



NGO – Parliamentary mechanisms in 2030 Agenda implementation: EESC perspective

Peter Schmidt, President of the EESC NAT Section

19th ESDN Workshop

Parliamentary Mechanisms in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda

15 June 2021



Content of the presentation

- 1. The UN Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals**
- 2. Overview of progress and EU institutions' work on SDG implementation**
- 3. EESC policy work on SDG implementation**
- 4. How to create a non-silo approach to stakeholder involvement on Agenda 2030 implementation**



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

1 UNIVERSAL AGENDA, 17 GOALS





Overview of EU institutions work on SDG implementation (I)

- **European Commission:**

Reflection Paper “Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030”
(January 2019)

- ✓ **Three scenarios:**

1. Overarching strategy
2. Policy mainstreaming
3. Focus on external action

- ✓ Based on **input from the high-level Multi-Stakeholder Platform** on the implementation of the SDGs





Overview of EU institutions work on SDG implementation (II)

- **European Commission:**
 - **Von der Leyen Commission's political guidelines:**
 - ✓ **European Green Deal**
 - ✓ Each Commissioner will ensure the **mainstreaming of the SDGs in their policy area** and Commission as a whole responsible for **SDG overall implementation**
 - ✓ Integrating the SDGs in the **European Semester** process
 - **Commission Staff Working Document Nov 2020**
 - ✓ Delivering on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals – A comprehensive approach



Overview of EU institutions work on SDG implementation (III)

- **European Parliament:**
 - Resolution “Towards an even more sustainable Union by 2030” (March 2019) – **calling for EU overarching strategy on SDGs**
- **Council of the EU:**
 - Council Conclusions “Towards an ever more sustainable Union by 2030” (April 2019) under the Romanian Presidency – **calling for EU overarching strategy on SDGs**
 - Council Conclusions under the Finnish Presidency in December 2019 urged the Commission to elaborate a comprehensive implementation strategy outlining timelines, objectives and concrete measures
- **European Court of Auditors:**
 - Reporting on sustainability: A stocktake of EU Institutions and Agencies (June 2019)
- **Committee of the Regions:**
 - Opinion on “SDGs: a basis for a long-term EU strategy for a sustainable Europe by 2030” (June 2019)
- **calling for EU overarching strategy on SDGs**



European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) work on SDG implementation



- **EESC Sustainable Development Observatory:**
 - Set up in 2006, **first EU body dedicated to SD**
 - **Strategic approach** – linking environmental, economic and social dimensions
 - **Convening space** for civil society through events, consultations etc.
 - **Youth engagement** in sustainability/climate



EESC opinion on the EC Reflection Paper “Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030”

- **Overarching strategy on the SDGs** with concrete policy targets and indicators
- SDG mainstreaming into **all EU policy and budgetary frameworks** (European Semester, Better Regulation, MFF, etc.)
- **Structured involvement of civil society with a clear mandate**
- The European Green Deal should be a **Green AND SOCIAL Deal**
- Europe needs a **paradigm shift and a new model of growth**

A strategic approach to sustainable development



EESC Opinion “Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030”

EESC Opinion “The sustainable economy we need”

EESC Opinion “Leaving no one behind”

EESC Opinion “Youth engagement on climate and sustainability”

EESC Opinion “Towards an EU strategy on sust. consumption”

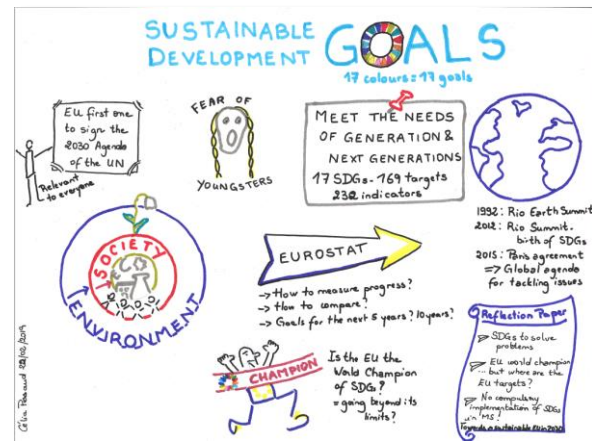
EESC Opinion “Digitalisation and sustainability”



Sustainability in practice at the EESC

Training on SDGs for staff and Members

- Since 2019, trainings sessions were organised for EESC members and staff
 - Increasing awareness and upgrading skills





Sustainability in practice at the EESC

SDGs embedded in EESC communication

- Integrating SDGs into our communication products
- Internal communication campaign on SDGs



Welcome to the workshop
SOCIAL DIMENSION OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY
European Economic and Social Committee, 10661
7 March 2019, 09:30 – 18:30

Objective

- Share findings on the circular economy's impact on labour and discuss adequate policy responses
- Consider the key role a functional economy can play in spreading circular principles for social development

Leaders

Dr Laurent Zibell Industria(European Trade Union)	@LaurentZibell
Silviana Marghescu Institut National d'Economie Circulaire	@IndustriaALL @marghescu @Eco_Circulaire

Schedule

Welcome by the Leaders
Panel 1: What are the impacts of the transition to a circular economy on workers?

Introduction by the Moderator
Peter Schmidt
European Economic and Social Committee @WorkersEESC

Findings on the "Impacts of circular economy policies on the labour market"
Dr. Carlos Montalvo
TNO (Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research) @TNO_Research

Research on "Benefits of longer lifetimes for products"
Philippe Semmenton
Cambridge Econometrics @CambridgeEcon

Discussion seeking input from the audience on the impact of circular economy on labour
Panel 2: What impact can a functional economy have in delivering a circular transition for society?
Francois Michel Lambert MP
Institut National d'Economie Circulaire @Ina_Lambert
Prof. Thierry Liebert
European Economic and Social Committee @ThierryL
Dr Eric Stremont
Stratégie d'Economie de Fonctionnelle Intégrée aux Organisations @DiversEESC

Discussion seeking further examples or sources of information on this potential impact
Summary and conclusions by the Leaders

Key Questions

- How does the circular transformation of industrial value chains in Europe impact employment? Do longer product lifetimes, designing for maintenance and stimulating repair, reuse and recycling have a positive impact on the labour market? Can policy tools mitigate negative impacts?
- What does civil society expect from a circular transition? How can this include stimulating consistent product labelling, actions limiting premature obsolescence and other regulatory steps?
- Does the circular economy transition contribute to delivering Agenda 2030? How can the transition bring labour into consideration and paying due attention to social transformation help achieve Sustainable Development Goals 3 (good health and well-being), 4 (quality education), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 10 (reduced inequalities)?



Stakeholder involvement in Agenda 2030 implementation

- The EESC called for the MSP to be upgraded on the basis of successful examples like the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform and brought into a formal and inter-institutional consultation framework, as also recommended by the European Parliament
- The Commission is not planning a renewal of the MSP on the SDGs or any other structured involvement of civil society via a dedicated SDG Forum
- The EC SWD notes that the Committee of the Regions and the EESC - and its Sustainable Development Observatory (SDO) - play an important role in strengthening civil society involvement in the monitoring of the SDGs and enhancing evidence-based policymaking.



EESC role in enhancing stakeholder involvement

- The EESC is a bridge between civil society and the EU Institutions. The SDO reputation provides access to the European Parliament and Council Presidencies on SD-related issues.
- The EESC Members have national and regional networks in their countries of appointment – they often participate in debates organised by stakeholders or by governments in the Member States.
- There is an opportunity in connecting EESC Members with national/regional parliaments to expand the debates on the Agenda 2030 implementation.



Thank you for your attention!