A renewed policy framework for sustainable development –
The international SD agenda and its impact on Europe

European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN)
in cooperation with the
Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea

ESDN Conference 2014

6-7 November 2014, Rome, Italy

Conference Programme

Venue:
Palazzo Colonna, Galleria del Cardinale
Piazza dei Santi Apostoli, 66, 00187 Rome
www.galleriacolonna.it
(Entrance for participant: Via della Pilotta 17)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30-09:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>09:00-09:30</strong></td>
<td><strong>Opening and orientation</strong></td>
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<td>09:00-09:15</td>
<td>Welcome address by the Italian EU Presidency</td>
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<td>Silvia Velo, Under-Secretary, Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea</td>
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<td>09:15-09:30</td>
<td>Welcome addresses by the ESDN on objectives of the conference</td>
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<td>Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler &amp; Wolfram Tertschnig, ESDN Co-chairs, Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:30-11:00</td>
<td><strong>Session 1: International sustainable development agenda</strong></td>
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<td>09:30-10:00</td>
<td>The UN post-2015 agenda for sustainable development – status and way forward</td>
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<td>Michele Candotti, Chief of the Executive Office of UNEP &amp;</td>
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<td>Raphaël Dang, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs &amp; International Development and member of the UN Open Working Group on SDGs</td>
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<td>10:00-10:15</td>
<td>The role of civil society in the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<td>Farooq Ullah, Executive Director, Stakeholder Forum</td>
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<td>10:15-10:30</td>
<td>The international SD agenda and its political dimensions</td>
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<td>Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou, Member of the Hellenic Parliament &amp;</td>
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<td>Chair of the Committee of UN Affairs of the Inter-Parliamentary Union</td>
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<td>10:30-11:00</td>
<td><strong>Moderated discussion:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>What new policy issues and opportunities emerge from the international SD agenda for Europe?</strong></td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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**11:30-13:15 Session 2: Impacts of the international SD agenda on Europe**

**11:30-11:45**
The Italian EU Presidency’s agenda for addressing international SD issues – SDGs and their impact on European SD policy frameworks  
*Paolo Soprano, Director, Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea*

**11:45-12:00**
The EU’s strategic SD frameworks in response to the international SD agenda – What is the impact on SD governance and Greening the Semester?  
*Louis Meuleman, Coordinator European Semester, DG Environment, European Commission*

**12:00-12:15**
Basic elements for a comprehensive SDG monitoring framework – Experiences from assessing Sustainable Development Indicators in Europe  
*Fritz Gebhard, Eurostat*

**12:15-12:30**
The role of SD indicators in measuring progress towards sustainable development issues  
*Fabiola Riccardini, Italian National Institute of Statistics – ISTAT*

**12:30-13:15**
Working group session:  
*How to best coordinate the policy process and facilitate dialogue on SD issues on the UN-EU-Member State triangle?*  
*What is the role of the EU in steering European and national SDG implementation?*  
Interactive group work

**13:15 – 14:15 Lunch break**

**14:15-14:30 Session 2 (cont.): Impacts of the international SD agenda on Europe**

**14:15-14:30**
Reports from the working groups:  
*How to best coordinate the policy process and facilitate dialogue on SD issues on the UN-EU-Member State triangle?*  
*What is the role of the EU in steering European and national SDG implementation?*  
*Incl. plenary discussion*
14:30-16:00 **Session 3: Involving societal stakeholders in addressing international SD issues in Europe**

14:30-14:45 **The role and involvement assigned to businesses in the post-2015 process**

*Marialuisa Saviano, Vice-President, Italian Association for Sustainability Science (IASS), Italy*

14:45-15:15 **SDGs and post-2015 in the European Union – the CSO perspective**

*Staffan Nilsson, Member European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the EESC’s SD Observatory &
Massimo Pallottino, Concorde Italy/GCAP*

15:15-15:30 **Involving societal stakeholders in a national SD strategy process – the Finnish ‘Society’s Commitment for SD’**

