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PROCEEDINGS

EEAC Conference PROCEEDINGS

Wrocław, 16 September 2011



UNCSD ► Rio 20plus

**Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development
Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development at National Level**



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PROCEEDINGS

**19th Annual Conference of the
European Environment and
Sustainable Development
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14-17 September, 2011, Wrocław, Poland



UNCSD ► Rio^{20plus}

**Challenging, encouraging, innovative:
Addressing the "Green Economy" agenda
in the context of sustainable development**

**Learning from long-standing and diverse experience:
Institutional framework for sustainable
development at national level**

*Under the patronage of:
the Minister of Environment
with the support of:*





Table of contents

Environment protection in Poland and greening the economy	7
ANDRZEJ KRASZEWSKI, Minister for Environment, Poland	

PLENARY	11
----------------	-----------

Introductions	12
----------------------	-----------

Opening speech: Preparations of the Polish EU Presidency on Rio+20 and resource efficiency as key priority	12
BERNARD BŁASZCZYK, Undersecretary of State, Poland	

Video-message to the participants of the EEAC conference	16
JERZY BUZEK, President of the European Parliament	

The State Environmental Council of Poland (PROS)	18
TOMASZ WINNICKI, PROS Chair	

Green Economy, the UNCSD 2012, and the EEAC Statement	21
GUENTHER BACHMANN, RNE, Germany, EEAC WG SD	

Learning from long-standing and diverse experience: Institutional Framework for SD at national level in the EEAC Statement	24
JAN DE SMEDT, FRDO-CFDD, Belgium, EEAC WG SD	

Green growth for Europe	27
MIRANDA SCHREURS, EEAC Chair	

Key note speakers	31
--------------------------	-----------

The EU perspective on Rio+20: towards the green economy and reinforced governance	31
TIMO MÄKELÄ, European Commission	

Green Economy: The business view	35
PETER PAUL VAN DE WIJS, WBCSD	

Green Economy - something for the future? An NGO view	41
JAN-GUSTAV STRANDENAES, ANPED	

International Environmental Governance, the Role of State and Non-State Actors	47
JACQUELINE MCGLADE, EEA	

BREAKOUT SESSIONS	49
--------------------------	-----------

Session A-1 Institutions: the challenge of transition	50
--	-----------

Summary of the session and discussion	50
---------------------------------------	----

Brakes are off! Accelerating the transition towards a sustainable energy system in the Netherlands	52
ANNEMIEKE ROOBEEK, RLI, Netherlands	

Great transformation to a low-carbon society: managing the implementation challenge	54
INGE PAULINI, WBGU, Germany	
Transgovernance - The quest for governance of sustainable development	56
ROEL IN 'T VELD, TransGov project, IASS	
Session B-1 Economy: Business and jobs	59
Summary of the session and discussion	59
Sustainability strategies in business	60
PETER PAUL VAN DE WIJS, WBCSD	
The debate about Green Growth and Green Jobs	61
DOMINIQUE OLIVIER, CFGT, CNDDGE, France	
EU crisis exit strategies: more precarious or sustainable jobs?	64
MARTIN SIECKER, EESC - CCMI	
Skills and Training for a Green New Deal	66
EOIN MCLOUGHLIN, Comhar, Ireland	
Session C-1 Sustainable consumption and life styles	68
Summary of the session and discussion	68
SCP policies and the 10 Year Framework of Programs	70
SYLVIA LOREK, SERI	
Enabling Sustainable Living	72
SUE DIBB, former UK SDC	
The Nordic approach on SCP	74
ANNIKA LINDBLOM, FNCSD, Finland	
Towards more sustainable food styles	76
LUCIA REISCH, RNE, Germany	
Session D-1 Energy: a key transition área	78
Summary of the session and discussion	78
Economic and environmental sustainability of fuel mix options for the 'National Energy Strategy 2030' of Hungary	80
PÉTER KADERJÁK, REKK, Hungary	
Can combustion of coal be regarded as environmental friendly source of energy?	82
JOZEF PACYNA, CEE, Norway	
Pathways towards a 100 % renewable electricity system	84
OLAV HOHMEYER, SRU, Germany	

BREAKOUT SESSIONS continued: shift in focus	86
Session A-2 Institutions: Building capacity and shaping collective action	86
Summary of the session and discussion	86
The role of civil society in sustainable development governance JEREMY WATES, EEB	88
A Decade of Education for Sustainable Development - Polish Challenges TADEUSZ BORYS & RYSZARD JANIKOWSKI, PROS, Poland	90
Action plan for education for SD in Croatia LIDIJA PAVIĆ-ROGOŠIĆ, SORZO, Croatia	92
Session B-2a Economy: national and regional case studies on Green Economy	94
Summary of the session and discussion	94
Greening the post-communist economies - the case of Poland ZBIGNIEW DOKURNO, Wroclaw University of Economics	96
How could a green economy look like in Catalonia? SILVIA CAÑELLAS-BOLTÁ, CADS Spain/Catalonia	98
Green Economy: Challenge and Chance for Russia VLADIMIR ZAKHAROV, Russian Public Chambre	100
Green Economy in Wales PETER DAVIES, Commissioner for Sustainable Futures, Wales, UK	102
Session B-2b Economy: the debate on growth and measuring	105
Green Growth versus De-growth CHRISTIAN HEY, SRU Germany	105
French civil society debate on de-growth and development DOMINIQUE OLIVIER, CFGT, CNDDGE, France	107
The 'National Prosperity Index' as proposal for Germany ROLAND ZIESCHANK, FFU Berlin	108
Session C-2 Sustainable consumption and life styles: the North-South perspective	110
Summary of the session and discussion	110
Opinion on animal and plant proteins KOEN MOERMAN, FRDO-CFDD, Belgium	112

SCP in the North-South perspective JAN-GUSTAV STRANDENAES, ANPED	114
SCP - perspective of a development cooperation organisation ANJA WUCKE, GIZ Germany	117
Session D-2 Climate change, energy and food security: the land issue and EU CAP reform	119
Climate change, energy and food security FILIPE DUARTE SANTOS, CNADS, Portugal	119
Looking back, Looking Forward: Sustainability and UK food policy 2000 - 2011 SUE DIBB, former SD Commission, UK	121
Will we be left without agricultural land and food? FRANC LOBNIK, CEPRS, Slovenia	122
Reinvesting in organic farming DOROTHEE BRAUN, RNE, Germany	124
European Agricultural Policy as Catalyst for Transformation of Agriculture and Horticulture AGNETA ANDERSON, RLI, Netherlands	126
PANEL DEBATE	129
How should Europe 2020, the Resource Efficiency Flagship and the EU SD Strategy best work together in order to contribute to aspired achievements in Rio and implementation?	130
WILLY DE BACKER, STEFAN MOSER	131
JÖRG MAYER-RIES, MARTIN SIECKER, JEREMY WATES	132
REPORT of the PANEL DEBATE	133
EEAC CONTRIBUTIONS	135
EEAC statement	136
Wrocław Consensus	144
PARTICIPANTS LIST	147

Environment protection in Poland and greening the economy



Andrzej Kraszewski

MINISTER

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION, NATURAL RESOURCES,
AND FORESTRY OF POLAND

Mr. Andrzej Kraszewski, Professor at the Faculty of Environmental Engineering of the Warsaw University of Technology, as specialised in methodologies of environmental impact assessment from infrastructure projects, including transport projects, and the role of conflicts in decision making processes, is concerned also with environmental risk analysis, and Information and Communication Technology for environmental purposes. He was adviser to Minister of the Environment, as well as expert to the Parliamentary Committee for Environmental Protection. He was also Vice President of the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention). He acted as mediator for settling conflicts on waste landfills and location of ring-roads in Poland, including that on the Augustów and the related protection of the Rospuda River Valley. He participated to the Warsaw Round Table on Waste, and was also Chairman of the National Commission for Environmental Impact Assessment, and the Public Advisor to the Governmental Plenipotentiary on Nuclear Energy Sector in Poland.

Professor Andrzej Kraszewski wrote 62 articles, papers and reports, 3 monographs, and 5 other elaborates as implemented in industries and the public administration authorities.

I often hear that taking care of the environment means primarily nature conservation. Nature conservation is a duty of the government and every citizen indeed. However, environmental issues currently gain more and more of the economic dimension and constitute one among key challenges at the national, the Union and global level.

I am delighted to say that nowadays environmental policy is more important in Poland, than it has ever been. The new impulse to the development and implementation of environmental policy was added by the Poland's presence in the EU. Progressively more outlays are targeted on environmental objectives, and, what is even more important – our country becomes the beneficiary of environmental policy since clean environment is considered as an asset, and potential of our growth.

New Law on Environmental Impact Assessment

Environmentally-sound infrastructure development is made possible thanks to the new law on the environmental impact assessment and the establishment of the General Directorate for Environmental Protection.

Since November 15, 2008 a new *Act of October 3, 2008 on the Provision of information on environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessment* has been in effect. For several years, the quality of environmental impact assessments (EIAs) has improved and EIAs effectively identify and assess the environmental risks associated with the infrastructural development which are anticipated by the public and necessary to be undertaken.

The main purposes of the adoption of this Act, were to rationalise and accelerate implementation of procedures to assess the projects' impact on the environment and to assess the projects' impact on the Natura 2000 designated sites. At the same time the Act has established legal conditions to facilitate the absorption of the European Union funds in addition to ensuring the complete transposition of *acquis communautaire* into the national law. Today I may say that these purposes have been achieved.

Natura 2000

The achievements of the Natura 2000 designated areas management should be considered an unmistakable step forward. The adoption of the list of the natural habitats within the Natura 2000 network and supplementation of the bird protection areas by the Council of Ministers has been crucial, and has resulted in the withdrawal the Court of Justice's complaint against Poland regarding the incomplete designation of the special protection areas for birds in Poland filed by the EC. The project "Protection plans development for the Natura 2000 designated areas on the territory of Poland", amounting nearly to PLN 25 million, was launched within the implementation framework of the Infrastructure and Environment Operational Program. Implementation of these

protection plans falls under the responsibility of the regional environmental directorates and 7 directorates of the national parks and is expected to result in 370 protection plans for the Natura 2000 designated areas at least.

Finance

Continuing the topic on financing, I have to underline my Ministry's effectiveness in the absorption of the EU funds, especially under the Infrastructure and Environment Operational Program. Thanks to this Program, more than 10 thousand km of sewerage has been either built or rebuilt, serving more than a million people, thus Poland has come closer to achieving the objectives of the National Program on Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants; moreover we execute waste management and flood protection programs.

In addition, we support businesses in reducing the pressure of the industry on the environment and this support is essential in the transition to a green economy. Until today 160 projects received the funding, confirmed by signing funding agreements, amounting to nearly PLN 700 million, which represents approximately 93% of the available funds.

Greening the economy

The transition towards a green economy is supported by the innovative initiative – namely “Green Evo” – during the two editions of Green Evo 30 green technologies, used in Poland, were successfully selected. The businesses had the opportunity to promote green technologies on the international arena i.e. in China, India, Kazakhstan, Vietnam, Armenia, Azerbaijan, United Arab Emirates, Russia, France, Ukraine and Belarus. During those two years only, some of the businesses – Green Evo laureates, have managed to achieve considerable financial success.

In the case of waste management area, my ambition was to build such a framework that would provide Polish local governments with modern waste management devoid of gray area, in line with the EU standards and the rules of environmental protection.

Therefore, I consider the reform of the waste management system to be an unquestionable success, particularly in the context of authorizing the municipalities to exercise the power over the waste and conduct of the legislative process concerning the Act on maintaining order and cleanliness in municipalities.

Moving on to the next, which is the energy sector, being very important for modern economy, I would like to ask you to recall that our country has a large potential for energy savings.

Therefore, the Ministry of the Environment joined actively the implementation of pro-efficiency policies as the most effective method of reducing the emissions. The provisions of the Act of April 15, 2011 on energy efficiency allow transferring the proceeds from the substitute fees and the fines related, to

the white certificates system, introduced to the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, and allocation of the proceeds for energy efficiency investments.

I would also like to emphasise the Ministry commitment to prepare future exploitation of shale gas. Until now, the Ministry of the Environment has granted approximately 100 concessions for prospecting and exploration of unconventional natural gas deposits to more than 20 entities from Poland and from abroad. Exploratory and extraction companies have already drilled over 10 boreholes under the concessions, which will hopefully become the beginning of a new chapter in the Polish power industry.

We have made significant progress in the transposition of *acquis communautaire* to our national environment and this task is practically completed.

The times we live in, require from us - both from these who are responsible for creating the framework of national economic policies and from those who operate within this framework, particularly from businesses – to take action in high uncertainty conditions. In this sea of uncertainty one thing we know for sure – sustainable, competitive, “green” economy is not just a phrase or a momentary fashion, it is the right path.



PLENARY

Introductions

Opening speech: Preparations of the Polish EU Presidency
on Rio+20 and resource efficiency as key priority



Bernard Błaszczyk

UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION, NATURAL RESOURCES,
AND FORESTRY OF POLAND

Mr. Bernard Błaszczyk (born in 1947) graduated from the Faculty of Law and Administration, and then from Post-Graduate studies at the University of Silesia in Katowice. He is professional attorney at law.

Since 1991 he has been involved in management of environmental sector. He has held important functions in the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources, and Forestry several times.

Later Mr. Błaszczyk was Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Ostrava, Czech Republic. From 2000, he was Under-Secretary of State and from 2001, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Economy. He was further nominated Minister-Counsellor at the Polish Embassy to Prague. He then became Director General at the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

In December 2007, he was appointed as Director General of Ministry of the Environment, and in August 2008 he was nominated Under-Secretary of State there.

1. Rio +20

The Rio+20 Conference will take place in June 2012 – 20 years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development organized in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. The Global Conference Rio+20 will be the most important international event on sustainable development for the past 20 years. Preparations to the Conference are also a real challenge to the Polish Presidency in the EU Council, as it falls in the period of preparing the position of EU for this conference.

The main objective of the Conference is securing and renewing political obligations for sustainable development, determining the developments and failures to realize the agreed obligations and relating to the new and urgent challenges in this area.

Both EU and other countries face the necessity to find solutions to urgent development, economic, social and environmental challenges. In the recent years, the world has had to face new big challenges such as intensification of unfavourable climate phenomena, global financial and economic crisis and recently – acute food crisis. In order to address the challenges standing before us, it is necessary not only to continue successful initiatives, but also to diagnose the reasons of failures of some of the activities undertaken so far, to avoid repeating the same mistakes.

Two leading topics on the agenda of the Conference:

1. Green economy in the context of sustainable development and reducing poverty
2. Institutional framework for sustainable development.

It is vital that the global economic crisis became an impulse for adopting a new economic development model, where the growth will be connected with reducing the impoverishment of the natural environment resources and the necessity to protect it at the global scale. Hence, the development of green economy has become particularly important recently.

What is required is a strategic, cohesive and long-term vision of the green economy, made by such formulation of policies, allowing at the same time economic profitability, environmental integrity and proper inclusion of social issues in the undertaken actions. The actions should be conducted in such a way, so that they create an opportunity to improve the functioning of economies in long-term perspective, in particular through minimizing the economic and social impacts of the current crisis, and creating the basis for stable development, based on efficient and sustainable use of resources. The undertaken global actions should serve working out the methodology of identifying the areas, where immediate actions are required, in particular among the developing countries and Small Island States. Establishing the green economy requires support of the society, which should be accompanied by building up the social awareness and

shaping the approaches and lifestyles, ensuring the improvement of the environment condition and the improvement of the life quality. Innovations are also an important issue, leading to reorganisation of industry and to introducing new business models. Green economy cannot contribute to deepening the existing differences in the world, but it should stimulate their levelling in a flexible way.

The countries agree as to the fact that the result of the Rio+20 Conference should be the strengthening of the institutional – global, regional and national – management of sustainable development, including the environment sector.

In order to be successful, the Rio+20 Process must be based on cooperation of not only governments, but also the organisation of the UN systems, other international and non-governmental organisations as well as the civil society and the private sector.

2. Resource efficiency

For a few years the debate at international forums has been more and more focused on achieving green economic growth, where the sustainable approach to available resources plays a key role. Such an approach is reflected in many global initiatives, the most current being “Green Growth Strategy OECD” and “Green Economy UNEP”.

The strategy Europe 2020, published last year, also fits in the aforementioned ideas, in particular within the flagship initiative “Resource efficient Europe”. Publication of the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe is planned for September, which shall complement the initiative.

The analyses conducted by the European Commission confirm the earlier observations that the current patterns of production and consumption (causing the depletion of natural resources, increasing amounts of waste, etc.) have a negative impact on the natural environment (in particular on the purity and quality of waters, biodiversity, air quality) and therefore on the human health and life. The high resource-absorption level of the Member States' economies constitutes an obstacle on the road for sustainable development, which stays on the way to the modern, competitive and low-emission EU economy.

Only integrated actions in many areas, connected with the development of new policies and management structures (as regards energy industry, reducing the pollution emissions, research and innovation, industry, transport, fishery and environment protection) directed at limiting the generation of waste, limiting pollution, increasing the number of ecological innovations and more tighter connection between scientific research and the market needs within technology and environmental solutions may be a chance to realize ambitious objectives concerning resource efficiency.

In order to decrease the unfavourable influence of human on the environment one must undertake activities connected with promoting new consumption patterns and the approach to economic use of resources, including limiting the

amount of the generated waste, sorting the waste, saving power and water, active environment protection. The aforementioned requires changing the production method of consumption goods in order to facilitate re-use of elements, easier recycling, including recycling of materials and raw materials, and to minimize the disposal of useless waste.

All these elements result in the fact that the resource efficiency may become a new, cross-sector way of approaching the economic, social and environmental issues.

However, we must remember that the changes towards the resource-efficient economy are connected with the threats such as:

rebound effect, that is the fact that improving the efficiency in using a certain resource may become an incentive to increased use of the given resource, which will shatter the expected environmental benefit. In the economy, this phenomenon has been known and analysed for almost 150 years¹.

excessive regulation of the economy, which may result in slowing down the economic growth and the development of innovative technologies;

Therefore the changes connected with the resource efficiency policy must be introduced gradually and after having conducted detailed analyses in order to avoid threats to particular economy sectors as well as to avoid excessive burdening the society.

I am convinced that supporting resource efficient economy is a just cause, yet it should take place while considering the situation of the economies of particular Member States. Changes towards the “green” economy will require not only significant financial means, implementation of technological innovations, but also far-reaching changes at the social-economic level (e.g. increasing the ecology awareness, development of the necessary competences, learning the skill of absorbing innovation).

