

# ESDN Conference 2024

05 - 06 June

## Upgrading Europe: Building Transformative Policies to Reach the Sustainable Development Goals

### Agenda

05 - 06 June 2024

Résidence Palace  
Wetstraat 155, 1040 Brussels

Organized by the

European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN)  
in cooperation with the  
Belgian Federal Institute for Sustainable Development  
&  
The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

## Day 1: Wednesday, 05 June 2024

17:30 – 22:30 CEST

### Conference Kickoff and Dinner

Résidence Palace - Wetstraat 155, 1040 Brussels

17:30 – 18:30 CEST

### Registration & Pre-Conference Networking

Sustainable finger foods and drinks.

18:30 – 19:10 CEST

### Conference Kickoff

18:30 – 18:40

#### ESDN Opening

**Marguy Kohnen**, Former ESDN Vice President, Luxembourg  
&

**Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler**, ESDN Vice President, Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Austria

18:40 – 18:50

#### Host Welcome

**Dieter Vander Beke**, ESDN Advisory Board Member, Director of the Federal Institute for Sustainable Development, Belgium

18:50 – 19:05

#### Ingredients for Making Sustainable Development Policies Transformative

**Peter Schmidt**, President of the Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment Section (NAT) at the European Economic and Social Committee, Germany

19:05 – 19:10

#### Moderator Welcome and Conference Overview

**Gerald Berger**, Conference Moderator

19:10 – 20:00 CEST

### Session 1: Setting the Stage on Necessary Transformations for Sustainable Development and the SDGs

19:10 – 19:35

#### Science to Policy - Pathways for Accelerating Transformations

**Åsa Persson**, Research Director and Deputy Director, Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden (virtual)

19:35 – 20:00

#### SDGs for All: Developing Strategic Scenarios

**Sandrine Dixson-Declève**, Co-President Club of Rome and Project lead for Earth4All, Belgium

20:00 – 22:30 CET

### Dinner

## Day 2: Thursday, 06 June 2024

08:30 – 09:00 CEST Registration and Networking Coffee

**Résidence Palace - Wetstraat 155, 1040 Brussels**

09:00 – 09:40 CEST **Welcome and Opening**

09:00 – 09:10 **ESDN Welcome**

**László Borbély**, ESDN President, State Counsellor, and National SDG Coordinator, Prime Minister's Office – Department of Sustainable Development, Romania

09:10 – 09:20 **Achievements of the Commission's Last Term and What Still Needs to be Done for the SDGs**

**Jutta Urpilainen**, EU Commissioner for International Partnerships, Belgium

09:20 – 09:30 **Society and Transformative Requirements – How does Europe get it right?**

**Oliver Röpkke**, President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Austria

09:30 – 09:40 **Accomplishments of the Belgian EU Council Presidency on Guiding Europe towards Transformations for the SDGs**

**Wim Schaerlaekens**, Chair of the EU Council Working Party on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Belgium

09:40 – 11:40 CEST **Session 2: Ingredients Needed to Sustainably Transform and Upgrade Europe**

09:40 – 09:55 **Future Forward: ESDN Youth Network Insights on Europe's Key Issues**

**David Esatia**, ESDN Youth Network Member, Georgia

&

**Elisabeth Hosszu**, ESDN Youth Network Member, Belgium

&

**Lukáš Švaňa**, ESDN Youth Network Member, Slovakia

09:55 – 10:10 **Enhancing Governance for a more Resilient Europe**

**Patrizia Heidegger**, Deputy Secretary General, Director for EU Governance, Sustainability and Global Policies, European Environmental Bureau, Belgium

10:10 – 10:25 **Bringing Together all Sectors in Society to Cooperate on the SDGs for Integrated Policymaking**

**Judith Maas**, Director SDG Nederland, Netherlands

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10:25 – 10:55 CEST      Coffee Break

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10:55 – 11:10      **Nordic Voluntary Subnational Review – The local level as a driver for transformational change**  
**Åsa Hildestrand**, Senior Project Manager for Nordic VSR, Nordregio, Sweden

11:10 – 11:25      **Transformative Ideas - Ensuring a just share of progress for all**  
**Kalina Arabadjieva**, Senior Researcher, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI), Belgium

11:25 – 11:40      **Sustainable Development Transformations in the Private Sector**  
**Jan Noterdaeme**, Senior Advisor & Co-Founder of CSR Europe, Belgium

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11:40 – 12:15 CEST      **Panel Discussion – Discovering the Way Forward**

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11:40 – 11:50      **Questions from the Keynoters to Policymakers**

11:50 – 12:15      **Policymaker Responses from the ESDN Advisory Board**

**László Borbély**, ESDN President, State Counsellor, and National SDG Coordinator, Prime Minister’s Office – Department of Sustainable Development, Romania

**Daniel Dubas**, ESDN Advisory Board Member, Delegate of the Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda, Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE), Switzerland

**Sandra Pellegrom**, ESDN Advisory Board Member, National Coordinator for the Sustainable Development Goals, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands

**Serafin Groebner**, ESDN Advisory Board Member, Deputy Head of Department for Sustainable Development, Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Austria

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12:15 – 13:15 CEST      Explaining the “Exchange Spaces” & Lunch

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13:15 – 16:45 CEST **Exchange Spaces – Practical Examples in Transformative Policies for Sustainable Development**

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13:15 – 14:15 CEST **Exchange Space 1 – Government Good Practices**