*Sauli Rouhinen, Ministry of Environment, Finland*

15:30-16:00 **Moderated discussion:**

*How can we best involve societal stakeholders in European SD processes (e.g. SDGs)? What is required to create effective stakeholder involvement?*

16:00 **Coffee break**

16:15-18:00 **Session 4: Governance for SD in Europe**

16:15-17:15 **Panel discussion on the governance for sustainable development in Europe in light of the new international developments (i.e. post-2015, SDGs)**

- Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler, ESDN Steering Group, Austria
- Silvia Donato, Policy Analyst Climate Action and Resource Efficiency, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission
- Staffan Nilsson, Member European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the EESC’s SD Observatory
- Miranda Schreurs, Professor at the Free University of Berlin and Chair of the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC)

17:15-17:30 **Resume of day 1**

*Paolo Soprano, Director, Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea*
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| 17:30-18:00 | Announcement of the European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW)  
Stefan Bauernfeind, German Federal Chancellery; Stéphane Bernaudon, French Ministry of Sustainable Development & Wolfram Tertschnig, Austrian Ministry of Environment |
| 18:00   | End of day 1                                                                              |
| 18:15-19:00 | Guided walking tour through the Roman Forum (starts at venue, ends at the restaurant of the Conference Diner) |
| 19:00-22:00 | Conference Dinner  
Hotel Forum, Via Tor Dè Conti, 25-30, 00184 Rome  
[www.hotelforum.com](http://www.hotelforum.com)  
19:00 Welcome Cocktail, followed by Conference Dinner |
09:00-11:00  **Session 5: New challenges for national SD strategies in the context of current socio-economic/environmental challenges and international SD issues**

09:00-09:15  National SD strategy process in Southern and Eastern Europe in the context of current socio-economic and environmental challenges  
_Umberto Pisano & Katrin Lepuschitz, ESDN Office at the Institute for Managing Sustainability_

09:15-10:15  NSDSs as tools for addressing current socio-economic/environmental challenges and international SD issues – practical experiences from Southern and Eastern European countries:  
- **The Spanish NSDS experience**  
  _Fernando Díe Ortega, Cabinet of the State Secretary for Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Spain_
- **The review of Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development**  
  _Atila Uras, Programme Officer, United Nations Environment Programme_
- **The NSDS experiences in Estonia and Slovakia**  
  _Eili Lepik, Strategy Office, State Chancellery of Estonia & František Koločány, Cross-Cutting Priorities Department, Slovak Republic Government Office_
- **CBSS-Baltic 21 Strategy on Sustainable Development 2010-2015**  
  _Krista Kampus, Senior Adviser & Head Baltic 21 Unit, Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat (CBSS)_

Incl. Q&A

10:15-11:00  **Working group session:**  
Are the NSDSs effective tools for addressing current socio-economic/environmental challenges as well as SDGs?  
What is their added-value, what is still needed?  
Interactive group work

11:00  **Coffee break**
**11:30-12:00 Session 5 cont.: New challenges for national SD strategies in the context of current socio-economic/environmental challenges and international SD issues**

**11:30-12:00** Reports from the working groups:

*Are the NSDSs effective tools for addressing current socio-economic/environmental challenges as well as SDGs?*

*What is their added-value, what is still needed?*

*Incl. plenary discussion*

**12:00-13:15 Session 6: Making NSDSs ‘fit for purpose’**

**12:00-13:00** Panel discussion on how to make NSDSs ‘fit for purpose’ regarding current socio-economic/environmental challenges and international SD issues

- Wolfram Tertschnig, ESDN Steering Group, Austria
- Paolo Soprano, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy
- František Koločány, Cross-Cutting Priorities Department, Slovak Republic Government Office
- Sauli Rouhinen, Ministry of the Environment, Finland
- Stefan Bauernfeind, Federal Chancellery, Germany

**13:00-13:15** Reflection on the conference and next steps

*Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler & Wolfram Tertschnig, ESDN Co-chairs, Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management*

**13:15** Conference Closure