The Ministry of the Environment has noticed an important role of European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils network and its member State Environmental Council of Poland due to this process in European and national context. This conference which is carried on under patronages of the Polish EU Presidency and the Minister of the Environment seems to be an important element of continental and global actions towards better ecological and social order.

To all members of this event I wish a great success in fulfilling their ambitious tasks.

¹ W. S. Jevons (*The Coal Question; An Inquiry Concerning the Progress of the Nation, and the Probable Exhaustion of Our Coal Mines*, Macmillan 1865) stated that the fears about the fact that increasing the efficiency of steam machines will decrease the demand for coal are not justified. On the contrary, improving this efficiency will make the steam machine more attractive and will lead to the increase in the demand for coal. machine more attractive and will lead to the increase in the demand for coal.

Video-message to the participants of the EEAC conference



Jerzy Buzek

PRESIDENT

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Jerzy Buzek was born on 3 July 1940 in Śmiałowice (Silesia region) in Poland. Prime Minister of Poland and Member of the Polish Parliament (Sejm) in the years 1997-2001. He guided Poland into the NATO structures in 1999. He initiated accession negotiations with the European Union in 1997. He is member of the Independent and self-governing trade union "Solidarność" since 1980 and Chairman of the 1st National Congress of Delegates of "Solidarność" in 1981.

Jerzy Buzek studied at the Technical University of Silesia at the Energy Engineering Faculty. In 1971 he received a research grant from the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. He is doctor honoris causa of the Universities in Dortmund, Seoul and Isparta as well as Technical Universities of Opole and Silesia.

He became member of the European Parliament in 2004, elected with the best result in Poland. On 14 July 2009, Jerzy Buzek was elected President of the European Parliament with 555 votes of the 644 valid votes cast, becoming the first President from the former Eastern Bloc to occupy this position. He was also the most popular Polish MEP with almost 400,000 votes in the last elections to the European Parliament.

Dear Participants,

The EP is strongly committed to this conference and to a greener economy in Europe and abroad. I consider the success of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, together with the work of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, as essential to establishing viable strategies in development and insuring a better future for our planet.

I welcome this conference for three reasons. Firstly, it enriches our shared knowledge and reinforces the scientific community's consensus on sustainable development strategies. Strong empirical evidence can convince even the most sceptical minds and is a great support to us, politicians. Being a Professor in Engineering, I could not be more convinced of this.

Secondly, the work of the EEAC provides a strong support to the EU's negotiating position. The EU is a global leader in matters of sustainable development. However, in order to remain influential we must continuously update our understanding and reinforce the unity in our efforts to reach a common goal. I believe that only a multi-lateral approach can guarantee tangible progress and as such it is a cause to which the EP is committed.

Lastly, this dialogue enables us to keep ourselves in check and ensure that 20 years after the Rio Declaration we are not only keeping up with the original guidelines but pushing the agenda further and spear-heading new initiatives. The Europe 2020 Strategy and our promising CO₂ emission standards attest to this proactive spirit, and I encourage all industrial and scientific efforts to follow on this path.

Rest assured that the volatility of the global economy and the pressure on the euro will not distract the EU from its commitment to these objectives. Nor will we shy away from our responsibility to our neighbours. We believe that sustainability makes sense economically as well as environmentally: there are green jobs to be created, money saved in crisis prevention as opposed to crisis management, reduction of soil degradation and improvement of crops. A lack of sustainability leads to shortages and environmental crisis which are often irreversible, that is why our commitment to it cannot change according to economic forecasts.

We will continue to push the agenda globally by helping developing countries combine environmental progress with economic progress. In the spirit of sustainability the EP will remain vigilant: our priority is to a healthy and inclusive economy of the future. I wish you all the best for a successful conference!

The State Environmental Council of Poland (PROS)



Tomasz Winnicki

CHAIR, PROFESSOR
STATE ENVIRONMENTAL
COUNCIL OF POLAND
(PROS)

Tomasz Winnicki, Ph.D., D.Sc., is emeritus Professor of Wrocław University of Technology, where he obtained his Doctorate in Chemistry. Being chair of the State Environmental Council of Poland, Prof. Winnicki is also vice-rector at Karkonosze State Higher School in Jelenia Góra, professor at the State Higher Professional School of Kalisz (PWSZ) and part-time professor of Wrocław University of Economics, Jelenia Góra. He became Doctor Honoris Causa at the University of Technology of Częstochowa in 2007.

Prof. Winnicki holds a membership in various scientific associations as the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, the Academy of Engineering Sciences of Ukraine, the Rectors' Conference of State Higher Professional Schools in Poland (honorary chair) and the Scientific Council of the Academic Coordination Centre of Euroregion Neisse.

The State Environmental Council of Poland (PROS), which is hosting the 19th Annual Conference of the EEAC, was established in early '80s, during the Martial Law in Poland as the consulting body to the Prime Minister of Poland. After the political and economic breakdown of 1989 it became an advisory council of the Minister of Environment as a statutory body specified in the Environmental Protection Act of 2001.

In the transition period over the '90s the PROS delivered numerous critical opinions helping to take important decisions concerning large-scale investments being in a potential conflict with the environment. Two most dramatic cases concerned the interruption of the construction of the first nuclear power plant in Żarnowiec and stopping erection of the biggest Polish water dam in Czorsztyn. The council advised in both cases to continue the investments, but the Parliament decided to stop the plant and to complete the dam. Now, the government is considering to return to the construction of the atomic power plant and this decision is strongly supported by the local public opinion.

After serving as the PROS' deputy chairman in the '90s, I was appointed chairman in 2001. In my function I undertook intense steps to join the EEAC network. This took place in 1999 and PROS became a full member of EEAC in 2002. Two years later Poland joined the European Union and the process of adjusting the domestic environmental law to EU standards and requirements became the main task in the pre- and post-accession period, in which the Council played an important role as one of chief consulting bodies.

In 2005 the PROS offered to host the EEAC Annual Conference of 2006, and the Finnish Council of Natural Resources became co-organiser for lining to the Finnish EU Presidency during the second term of 2006. The Conference in Warsaw, which was primarily intended to be a review of environmental situation among the EU newcomers, finally dealt with the forestry management to elaborate some recommendations for the summit of European Ministers of forestry to be hosted by the Polish Minister of Environment in Warsaw in November 2007. The organisation and results of the EEAC conference were much appreciated by participants and the EEAC Steering Committee, and this was a nice crowning of the PROS' term which finished at the end of that year.

The new set of the PROS is composed mostly of faculties of universities dealing with environmental engineering, economy and law, as well as with nature, biodiversity and agriculture – limited by law to 30 persons - was nominated by the Minister in July 2007. It was decided to widen the PROS Presidium to activate a larger number of the Council members and to get a better platform for collaboration with the internal structure of the EEAC. The new Presidium was composed of the chair, his two deputies - Piotr Paschalis-Jakubowicz, the head of *WG Biodiversity* and Maciej Sadowski, *WG Energy & Environment*, Jan Żelazo, the Secretary, Tadeusz Borys, *WG Education for Sustainable Development*, Irena Duer, *WG Agriculture & Environment*, Ryszard

Janikowski, *WG Sustainable Development*, Bazyli Poskrobko, *WG Environmental Governance*, Lucjan Pawłowski, *WG Water Economy* and Edward Garścia, contact with media – all professors.

During the just passing term of the PROS, these key Council members were engaged in organising important European-dimension events held in Poland, among others the COP-14 in Poznan on international climate change policies. Both deputies of the PROS played a key role in the preparation of the summit and post conference international activities.

Some of the most important activities of the PROS in the term 2007 – 2011 show the variety of problems the Councils dealt with. Among them there were opinions on *National Environmental Policy*, establishing of *the General Environmental Directorate* – a kind of a domestic agency – analysing and commenting on suggested changes in *the National Water Management System* as well as *the National Program on Limiting of the Emission* and the *EU Operational Program 'Infrastructure and Environment'*.

The Council was reacting to the Minister's requests for opinions on some crucial environmental problems by issuing appropriate statements. On that basis the *Standpoint on Solid Municipal Waste Management in Poland* was issued twice on the request of two subsequent Ministers, as well as *the Standpoint on Governing of Water Management in Poland*. As a result of the own initiative of the Council two other statements were issued: *the Standpoint on Ecological Education in Public Media* and *the Standpoint on Removal of Insulations and Cover Materials Consisting Asbestos*.

Apart from these activities the Council became a co-editor of a bilingual bi-annual journal *Problemy Ekorozwoju – Problems of Sustainable Development* adding to it an annex called Green Pages, which reports on activities of the PROS, the State Council on Nature Conservation (PROP), other national level institutions and initiatives such as national parks, gene-banks, NATURA 2000 and others, including environmental NGOs.

The PROS took an advantage of Poland's EU presidency and ran again successfully for an organisation of the EEAC Annual Conference. The event received a personal patronage by the Minister of Environment, professor Andrzej Kraszewski, and institutional patronage by the Polish Presidency in the European Union. It was financially supported by the Fund for Environment Protection and Water Economy of Wrocław and the conference participants were hosted by the Speaker of the Regional Parliament Mr. Rafał Jurkowlanec and the Mayor of Wrocław Dr. Rafał Dutkiewicz. The EEAC Annual Plenary Session and the Conference were kindly hosted by Professor Tadeusz Więckowski, the President of Wrocław University of Technology, in its historical, monumental main building.

Green Economy, the UNCSD 2012, and the EEAC Statement



Guenther Bachmann

SECRETARY GENERAL

GERMAN COUNCIL ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT (RNE)

CO-CHAIR OF THE EEAC WORKING GROUP
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Günther Bachmann heads the executive office of the German Council for Sustainable Development. He has been involved in international sustainability issues for many years. Mr. Bachmann chaired a working group for Sustainable Development in the European Environmental and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils network (EEAC). He was a director and professor with Germany's Federal Environmental Agency.

He received academic training at Berlin Technical University, a fellowship with the German Marshall Fund; postdoctoral studies and an expertise assignment by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit enabled him to do environmental and sustainability related research around the world. He has published books, reports and articles many of which cover the field of soil and water protection. Others deal with broader issues such as sustainable development governance, communicating sustainability and sustainable development in the EU. Günther is a member of several environment related organizations, among those: Friends of the Earth, the German Soil Science Association and the Scientific Association for Ecology.

The Green Economy topic is a massive one.

It means nothing less than addressing, if you allow the metaphor from the digital world, the main frame and the dashboard and the set-up of the global economy. It addresses

- the ecologic dimension because right now we are depleting the environment,
- the fiscal dimension because right now we burning money and social wealth for nothing, and
- the social dimension because we are wasting social energy of many people by not employing and paying them decently.

Thus, talking about green economy is talking about fundamental change in business models, in production and consumption, in the mind-set of people. The agenda for a green economy is about commitment, action, responsibility and accountability. It is about low carbon, resource productivity and justice, decent jobs, and participation. It is all about entrepreneurial practise, about roadmaps, about responsible decision taking, public procurement. Most certainly, it is about new thinking.

This is why the EEAC network felt it a good idea to put together the various work items that are being pursued within the network. In relation to the green economy we find a huge variety of different contents, approaches, and tools. We find ourselves very differently addressing the how and who. The variety is our strength. The result fits with the agenda of next year's UN conference, but should have been covered anyway in one way or the other.

What is our message?

One, there is a case for a green economy, but it is only viable, tangible, credible, and effective when it forms part of the wider context of sustainable development.

Two, our statement encourages and urgently asks for more action, more engagement in the private sector and improved and enforced state activities.

Three, we ask for more clarity. Conflicts of interest have to be addressed properly. We have to address second thoughts and fears associated with the concept of green economy. Some are fearful that green economy is a trap. They feel trapped because the technology they are using today is less competitive than a green tech. We have to take this fear for serious, and provide help. But also, we have to say very clearly that we need big moves, ambitious action. We must play this properly and in fully accounting for implications and problems, be we cannot afford to play it slowly and without taking risks.

Some are fearful that green economy might turn out as just another brick in the wall of protectionism and market distortion. Again, we have to take this fear for

serious. And, yes, the green economy is about regulatory efforts creating market opportunities, about benefit sharing, new thinking and innovation in social responsibility.

The Rio conference in 2012, officially called the Rio+20 conference, is expected to produce a vision on green economy. The German Council for Sustainable Development refers to this conference as Rio20+. That makes it clear that our view is future bound. This conference must not hail the ashes. It should rather ignite the fire.

The green economy opens great chances and opportunities for new and decent jobs, for long term investments and approaches to put the people in the middle of the economy. To do so, we need continued rethinking and fostering. (Not only) for this purpose, we ask the European Union to renew, refocus and foster its Sustainable Development Strategy. We invite the European Commission to make good use of our practice examples that you could be found as annex to the statement. I personally see it as a natural next step to conduct a broad Peer Review Process that aims at checking the green economy issues and policies. Peer Reviews are typically used as instruments for the mutual learning in policy fields that imply and maintain lots of innovative elements. The green economy topic is a topic that fits this purpose.

Mutual learning is what it is all about. It is the core of action towards sustainability. And most certainly, it is something that we, the EEAC network, have been doing and using to our benefit.

Comparing notes and checking on different ideas not seldom triggers governance issues. Let me introduce the second part of the introductory remarks to this conference by passing the word to Jan de Smedt. He is the co-chair of the EEAC Working Group Sustainable Development, which elaborated the annual statement.

I thank you for your attention.

Learning from long-standing and diverse experience: Institutional Framework for SD at national level in the EEAC Statement



Jan De Smedt

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BELGIAN FEDERAL COUNCIL
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
(FRDO-CFDD)

CO-CHAIR OF THE EEAC
WORKING GROUP SUSTAINABLE
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After his studies at the Catholic University of Leuven (sociology, philosophy) and at the Institute for Developing Countries, Jan De Smedt began a well filled career especially focused on development cooperation. He worked for the Belgian Radio and Television (BRT, 1976-1978) and for several development NGOs as campaigner or Executive Secretary (1972-76, 1978-1998). In 1998, he became Executive Director of the Federal Council for Sustainable Development (FRDO-CFDD), the function he is still fulfilling today.

More specifically about his sustainable development activities, Jan De Smedt was member of the National Council for Environment, Climate and Development which prepared the participation of the Belgian civil society to the Rio Summit (1991-92), of the National Council for Sustainable Development (1993-1997) and of its successor the Federal Council for Sustainable Development (1997-1998). He has participated at several UN conferences about sustainable development as representative of the civil society within the Belgian official delegation (Rio Summit in 1992, Johannesburg Summit in 2002 and CSD). He is co-chair of EEAC's Working Group Sustainable Development. He has also written articles and made several presentations about the institutional aspects of sustainable development.

Next to the “green economy”, UNCSD 2012 will discuss the topic of an “institutional framework for sustainable development”. It is important to stress the link between the two topics. A transition to a green economy, integrating all dimensions of sustainable development, requires improvement and reinforcement of governance at all levels, and that SD governance is placed at the core of all levels.

EEAC expresses its support for certain proposals on the institutional framework for SD at global level, aiming at mainstreaming and reinforcing the SD agenda in the UN system. We have addressed this issue in the background paper of our statement. Here I would like to focus on the input EEAC provided to the Rio+20 process from its own experience in governance for SD, regarding mainly national institutions and processes, stakeholder involvement, policy and delivery coordination issues, and the links between different governmental levels, e.g. sub-national, national and EU. This included a recent survey in around half of the EU member states and some regions.

A number of core elements of governance for SD at national and sub-national levels have emerged as good practice, - relatively independent from the politico-cultural background of a nation, region or municipality. This brought EEAC to the following 7 recommendations in its statement:

1. Sustainable development should become the central organising principle of government. More effective coordination is required amongst the various economic, social, and ecological policy domains in order to achieve a more 'joined up' approach to the big challenges we are confronted with today (inter-related crises concerning the climate, energy, biodiversity, poverty, the scarcity of raw materials, the financial and economic issue, unemployment ...).
2. EEAC considers political leadership at a high level as crucial, i.e. the prime minister should be responsible for sustainable development, which matches with his/her encompassing and leading role in government. At the same time, political and administrative coordination mechanisms need to be firmly put in function, i.e. in government, in the ministries and in parliaments.
3. Civil society should be continuously encouraged, where needed, to get organised in order to be an actor in policy processes, and be triggered to initiate and organise bottom-up actions. This includes wider awareness raising and stimulating informed debate on sustainable development. Governments should be open to and foster involvement and participation. Sustainable Development Councils are a model for multi-stakeholder bodies, which are typically composed of stakeholders from the major groups and beyond, active in all these respects and pushing the SD agenda.
4. On political strategies EEAC recommends a two-track approach: There should be an SD strategy with a medium and long-term vision, and at the same time all actors should work on mainstreaming SD in core policies, in

particular socio-economic strategies such as EU 2020 and budgetary processes. SD strategies need to be 'SMART', which also implies that they are monitored and revised, as well as turned into actions, along the targets, possibly in the form of an action plan.

5. On complementing SD tools EEAC considers sustainability impact assessment (SIA) a useful instrument that is designed to provide ex-ante assessment of impacts of policy proposals. It is crucial, also for credibility, that serious alternatives are considered and impacts on the key dimensions of SD, and weighing up to take place in the political sphere with transparency in the entire procedure. Indicators for SD have evolved as key tool for measuring progress: agreeing such indicators is a critical component of developing an SD strategy. EEAC considers it important that dashboards with headline indicators are agreed and also that work on (an) aggregated indicator(s) continues, both in a coordinated fashion with member states.
6. EEAC members share the concern that communication on SD needs to be stepped up significantly: Communicate SD to a wider audience in more practical terms, demonstrate how it is connected to daily life, such as working, housing and consumption. Show it as project of inherent interest, as it is about improving the quality of life of citizens, and with “best practice” how it offers new opportunities. The local or community level shall have a special and important role in connecting SD to daily life.

There should be an active media policy for getting SD at the core of both traditional and new media, and again by stimulating that an SD angle is taken when 'classic' domains and topics are covered. More efforts are needed to translate the SD philosophy in the business language.

7. Overall, it still remains an ongoing task to building capacity for SD at all levels and in all respects: awareness raising, knowledge, thinking “in the very long lines” and out of the box, in all societal groups, and concrete approaches and action, including in and by the government. EEAC, therefore, calls for a more systematic approach and current efforts to be re-examined and invigorated.