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13:15 – 13:45

## **Round 1**

### **Table 1: Belgium – Just Transition Process**

**Martine Vandervennet**, Federal Institute for Sustainable Development, Belgium

### **Table 2: Germany – Addressing Transformation in the National Sustainable Development Strategy**

**Christina Fischer**, ESDN Advisory Board Member, Federal Chancellery, Germany

### **Table 3: Italy – Localizing the SDGs through policy coherence for sustainable development**

**Andrea Innamorati**, Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry for the Environment and Energy Security, Italy

### **Table 4: Latvia – Transformative Power of Culture in Sustainable Development**

**Baiba Murniece**, Deputy Head of the Department of Culture Policy, Ministry of Culture, Latvia

&

**Māra Sīmane**, State Chancellery - Cross Sectoral Coordination Department, Latvia

### **Table 5: Malta – Process of SDG budget alignment**

**Francine Pace Caruana**, Director of Sustainable Development, Ministry for the Environment, Energy & Regeneration of the Grand Harbour, Malta

### **Table 6: Netherlands – National Sustainable Development Report – Linking the SDGs to 6 Major Transitions**

**Sandra Pellegrom**, ESDN Advisory Board Member and National SDG Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands

### **Table 7: Romania – Upskilling public sector staff as sustainable development experts towards more transformative policies**

**Iris Constantin**, Counsellor, Prime Minister's Office – Department of Sustainable Development, Romania

### **Table 8: Slovakia – Steering transformative policies for sustainable development from the center of government**

**Valéria Bankóová**, Chief of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Section, Office of the Government, Slovakia

**Table 9: Flanders - Local policy planning aligned with the SDGs: the momentum of local elections in Flanders**

**Heleen Voeten**, Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities, VVSG, Belgium

**Table 10: The Finnish view on Nordic VSR and the Nordic Toolbox - Localisation and transformative policies, case: the City of Turku**

**Eveliina Kiema-Majanen**, Senior Advisor, Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, Finland

&

**Noora Orvasto**, Senior Advisor, Turku City Government, Finland

**Table 11: Circular Economy**

**Cillian Lohan**, Vice-president NAT Section, European Economic and Social Committee, Ireland

13:45 – 14:15

**Round 2**

Speakers remain at their tables and everyone else switches tables for round 2.

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14:15 – 14:45 CEST

**Reporting Back from Exchange Space 1**

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14:45 – 15:15 CEST

Coffee Break

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15:15 – 16:15 CEST

**Exchange Space 2 – Stakeholder Good Practices**

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15:15 – 15:45

**Round 3**

**Table 1: International Resource Panel – Dematerialization of the Economy**

**Hans Bruyninckx**, International Resource Panel, Belgium

**Table 2: Future Generations Commissioner for Wales**

**Marie Brousseau-Navarro**, Deputy Commissioner and Director for Health, Office of the Future Generations Commissioner, United Kingdom

**Table 3: Spillover Effects and Transformative Policies**

**Bernhard Zlanabitnig**, Vice President, European Environmental Bureau, Austria

&

**Alexandra Gerasimcikova**, Head of Policy and Advocacy, Counter Balance, Belgium

### **Table 4: EU Green and Social Deal Based on the Wellbeing-Economy**

**Maria Nikolopoulou**, Vice President of the NAT Section, European Economic and Social Committee, Spain

### **Table 5: Sustainable Food Systems**

**Andreas Thurner**, Member of European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and Head of the EU and International Relations Unit of the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture, Austria

### **Table 6: Transformative Education for Sustainable Development**

**Erika Somlyay**, Policy and Project Officer, Lifelong Learning Platform, Belgium

### **Table 7: European Business Roadmap for Just Transition**

**Florian Schmalz**, Senior Policy Advisor for Sustainability, Eurochambres, Belgium

### **Table 8: Energy Transition**

**Adel El Gammal**, Secretary General of the European Energy Research Alliance (EERA), Belgium

### **Table 9: Transformational Tools for Civil Society Participation**

**Violeta Jelić**, EESC Member and General Secretary of the Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts, Belgium

### **Table 10: Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships as a Lever to Achieve the SDGs**

**Meritxell Rota Claret**, Advisory Council for Sustainable Development of Catalonia, Spain

### **Table 11: Just transformations: How cities integrate justice and sustainability**

**Matthew Bach**, Head of Justice, Equity and Democracy, ICLEI-Europe, Germany

15:45 – 16:15

## **Round 4**

**Speakers remain at their tables and everyone else switches tables for round 4.**

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16:15 – 16:45 CEST

## **Reporting Back from Exchange Space 2**

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16:45 – 17:15 CET

## ESDN Conference 2024 Closing

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16:45 – 16:55

### ESDN 2024 – Next Steps

**László Borbély**, ESDN President, State Counsellor, and National SDG Coordinator, Prime Minister's Office – Department of Sustainable Development, Romania

16:55 – 17:05

### Reflections from the European Economic and Social Committee

**Peter Schmidt**, President of the Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment Section (NAT) at the European Economic and Social Committee, Belgium

17:05 – 17:15

### Take Home Messages from the ESDN

**Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler**, ESDN Vice President, Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Austria  
&

**Taru Savolainen**, ESDN Vice President, Prime Minister's Office, Finland

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17:15 CEST

## End of ESDN Conference 2024

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17:30 – 20:00 CEST

### After Conference Reception and Networking

European Economic and Social Committee Headquarters  
rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 99-101  
1040 Brussels

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