Following the adoption of the “2030 Agenda for sustainable development” by the UN General Assembly in September 2015, in the recent Communication “Next steps for a sustainable European future” the European Commission wrote that “The EU is fully committed to be a frontrunner in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, together with its Member States, in line with the principle of subsidiarity”.

According to many, this approach does not seem ambitious enough for an institution that is facing its worst crisis since its foundation, as President Juncker said in his 2016 “State of the Union”. This lack of ambition is difficult to understand especially considering that the European Union has been one of the drivers of the negotiations towards the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement, and that all over the world governments, businesses and civil society organisations are thinking about how to make the Agenda 2030 “the” driver for a more prosperous, equal and sustainable future.

The celebrations of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Rome Treaties are a great opportunity to launch a process to build a new vision for Europe and a metamorphosis of the European Union based on the values and objectives defined by the 2030 Agenda. The implementation of the SDGs should become a key leverage for achieving the aims (“promote peace, its values and the wellbeing of its peoples”) of the Union as laid down in article 3 of the Treaty.

The conference will be the opportunity to discuss how European State and Non-State actors should change to become “champions” of the SDGs and demonstrate, in the current times of anxiety, uncertainty and temptations to self-withdrawal, that the European political, financial, economic and cultural leaderships can get together to make the EU “the” world champion of sustainable development and, in this way, fight against the risks of economic disintegration, global protectionism and social conflicts.

Of course, adopting the SDGs as an overall political framework could require a redesign of EU governance and policies, as well as of the relations with its Neighbours. But the next two years represent a historical opportunity to make these changes, also taking into account the agenda that is already in place, which includes, among other things, the revision of the EU 2020 Strategy, the reform of the EU budget, the elections for the European Parliament and the nomination of a new Commission.
Make Europe the World Leader of Sustainable Development: A Unique Opportunity to Build a Stronger European Union

Rome
23 March 2017
Sala della Regina
Chamber of Deputies

Europe Ambition
2030

PROGRAMME

09:30_10:00 Opening remarks
Laura Boldrini, President of the Chamber of Deputies, Italy
Pier Carlo Padoan, Minister of Finance, Italy

10:00_10:30 The Agenda 2030: A Historical Opportunity for the European Union
The «Europe Ambition 2030»
> Europe Ambition 2030: Who We Are, What Are We Aiming At?, Enrico Giovannini, ASviS
> The Open Letter/Declaration, Céline Charveriat, EPE
> SDG’s: The Lever of the Europe We Want, Tom Vereijken, EPE

10:30_11:45 Roundtable 1: Towards a new EU development model. The role of non-State actors
Moderator: Dasa S. Silovic, Chair, International Board of the CEE Network on Gender Issues
Message by a young leader: Marco Galaverni, WWF
Marta Bonifert, Board Member of the Hungarian Business Leader Forum
Jérémie Fosse, President, Eco-Union
Abigal Herron, Head of Engagement Global Responsible Investment Team, Aviva Investors
Leida Rijnhoutrt, Programme Coordinator Resource Use & Consumption, SDG Watch Europe
Karin Wannårgård, Mayor of Stockholm*
Leo Williams, Director, European Anti-Poverty Network

11:45_13:00 Roundtable 2: A new partnership between State and non-State actors
Moderator: Teresa Ribera, Director, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations
Message by a young leader: Manuel Gath, President, European Federalist Youth, Germany
Bettina Laville, President, Comité 21
Josè Herrera, Minister for Sustainable development, Government of Malta*
Giampiero Sammuri, Vice President, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Italy
Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo, Chancellor, Pontifical Academy of Sciences and Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, Holy See
David Sassoli, Vice-President, European Parliament*
Dario Scannapieco, Vice President, European Investment Bank
Carmenu Vella, Commissioner, Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission*

13:00_13:15 Reactions from young leaders
Simone Fissolo, European Federalist Youth
Paolo Petrocelli, President of Unesco Giovani, Global Shaper
Leonardo Quattrucci, European Commission, Global Shaper
Diva Tommei, CEO Solenica, Global Shaper

13:15_13:30 Conclusions

* to be confirmed