

Final call 2030 Agenda –

The last EU political mandate to reach the Sustainable Development Goals



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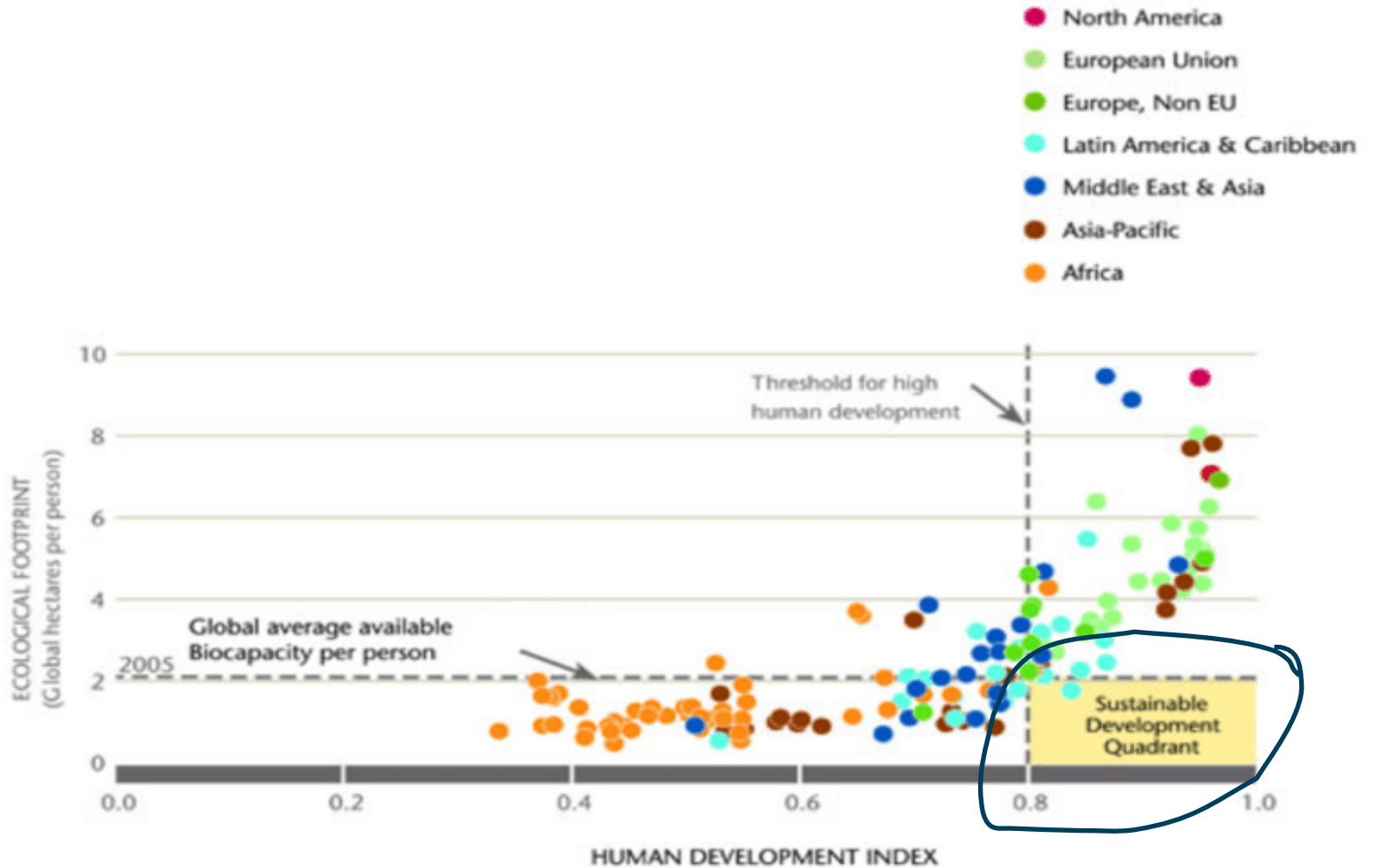
Patrizia Heidegger, 6 June 2024

Overview of EU progress towards the SDGs over the past 5 years, 2023 (Data mainly refer to 2016–2021 or 2017–2022)



- Most indicators show **only moderate progress**, that is, the EU will not reach the SDGs by 2030.
- **Climate Action and Life on Land show a negative trend**, that is, two core areas the EGD is meant to deliver on. **Partnership for the Goals** also shows a negative trend.
- **‘Significant progress’ needs to be questioned.** What are the indicators used and how is significant progress defined?
- **Poverty:** 20% still at risk of poverty. **10% in work poverty.** **Wealth distribution** is more and more unequal: top 10% own 67%, bottom 50% just above 1%. **Homelessness not accounted for.**

Human Development Index and Ecological Footprint





What happened ...

- SDGs defined as **collective responsibility**, responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the SDGs lies with the **Commissioner for the Economy**.
- **Commitment in the Political Guidelines** to the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.
- **European Green Deal** as key instrument to implement the SDGs.
- Promise to **mainstream SDGs in the European Semester**.
- Commitment to **whole of government approach**.
- **European Voluntary Review** in 2023



but ...

- Political Guidelines and European Green Deal **not based on a Sustainable Development Strategy.**
- **Missing leadership** on the SDGs, governance not able to avoid incoherence.
- **Focus** on decarbonisation in the EU, (economic) impacts of the pandemic, security and defense **instead of a holistic policy mix.**
- **Lack of transformative policies** on **social justice and equality** and **economic transition.**
- Missing **global justice perspective** and **persistent negative externalities.**
- **Backsliding** on zero pollution and nature protection.
- Return of **short-termism** and **interest group politics** undermining the SDGs.
- **Weak public participation** and civil society engagement.



What is needed

- **Political leadership** for the SDGs and 2030 Agenda from the Commission President, stronger governance for policy coherence on sustainable development.
- **Sustainable Development Strategy** to guide all EU policies.
- **A European Pact for the Future – A green and social deal for a one planet economy. Ambitious package that integrates** environmental, social and economic policies in a **holistic policy mix**.
- Policies that fully address the **triple planetary crisis**.
- **Transformative policies** that address root causes of inequalities and that allow for social innovation.
- **Meaningful engagement of civil society** while reducing influencing of sectoral lobby groups over public interest matters. **Innovations in participatory democracy**.



Question

« Are you supporting a **strong follow up to the European Green Deal, a more holistic European Pact for the Future, including a Sustainable Development Strategy** to accelerate transformative policies for 2030 and beyond? »



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