway

09:50 **Euro/debt crises, growing imbalances and social ruptures in Europe – a critical perspective in the context of sustainable development**

Stephan Schulmeister, Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO)

10:10 **Q&A Session**

10:45 – 11:15 **Coffee Break**

11:15 – 13:00 **Session 2: Rio+20 results and their implications**

11:15 **Overview on results of Rio+20 – UN Conference on Sustainable Development: Green Economy, Institutional Framework and renewing commitment for SD, SG Goals**

Chris Vanden Bilcke, Head of the UNEP Liaison Office to the EU

11:35 **Implications of Rio+20 results – perspectives from stakeholder involvement and SD councils**

Inge Paulini, Secretary-General, German Advisory Council on Global Change

11:50 **Implications of Rio+20 results – perspectives from the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)**

Richard Adams, EESC Member and Vice-President of the Sustainable Development Observatory

12:05 **Plenary discussion: Implications of the Rio+20 results in times of socio-economic challenges and current crises**

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00 **Break-out session: Eurostat’s Rio+20 Guidebook “Figures for the Future”**

Markus Hametner, Vienna University of Economics and Business & Viktoria Bolla, Eurostat

14:30 – 18:30 **Session 3: Working groups – in-depth discussion of Rio+20 results & current crises and their implications for SD**

14:30 **Introduction of session objectives and working group format**
Conference moderator

14:45 **Working Group discussions:**
In-depth discussion of Rio+20 results, the current crises and their implication for SD in Europe
Parallel working groups on three topics:

Working Group 1	Working Group 2	Working Group 3
<p><i>Rio+20 results on Green Economy</i></p> <p>Flashlight presentation: Chris Vanden Bilcke (UNEP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links between the concepts of Green Economy and SD (similarities, differences, etc.) • Role of different stakeholders in Green Economy (UN, EU, Member States, businesses, academia, NGO, etc.) • Relationship between SD strategies and Green Economy strategies 	<p><i>Institutional reforms and SD governance after Rio+20</i></p> <p>Flashlight presentation: William M. Lafferty (ProSus)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications for SD governance in general (political commitment, policy coherence, participation, etc.) • Cooperation between the EU and its Member States on SD strategy processes (EU SDS/NSDSs) • SD Goals: elaboration process, specification of objectives, indicators/monitoring 	<p><i>Euro, debt crises and their implications for SD in Europe</i></p> <p>Flashlight presentation: Stephan Schulmeister (WIFO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current crises and what they imply for SD • Social and economic imbalances, social challenges – what solutions can SD offer? • How to best address the relationship between financial markets and SD?

16:15 – 16:45 **Coffee break**

16:45 **Presentation of the Working Group results**
Rapporteurs from each Working Group

17:15 **Panel discussion: Implications of Rio+20 results – including issues such as political commitment, policy integration, institutional challenges, participation, evaluation/monitoring**

Discussants:

- *Chris Vanden Bilcke, Head of the UNEP Liaison Office to the EU*
- *Henrik Hagen Olesen, Chief Adviser, Danish Ministry of the Environment*
- *Wolfram Tertchnig, ESDN co-chair*

Incl. plenary discussion

18:15 – 18:30

Project update and results: Sustainable consumption in Europe - RESPONDER and CORPUS & their link to the ESDN

André Martinuzzi & Gerald Berger (ESDN Office & Research Institute for Managing Sustainability, Vienna University of Economics and Business)

18:30

End of day 1

19:00 – 22:00

Evening Programme & Conference Dinner

19:00 Tour of the Copenhagen harbour and canals (departing from Islands Brygge)

20:15 Conference Dinner at Mogens Dahl Koncertsal (conference venue)

Friday, 29 June 2012

09:30 – 10:30 **Session 4: Rio+20 and its implications: Future needs and challenges**

09:30 **After Rio+20: Future needs and remaining challenges – Perspectives on SD for the next generations**

Alan AtKisson, International Policy Advisor, AtKisson Group Stockholm

09:50 **Q & A Session**

10:00 **Future challenges after the Rio+20 Conference**

Ida Auken, Danish Minister for the Environment

10:20 **Q & A Session**

10:30 **Future needs and challenges for sustainable development at the EU and national level in the context of Rio+20**

Interactive format

11:30 – 11:45 ***Coffee break***

11:45 – 13:00 **Session 5: Recommendations for implementing Rio+20 results**

11:45 **Final panel discussion: Recommendations for implementing Rio+20 on the ground & implications for SD policy**

- *Elisabeth Freytag, ESDN Co-chair*
- *Evelina Stamouli & Angeliki Boura, representatives of the incoming Cyprus EU Presidency*

Incl. plenary discussion

12:30 **ESDN Conference 2012: Emerging issues, expected challenges and further steps to be taken by the ESDN**

ESDN Steering Group & plenary discussion

13:00 **Conference Closure, followed by buffet lunch**