Green growth for Europe



Miranda Schreurs

CHAIR EEAC

COUNCIL MEMBER, PROFESSOR

GERMAN ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON THE ENVIRONMENT (SRU)

Miranda Schreurs became Director of the Environmental Policy Research Center (FFU) and Professor of Comparative Politics at the Freie Universität Berlin in 2007. Prior to this she was an Associate Professor of Comparative Politics at the University of Maryland. Her Ph.D., on acid rain, ozone depletion, and global climate change politics in Japan and Germany, is from the University of Michigan. Her BA and MA are from the University of Washington. During her dissertation research, she was able to conduct research at the John F. Kennedy School, Harvard University; Utrecht University, the Netherlands; Keio University, Japan; and the Freie Universität Berlin.

In 2008, she was appointed as a member of the Advisory Council on the Environment. In 2011, she became chair of the EEAC. In this year, she was also appointed by Chancellor Angela Merkel to the Ethic Commission on a Safe Energy Supply, charged with advising the German government regarding energy questions in the post-Fukushima era. She was the 2009-2010 Fulbright New Century Scholar Program's Distinguished Leader and in this capacity co-ordinated the programs activities on the Role of the University as Knowledge Center and Innovation Driver.

Her recent books include *Transatlantic Environment and Energy Politics* (co-edited with Stacy VanDeveer and Henrik Selin, Ashgate 2009), *The Environmental Dimensions of Asian Security* (co-edited with In-taek Hyun, USIP Press, 2007), and *Comparative Environmental Politics in Japan, Germany, and the United States* (Cambridge University Press 2002, updated and translated into Japanese by Iwanami Press, 2007). In addition to her native English, Schreurs speaks German, Dutch, and Japanese.

Rio + 20 provides Europe with an opportunity to reflect upon what has been achieved in the 20 years since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) that was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and the 40 years since the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, which was held in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972. It also puts a responsibility before Europe to think about what needs to be achieved in the next 20 and the next 40 years (through 2052).

At the time of the Stockholm Conference, Europe was still struggling to deal with basic pollution problems-carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide emissions from automobiles, lead pollution from the burning of gasoline, sulfur dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants, soil and water contamination from the heavy use of pesticides and phosphorous-based soaps. Most countries were just beginning to introduce environmental administrations within their national governments and little attention had been given to European environmental needs. By the time of the UNCED, this had changed substantially. Alongside national environmental administrations, the European Union had developed an extensive environmental regulatory structure. In the 1980s and 1990s, Europe introduced a large number of environmental directives (addressing, for example, air and water quality, chemical controls, recycling, nature conservation), and joined a wide range of international agreements (Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution Agreement, Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, and the Biodiversity Protection, to name just a few).

No doubt there have been many achievements and in relation to many basic environmental indicators, environmental conditions have improved substantially since the Stockholm Conference. Yet, at the same time, many problems remain and new problems have surfaced. By the time of the UNCED, the global community was starting to recognize the seriousness of such threats as climate change, desertification, biodiversity loss, and deforestation. Since then, there has also been increasing concern related to fisheries decline, marine pollution, plastic pollution, fresh water scarcity, and persistent organic and inorganic pollutants. This makes it difficult to celebrate Rio+20 or Stockholm +40 as success stories. The lessons that have been learned and put into practice to date have not changed the fundamental structures that have put the planet in peril.

Looking forward for the next twenty to forty years, how can Europe best respond to this long list of serious and in many ways frightening challenges? Clearly, there is no simple answer, but there are many steps that can be taken to reduce the enormous pressures that our modern economies have put on the planet. Europe must develop an economic and social system that has environmental protection, equity, and inter-generational fairness at its centre.

The simplest steps that can be taken are related to the efficiency with which we use energy and raw materials. Despite large-scale improvements in energy efficiency in the past decades, there is still a tremendous amount of energy wasted throughout Europe as a result of poorly insulated buildings, inefficient transportation structures, wasteful production processes, and consumer behaviour. Europe not only needs to make sure that the existing energy efficiency goals for 2020 are successfully implemented but that further far-reaching mid- and long-term goals and measures are introduced.

Similarly, while many steps have been taken to reduce and recycle waste in the past decades-starting with glass, metals, and paper products and expanding over time to include construction materials, plastics, batteries, electronic goods, and automobiles, these efforts need to go even farther. Near zero waste should be the goal.

Beyond efficiency improvements related to energy and resource inputs, more attention needs to be put into considering which resources are being used for what purposes in the first place and what kind of negative externalities are associated with their use. In the case of the energy structure underpinning the economies of Europe, this is simple to illustrate. Europe remains heavily dependent on fossil fuels that have many negative externalities associated with their use-respiratory ailments tied to air pollution, sulphur dioxide emissions tied to acid rain, and carbon dioxide emissions that act as a greenhouse gas. Moreover, much of the energy is imported from regions that have undemocratic political structures and where income inequalities are large. Europe can and should lead the global community in transitioning to a low-carbon energy future, one that relies predominantly on renewable energies. This will require that Europe invest heavily in R&D in new technologies (e.g. electric mobility) as well as in the energy infrastructure that will be necessary to support a major build-up of renewable energy, and especially a new grid structure. Currently, Europe does not have the storage capacity nor the grid infrastructure necessary to make it possible to effectively and efficiently produce and distribute energy across the continent. The amount of new grid infrastructure and storage capacity needed could be considerably reduced, moreover, with serious planning. It makes sense to consider the different renewable energy (wind, solar, hydro, geothermal, biomass) capacities of different countries and regions and how grid interconnections could maximize complementary energy sources.

The same logic applies in relation to the resources that are used as inputs into the production of goods. Insufficient attention has been paid to the environmental value and long-term availability of the resources that are used to manufacture products and whether scarce or environmentally sensitive inputs could be reduced or replaced. Greener production in the comprehensive sense

of the term could significantly reduce the impacts European consumption has on the environment.

Beyond energy and resource efficiency improvements, structural changes will be needed as well. Transportation is a good example of this. Transport accounts for approximately one-third of European energy consumption and emissions. Despite technological improvements and tightened emission controls, the total volume of carbon dioxide emissions from the transport sector have increased since 1990 and continue to rise. This suggests the need not just for efficiency improvements, but for new ways of thinking about transportation that are less destructive of nature.

Today, an economy's strength is still measured by its gross domestic product (GDP). This is a measure of goods and services produced. It fails, however, to look at the long term sustainability of production and services. New measures of social well-being—there are many in development—should be promoted. Green growth is premised on the concept of sustainability. It therefore makes sense to move from our fixation with GDP as a measure and to adopt measures of progress that incorporate sustainability indicators at their core.

The greening of the European economy requires beyond this more attention to where government subsidies go and capital investments flow. Currently, governments subsidize many structures and industries that are not sustainable. Inventories should be made of the extent to which governmental subsidies (direct and indirect) are supporting polluting or environmentally destructive industries. Only a small handful of banks have programs in place encouraging green investment. Incentive structures should be established to encourage capital investments to flow towards projects that promote sustainability rather than simply profit maximization.

By leading the way internationally with a shift towards a greener economy, Europe can set an example for the rest of the world. Europe has taken on various short-term targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, controlling and slowing the loss of biodiversity, and enhancing green infrastructure. It should now consider further goals that go beyond existing targets and measures. To make sure that the European green transition goes far enough and rapidly enough, it will be crucial to have short-, medium-, and long-term goals that are regularly monitored, evaluated, and reassessed.

The transition will not always be easy or without winners and losers. To date, on the whole, Europe appears to have benefited enormously from investing in green technologies and industries. Europe has won many jobs in renewable energies and other clean tech areas. These are fields that can be expected to grow in the years to come.

Key note speakers

The EU perspective on Rio+20: towards the green economy and reinforced governance



Timo Mäkelä

DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,
LIFE AND ECO-INNOVATION

DG ENVIRONMENT, EUROPEAN
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Timo Mäkelä is Director – International Affairs, LIFE and Eco-innovation – in DG Environment, European Commission. His present responsibilities include both bilateral and multi-lateral international relations of the European Commission in environmental policy, innovation policies for environment and the management of the EU internal assistance programmes for environment and eco-innovation. Before taking up this post in 2009, Mr. Mäkelä was working as Director - Sustainable Development and Integration – at the DG Environment of the European Commission – from 2003 onwards. His responsibilities included sustainable development and economic analysis, sustainable production and consumption, environmental research, science and innovation policies as well as environmental policies for the industry.

After the completion of a Master of Technological Sciences degree at the Helsinki University of Technology, Mr Mäkelä has received a Post-graduate Diploma in Sanitary Engineering from IHE in the Netherlands.

Mr Mäkelä has held a number of management posts at the Ministry of Environment of Finland. He also served as a head of department at the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Water Affairs in Gaborone, Botswana and as a Director for Municipal and Environmental Infrastructure at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London, UK.

Since 1996, Mr Mäkelä has been employed by the European Commission, as a Head of Unit of DG Environment in Brussels, as the Head of European Commission Representation in Finland, and as Director for Sustainable Development and Integration at DG Environment before his present post.

Overview of presentation

- Background on the Rio+20 Conference and main themes: green economy and better governance
- EU preparations on Rio+20
- Main lines in the Commission's Communication:
 - Taking stock twenty years after Rio 1992
 - Framing the debate: “what”, “how”, “who”?
 - Initial Commission proposals for possible outcomes for Rio+20 for further discussion within EU

Background: the Rio+20 Conference

- 1992: UN Conference on Sustainable development (UNCSD) in Rio de Janeiro: established actions to move towards sustainable development
- 2002: UNCSD in Johannesburg: took stock of achievements and established further action
- 2012: UNCSD (“Rio+20”) will take stock of achievements and propose further action in the areas of:
 - Taking stock of achievements and challenges after Rio 1992
 - “A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication”
 - “The institutional framework for sustainable development” i.e. governance
- Rio+20 is an important opportunity to reinforce political commitment for sustainable development - Governments & Heads of State

EU Preparations for Rio+20

1. Commission Communication adopted on 20 June 2011
 - Builds on a range of EU policies related to sustainable development and Europe 2020 strategy.
 - Follows from a range of discussions, consultations and inter-service meetings with services in the Commission, stakeholders, Member States, Parliament groups, as well as several 3rd countries.
2. Basis for discussion with EU Member States and the European Parliament
3. International outreach activities and dialogues
4. EU consolidated position by November 2011

Taking stock and how to move forward

- Despite some successes - the world is not on the path of sustainable development, in particular in poverty eradication and in addressing environmental sustainability
- Many implementation gaps remain agreed in Rio 1992 and Johannesburg 2002
- Green Economy and reinforced governance offer a way of tackling remaining challenges of SD
- Relevant to countries in all stages of development
- EU approach builds on the EU2020 strategy and relates it to global challenges

Framing the debate and potential outcomes

- Investing in the sustainable management of key resources and natural capital (“what”)
- Establishing the right market and regulatory conditions (“how”)
- Improving governance and private sector involvement (“who”)

A set of European Commission proposals for outcomes for Rio+20 as a basis for the consolidated EU position

1. Invest in the sustainable management of key resources and natural capital (“what”)

- Water, energy, marine resources and oceans, food security and sustainable agriculture, forests, materials, chemicals and waste...
- Sustainable management of natural capital essential for the economy, poverty eradication and the environment
- Currently underpin many livelihoods and jobs around the world
- Can become basis for future economic growth and global markets
- If well managed well can draw people out of poverty, create better livelihoods, and create new jobs.

2. Establish the right market and regulatory conditions (“how”)

The enabling conditions to help stimulate green growth and markets in areas outlined under “what” include:

- Eco-taxes, cap and trade, removal of environmentally harmful subsidies, innovation
 - Regulatory instruments
 - Mobilising and leveraging public and private financial resources
 - Developing skills for new (“green” and “decent”) jobs
 - Mutual support between trade and sustainable development
 - New ways of measuring progress, in addition to GDP

3. Improve governance and private sector involvement (“who”)

- Need to modernise, reinforce and streamline governance structures to advance and deliver sustainable development, green economy and eradicate poverty
- Different levels of governance:
 - Sustainable development within the UN (e.g. role of ECOSOC)
 - International environmental governance (e.g. reinforcing UNEP)
 - Wider international framework for economic, environmental and social governance (e.g. role of IFIs, WTO)
- Sustainable development governance at national and sub-national level
- Reinforced role of non-state actors (civil society, business, finance)

Possible ingredients of an outcome at Rio+20

- A broad political rallying call for greener and more sustainable economy with shared vision and goals

- Green economy roadmap:
A set of international actions and a framework for national/regional actions
- National/regional actions:
“Bottom up”, greening national priorities and national economic and development policies with the help of a “toolbox” of best practices
- Key indicators and accounting
 - Establish a system for environmental & social accounting, in addition to economic accounting (GDP)
 - Agree on indicators (only a couple!) based on the work of work of OECD, World Bank, UNDP

Possible Actions: Resources & Natural Capital

- Reinforce international partnerships on water, renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Commitments for reducing marine pollution and waste; strengthen UNCLOS (law of the seas); move forward with benefit sharing and marine protected areas
- Promote sustainable agriculture and food security through a partnership on sustainable trade of food commodities
- Sustainable forest management partnership (building on success of FLEGT)
- Robust international regime on chemicals

Possible Actions: Greening Markets

- Move forward with domestic carbon emission trading schemes
- A scheme to phase out environmentally harmful subsidies
- Public-private financing strategies and schemes for the green economy:
 - mobilise and leverage public/private funding
 - incentivise private investments and banks
- Partnerships for eco-innovation
- More sustainable trade agreements both multilaterally and bilaterally
- Green skills programmes
 - “Re-skilling” for existing workforces
 - Youth training programmes (with ILO)

Possible Actions: Improving Governance

- Sustainable development
 - Reinforce sustainable development in UN ECOSOC
 - Upgrade CSD with extended functions or mainstream in UN
- Environmental governance
 - Transform UNEP into Specialised Agency
 - Streamline MEA system
- Reinforce capacity building
- Private sector/civil society
 - Essential for success of partnerships
 - Networking, alliances, commitments

Green Economy: The business view



Peter Paul van de Wijs

MANAGING DIRECTOR
COMMUNICATIONS AND THE
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WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL
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(WBCSD)

Peter Paul van de Wijs is a communication professional with over 20 years of experience and is member of the Executive Team of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. He is responsible for the overall communications and the coordination of the advocacy efforts of the council. In October 2010 he was also named the Managing Director for the Business Role Focus Area; one of the four major work areas of the Council. The Business Role Focus Area addresses the questions around the role of business versus that of other stakeholders in society when it comes to addressing questions around sustainability and resource challenges. Much of the work of this focus area is built around the Vision 2050; WBCSD's attempt to understand the impact of a world population set to grow to 9 billion by 2050 and to define what business can and should do to deal with this change.

Van de Wijs joined the WBCSD in June 2010. Prior to that he held various positions in communications, government affairs and issues management at The Dow Chemical Company between 1996 and 2010. Most recently he was leading the Global Water Strategy Team for Dow and was responsible for the management of various global heritage issues. In addition, he was responsible for Dow's Issues Management work process and for developing approaches to work with adversaries and other external partners to develop mutual acceptable solutions to issues.

Ms. Chair, Minister, colleagues, - It is my pleasure to take the stage this morning.

My name is Peter Paul van de Wijs and I'm the managing director for communications and the business role focus area at the WBCSD. Today I'm here to talk about the Green Economy. Are you asleep yet? If I were you, I might be. How many times have we heard someone ramble on about the great benefits of the Green Economy? Far too many in my view.

Just so you know, this won't be one of those presentations. In fact, I'll be the first to admit that I don't even know what the Green Economy is. And you know what's interesting about that – other than having someone admit publicly that they don't know something? It turns out that there are a lot of people who are just as confused as I am about the Green Economy.

If you are one of those people who have been struggling with the definition of just exactly what constitutes a Green Economy, you are not alone. And you're in good company.

For example, UNEP defines a green economy as one that “results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities”.

Meanwhile, the OECD tends to look at the Green Economy in the context of Green Growth, which they define as “...fostering economic growth and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies”

Yet another definition, this time from the Green Economy Coalition, says that a Green Economy is “a fair and inclusive economy that operates within ecological limits.”

With all these definitions floating about, how are we to define the Green Economy and what steps are necessary to get us there? Perhaps an even more fundamental question: how shall we measure it? Do we examine it from the perspective of social accountability (is it good for society), from an environmental perspective (is it good for the planet) or from a nationalistic perspective (is it good for my country).

Here is my own take on the Green Economy – but don't worry, I won't throw another definition into the mix. At the WBCSD we believe that any discussion around sustainability – a better word than Green – and economy need to be pragmatic and must also be viewed through a business lens. After all business will be instrumental in making the changes needed a reality.

Say you are the CEO of a manufacturing company. Would you continue to run your business as usual if you knew that **by next year** your feedstock was going to run out or become increasingly more expensive; ... or that your supply chain would experience the same pressures, and ... that your ability to rely on natural resources for services such as water or fibre was coming to an end? No, you would definitely not continue with business-as-usual.

And yet, when you look at the vast majority of businesses around the globe, that is exactly what's taking place. It seems that the collective business wisdom of today is to hope that the cost and availability of their inputs will be the same tomorrow and next year, and next decade. Let me tell you: **Hope is not a good strategy.**

If the average global business were an animal, it would have to be an ostrich with its head buried firmly in the sand.

The fact is, the Brown Economy that we currently live in cannot be maintained. Eventually, one of two things will happen – or both. We will run out of inexpensive fossil fuel or the use of that fuel will have enough catastrophic impacts that it will drive up other costs significantly.

And yet, we hear time and again how the mainstream business voice is advocating for flexibility and freedom to operate, where any regulation is viewed as a vice grip on productivity, profit and job creation. This short-termism is both pervasive and short sighted. It neglects the costs associated with externalities and implies that things can really stay the same forever.

So when we talk about the Green Economy and we are serious, what we really need to be talking about is how to move the business view from where it is today to where it needs to be tomorrow.

Part of that equation has to do with ensuring we have the proper market mechanisms necessary to make this shift in thinking possible. After all, markets are human constructs. We must now look at markets differently, as a way to balance value with opportunity. For example, the ETS system in Europe is a case in point. While far from perfect, it is having an effect on innovation, research and development of new technologies.

Market mechanisms that do not factor in the natural resource base are very likely to ignore important externalities that absolutely have real world impacts. Freshwater is an excellent example of this dynamic. Currently, water is hugely undervalued in many parts of the world. In some places it is nearly free. Yet inefficient water use leads to a host of problems and future costs that are born by society as a whole. Properly valuing our natural resource base is one way to apply market thinking to real-world solutions.

Currently, the most popular school of thought is focused on creating enabling frameworks, to put it in U.N. speak. These are the global policy changes that would, for example, regulate emissions, put a price on carbon, create incentives for green technologies, eliminate perverse subsidies, increase public funding for green initiatives, stimulate investment, develop public/private partnerships, and the list goes on.

