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

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*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
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session 1: 20 years of UNCSD and growing socio-economic challenges in Europe</th>
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| 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* |
**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:*

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<tr>
<th>Working Group 1</th>
<th>Working Group 2</th>
<th>Working Group 3</th>
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| **Rio+20 results on Green Economy**  
*Flashlight presentation: Chris Vanden Bilcke (UNEP)*  
- 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 | **Institutional reforms and SD governance after Rio+20**  
*Flashlight presentation: William M. Lafferty (ProSus)*  
- 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 | **Euro, debt crises and their implications for SD in Europe**  
*Flashlight presentation: Stephan Schulmeister (WIFO)*  
- 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 Tertschnig, ESDN co-chair*

*Incl. plenary discussion*
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| 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) |
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session 4: Rio+20 and its implications: Future needs and challenges</th>
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| 09:30 – 10:30 | After Rio+20: Future needs and remaining challenges – Perspectives on SD for the next generations  
Alan AtKisson, International Policy Advisor, AtKisson Group Stockholm |
| 09:30      | 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

Friday, 29 June 2012