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20 YEARS ESDN

ESDN Conference 2026

02 October

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

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

Friday, 02 October 2026

08:30 – 09:00 BST	Conference Registration and Networking
09:00 – 09:30 BST	**Welcome and Opening**
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** **Marc Kierans**, Director, EU & International | Environment & Circular Economy, Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, Ireland
09:20 – 09:30	**Overview of the Day** **Gerald Berger**, Moderator
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**
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**
10:45 – 10:50 BST	**Junk Kouture** **Troy Armour**, CEO and Founder Junk Kouture, Monaco
10:50 – 11:15 BST	Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:45 BST	**Exchange Space 1: Building the Foundations for Long-Term Resilience**
11:15 – 12:00	**Round 1**

Topic 1: Just and Green Transition

Table 1: Beyond Emissions: Delivering Climate Action through a Just Transition Lens

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: "There Is No One-Size-Fits-All Approach": Using Behavioural Insights to Shape Climate and Environmental Communications

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**

13:05 – 13:50 BST **Light Lunch**

13:50 – 15:40 BST **Exchange Space 2: Building the Foundations for Long-Term Resilience**

13:50 – 14:35 **Round 1**

Topic 1: Just and Green Transition

Table 1: Just Transition in Agriculture and Land Use

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 Bălălău, ESDN Advisory Board Member and Director, Prime Minister's Office - Department of Sustainable Development, 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: Our Future, Our Voice: Putting Citizens at the Heart of the Future Generations Act

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

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

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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** **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
16:30 BST	**End of ESDN Conference 2026**