What this ignores is the very real fact that until and unless the business community begins to believe that their bottom line is at risk, it is unlikely to change behavior fast enough and engage in making change happens. And unless the business community changes its behaviour, the status quo is here to stay.

Now before you throw up your hands in despair, there's a bit of a bright spot on the horizon. There is emerging a growing recognition of the shifting landscape. A select but fast growing group of leading businesses does recognize that we are heading toward a very troubling future unless something is done.

These businesses understand that in just 40 years' time, we will increase our population by a third to become a planet of 9 billion people. Every one of these individuals will want access to education, health care, energy, communication and consumer goods. And each will require food, clean water, shelter and transportation. In short, the population of the world in 2050 will be the largest this planet has ever seen, and they will all want to be living well.

Recently the OECD projected that the global economy has to grow 6-fold to 300 Trillion USD to support this economy of 9 billion people and its growing middle class.

We will see a level of urbanization beyond anything that has ever existed – doubling the number of people that currently live in cities by 2050. This population growth won't be distributed evenly. In fact, 85 % of the population will be living in today's developing countries, which will naturally seek to raise the living standards of their citizens.

My point is that when considering these kinds of numbers, knowing that there will be 30 % more people living on this planet by 2050, a potentially ugly picture emerges. Growth of population and consumption seem to inevitably lead to degradation in societies and the environment.

However, the good news is that we do not believe that this is an inevitable case. Our work leads us to believe that a sustainable world is attainable for 9 billion people.

The key question we must ask ourselves now is whether we are prepared to take the necessary steps. Winston Churchill once said, "It's not enough that we do our best, sometimes we have to do what's required".

At the WBCSD, we started thinking about what's required and how this would impact business and how it could lead to a Green Economy. That's why we created "Vision 2050" – a report that thoroughly examined how we can achieve sustainability with more people, fewer natural resources and shifting populations. We basically asked ourselves three questions that led to the development of the Vision 2050:

- What does a sustainable world look like?
- How can we (all stakeholders in society) realize it?
- What are the roles business can play in ensuring more rapid progress toward that world?

By answering these questions, we never had the illusion that we would create the definitive answer. What we hoped, and it turned out to be the case, was that the "vision" would become a platform for discussion around the roles of business

and other stakeholders in a resource constrained world, hence opening up a dialogue on the emerging green economy.

The resulting vision: “9 billion people living well, within the limits of one planet” is powerful in its simplicity. If we can agree on that, then we should be able to have an intelligent and constructive discussion on how to get there!

If there is one thing I would like you to take away from Vision 2050, it is optimism. Reaching the goals in Vision 2050 is attainable and offers significant opportunities. Again, back to the OECD projection I mentioned earlier, they believe that the big growth opportunities lie in the areas of dealing with resources constraints and the development of low carbon solutions.

For business, sustainable growth means a huge opportunity and demand for new products and services – advancing the green economy.

However, it requires business and government to take a longer-term view, one in which they both work together to achieve a set of objectives that are different, but interlinked. Government wants to deliver services to its people, and business wants to find new markets and generate revenue and profit. These are actually complementary goals.

So there is a pathway (Vision 2050), a starting point for discussion. And there are massive opportunities to do more with less, to create value, to prosper and to advance human conditions.

So what do you need for success that will lead to a Green Economy? An important prerequisite for success is that we need to agree on our roles. The following seems obvious but unfortunately in reality, too often it is not.

- Business needs to do what it does best: innovate, adapt, collaborate and implement.
- Government needs to maximize the good and minimize the bad for all stakeholders in society by:
 - Giving clear guidance and direction
 - Stimulating innovation and behaviour.
- And the Consumers? They need to consume differently.

The common denominator, in light of what I have been saying, is that we all have to pull together in the execution.

There are some examples of this happening. Take for example Vestas, the world's largest wind turbine manufacturer, and its recent announcement of a new green energy project in the U.K. that could support over 2,000 new jobs. The announcement came with a stern warning though: If persistent uncertainty on energy policy remains, Vestas may have to kill off the project. Right around that same time, the British government announced plans to adopt a cut in U.K. emissions (from 1990 levels) by 50 % by 2025, on the road to the legally binding emissions cuts of 80 % by 2050. Perfect timing I would say!

In summary, we at the WBCSD have seen that capital investment follows those governments that get the policies right. I already mentioned Europe's implementation of Emission Trading Scheme but what about China? First it announced a pledge to produce 15 % of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. That pledge was followed by the announcement that it will start experimenting with a cap-and-trade system soon - even though there is no “need” for them to do so. This is one illustration of a business and a country making the right decisions out of long-term interests.

So, in conclusion - over the past 20 years, we have seen that the motivations for companies have begun to change. 20 years ago, companies didn't have to have a sustainability portfolio. We had a situation where it was the regulators versus the regulated. More and more we find that the individuals who are now talking about the green economy and sustainability are sitting in corporate boardrooms wearing tailored pin-stripe suits.

And, secondly, it is no longer the regulator that has the biggest impact on business performance – it is the emergence of “pull” power of the marketplace that is serving that function today combined with real physical limitations.

Governments that understand this dynamic and create the conditions where this can flourish will be rewarded by businesses who flock to them. Meanwhile, countries who fail to act will struggle.

Thank you.

Green Economy – something for the future? An NGO view



Jan-Gustav Strandaes

SENIOR ADVISER

THE NORTHERN
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(ANPED)

After an international education in Norway, the US and Sweden, Jan-Gustav started working on UN information. After his first assignments for the UN in Latin America in the 70's, Jan-Gustav has worked and lived in Botswana, Uganda, the US and Sweden in addition to Norway. Between 1985 and 2005, he organised and built up one of the largest development-environment NGO in Norway with projects in more than 20 developing countries. He began working with the UN Commission for Sustainable Development annually in 1997.

He is presently the UN CSD NGO Co-Organising Partner coordinating global NGO input into the UN CSD process. He is also serving on a global civil society committee for UNEP on environmental governance and civil society policy.

He currently holds a central position in the process-work leading up to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, for 2012 in Brazil. In 2008 he joined Haring Woods Studio, a think tank based in London, UK, as an associate. While being a free-lance adviser, Jan-Gustav is also employed part time by a Brussels-based, EU funded, international NGO, ANPED (The Northern Alliance for Sustainability), as their Senior Policy Adviser.

Jan-Gustav has translated several books from English to Norwegian, authored two books and numerous articles on the environment.

The UN report “In Larger Freedom” of 2005 states in §57: “We fundamentally depend on natural systems and resources for our existence and development. Our efforts to defeat poverty and pursue sustainable development will be in vain if environmental degradation and natural resource depletion continue unabated”. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan added: “Good governance at the local, national and international levels is perhaps the single most important factor in promoting development and advancing the cause of peace”.

Indeed, we are discussing nothing new. Sustainable Development and good governance are closely linked and depend on each other. It has indeed been said before, many times, what the challenges are and what needs to be done.

Rachel Carson said it in 1960, E.F. Schumacher said it in the 60s, Barry Commoner said it in 1970; UNEP, Stockholm, said it in 1972, UNCED, Agenda 21, Rio, said it in 1992, the UN millennium ecosystems report said it in 2000 and the WSSD, Johannesburg, said it in 2002.

We might be better off today if we had listened.

Our time is now

And what is different now, is that we have a global audience willing to listen to environmental issues.

For the record: The major groups and civil society have been given a role in the UN process by being referred to in 8 of the 29 paragraphs of the GA resolution calling for the UN CSD in Rio in 2012. They are being included at all levels of the process, nationally, regionally and globally, including at the conference.

The tasks of the UN?

A major function: One of the major functions of the UN is global standard setting and developing norms, rules, procedures and conventions that govern the global community.

A major dilemma: One of the major dilemmas of the UN is the obvious need to implement the standards and to create the political will globally to support and abide by these standards. However, the impression is often that many tend to consider UN agreements as obstacles, tools that hinder the free will and spirit of creative forces, and jeopardise national sovereignty. Yet most people consider the UN treaties as tools that help protect and safeguard something that needs to be protected.

The preparation of the Rio +20 conference

What does the GA resolution deciding on the conference say?

- It defines the themes, not the content of the conference.
- It states that the conference shall be held on the highest political level, although not yet a summit, but perhaps...?
- It aims at operationalising the three elements in sustainable development, central to the UN-track.
- It emphasises the importance of CSD (Commission on Sustainable Development), of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) and of SCP (Sustainable Consumption and Production).

It states that civil society, the Major Groups shall participate in all meetings and at all levels of the preparatory process including the conference itself, and at all geographical levels, nationally, regionally and globally.

Problems

- The process lacks dynamics. Developed countries are using brakes instead of accelerators and are not prioritising sustainable development. They are upgrading other processes than the UN, like Davos, the G-8 and others.
- The process is working in the shadow of a number of UN fiasco conferences and processes.
- And finally, the process seems to lack visions of how the world might look like in a sustainable way in 2030.

Process challenges

Few countries have developed basic positions, the EU for example only this summer. Compared to Rio in 1992, there is little time for the preparatory work. The roles of various units of the UN still remain largely unclear, and there is a lack of resources from donors and from financial institutions.

There are things missing in the resolution as well. There is no definition of or direction for the discussion concerning the Green Economy concept. The resolution does not indicate in any way how to strengthen the institutional architecture; it does not deal with or reflect the changing political realities in the world today. And, - it does not deal with UNEP at all.

Green Economy

UNEP states that biodiversity is the basis of ecosystem health and of the provision of ecosystem services. Restoring a damaged ecosystem is a difficult and complex task, and one about which we still have much to learn. Efforts to designate 'planetary boundaries' which are intended to define a 'safe operating space' for humanity with respect to Earth systems have begun. Scientists and researchers, primarily at the Resilience Centre of the University of Stockholm have defined nine planetary boundaries, of which three have already been passed:

- climate change rate (passed)
- terrestrial and marine biodiversity loss (passed)
- interference with the nitrogen and phosphorous cycles (passed)
- stratospheric ozone depletion
- ocean acidification
- global freshwater use
- change in land use
- chemical pollution
- atmospheric aerosol loading.

UNEP defines Green Economy as 'an economy that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities'. Basic elements are:

- Low carbon
- Reduce pollution and GHG
- Resource efficient
- Prevent loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services

- Socially inclusive
- Inextricably linked to the Millennium Development Goals
- Reduction of harmful subsidies
- Employing new market based instruments
- Targeting public investments
- Greening public procurement
- Improving and enforcing environmental rules and regulations

Green Economy does not replace SD!

- Achieving sustainability rests almost entirely on getting the economy right. But present economic models have not substantially addressed social marginalisation and resource depletion.
- A transition requires: a specific enabling conditions, national regulations, policies, subsidies, incentives, international market and legal infrastructure, and trade aid policies.
- A green economy requires: a System of Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA), Green accounting or inclusive wealth accounting, based on appropriate domestic and fiscal measures and policy reforms.
- UNEP has taken a sectoral approach for: Agriculture, Buildings, Energy, Fisheries, Forestry, Industry, Tourism, Transport, Waste, and Water.

Green economy – four ways?

- Reduce, reuse and recycle, including making all production green, may be the panacea - a market liberalistic view. This approach might end up in green-washing and greening greed.
- De-growth or critical approach to the system of economy, based on what is known as strong sustainability.
- Distributive growth, which tries to look at SCP in a 'frugal' way.
- Global transition, - an incremental change with strengthening key institutions.

Green economy challenges

- The Earth Integrity Principle
- The Planetary Boundaries Principle
- The Dignity Principle
- The Justice Principle
- The Precautionary Principle
- The Resilience Principle
- The Governance Principle
- The Beyond-GDP Principle

A critical NGO view implies:

- Green Economy is a big step forward, but will not solve on its own problems of inequity in incomes, access to resources and quality of life, nor tackle pollution from existing industry and environmental degradation. Promoting Green Economy is not the same as “changing our economy” towards Sustainable Development.
- There is general consensus that Social Equity has to be part of the Green Economy. As we are already living globally beyond our environmental limits, we cannot keep on growing (for the sake of increasing the cake to share).

We need to start thinking of redistribution of resources and wealth. This means poverty eradication by (extreme) wealth reduction, which is framed as 'contraction and convergence', with tackling income inequalities (maximum salaries), strengthening and investing in social capital and social innovation, and increasing the investment in public goods.

- Recognise and establish the limits: Resource and emission caps, strong reduction targets (in absolute amounts), fiscal reforms (taxing the bads, not the goods), product norms (energy and resources standards), as well as alternative indicators ("beyond GDP").
- Dismantling the culture of consumerism, instead of promoting (green) consumerism, by: more sharing of the available work, urban planning which allows sustainable transport, local shops, food production and open spaces (following the local agenda 21).
- Education: integrate SD in curricula at all levels.
- Allow real civil participation (instead of consultation after the decisions are made).
- Put human values at the heart of every policy.
- Overall: Show leadership and design long term visions, go beyond single and end-of-pipe solutions.

Green conditionality, green-washing, green growth and ecological growth

How relevant are these demands in economic, political, life style terms?

This needs to be contextualised:

How do we understand our world?

1. Our world is changing, from a bi-polar world in the 1970s to a multi- polar world today, from a North-South divide to where many nations from earlier developing regions are active.

What will the world in 2030 to look like?

Population perspective:

In 1970, the global population increase was 2.3 % per year. By 2010, it had fallen to 1.1% per year. Today, fertility rates are falling everywhere. Also the estimates have changed. In 1970, the estimates at stabilising level for the end of the 21st century were a world population of 20 billion people. In 2010, the estimates have gone down to below 9 billion.

Food availability:

The total food production today is 8,6 billion metric tonnes of food for 6,7 billion people on earth, which means 1.286 kg of food per capita/year, or 3.5 kilo per capita/day.

At no increase of food production, with 10 billion people at the end of the century (estimated stability level), this would mean 816 kilo food per capita/year, or 2,5 kilo per capita/person or 800 grams per meal per person.

2. Are the developing nations the same today as they were in the 1970s? Political blocks are changing, old ones are fragmenting.

Is the UN given less priority? Is Davos more important than Geneva, New York and Nairobi? Is the financial crisis used as an excuse for not giving priority to Sustainable development?

3. Double talk among nations: The same governments criticising the UN, undermine them by withdrawing or reducing their support, politically and economically.

Not so, when the bank crisis emerged.

A changed world

The bi-polar (North South) world is on the wane, and a multi-polar world has emerged. The north is no longer dominating the global scene and several former developing countries have become global players. The classic period of aid is coming to an end.

Are we out-dated?

Is our understanding of the world today, its problems and solutions in reality based on how we saw the world as it was back in the 1970s and we thought all what we did then actually worked? Are we still using the same mechanisms?

The great enlightenment philosopher Immanuel Kant gave us all almost 250 years ago a clarion call to follow: “Sapere aude - have courage to use your own understanding”.

Shakespeare, for his part, made it even more simple: “Action is eloquence”.

A confused optimist once said, “I love humanity, it's people I cannot stand!”

If we do not think differently this time, we would just be greening the greed.

International Environmental Governance, the Role of State and Non-State Actors



Jacqueline McGlade

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
PROFESSOR
EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY (EEA)

Professor Jacqueline McGlade is Executive Director of the European Environment Agency, on secondment from University College London. Previous appointments have included Centre Director at UK Natural Environment Research Council, Professor at Warwick University, Institute Director FZ Jülich and Senior Scientist in the Canadian Federal Government. She has published more than 200 scientific papers, articles and books in marine science, ecosystem dynamics and governance of natural resources and been awarded a number of international prizes. She has worked extensively in Europe, North America, Africa and south-east Asia and appeared in many radio and television programmes, including her own series.

Global environmental politics and governance is in a state of gradual yet profound change. Ever since the creation of an international environmental agenda in the early 1970s, states and intergovernmental institutions have been at the centre of global governance. Starting in the 1980s and accelerating in more recent years, however, global governance has become increasingly transnationalised, meaning that it involves a growing number of non-state actors operating at different levels, from the local to the regional and global. Key drivers of this change include economic globalisation, technological change, the growing imbalance in information held by state and non-state actors, and evolving concepts of governance.

The growth of diverse non-state actors and institutional arrangements has begun to change the dynamics and outcomes of global environmental politics. New actors in areas such as business, civil society and science now play a more prominent role internationally and in multi-actor and multilevel governance networks. This trend towards transnationalisation is likely to continue into the future. It will not end state-sponsored international governance but it does create new opportunities and challenges.

For policymakers in Europe who wish to strengthen global governance systems and advance the cause of global sustainability, the process of transnationalisation offers a range of potential benefits. If managed carefully, greater involvement of non-state actors can enhance the problem-solving capacity of international institutions, add new governance mechanisms to existing international treaties and provide for a more inclusive and legitimate form of international policymaking. At a time when the international power balance is shifting and the rise of new global powers threatens to reduce the EU's influence in international affairs, the transnationalisation of environmental governance can be seen as an opportunity for renewed European international leadership.

At the same time, the rise of non-state actors and new governance modes also poses profound challenges for European policymakers, whether representatives of EU Member States or of EU institutions such as the European Commission. To fully grasp the new opportunities, European policy needs to be proactive in promoting and exploiting the trend towards transnational, multi-actor governance. Only if it is centrally positioned within the emerging field of global governance can the EU direct its evolution and derive benefits.

Executive summary of “Global governance — the rise of non-state actors. A background report for the SOER 2010 assessment of global megatrends”. EEA Technical report | No 4/2011



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Session A-1 Institutions: the challenge of transition

Chair: Jan De Smedt, FRDO-CFDD (BE), Co-chair EEAC WG SD
Rapporteur: Koen Moerman, FRDO-CFDD (BE)

Summary of the session and discussion

Annemieke Roobeek (RLI, NL) described the obstacles that exist in the Netherlands (and elsewhere) to a transition towards a green economy. There is a lack of vision and no political choices are made to mainstream the approach. For example, the financing of renewable energy is still lagging behind, and there is no progress regarding environmental taxation: there is no “level playing field” for the moment. To move the agenda further, we need a “coalition of the willing”, where local movements and forerunners in the business world join forces.

Inge Paulini (WBGU, DE) presented a report by her Council: “A social contract for Sustainability”. According to this report, the transition to a low carbon-society becomes possible when we succeed in inverting the current trends in energy use, urbanisation and land use. To make this work, a pro-active government is needed, as part of a new social contract. Other drivers for change (10 recommendations) include an adequate CO₂-price and a common EU energy policy for a low-carbon and nuclear free energy system by 2050.

