

# **ESDN Conference**

# **2026**

02 October

## **Environmental Security in Europe: Building the Foundations of Long-Term Resilience**

### **Draft Agenda**

**02 October 2026**

**Tom Johnson House  
(Ground Floor)**

**Haddington Road, Dublin 4, D04 K7X4**

**Organized by the**

**European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN)**

**in cooperation with the**

**Irish Department of Climate, Energy and the  
Environment**

**This event is recognized as an Associated Event of the  
Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

08:30 – 09:00 BST Conference Registration and Networking

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09:00 – 09:30 BST **Welcome and Opening**

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09:00 – 09:10 **ESDN Opening**

**Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler**, ESDN President, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management, Austria

09:10 – 09:20 **Host Welcome**

**Fiona McManus**, Assistant Principal - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Team, Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment - EU, International & Marine Affairs Division, Ireland

09:20 – 09:30 **Overview of the Day**

**Gerald Berger**, Moderator

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09:30 – 10:45 BST **Session 1: How can multilateral environment and climate policy succeed in building resilience and support peace and security during turbulent times**

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09:30 – 09:45 **Keynote**

**David Donoghue**, Former Irish Ambassador to the UN and co-facilitator for the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, Ireland

09:45 – 10:00 **The Environmental Crisis as a Shared European Security Risk**

**Emma Hakala**, Leading Researcher, Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Finland (online)

10:00 – 10:15 **Building Europe's Resilience in an Unstable World**

**Serafin Groebner**, Seconded National Expert - Circular Economy, European Environment Agency, Denmark

10:15 – 10:45 **Panel Discussion**

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10:45 – 10:50 BST **Junk Kouture**

**Troy Armour**, CEO and Founder Junk Kouture, Monaco

10:50 – 11:15 BST **Coffee Break**

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11:15 – 12:45 BST **Exchange Space 1: Building the Foundations for Long-Term Resilience**

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11:15 – 12:00 **Round 1**

## **Topic 1: Just and Green Transition**

### **Table 1: Ireland – Just Transition Commission**

**Ali Sheridan**, Chair, Just Transition Commission, Ireland

### **Table 2: Spain – National Strategy for Sustainable Development**

**Alba Villamor**, Deputy Assistant Director, Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and 2030 Agenda, Spain

### **Table 3: Wales – Just Transition Framework**

**Robert Morgan**, Head of Decarbonisation, Welsh Government - Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability, Wales

## **Topic 2: Circular Economy**

### **Table 4: Ireland's Circular Economy Strategy**

**Bernie Kiely**, Principal Officer - Circular Economy Division, Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, Ireland

### **Table 5: Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform**

**Maria Nikolopoulou**, President – Sustainable Development Observatory, European Economic and Social Committee, Spain

## **Topic 3: Citizen & Stakeholder Engagement**

### **Table 6: The most sustainable way of building engagement - Should it be from the ground up or top down?**

**Niall McGuirk**, Coordinator, Coalition 2030, Ireland

### **Table 7: ESDN Youth Workshop 2026 & Resilience 2.0**

**Pedro Sereno**, ESDN Youth Representative, Portugal

&

**Martina Doubková**, ESDN Youth Member, Czechia

## **Topic 4: Environment , Climate, and Biodiversity**

### **Table 8: Irish Environmental Protection Agency**

**Mary Frances Rochford**, Programme Manager, Environmental Protection Agency, Ireland

### **Table 9: Climate action as a litmus test: Will the climate crisis strengthen or challenge democracy?**

**Florian Eywo**, Policy Officer, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management, Austria

&

**Katja Hummer**, ESDN Advisory Board Member, Policy Officer, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management, Austria

12:00 – 12:45

## Round 2

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

12:45 – 13:05

## Reporting Back from the Exchange Space Tables

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13:05 – 13:50 BST

Light Lunch

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13:50 – 15:40 BST

## Exchange Space 2: Building the Foundations for Long-Term Resilience

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13:50 – 14:35

## Round 1

### Topic 1: Just and Green Transition

#### Table 1: Irish National Economic and Social Council

**Niamh Garvey**, Senior Policy Analyst, National Economic and Social Council (NESC), Ireland

#### Table 2: Nordic Toolbox for a Just Green Transition

**Maja Brynteson**, Research Fellow, Nordregio, Sweden

&

**Axel Eriksson**, Communications Advisor, Nordregio, Sweden

#### Table 3: Renewable Energy & Climate Adaptation from SDGs to beyond 2030, Resilience and Energy Independence

**David Perejil**, Director-General for the 2030 Agenda, Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and 2030 Agenda, Spain

### Topic 2: Circular Economy

#### Table 4: Implementing Romania's Circular Economy Strategy: Governance, Monitoring and Digital Tools

**Ileana Luminița Bălălaș**, Director, Department of Sustainable Development, Government of Romania, Romania

#### Table 5: North Rhine-Westphalia Circular Economy Strategy

**Julian Lauten-Weiss**, Circular Economy Expert, Ministry of the Environment, Nature and Transport of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

### Topic 3: Citizen & Stakeholder Engagement

#### Table 6: ESDN Youth Workshop 2026 & Resilience 2.0

**Daniel Wood**, ESDN Youth Network Representative, Wales

&

**Filip Lepieš**, ESDN Youth Network Member, Slovakia

&

Jorina Kaminski, ESDN Youth Network Member, Switzerland

### **Table 7: Wales - Office of the Future Generations Commissioner**

Jenny McConnel, Sustainable Development Advisor, Office of the Future Generations Commissioner of Wales, Wales

### **Topic 4: Environment , Climate, and Biodiversity**

### **Table 8: Building Resilience in an Irish Context**

Stephen Flood, Resilience Team Lead, Irish Climate Change Advisory Council, Ireland

### **Table 9: Connecting Climate, Nature and Communities - Building solutions together**

John Barimo, Manager, SDSN Ireland, Ireland

### **Table 10: EU LIFE Programme – Corncrake LIFE**

John Carey, Ecologist, National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Ireland

14:35 – 15:20

### **Round 2**

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

15:20 – 15:40

### **Reporting Back from the Exchange Space Tables**

15:40 – 16:15 BST

### **Moderated Discussion: Expectations for the SDG Summit 2027 on Post 2030**

Anna Pot, ESDN Vice President, National SDG Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands

Maria Nikolopoulou, President – Sustainable Development Observatory, European Economic and Social Committee, Spain

Jorina Kaminski, ESDN Youth Network Member, Switzerland

Antoine Stevens, ESDN Advisory Board Member, International Relations Attaché, Federal Institute for Sustainable Development, Belgium

David Perejil, Director-General for the 2030 Agenda, Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and 2030 Agenda, Spain

16:15 – 16:30 BST

### **ESDN Conference 2026 Closing**

16:15 – 16:20

### **Host Farewell**

Fiona McManus, Assistant Principal - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Team, Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment - EU, International & Marine Affairs Division, Ireland

16:20 – 16:30

### **ESDN Close and Next Steps**

**Taru Savolainen**, ESDN Vice President, Secretary General of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, Prime Minister's Office, Finland

&

**Jeannette Muller**, ESDN Vice President, Team Lead for Sustainable Development, Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Biodiversity, Luxembourg

&

**Anna Pot**, ESDN Vice President, National SDG Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands

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16:30 BST

### **End of ESDN Conference 2026**

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