Roel in 't Veld explained the first results of the TransGov project (Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies - IASS, Potsdam). He pointed to the old and new forms of politics, science and media. Using the old approach we will fail to achieve the transition to sustainability, inter alia because cultural diversity is not taken into account, when focusing on one solution (instead of considering the interaction between local and global levels). To realise the transition, we must use new forms of politics, science and media, and their interactions (the Arab spring is an example of what these new forms can obtain).

Discussion: Speakers and participants exchanged views on

- The possibility to replace the fossil-fuel economy completely with renewable energy: Willy De Backer isn't convinced that this will be possible. Annemieke Roobeek replies that even if we cannot rely on renewables only, we are far too modest now and a huge potential is left aside in the Netherlands.
- The effectiveness of the “alarmist approach” (e.g. insisting on the planetary boundaries, risk of climate disaster): Roel in 't Veld is doubtful about the effectiveness of this approach and suggests that it could have opposite effects: for example, a majority in the USA is sceptic about climate change. Inge Paulini sees her message not as alarmist, but as a fact-driven exercise with the message “BAU² cannot go on” due to detrimental side-effects.

- A transition without growth (“stationary economy” or de-growth): Filipe Duarte Santos stated that no transition is possible without rethinking the concept of growth, and he mentioned the stationary economy as an alternative. Roel in 't Veld answered that he is sceptic about de-growth, because it easily leads to moving away from technological innovation. You have to keep the notion of added value in an economy. Less use of resources is a good approach, but not less output in general.
- The difference between transition and transformation: Joerg Mayer-Ries considers that many of the approaches mentioned in the presentations are already in place (local networks, green fiscal policies...): they are in the system, but not dominant. Therefore he prefers to talk about “transformation” instead of “transition”.

² “Business As Usual”

Brakes are off! Accelerating the transition towards a sustainable energy system in the Netherlands



Annemieke Roobeek

COUNCIL MEMBER,
PROFESSOR

DUTCH COUNCILS FOR
THE ENVIRONMENT
AND INFRASTRUCTURE (RLI)

Prof. Annemieke J.M. Roobeek has a background in political science, international relations and innovation economics. She is Professor of Strategy and Transformation Management at Nyenrode Business Universiteit in the Netherlands. Her research on innovation, sustainability and networking has led to both theoretical and practical advances in strategies for companies and the public sector. She is Director of MeetingMoreMinds in Amsterdam, a networking organisation for intercompany exchanges and cutting edge strategies for those who dare to learn in the open space. She is a member of the supervisory board of several companies (KLM, ABN AMRO, Abbott Healthcare, PGGM) and she is Chair of the National Centre for Science and Technology - Science Center NEMO in Amsterdam. She is member of the RLI – the Dutch Councils for the Environment and Infrastructure. In this framework she has worked with an interdisciplinary team of experts and civil servants on sustainability and urban development, as well as recently on the 'Transition towards Renewable Energy' and the position the Netherlands in an international context. She will present the results of this report.

The progress of the transition towards a sustainable energy system in the Netherlands is too slow. That is the conclusion of the Dutch Councils for the Environment and Infrastructure (RLI). To speed up the process, the councils recommend that the government provides a stable long term perspective on the development of a sustainable energy system and sets out to remove obstacles for the transition in regulations and institutions.

The transition as an irreversible process both worldwide and in Europe spawns growing markets for renewable energy and energy efficiency technology. This offers opportunities for both economic growth and employment in sustainable energy technology, to compensate for the inevitable decline in fossil energy markets. The transition makes the economy less vulnerable for an expected rise of fuel costs and carbon prices. Nevertheless, the Netherlands seem to lag behind compared to neighbouring countries:

- Progress towards the European targets for renewable energy in 2020 is slow, and there is no explicit strategy for goals that reach beyond 2020;
- There are no explicit goals for energy efficiency and energy saving;
- The Dutch climate for investing in renewable energy is considered unfavourable;
- Investments in traditional energy production capacity is still considerable;
- The Dutch clean energy industry is internationally insignificant.

According to the Councils this lack of progress stems for an important part from the dominant historical role of fossil fuels in the Dutch economy. The availability of natural gas and the prominent role of oil trade and industry resulted in substantial prosperity and attracted much energy intensive industrial activity. In addition, the revenues for the state have been substantial throughout the years. From that perspective it's no surprise that vested interests are strong in matters of energy supply and indeed energy transition. The radical change that constitutes the energy transition leads to a society where renewable energy and energy efficiency are dominant. Initiatives outside the vested interests need to be enabled and obstacles removed. The councils observe that many initiatives by entrepreneurs, local governments and citizens for development and deployment of renewable energy and energy saving technology are hampered by regulations on licensing and taxation or lack of suitable financial arrangements.

In order to seize the economic opportunities offered by the energy transition the Councils recommend that the Dutch government pace up the transition by:

- Providing a long term perspective on a sustainable energy system in 2050, with intermediate goals for 2030 and 2040, preferably in line with the European perspectives;
- Drafting a charter with stakeholders in the fossil energy sector and the energy intensive industry for a long term transformation strategy towards sustainability;
- Providing a new, more business-like frame for the public debate on the energy transition;
- Supporting and stimulating the creation of markets for energy saving and renewable energy;
- Redirecting financial and tax interventions in favour of renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- Critically reviewing institutions and regulations that may hamper the energy transition.

Great transformation to a low-carbon society: managing the implementation challenge



Inge Paulini

SECRETARY GENERAL

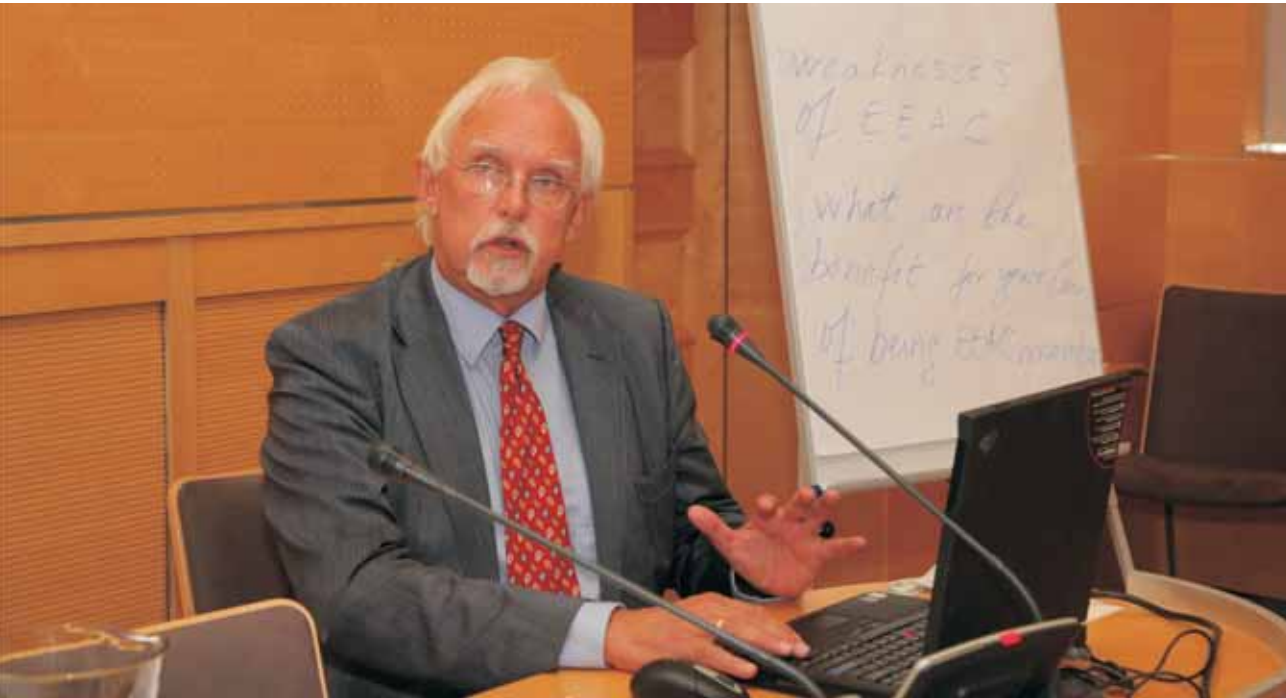
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Dr. Paulini holds a Diploma in Nutrition at the University of Bonn, after which she received the degree of Master of Science in Nutrition, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, Washington State University (WSU). At the University of Hannover she obtained a doctorate in biology. Since 2009 Dr. Paulini is the Secretary-General of the German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU). From 1993 to 2008 she worked in the Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environment Agency, Berlin, Germany), heading various sections and departments (environmental impacts of detergents; risk management for chemicals; general affairs, environmental strategies, research planning).

In its recent flagship report „World in Transition: A Social Contract for Sustainability“, the WGBU explains the reasons for the urgent need for a 'post fossil-nuclear metabolism' and concludes that the transition to sustainability is achievable. Ten recommended packages of measures are particularly suitable for accelerating and extending the transition to sustainability.

1. The state should show conscious awareness of its enabling and proactive role to advance global decarbonisation. For reasons of legitimacy this has to go hand in hand with far more extensive opportunities for citizens' participation.
2. CO₂ should globally be given a 'commensurate' global price as soon as possible.
3. A European energy policy aiming for a fully decarbonised energy system by 2050 at the latest should be developed and implemented at once. A direct objective should be the promotion of partnerships with North Africa.
4. Feed-in tariffs for renewable energies should be introduced worldwide.
5. One top priority for any development policy should be to provide access to sustainable energy to the 2.5 to 3 billion people in developing countries currently living in energy poverty.
6. A huge effort should be made to steer the world's accelerating urbanisation towards sustainability.
7. Land-use can and should become climate-friendly, in particular forestry and agriculture.
8. Financing of the transformation and the massive investments required should increasingly rely on new business models that help to overcome current investment barriers.
9. Within international climate policy, states should continue to work towards an ambitious global climate treaty. At the same time, multilateral energy policy must promote the worldwide transfer of low-carbon technologies.
10. The UN should be brought into a position where they can make effective contributions to the transformation (reorganising institutions into transformation agencies for sustainable development). The Rio+20 conference in 2012 is a unique chance to set the global course towards sustainability.

Transgovernance – The quest for governance of sustainable development



Roel in 't Veld

PROFESSOR OF GOVERNANCE
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Born in 1942, Roeland Jaap in 't Veld studied law and economics in Leiden and Rotterdam. Having completed his dissertation on theoretical foundations of collective decision-making in 1975, he became full professor political science and public administration at the University of Nijmegen in 1977.

Roeland in 't Veld has subsequently held positions as a professor in public administration, political science and governance of sustainability at Erasmus University Rotterdam, Leiden University, University of Amsterdam, Utrecht University and The European University Institute in Florence. He is currently professor of governance and sustainability at the University of Tilburg, and he is teaching management and governance at the Open University Netherlands and the University of the Dutch Antilles.

From 1979-1982, he was an advisor to the Minister for Science Policy. From 1982 to 1988 he was appointed as Director-General for Higher Education and Scientific Research. In 1993, Professor in 't Veld served as Secretary of State for Higher Education.

He currently serves in advisory positions for several Ministers. He has held positions as an advisor for the World Bank, the OECD, the European Commission and for the Council of Europe.

From 1996 until 2010 he was chairman of the Advisory Council for Research on Spatial Planning, Nature and the Environment (RMNO).

Professor In 't Veld has published a couple of books on Planning Theory, on Structuring Higher Education, on Theoretical Foundations of Steering Theory and recently on Knowledge Democracy.

We live in an unsustainable world.....

We urgently need to make our societies more sustainable, which means better balancing the environment, social wellbeing and prosperity, while accepting responsibility for future generations. Many agree on this objective. But still, economies, governments and citizens' behaviour are unsustainable to an extent never heard of in history. We use more resources than we should, we create dangerous levels of climate change, and we are responsible for hunger, draughts, floods and social inequality. At the same time, risks are accompanied by opportunities: Humankind has more knowledge and power than it had ever before to find solutions for the people and the planet.

.....with failing governance structures.....

The current arrangements for collective decisions, however, are not leading us towards sustainable societies. Therefore, we need change in these arrangements. This is the governance question. Our findings are that the failure can be explained as a consequence of misconceptions such as the belief that centralised and legal arrangements are always the best / only option, that cultural diversity is a hindrance to sustainability and that hegemonic thinking is preferable over pluralist and tolerant attitudes towards other values, that there is no alternative to mainstream thinking on economic growth, that science can and should always be objective and undisputable, that participation of civil society and business is only a fashion, and that institutions are the same as organisations. New governance features have to deal with these underlying notions that are deeply buried into prevailing governance thinking.

....we need to understand social reflexivity...

Mainstream governance concepts are disconnected from the complexities of our time. We combine three methods of looking at contemporary societies. The first is reflexivity. We recognise that social systems are reflexive in nature, and any attempt to forecast future has to take this into account, e.g. by accepting a high degree of uncertainty.

...and the tensions in a knowledge democracy...

The second is knowledge democracy: we experience increasing tensions between old and new forms of politics, science and media. Increasingly, representative democracy is mixed with participatory democracy, classical media and social media co-exist but do not co-operate, and the application of science is only beginning to be part of transdisciplinary trajectories. There is turbulence, volatility, overflow of unchecked and unreliable data, and unpredictability, and we have to deal with them.

....we need diversity rather than simplicity...

The third concept is that of second modernity: we live in a world in which the 'and' formula works better than 'or'. It is not any longer an issue of bottom-up or

top-down, of governmental or non-governmental, it is about the “art” to combine both perspectives. But this also means that it is not about the naïve world view to have a “fresh start”, it is more to find ways allowing for a co-existence of different paradigms. Hence, it is not recommendable to close in on just single governance structures. The complexity of the second modernity requires plurality.

... and combine this in sustainability transgovernance.

The result of advanced thinking into governance is for decision makers in the political, business, science, media and civil society arenas to start getting familiar with new governance arrangements beyond conventional fixations and stereotypes. Sustainability requires 'governance across...' or transgovernance. This means that actions should be based on thinking towards a culturally sensitive metagovernance for sustainable development; towards more transdisciplinarity; towards trans-border approaches; towards new and more interactive methods to measure progress; towards open innovation; towards looking for compatibility, accountability, reliability and leadership.

Transgovernance is bold by being subtle and incremental...

Our view is subtle: irreversible positive fundamental change in human communities will be brought about by gradual, incremental, yet transformative innovations. In knowledge democracies, to convince is better than to command, even though, sometimes, conviction ends up with command, according to the synchrony paradigm of the second modernity.

Finally, we consider variety as a treasure, not as a burden; although standardisation is a mighty tool in order to bring about further progress in technological systems, it also inevitably destroys variety. Cultural diversity however is one of the treasures of humanity.

...an approach rather than a recipe...

Transgovernance is an approach rather than a recipe. Using this approach, solutions may differ. We have suggested some, like global innovation networks of governments and corporations, innovation tournaments for small and medium enterprises, nation states in a new role as process architect, and a new diplomacy for international agreements.

...and this requires modern leadership.

The challenges for sustainability governance leadership go beyond designing solutions. Essential is to have a long-term orientation, to understand the complexity of our time and to understand the lesson that changes of real-world configurations of often come from inside (intraventions). Leadership needs sustainability skills; the conventional hard skill / soft skill approach should be challenged.

Session B-1 Economy: Business and jobs

Chair: Guenther Bachmann, RNE (DE), Co-chair EEAC WG SD

Rapporteur: Dorothee Braun, RNE (DE)

Summary of the session and discussion

Peter Paul van de Wijs (WBCSD) described from a business perspective the challenges and chances arising with a sound industrial transition towards sustainable development. So far, companies are not embracing fully and not as fast as they should approaches to a green economy and sustainable development. Though, in fact sustainable development is the winner of the crisis. Sustainable development is a business imperative as it provides cost effectiveness, resource management, access to new sustainable business fields, etc. There is need to green the entire economy, to improve production standards in the entire value chain, rethink products that are manufactured and to allow for bottom up processes towards sustainability within companies. Visionary thinking, such as WBCSD's 'Vision 2050', is an important tool that helps to inform business strategies. A main obstacle lays in the lack of coordination and communication between governments and business. Besides long term policies (20/30 years) smart and practical interventions are needed that include business perspectives.

Dominique Olivier (CNDD-GE, FR) agreed that green economy provides real opportunities to create new jobs. He underlines the need to green the entire economy and warns against a narrow definition of the green economy concept being exclusively applied to global environment business. In order to allow for a sound and just transition the quality of jobs need to be taken into account, new skills and job definition must be outlined and training accordingly provided.

Martin Siecker (Consultative Committee for Industrial Change, EESC) assented that sustainable development is the driving force for industrial transition. To make it a success, combating social exclusion, enforcing human rights and gender equality are of utmost importance. Most jobs in global production networks are low skill, temporarily and based on weak contracts. Employees and workers alike have the right to security, access to (re-)training and social protection. Unjust transition processes will likely increase social tension and fear. Fair distribution of knowledge, income and power is key.

Eoin McLoughlin (Comhar, IE) outlined the outcomes of the report on skills and training for a green new deal released by the Irish SD Council Comhar. He pointed to the role of skills and training that was identified as a priority area to achieve the transition to sustainability. Qualitative and quantitative assessment in each area is needed. This includes the analysis of key skill gaps and needs for specialised training, accordingly. New approaches, such as multidisciplinary apprenticeship, civil society engagement and industry training networks should be put effectively into practice. Higher education is an asset.

Discussion: speakers and participants exchanged views on

- The need to green the entire economy: Speakers agreed that the majority of jobs have to contribute to sustainable development. Improving competencies in all sectors, also old sectors as the steel industry are prerequisite and referred to as

transversal skills by Dominique Olivier. Peter Paul van de Wijs added that maximising plants is imperative as existing plants can't be simply taken away and replaced by new built ones. Martin Siecker pointed to the vulnerability of workers when forced to seek job opportunities in other sectors. Boundaries between sectors exists, classification, skills are not similar. A view from the audience highlighted current developments in Germany. He explained that eco industries have two faces. One is end of pipe technology whereas the other, resource efficiency, gains in importance. Transfer to brown industries is possible as it pays off. In his view, the machinery construction sector aims to become the leader in energy/resource efficiency.

- Beyond Fear: Martin Siecker points out that long term transition processes are not only linked with the fear about losing one's job but losing assets, comfort and advantages provided by the current system. The possibility to learn new skills is not enough. The mind-set of people has to be changed.
- Skills: Peter Paul van de Wijs acknowledged that the weak point area of WBCSD's 'Vision 2050' strategy is employment. In his opinion the skills of leaders are not to be neglected. SD skills for business leaders need to be developed and trained.
- Small and medium enterprises: Madi Sharma (EESC) pointed to the important role of the SMEs. Albeit SMEs are main job providers they feel to be cut off from the debate. There is need to empower small and medium entrepreneurial businesses. A just and comprehensive transition will not take place unless we get true participation and democracy. She pointed to the essential but undermined role of women in economy. She further referred to accountability as an important aspect of governance. Günther Bachmann replied that SMEs in Germany are very well acknowledged. He criticised the lack of leadership in terms of real commitment of business leaders to fully embrace sustainability. Madi Sharma added that importance should be given to the local (economy). Trust is essential. She pointed to the opportunity to build stronger partnerships between local business and the consumer as well as local business and job creation. Peter Paul van de Wijs added that the WBCSD identified women empowerment as important, but has not figured out its role is in this regard. The WBCSD acknowledges SMEs networks in terms of best practice sharing with regard to south/north, and small/big enterprises. He reiterated the huge gap in the communication and coordination between government, business and civil society.
- Working poor: Martin Siecker stressed the huge difference between CEOs and workers in annual income. In 2003 Eurostat had to introduce the new category "working poor".

In his closing remarks Günther Bachmann pointed to the importance of partnerships. In his view, roadmaps are part of partnership, part of collective action and responsibility to deliver green economy.

Sustainability strategies in business

Peter Paul van de Wijs³, WBCSD

This contribution built on the Plenary presentation.

³ For biographical information, see page 35

The debate about Green Growth and Green Jobs



Dominique Olivier

COUNCIL MEMBER

FRENCH NATIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT GRENELLE
(CNDD-GE)

Dominique Olivier holds a degree in chemistry from the École de Chimie de Rennes and has subsequently been trained in toxicology, ergonomy, technological risks and sustainable development.

Mr Olivier has been working as a chemist for the Michelin company in Clermont-Ferrand for 13 years.

He is responsible for health at the workplace and sustainable development at the French trade union CFDT. Most notably, Mr Olivier was a negotiator in the French Environmental Round Table ("Grenelle de l'Environnement") in 2007. He is member of the Sustainable Development Commission of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), and member of its Working Groups climate and energy. He is also active in the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) in the areas of climate, environment, sustainable development and Rio+20. Mr. Olivier has been member of the National Committee for Sustainable Development and Environment Grenelle (CNDD-GE) since 2010, and represents the Council in EEAC. For his trade union CFDT is also participates in the French civil society preparations for the Rio conference ("Comité Rio+20").

After a lot of investigations and explanations, a majority agrees with the fact that:

- Green jobs are or will be a minority
- But they represent a main and real opportunity for employment
- Green growth is different from green economy
- Green economy is not naturally nor totally the economy we need in the fight for sustainable development.

The five stakeholder groups that mainly form the French CNDDGE (Government and public authorities, employers, trade unions, environmental NGOs, local authorities) have met with the officials in the institutions and organisations of the field of jobs, primary education and professional education and integration to reflect upon how to give dynamic to a “green economy”. A number of experts have been consulted, and different organisations have produced more or less quantitative and/or qualitative evaluations of the potential for “green jobs”, most notably the Boston Consulting Group, the WWF, Syndex and Alpha.

The consequence is a majority for the view summarised above. But this apparent consensus masks a disagreement about the concept of “greening”: Is it sufficient? We don't think so! The reorientation of the economy towards sustainable development presupposes a lot more than just the greening of economic activities. A circular economy or a functional economy or even an industrial ecology: all these concepts go beyond just green economy. Because in the end, when there are green jobs, what will happen to the grey, brown or black jobs? We think that all job sectors should examine themselves regarding their contribution to sustainable development and the conditions to conform to it.

The project « Promoting the jobs of a Green Economy »

This project has continued for two years with all stakeholders and institutional actors (education, training/employment). Eleven sectors have been identified and investigated during one year with all the parties (transports, car industry, new energies, water and wastes, building, agriculture and forest, electric goods, refinery and green chemistry, tourism, maritime activities, biodiversity); each has produced a report evaluating trends and disruptions, and developed recommendations.

In the field of qualifications, competences and professional standards, there is a marked gradation between modest evolutions, significant evolutions and disruptions, due to the necessity to reorient and reconvert certain employees. For example, to go from being truck driver to bus driver is a possible transition and relatively easy, but becoming train driver is a disruption, a completely different job. In the automobile sector, constructing a hybrid car is still an activity of construction of automobiles, there is still a combustion motor! For the fully electric car, other actors have come up with solutions. The challenge is thus to accompany the modest or significant evolutions and to safeguard against the risks of disruption and job losses.

For professional sectors and the corresponding collective agreements, the task is to conduct the necessary prospective studies about the evolution of professions and jobs, and then to push forward by collective negotiation the professional standards, the criteria of classification, the modalities of professional training or of practical education, bearing in mind the recognition and the promotion of new competences that can be useful for sustainable development.

One central question is the mobility and cooperation in the work situation: How do, for example, SMEs cooperate to put a serious offer on the table concerning the thermal rehabilitation of buildings, how do the different professional organisations gather around a common “sustainable development” project that deserves the name, how do the employees develop a serious cooperation in the work situation instead of competition and contempt?

The project for the next year is that the main sectors develop a social dialogue and collective bargaining about these topics: quality of jobs and just transition.

EU crisis exit strategies: more precarious or sustainable jobs?



Martin Siecker

MEMBER GROUP 2,
EMPLOYEES

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
(EESC)

Martin Siecker started his professional career in the early seventies as a journalist for 'de Volkskrant', a nationwide progressive newspaper in the Netherlands. In 1981 he joined the union for industrial workers as editor of the union magazine. In the years that followed he also experimented with other techniques to communicate with members and after the merger with 3 other unions to the current union for multiple industrial and services branches in 1998 he became a national officer responsible for negotiations on collective labour agreements in several agricultural sectors. In 2002 he joined the EESC, since then he is a member of the Consultative Committee for Industrial Change (CCMI), the INT section, the NAT section (also responsible for sustainable development) and he has been a member of the Sustainable Development Observatory (SDO) from the start in 2004 till 2010 when he moved to the Internal Market Observatory. He has been reporter for a number of opinions on sustainability matters

Until now, economic issues always have had priority over social and environmental considerations. It has often been stressed that there would only be room for these interests against the background of a healthy, growing economy. That's too simplistic: the opposite is also true. There is no room for economic growth in a destroyed environment or in a society that is driven by social dissent.

Economic sustainability is a policy that is aimed at continuity of a business. This serves society in a long term. It conserves employment for the workers and economic profit for the shareholders. That's contrary to the policy of hedge funds that bought healthy companies with borrowed money, stripped the most profitable parts to sell them at high prices, allocated the money that was loaned to buy the company as a debt to what was left of the company and let it go bankrupt. The taxpayers had to pay the bill.

Social sustainability means allowing people to live healthy lives and to generate an income while guaranteeing a reasonable level of social security to those who are not able to do likewise. This requires a society that enables people to maintain their vocational skills by offering them decent work in a safe and healthy working environment and in a climate that respects workers' rights and that accommodates fruitful social dialogue.

In the Lisbon Treaty the EU promises its citizens, amongst many other things, that it wants to combat social exclusion, that it guarantees the social rights that are set out in the 1961 European Social Charter, the 1989 European Community Charter of the fundamental Social Rights of Workers and the EU Charter of Fundamental rights and that it guarantees the application of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation, including equal pay for equal or equivalent work within the same business or under the same collective agreement.

This promise leaves no room for any other solution than the one that is based on a sustainable social approach. Reality is less rosy. Businesses need various types of employment; this results in new types of jobs amongst which many precarious jobs, where people are employed on temporary contracts for low pay with little social security and no legal protection. Not all temporary work is precarious – highly skilled freelancers can do very well for themselves on the labour market on the basis of individual orders – but it is, by definition, precarious when it comes to low-skilled and unskilled jobs in manufacturing and services.

Temporary employment may constitute a welcomed addition to job supply, and at the same time help to reduce social exclusion by providing work for groups that would otherwise find it hard to enter the labour market. But it must not lead to exploitation. If the recovery continues and these jobs prove to be long-term, they must be switched to a type of contract that guarantees a reasonable income level, social security and legal protection.

Workers need security of income, social security and guaranteed access to training. Well-trained workers have income security because their qualifications give them access to the labour market and the certainty of decent work. Workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own need social protection to enable them to undertake training, retraining or further training to help them find a job elsewhere. Finally, workers need to have confidence that they can access training programmes so as to remain employable.

Skills and Training for a Green New Deal



Eoin McLoughlin

SENIOR POLICY DIRECTOR

COMHAR – SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (IE)

Eoin started with Comhar Sustainable Development Council in December 2008. His current role is as a policy analyst in the areas of climate change, energy and transport. Prior to joining Comhar, Eoin worked in policy roles with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. He has been involved in leading the work in Comhar on the Green New Deal.

Sustainable development and the need to move towards becoming a low-carbon and resource efficient society is an evolving area of policy and of action by governments, industry, providers of education and training and others. Internationally, while the topic is seen as being of critical importance to future patterns of employment, policy-makers are only starting to get to grips with the skills implications. This can be seen in a profusion of reports from international bodies, from governments and from interested national groups on different aspects of green jobs and green skills.

The report of Comhar – the Irish SD Council - on Skills and Training for a Green New Deal⁴ seeks to add to the evidence base by examining the role of the skills and training sector in supporting a Green New Deal for Ireland. This was an area identified as requiring further research in Comhar SDC's original Green New Deal report⁵. The skills and training required to implement the Green New Deal is not just a matter for Central Government. There are a wide range of other parties such as industry, higher and further education institutions, Local Government as well as civil society organisations that all have important roles to play.

Specifically, the research addresses a number of key aspects related to the skills agenda focused across a range of different policy areas. The analysis includes providing a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the type and volume of skills that may be required and the establishment of the baseline situation in Ireland regarding the current provision of courses and institutions involved in delivering skills and training in this area. Based on this assessment an analysis is then carried out identifying possible key skills gaps that may impede progress in our attempts to transition towards becoming a low-carbon and more resource efficient society. The research also considers suitable policy options, financing mechanisms and awareness raising activities for Ireland to develop best practice in this area as well as providing guidance for future work in this field.

⁴ http://www.comharsdc.ie/_files/Comhar%20SDC%20Report%20%20Skills%20and%20Training%20for%20a%20Green%20New%20Deal.pdf

⁵ http://www.comharsdc.ie/_files/2009_TowardsGNDIreland_rpt.pdf

Session C-1 Sustainable consumption and life styles

Chair: Manfred Niekisch, SRU (DE), & Jan-Gustav Strandenaes, ANPED
Rapporteur: Sandra Sliwa, Minaraad (BE)

Summary of the session and discussion

A key message of this session is that, although we are talking about the need for sustainable consumption for over 20 years now, not much has been reached so far, not in reality nor in terms of political decision-making. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation devoted a whole chapter to the fundamental change in the way societies consume and produce that is required for achieving global sustainable development. The Plan also proposed to develop a 10-year framework of programs (10YFP) in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production. The 10YFP was aimed to be adopted at the 19th session of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development in May 2011. Although there was substantial agreement the 10YFP was not formally adopted, which had rather political reasons. However, for the time being the future of the document is not clear. One of the options currently discussed is, to include it in the Rio+20 deliverables.

Both **Sylvia Lorek** (Sustainable Europe Research Institute, Germany) and **Sue Dobb** (former Sustainable Development Commission, UK) pointed in their presentations to the fact that economic growth and financial success are still generally considered to be preconditions for having “a happy life”, which they consider as one of the biggest challenge that needs to be addressed if we are to make consumption more sustainable. This attitude is being reflected in politicians' restraint when it comes to formulating a clear vision and policy on how the consumer should contribute in the transition to a sustainable society. The result is what Sylvia Lorek described as “weak approaches” to sustainable consumption. While current policies search for technical solutions to make products more sustainable the need for a more sustainable lifestyle is hardly being addressed. “Strong approaches” are needed that question the dominant underlying growth paradigm and the current levels of (too much) consumption. To paraphrase Sue Dobb, currently we are not addressing the challenge of “having too much stuff”.

Sue Dobb, co-author of the report “Making Sustainable Lives Easier”, stressed the importance of putting in place an encouraging policy framework that gives people the right incentives to change the way they live and consume. According to Sue Dobb it is all about giving people a clear and positive but nevertheless firm message on how to change their behaviour while preserving a sufficient quality of life. As Sylvia Lorek stated, it does not have to be bad to live with less.

Sylvia Lorek also referred to the proposal for Millennium Consumption Goals (MCGs), put forward by former the IPCC vice-chair Mohan Munasinghe in the context of the preparatory process for the Rio+20 conference. The MCGs should complement the Millennium Development Goals.

Annika Lindblom (Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development) introduced the Nordic approach on sustainable consumption and production. In particular she highlighted the Nordic push for EU criteria on green public procurement (GPP). She presented the results of a study which show that GPP has a substantial impact on the CO₂ emissions of countries. The Nordic region has a long experience when it comes to eco-labelling, with the Nordic Swan as well-known label. With a view to the Rio+20 conference the Nordic Council has put up a joint project with UNEP to promote the practice of eco-labelling as well as GPP policies in the Mercosur region. She finished her contribution with quoting her 8 year old daughter, who asked why the organic milk is considered to be something special and why it is not the normal milk, as question that goes to the heart of the debate.

SCP policies and the 10 Year Framework of Programs



Sylvia Lorek

RESEARCHER,
POLICY CONSULTANT

SUSTAINABLE EUROPE
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(SERI)

Sylvia Lorek works as a researcher and policy consultant for sustainable consumption. She holds a Ph.D. in consumer economics and diplomas in household economics and nutrition (oecotrophology) as well as in economics. The combination of these different disciplines provides her with the tools – the individual micro-economic and the societal macroeconomic perspective – for a well-founded analysis of the contexts, in which the scientific and societal discourses about sustainable consumption take place.

Sylvia Lorek has been Project Coordinator at the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy. Since 2000 she is based at the Sustainable Europe Research Institute (SERI) and is head of SERI Germany e.V. Here she is working on studies and as consultant for national and international organisations (among them OECD, EU, EEA and UNEP).

She is also engaged in NGO activities towards sustainable consumption at national, European and global level. Among others she has actively participated in various CSD, UNEP and OECD conferences on sustainable consumption as well as in the Marrakech Process on behalf of ANPED, The Northern Alliance on Sustainability

Back in 2002, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation devoted a whole chapter to Sustainable Consumption and Production and called for the development of a 10 Year Framework of Programs in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production. This kicked off a series of global and regional meetings starting in Marrakech in 2003 (the so-called Marrakech Process). After around 5 years of discussions it became obvious that it would need 10 years to develop the framework. So, all hope was focussed on the CSD cycle 2010/11, where indeed a framework was agreed on, but did not get adopted. What this means in the context of Rio+20 is an open question for the time being.

At least some national and regional activities were taken in context of the 'Marrakech Process', such as the EU Action Plan on SCP/SIP. However, the initiatives predominantly:

- (1) concentrated on the environmental aspects of the problem and their technical solution
- (2) focused on goods and services in form of commodities, and
- (3) emphasised economic growth as the major indicator for a 'better life'.

Hence what could be observed was an increasing trend to understand SCP in the sense of 'Sustainable Consumer Procurement'.

Such weak sustainable consumption approaches, however, neither meet the dimension nor the urgency of the problem. They neglect that growth and rebound effects compensate technological efficiency gains. They also underestimate that well-being is correlated with material consumption up to a certain level only, but also depends on social aspects.

This calls for a 'Strong Sustainable Consumption', which also clearly considers overall levels of consumption, questions affluence and its underlying growth paradigm, supports well-being effects decoupled from market activities and economic growth rates, and demands reallocation of resources.

An option to further promote sustainable consumption in the international context is offered by the proposal of the 'Millennium Consumption Goals'. Building a complementary approach to the Millennium Development Goals, it is on first hand a proposal towards Rio +20 in order to keep sustainable consumption patterns in the focus of the global debate. In addition, such a prominent initiative starting from the Rio+20 conference could become an appealing guiding principle for a lot of bottom up approaches towards sustainable lifestyles which can increasingly be observed. This would make a difference the technocratic debates about SCP and 10YFP have never managed.

Enabling Sustainable Living



Sue Dobb

FORMER HEAD OF THE ENABLING
SUSTAINABLE LIVES TEAM

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION (UK)

Until March 2011 Sue Dobb was Head of the UK Sustainable Development Commission's (SDC) Enabling Sustainable Lives Team that encouraged government to develop policies that help people live sustainable lives. Her expertise covers sustainable consumption and production, sustainable food policy and behaviour change. For ten years the SDC was the UK Governments' independent advisor on sustainable development until it was closed at the end of March 2011.

Before joining the SDC, Sue worked for the UK National Consumer Council (NCC) - where she led NCC's food policy work, including initiating NCC's 'Greening Supermarkets' projects. She also worked with Consumers International and Sustain on children and advertising policy. She has previously written two books, co-edited the Food Magazine and contributed to radio and TV programmes. She has a degree in Environmental Sciences and a postgraduate certificate in Sustainable Business.

Sue now works as a freelance consultant and is Chair of Brighton & Hove Food Partnership which co-ordinates the development of a sustainable food strategy for the city.

The UK Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) was, until March 2011, the UK Government's independent advisor on sustainable development⁶. The SDC identified the need to 'enable sustainable lives' as one of a number of key sustainable development priorities.

If everyone in the world consumed at the average rate in the UK, we would require the resources of three planets. Globally, we are already 'living beyond our means' despite the fact that a large proportion of the world's population receives significantly less than their fair share. The challenge therefore is how we transform the ways in which we live and consume, in our homes and our communities, to live within environmental limits while also providing wellbeing and quality of life.

SDC's recent work on this subject included the report, *Making Sustainable Lives Easier* (2011)⁷ and *Sustainable Lives: What will sustainable lives look like?* (2009)⁸.

In his *Sustainable Lives* paper, SDC Commissioner Alan Knight argued that a major challenge of moving towards more sustainable lifestyles is that we lack positive visions of what low carbon, one planet, poverty-free lifestyles could look like. To initiate further conversation, Alan proposed ten key principles to support sustainable lifestyles:

As the UN Environment Programme Task Force on Sustainable Lifestyles (2010) reported there is much to be gained from sustainable lifestyles but despite these benefits, the challenge of enabling sustainable lives is not straightforward. Nor can it be left to the vagaries of the market.

Making Sustainable Lives Easier makes clear that living within our means is not tomorrow's luxury; it is today's necessity. The report sets out what's needed, from government and others, to help enable us all to live sustainable lives in our homes and communities. It calls for more concerted approaches to addressing our behaviours: fundamentally changing the context in which we live our lives so that sustainable choices can become the norm.

The evidence SDC presents to support its recommendations reflects the views of over fifty government officials across the four governments of the UK and experts from business, civil society and academia that the SDC interviewed in 2010.

⁶ www.sd-commission.org.uk

⁷ *Making Sustainable Lives Easier: A Priority for Governments, Business and Society*, SDC, 2011 (www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php?id=1144)

⁸ Alan Knight, *Sustainable Lives: What will sustainable lifestyles look like?*, SDC, 2009 (www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php?id=1012)

The Nordic approach on SCP



Annika Lindblom

DEPUTY SECRETARY
GENERAL

FINNISH NATIONAL COUNCIL
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
(FNCSO)

Annika Lindblom is working as Senior Adviser in the Ministry of the Environment of Finland and as Deputy Secretary General of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development (FNCSO). She is developing and coordinating national sustainable development policies and strategies as her main responsibility, recently extending her expertise into sustainable consumption and production as well as to approaches to green economy. Internationally Annika Lindblom is engaged in the preparations of the Rio+20 Conference, especially as regards the Green Economy theme. She has been involved in the Nordic policies for sustainable development since 2004 and has been one of the architects of the sustainable development strategies of the Nordic Council of Ministers. Annika Lindblom and FNCSO works in close cooperation with the EEAC and the European Sustainable Development Network, ESDN.

The Nordic countries have similar product range and patterns of consumption, hence countries have jointly as a region contributed to developing environmentally conscious consumption and an environmentally oriented product range. Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) is an overall objective in the policies of the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), which is an inter-governmental co-operation body in the region. The focus areas on SCP in the NCM are cleaner technologies and innovation, green public procurement, and information & sustainable lifestyles. Green markets are thus facilitated by green supply by technology and innovation and green demand by shifting public and private consumption to a more sustainable direction. The Nordic region is a pioneer when it comes to green public procurement (GPP).

The Nordic EU countries – Finland, Sweden and Denmark – belong to the so called “Green-7”, which are the seven EU member countries having the best performance in GPP. According to a study commissioned by the European Commission (*Collection of statistical information on Green Public Procurement in the EU*, 2009⁹), the Green-7 countries have managed to reduce their climate impact dramatically by implementing their GPP procedures, in Sweden almost 40 % and in average 25 % less CO₂. It has been proved that the public sector can be the forerunner in terms of intelligent purchasing decisions.

Another success story in the Nordic SCP policies has been the Nordic Eco-label, the Swan. It is a very well-known and appreciated brand in the Nordic countries and it has geared the consumption behaviour in the region towards sustainable choices over 20 years now. The new approach is to utilise and enhance the synergistic potential of GPP and eco-labelling. GPP engages the purchasing power of the governments through its public spending to stimulate better environmental and social performance of products in the market and product labelling provides market incentive for such performance. The NCM - together with UNEP - has launched a cooperation project with the Mercosur region for creating an enabling SCP framework by seizing eco-labelling and sustainable public procurement opportunities.

⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/statistical_information.pdf

Towards more sustainable food styles



Lucia Reisch

COUNCIL MEMBER,
PROFESSOR

GERMAN COUNCIL
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
(RNE)

Lucia A. Reisch, Prof. Dr., is full professor for consumer behaviour and consumer policy at Copenhagen Business School, Denmark, Department of Intercultural Communication and Management. She also holds a permanent Guest Professorship for Consumer Research and Policy at the Zeppelin University of Friedrichshafen in Germany. She is also a Research Professor at the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW) in Berlin. An economist and social scientist by training (University of Hohenheim, DE; UC Los Angeles, US), she holds a doctorate degree in economics. Her main research focus today is on sustainable consumption, intercultural consumer behaviour, consumers and new technologies, consumer policy issues, behavioural economics and corporate sustainability. She is currently involved in several EU research projects on consumer behaviour and policy (FP6 and FP7) as well as in German and Swedish research projects on sustainable consumption. As a policy consultant, she serves in national and international advisory boards and was a member of the "Ethics Commission" of the German Government in spring 2011.

Today's food consumption is highly unsustainable and the scope of the problem is wide:

- about 800 million people worldwide are suffering hunger;
- 1 to 1.5 billion people in the world are overweight, 300 to 500 million of them obese;
- diet and lifestyle related health problems are increasing, also in young age groups;
- social cohesion is in danger since health is closely related to socio-economic status;
- environmental problems related to food production and consumption need to be tackled, including climate change, water pollution and water scarcity, soil degradation, eutrophication of water bodies, and loss of habitats and biodiversity.

With respect to a growing world population and demographic change, problems are predicted to become more serious in the future; for example, agricultural production must face the impacts of climate change, land use conflicts are predicted to increase, and health and social costs – both on an individual and a social level – will rise because of foodborne ill health problems.

The reasons for this unsustainable development include the industrialisation and globalisation of agriculture and food processing, consumption patterns that are shifting towards more dietary animal protein, modern food styles, an abundance of food on the one hand and a lack of food security on the other, and the continuously growing gap between rich and poor on both a worldwide scale and within individual societies. These drivers are the result of national and international policies and regulations, as well as business practices, and in particular, values.

At present, however, policy strategies focus on single issues independently (e.g. childhood obesity) – but there is a need for over-arching policy review which tackles the full range of drivers of unsustainable food production and consumption. Developing such integrative strategies and identifying the most sustainable way to ensure the nutrition of the world's current and future populations, however, requires both: further research and political power. To date, the most effective ways for affluent societies to reduce the environmental impact of their diets are to reduce the amount of meat and dairy consumed, especially beef; buy organic food products and avoid product transportation by airplane.

Over and above these concerns, politics must develop cross-sectoral population-wide policies on a variety of issues, including agriculture and the food supply, the availability of and access to food, physical activity, welfare and social benefits, sound environmental production and consumption, fiscal policies, the role of individual consumer decision-making, public procurement and public provision of food.

Session D–1 Energy: a key transition área

Chair: Christian Hey, SRU (DE), chair EEAC WG Energy

Rapporteur: Karolina Jankowska, Environmental Policy Research Centre (FFU), Free University of Berlin

Summary of the session and discussion

The main question of this session was, how we can develop to a zero-carbon economy knowing that it could become an essential pillar of a green growth strategy. Additional investments of around 1 to 4% of GDP will lead to more growth with less carbon emissions. The key issue will be, which energy mix is the most “sustainable” one. The speakers had different opinions on this.

Peter Kaderjak (Regional Centre for Energy Policy Research - REKK, Hungary) gave a presentation on economic and environmental sustainability of fuel mix options for the 'National Energy Strategy 2030' of Hungary, which is currently being discussed in the Hungarian Parliament. He presented scenarios for the electricity sector, which were prepared in the context of the “Roadmap 2050”. Important is the question, how realistic is the vision of almost full decarbonisation of the power sector for Hungary. This vision would have economic and supply security implications. The scenarios suggest, that in the long run low-carbon technologies are competitive with high-carbon technologies. However within the present model of market and financial incentives for the investments in the low-carbon technologies, nobody knows, who should provide those incentives (state, financial institutions). Different options for a power mix have been assessed – one is with certain nuclear share – others without nuclear. Nuclear power and renewables are real alternatives (the same cost and CO₂ implications). However there is no real future for lignite and coal, if EU policies stay unchanged. The key bridge technology in terms of low emissions and low cost will in any case be gas. Also non-conventional gas (e.g. shale gas) must be considered an abundant resource. Gas will be brought by the market anyway, while nuclear power and renewables need state support. The importance of gas is expanding in all the “Strategy” scenarios, because it is attractive for private investments. The precondition for that is, however, a functional gas market.

Józef Pacyna (Centre for Ecology and Economics - NILU, Norway) had as main thesis, that coal combustion can be environmental friendly. In the IEA 2008 scenarios all the technologies such as coal combustion, renewables and nuclear play a crucial role. However, coal has to be used in a more environmental-friendly way if we want to stabilise the temperature increase at a 2 degrees level. Coal combustion is responsible for approximately half of atmospheric mercury emissions. There are several technical emission reduction options for coal combustion:

- pre-combustion measures such as improved efficiency measures (in the power plant Łagisza in Poland already 43% efficiency achieved, coal washing, substitution of fuels, IGC (integrated gasification of coal),
- post-combustion measures (CCS),

- co-control for climate gases and air pollutants (greenhouse gas emissions, SP2, NOX, etc.),
- pollutant specific control technologies.

There exist, however, some social and political insecurities for those measures. Coal combustion can be environmental-friendly, but the following conditions have to be fulfilled:

- new highly efficient combustion technologies need to be used,
- CO2 should be reduced through the implementation of the pre- and post-combustion technologies,
- CCS technologies should be implemented in the new power stations,
- control technologies should be employed to reduce emissions of various contaminants.

The cost of the above mentioned technologies should not lead to a deterioration of competitiveness and a relocation of energy production outside of the EU, where the standards are less restrictive.

Olav Hohmeyer (German Environmental Advisory Council, SRU) explained in his presentation how to achieve 100% renewable electricity supply in Germany, Europe and North Africa. He based his presentation on scenarios prepared by the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) for the SRU. All scenarios show, that a transition to an electricity system completely based upon renewable is possible in Germany, but also in the EU and North Africa, while assuring security of supply at competitive low cost. The first scenario concerned an autonomous Germany going 100% renewable. The second scenario concerned Germany going 100% renewable but having the possibility to store the energy, for example in Norway. The next scenario concerned Germany having the possibility to import up to 15% of renewable energy if it is cheaper produced in Norway or Denmark. The fourth scenario concerned Germany having the possibility to import up to 15% of renewable energy also from the EU and North Africa. In Germany supply of renewable electricity could grow even faster than the assumed by the SRU-scenarios, simply because SRU respected full economic lifetime of conventional power plants by 35 years in its transition scenario. All EU countries apart from Belgium and Luxemburg are able to produce on their own up to 85% of electricity from own renewable energy sources by 2050. The system will be mainly based on wind and solar energy. The storage and transmission of energy will be crucial. Pump storage will be in great demand. Norway will become an unique swing provider for the European system due to its hydro power resources. The electricity costs will range from 4 to 8 cents/kWh for 32 out of 36 countries. Only a few countries would have to calculate with higher costs, if they would want to stay widely self-sufficient with electricity from renewable sources. It all means that full decarbonisation by renewable energy comes at a surprisingly low costs as far as the electricity costs are concerned.

Discussion: Speakers and participants exchanged views on the risk to national energy security due to, for example, relying on Norway as a swing provider for the German electricity system. Prof. Olav Hohmeyer is convinced, that European and international energy cooperation is crucial for the energy transition.

Economic and environmental sustainability of fuel mix options for the 'National Energy Strategy 2030' of Hungary



Péter Kaderják

DIRECTOR
REGIONAL CENTRE
FOR ENERGY POLICY RESEARCH
(REKK, HU)

Péter Kaderják holds an MA degree in economics from the University of Budapest and an M.Sc. in economics from the Budapest University of Economic Sciences. He has been associate professor at the Budapest University of Economics and director of the Harvard Institute for International Development in Budapest until 1998.

Mr Kaderják then became Head of the Minister's cabinet and Secretary of the Economic Cabinet of the Government of Hungary at the Hungarian Ministry of Economic Affairs. He has been chairman of the Energy Regulators Regional Association from 2001-2003 and president of Hungarian Energy Office from 2000-2003.

His research topics include environmental economics, energy economics, regulation and modelling of network industries. Peter Kaderják has published several articles on environmental economics, as well as energy economics and regulation.

The presentation will discuss selected, power sector relevant results of the economic impact assessment that has been prepared to support the development of a new mid-term energy strategy of Hungary. A major challenge for the study was to put the analysis into the context of the long term EU vision of almost full power sector decarbonisation by 2050. After introducing the context of the impact assessment, the presentation will first discuss major investment related challenges to a shift from the present energy infrastructure to a low carbon power generation mix. Given the present climate objectives of and consequent carbon pricing prospects within the EU, coal seems to have a difficult future while nuclear and renewable generation requires substantial upfront capital investments that the financial market might only deliver if credible state regulation and guaranties are provided. An argument is therefore provided that natural gas might play the role of a 'transition fuel' between the carbon age and the world of massive renewable energy utilisation. Next the future baseload generation scenarios for the Hungarian analyses are introduced and compared and the basis of their investment need and CO₂ emission characteristics. It is concluded that natural gas is expected to play an increasing importance in all the investigated generation scenarios, given that a well-functioning gas market develops in Hungary and the wider CEE region in the meantime. It is also discussed that a scenario with accelerated renewable electricity generation can compete with an accelerated nuclear program in both economic and environmental sustainability terms. In the meantime the future for lignite and coal seems difficult for the country.

Can combustion of coal be regarded as environmental friendly source of energy?



Jozef Pacyna

DIRECTOR,
PROFESSOR

CENTRE FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS
(CEE), NORWEGIAN INSTITUTE FOR AIR
RESEARCH

Prof. Jozef Pacyna is director and founder of the Center for Ecological Economics (CEE) at the Norwegian Institute for Air Research. He is president of the Board of Directors of NILU Polska. Since 2000 Prof. Pacyna is also professor of chemistry at the Gdansk University of Technology. He has been a visiting professor at the University of London, the University of Michigan, the Chalmers University of Technology, in Goteborg, and recently at the Center for Industrial Ecology of Yale University in the USA. The overall topic of Prof. Pacyna's research is on the development and application of tools for the assessment of environmental and socio-economic impacts of energy production and other anthropogenic sources on human welfare with focus on human health.

Prof. Pacyna is an author/co-author of 43 books and book chapters, and 131 articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Coal combustion is today, and will be in the future a main source of electricity and heat production in many countries worldwide, including Poland. However, combustion of coal is currently regarded as one of the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions, sulphur and nitrogen oxides, fine particles and a large number of various contaminants, including heavy metals with prominent emissions of mercury and persistent organic pollutants (POPs). No doubt, emissions of various pollutants during combustion of coal contribute substantially to global change of the environment, including the climate change. It is therefore necessary to provide the answer whether this source of energy could be more environmental friendly in the future.

Can coal combustion be regarded as a source of energy for a green society in the future? The purpose of this presentation is to prove a positive answer to these questions. The focus will be placed on discussing two major issues related to the improvement of future coal combustion: improvement of combustion efficiency in coal fired power plants and implementation of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies. Technological, economic, social and legal aspects of these issues will be discussed and examples will be given from demonstration projects in various countries. The impact of environmental legislation in Europe on energy production based on coal combustion will be discussed. The societal benefits of coal combustion improvements in the future will be presented.

Pathways towards a 100 % renewable electricity system



Olav Hohmeyer

COUNCIL MEMBER,
PROFESSOR

GERMAN ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON THE ENVIRONMENT
(SRU)

Prof. Dr. Olav Hohmeyer is Professor of Energy and Resource Management at the University of Flensburg and Director of Studies of the degree programme “Energy and Environmental Management”. He was a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). As vice-chair of Working Group III (“Mitigation of Climate Change”) he participated in compiling the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC. He contributed to the Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation. Prof. Hohmeyer is internationally renowned for his work on the social costs of energy consumption. Since 2008 he has been member of the SRU.

In spring 2009, the German Advisory Council on the Environment commissioned the German Aerospace Centre (Deutsches Zentrum für Luft und Raumfahrt, DLR) to develop several scenarios of a 100 % renewable electricity system for Germany and the European – North African Region for the year 2050, using their REMix model. The scenarios follow the logic of a backcasting approach. In this case the scenarios analyse if and how a given electricity demand in a country can be provided by renewable sources and what the respective costs will be, assuming an optimised combination of renewable power sources, storage capacities and international grid connections. In scenario group 3 Germany was assumed to be part of an electricity system covering the whole of Europe and a part of North African (EUNA region, altogether 36 countries and country clusters, respectively). At the outset it was defined for this scenario group that each country utilises its renewable energy potential but is allowed to import electricity produced from renewable energy sources up to 15 % of its annual demand. Furthermore, the exchange of electricity for temporary storage was not restricted as long as each country fulfilled the 85 % renewable production minimum.

The model results of the 36 countries in scenario 3.a document that security of electricity supply, competitiveness and sustainability are achievable by an electricity system based upon 100 % renewable sources for the entire EUNA region. The average specific costs of all countries are 6.5 Euro-cents per kWh. Due to their large renewable potential and very low production costs, there are five countries/ country clusters that act as net exporters in the system: Norway, Ireland, Denmark, the UK, Sweden and the Estonia/Lithuania/Latvia cluster. The other countries are net importers, most of them use the maximum 15 % share allowed. However, there are two exceptions: due to their very limited renewable potential Belgium and Luxembourg need to have a higher import share to achieve a 100 % renewable electricity supply.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS continued: shift in focus

Session A-2 Institutions: Building capacity and shaping collective action

*Chair: Jan De Smedt, FRDO-CFDD (BE), Co-chair EEAC WG SD
Rapporteur: Sandra Sliwa, Minaraad (BE)*

Summary of the session and discussion

Jeremy Wates (EEB) started the session with a contribution on the role of civil society in sustainable development governance. The decisions that citizens make on a daily basis in their capacity as consumers contribute to a large degree to the unsustainable development trajectory we are currently on. As consumers are part of the problem, a behavioural change on their part is crucial for a sustainable development. According to Wates involving the public in decision making (a participatory democracy) is necessary not only because this improves the quality and the degree of implementation of the decisions that are taken but also because this is a democratic right. Creating a participatory democracy is important in the context of both themes of the Rio conference.

On a global level, the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio declaration has not advanced sufficiently. Article 10 states that “*environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level.*” The key message from Wates' contribution is that the EU, through its development and implementation of the Aarhus Convention, has a lot to offer to the rest of the world in terms of civil society involvement in environmental decision making. Therefore the EU should use the Rio conference to send a clear and strong message to promote participatory democracy globally.

Europe's experience with the Aarhus Convention has shown that a legally binding approach works, as governments must comply, and that a policy framework at the international level has an added value, as this trickles down to the national and subnational levels. In this perspective, Wates highlighted three possible outcomes the Rio conference could aim to deliver with regard to improving civil society engagement. He suggested that Rio could

- 1) result in a global treaty based on Principle 10,
- 2) encourage other regions to develop their own Aarhus Convention or
- 3) encourage other countries to join Aarhus.

What in any case should be reached in Rio is an agreement on binding minimum standards regarding the involvement of civil society in sustainable development governance.

Is there currently enough political support to reach such an outcome on participatory democracy in Rio? According to Wates, for the time being, it is highly doubtful if the answer to this question is positive.

Participation in decision making is very much related to information and education. A necessary condition for public participation in decision making is indeed an informed public. Informed citizens are more encouraged and more knowledgeable to meaningfully participate in decision making. Education for sustainable development is indeed the subject of the second part of this breakout session.

Ryszard Janikowski (PROS, PL) made a contribution on education for sustainable development with a focus on the history and future challenges of educating for sustainable development in Poland. He briefly outlined the concept: Education for sustainable development aims to promote sustainable thinking and acting, enabling everyone, not only the young, to make informed decisions – which means understanding how those decisions affect future generations. Poland has a strategy for environmental education since 2001, the goals of which are to develop a full awareness on the sustainable development concept, allowing everyone to acquire the knowledge necessary to improve the environment and, consequently, to create more sustainable patterns of behaviour.

Lidija Pavić-Rogošić (SORZO, HR) introduced the action plan on education for sustainable development in Croatia. She first addressed where Croatia stands as regards implementing the recommendations of the EEAC Statement 2011. Croatia adopted a strategy for sustainable development in February 2009, and an action plan for education for sustainable development in April 2011. The action plan aims to integrate sustainable development in both formal and non-formal education, to inform and raise awareness and to involve the media in this process. Important to notice is that the preparation of an action plan for sustainable development was included as a task in the economic recovery programme the Croatian government adopted in April 2010.

The starting point of the action plan was that while sustainable development is a frequently used term, it is only poorly understood in practical terms. The implementation of the concept requires a new mind-set based on agreed values in a democratic society. The aim of the Croatian action plan is to inform citizens on the sustainable development concept and encourage them to change their behaviour in order to put their community on a sustainable track. Pavić argues that the achievement of this goal requires a new educational paradigm with a shift in focus from “learning facts” to “a critical questioning of the facts”.

Discussion: It was addressed that education for sustainable development is increasingly being included in curricula in several EU-countries. As the goal of education for sustainable development is to stimulate behavioural change (to paraphrase Professor Janikowski “to promote sustainable thinking and acting”) the real question, however, is whether this actually convinces our youth to change their behaviour. Measuring the impact of education for sustainable development, is also a challenging task.

Jan De Smedt closed the session with presenting the press award for sustainable development that the Belgian SD council (FRDO-CFDD) recently created. The purpose of the award is that while media attention for concrete themes, such as climate change, is relatively high, media attention for sustainable development as a holistic approach is low. The award comes with prize money and a sculpture, awarded on an annual basis alternating between the printed and the audio-visual media. He also briefly reported about the 'Code for sustainability' that was introduced by the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE), which is a means to make sustainability efforts of companies visible, and more transparent and comparable, with a greater commitment. The aim is to achieve broad appliance of this transparency standard in the business sector in general.

The role of civil society in sustainable development governance



Jeremy Wates

SECRETARY GENERAL

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL
BUREAU (EEB)

Jeremy Wates is Secretary General of the European Environmental Bureau, Europe's largest federation of environmental organizations comprising 143 member organizations from 29 European countries.

Prior to taking up his present post in May 2011, Jeremy served for more than a decade as Secretary to the Aarhus Convention with the Geneva-based United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

During the 1990s, Jeremy led the campaign by the European ECO Forum, an NGO coalition, to persuade governments to start work on a treaty on environmental democracy and then coordinated the input from civil society organizations into the official negotiations over the Aarhus Convention text.

In the 1980s, he founded the Irish environmental organization Earthwatch, the Irish member of Friends of the Earth International, and led the organization for more than a decade.

Jeremy holds an MA Honours Degree in Philosophy and Social and Political Sciences from Cambridge University, UK.

The theme of civil society engagement is of central relevance to both Rio+20 themes. Hitherto, the main focus of discussions on the institutional framework for sustainable development has been on the restructuring of international institutions. Important as this is, it is no less important to address issues of governance at national and sub-national levels, and civil society participation is a key element of sustainable development governance at all levels. It is also relevant to greening the economy, which should be built on principles of transparency and accountability for government and the private sector alike.

In order to enhance the role of civil society, there is a need for a supportive legal and infrastructural framework. The importance of civil society engagement was recognized at global level in 1992 with the adoption of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Globally, progress in implementing Principle 10 has been uneven. The adoption of the Aarhus Convention in 1998 represents the most far-reaching elaboration of Principle 10. With 44 Parties from Europe and Central Asia, the Convention has positively influenced the development of legislation and practice in the field of procedural environmental rights, demonstrating the potential effectiveness of a legally binding treaty.

Rio+20 provides an opportunity to make further progress on promoting civil society engagement in a number of ways:

- through a decision to start negotiations on a global treaty on Principle 10;
- through encouragement for the development of other regional conventions like Aarhus;
- through encouragement to interested States to accede to Aarhus;
- through the adoption of global guidelines setting minimum standards for civil society participation in international fora, similar to the Almaty Guidelines adopted under the Aarhus Convention but with global endorsement (or initiation of negotiations on such guidelines).
- through support for institutions such as sustainable development advisory councils and ombudspersons for future generations at all relevant levels;
- through initiating negotiations on a global treaty on participatory environmental and/or sustainability impact assessment mechanisms.

Europe should be at the forefront in making or supporting such demands.

A Decade of Education for Sustainable Development – Polish Challenges



Ryszard Janikowski

COUNCIL MEMBER,
PROFESSOR

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL
COUNCIL OF POLAND
(PROS)

Ryszard Janikowski, Ph.D, D.Sc., full professor, graduated from the Silesian Technical University with a degree in system sciences. He graduated with a Ph.D. in spatial economy and regional planning from the Gdansk Technical University. He graduated with a D. Sc. (habilitation) in management from the Institute of Organisation and Management, Warsaw.

In addition, he has also earned a post-graduate degree in *Energy and the Environment* (Roskilde University) and in *Environmental Management* (Japan International Cooperation Agency). His wide experience includes sustainable development, environmental policy and management, life cycle analysis in the international, national, regional and local scale. He is one of the leaders in developing a multi-criteria and multi-perspective approach for sustainable management in Poland. He has also gained experience as an international project manager in projects completed for the Netherlands' Ministry of the Environment, UNEP, WHO, IIASA, and the European Commission.

Prof. Janikowski has wide experience in training and teaching in Poland and abroad as visiting professor. He is expert of the Polish Minister of the Environment and the European Commission. He is the author of over 150 publications (15 books) and over 250 research reports. In 2008, he was awarded the individual prize of the Minister for the Environment for scientific activities in basic and applied research on instruments sustainable development.

Taking into consideration the Polish challenges in shaping an educational system for sustainable development, the following issues should be underlined:

The need to enhance a narrow understanding of education, aimed at “mind” side (intellect, intellectual rationalism) and very little referring to new paradigms of development for shifting to education for sustainable development, so wide approach to the role, scope, and educational tasks joined for coherent entirety of education for sustainable development, social education and economic education. Thinking in categories of the need to improve the quality of live, especially in the context of balancing its three holistic dimensions (physical/material, psychical and spiritual/affective) gives us good arguments for the idea of sustainable development itself. It means the need of an integrated education, which should include different dimensions of quality of life in the aspect of its close connections with widely understood culture.

The pillar integrating these areas of education should be a clearly formulated axiological attitude, based on giving and shaping “warm” values (i.e. good, empathy, effectiveness). The basic transmitter of value systems to different spheres of holistic education is certainly culture, which should – in this role – infiltrate all dimensions and kinds of education. The essence of such an education is directly expressed in the European *Strategy of Education for Sustainable Development*, and is also the basic direction presented in the UN's *Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014*. In 2005, Poland adopted the UNECE Strategy on ESD in order to promote ESD in the region. The Strategy is a practical instrument to incorporate key themes of sustainable development into the region's education systems. In 2005, Poland has also started implementing *The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development*. In this context, the Polish Committee for UNESCO should play a leading role.

Tadeusz Borys & Ryszard Janikowski, PROS (PL)

Action plan for education for SD in Croatia



Lidija Pavić-Rogošić

COUNCIL MEMBER

CROATIAN COUNCIL FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
(SORZO)

Ms. Pavić-Rogošić, an Architect with a post-graduate course at the Social Policy Department of London Metropolitan University, is director of civil society organisation ODRAZ - Sustainable Community Development.

She worked for ten years in the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning and has eight years of experience in international organisations (REC, USAID/AED). With more than twenty years of experience in local community sustainable development, Ms. Pavić-Rogošić is a founder of several associations. She has many years of experience as a trainer and writer of manuals; she works as consultant for different ministries, business and other organisations.

Ms. Pavić-Rogošić has been a member of the Croatian Council for Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection since 2004. She is also a member of the EU-Croatia Joint Consultative Committee since 2007.

In the Statement prepared by the EEAC WG on Sustainable Development there are several recommendations, such as:

- There should be an SD strategy
- All actors should work on mainstreaming SD in core policies
- SD strategies should be turned into actions, possibly in the form of an action plan
- SD should be communicated to a wider audience to demonstrate how it is connected to daily life and improving the quality of life
- SD needs to be better integrated in the educational system
- There should be an active media policy.

In the light of those recommendations, herewith brief information on where Croatia stands:

- Croatia adopted an SD strategy in February 2009.
- The process of preparing several action plans is in progress and SORZO members are involved.
- While relevant stakeholders were not widely involved in the process of SD development, the process of preparing Action Plans is more open to participation of all three sectors (government, civil society and business) through working groups and public consultations.

The Action Plan (AP) for Education for Sustainable Development (EDS) was adopted by the Croatian Government in April 2011. Croatia is dedicated to implement the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development, and it was taken into consideration during the preparation of the AP ESD.

The first step was to identify existing ESD programs and projects. Although more than 180 of them were identified, a lack of interdisciplinary approach is evident.

The aim of the Croatian AP ESD is to advance ESD in the country by:

- Developing competences in ESD, especially in education sector
- Building capacity in ESD in all sectors, including media,
- Enhancing partnerships among sectors and formal and non-formal education
- Coordination and awareness raising.

In the light of establishing institutional framework, the most important measure is the establishment of an interdepartmental coordination body for ESD at national level, which will be coordinated by two Ministries: The Ministry for Environment and the Ministry for Education.

Session B–2a Economy: national and regional case studies on Green Economy

Chair: Morgan Parry, CCW (UK)

Rapporteur: Karolina Jankowska, Environmental Policy Research Centre (FFU), Free University of Berlin

Summary of the session and discussion

Zbigniew Dokurno (Wrocław University of Economics) stated that the Polish economy has been becoming more green and sustainable during the last 20 years due to many structural changes resulted from the transition from centrally planned to market economy. This transition brought results which are generally advantageous to the environment, but needed to be supplemented by an active environmental policy. Since 1989 Poland has implemented many different ambitious policies and instruments in the field of environmental protection.

Silvia Cañellas-Boltá (CADS, ES) addressed how a green economy could look like in Catalonia. She presented many positive examples of how local community, stakeholders and decision-makers can act together in order to develop a green economy.

Vladimir Zakharov (Russian Public Chamber) discussed the obstacles and possibilities for a green economy in Russia as well as the attitude of the public and of politicians to this concept. In the transforming economies like Poland or Russia the social problems are generally much more important for the population than environmental problems. Therefore the social problems are tackled first, then the environmental ones. This leads to the conclusion, that the social dimension of the green economy should be stronger emphasised and taken into account within the framework of green economy.

Peter Davies (Commissioner for Sustainable Futures) spoke about successes and challenges for the green economy in Wales. He emphasised the following main issues, which are important for the transition to a green economy:

- strategic alliances between trade unions, the construction sector and the environmental voluntary sector; skills development,
- local and national low carbon economic development strategy covering different sectors,
- community engagement: there is definitely a gap between a top-down approach and community involvement, therefore it is necessary to communicate a value of the green economy to the society; role of local voluntary organisations,
- cooperation with the energy intensive users to support their transition to low carbon manufacturing and securing of future investments,
- R&D and Innovation – business/academia links,

- strategic infrastructure – grid capacity,
- access to finance – message to investors.

Discussion: speakers and participants exchanged views on

- The missing social dimension in the explanation of the transition process towards green economy in Poland. Zbigniew Dokurno confirmed that this dimension was not taken into account in the analysis on the transition process in Poland.
- The main reasons for the improvements in terms of environmental protection in Poland during the last 20 years: Was it the transition to a market economy or the implemented ecological policies and instruments? Zbigniew Dokurno answered that it was both. In his view, environmental protection needs both a market economy and a good ecological policy.
- Whether the green economy is an important topic in Russia. According to Vladimir Zakharov the Russian society as well as the politicians in general do not know much, or almost nothing, about 'green economy'. The Russian civil society is very weak in this area. But there are some signs of change, for example that politicians are getting more interested in environmental topics.

Greening the post-communist economies – the case of Poland



Zbigniew Dokurno

RESEARCHER

CLIMATE AND ENERGY
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Dr. Zbigniew Dokurno graduated from Wroclaw University of Economics with a Master in Management of the Management and Informatics Faculty in 1998. He completed his PhD in macroeconomics in 2009. From 2000, Mr Dokurno has worked at the Department of Ecological Economics of Wroclaw University of Economics and since 2011 he is scientist researcher at the Climate and Energy Department of Wroclaw Research Centre EIT+.

He is manager of scientific projects at the Faculty of Physics at the Mickiewicz Poznan University. Mr Dokurno is head of three research grants from the National Science Centre. He is a member of the Research Experts Collective for Higher Education and Innovation Analysis at the Strategy Department of the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education. He works as senator of the Wroclaw University of Economics and is member of the Economics Sciences Faculty Council and other faculty commissions.

His memberships include the International Society for Ecological Economics and European Society for Ecological Economics. He is also member of the European Economics Association.

His awards include the award of the President of the National Bank of Poland for the best scientific work in economics in 2009 – 2010 for his PhD dissertation; the award of Poznan University of Economics in a competition for the best PhD works in 2011 and the award of the President of the Wroclaw University of Economics for research and scientific achievements in 2009 and 2010.

Main hypothesis: The transition from a centrally planned to a market economy brings about results which are generally advantageous to the environment but needs to be supplemented by active ecological policy and environmentally friendly sectoral and structural policies in order to enable the national economy to enter the path towards sustainable development.

Part 1 of the presentation deals with outlining the “ecological landscape” of the Polish economy at the time of the collapsing command-and control system, and paying some attention to fundamental, economic system related reasons for environmental deterioration; these include soft money-budget constraint vis-a-vis state owned enterprises (SOEs) as resulting in the economy's high energy and raw materials intensity and low effectiveness of legal and economic instruments of environmental protection policy.

In Part 2 the potential and actual features of the transformation process (transition towards a market economy) are addressed, which enabled a considerable and pretty fast decrease in pollution, as well as raw material and energy intensity. Of key significance were:

- a general increase in microeconomic efficiency as an outcome of introducing the hard-money-budget constraint vis-a-vis both private (or being privatised), as well as SOEs, leading to remarkable raw material and energy intensity decrease (with the latter bringing about particularly beneficial ecological outcomes under the conditions of domination of hard and brown coal in the Polish energy sector);
- a transition from an autarkic towards an open economy, which resulted in a growing saturation of the national economy with environmentally friendly technologies and products;
- privatisation (both of SOEs and the so called founding privatisation) as resulting in growing effectiveness of already existing and newly introduced administrative, legal and economic instruments for environmental protection;
- gradual liberalisation of energy markets, along with introducing the full cost pricing principle (with reservation, however, of still not adequate level of including external environmental costs).

Apart from the above mentioned and other systemic factors, a remarkable progress of the Polish economy in terms of decreasing pollution, raw materials and energy intensity of GDP (and its growth in dynamic approach), would turn out to be impossible (or significantly weaker) without working out and pretty consistent implementation of a new ecological policy to address market failures in the sphere of environmental protection and natural resources management. Apparently, it does not mean that this policy was successful in any domain and a good example of its relative low effectiveness is the communal waste management. It is worth emphasising here that the progress concerned was to a pretty substantial extent related to and stimulated by the process of harmonising Polish ecological standards and other regulations with their – generally more restrictive - EU counterparts. The last but not the least, the increase in environmental quality and growing dematerialisation of economic growth in Poland was an effect of deep structural changes in the national economy, and in industrial and (to smaller extent) energy sector in particular.

In Part 3 an empirical analysis is presented of trends and factors mentioned above, which are crucial regarding the process of gradual greening of the Polish economy during more than twenty years of transition from command-and-control to a market economy.

How could a green economy look like in Catalonia?



Silvia Cañellas-Boltá

POLICY ANALYST

ADVISORY COUNCIL
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
OF CATALONIA (CADS)

Silvia Cañellas-Boltá holds an MSc in Environmental Sciences from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) in Spain. She researched at UAB and at the University of Bergen, Norway, on local environmental governance and managing uncertainty in environmental policy making. She has also worked in consultancy, in the areas of energy and landscape policies. In 2006 she was intern at the international affairs department of the Spanish Ministry of the Environment. Since 2007 she works as policy analyst at the secretariat of the Advisory Council for Sustainable Development of Catalonia (CADS).

The economic crisis has made evident that the current economic model is not providing social wellbeing for all and that it has severe environmental impacts. However, usual answers to the crisis are short sighted (such as reducing public deficit for next years, stimulation of consumption by reducing taxes). Green economy is the term used around the world as a «sustainable path for exiting the economic crisis». It has gained attention internationally (e.g. Rio+20) but not much as a real option for Catalonia (neither Spain). Therefore, CADS commissioned a study to the new economics foundation (nef), focused on recommendations directed to the Catalan Government about how to transform the current economic crisis into a path for sustainable development through what has been called a “green economy”.

First results of this study suggest five key areas where the Catalan Government can take a leading action:

- a) as procurer and major funder, by using its own spending to create opportunities for sustainable businesses;
- b) as strategic leader on regional economic development, by encouraging local authorities to use their resources to build a sustainable regional economy;
- c) as a key policy actor able to bring influence to bear on the development of national and EU policies;
- d) as a public-opinion leader, communicating that the transition towards sustainability strengthens the regional economy; and
- e) as an organisation, mainstreaming sustainability within policy practice ensuring that economic analysis and methods used by the Catalan Government and across the region take account of environmental and social costs.

The report will be completed before the end of 2012.

(Based on a draft report by Aniol Esteban, nef, September 2011).

Green Economy: Challenge and Chance for Russia



Vladimir Zakharov

DIRECTOR

INSTITUTE OF SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT, RUSSIA

Vladimir Zakharov is Director of the Institute of Sustainable Development of the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation. In addition to that, he is president of the Center for Russian Environmental Policy and editor-in-chief of the bulletin "Towards a Sustainable Russia".

As an academic position, he is professor and Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences. He also is a Doctor of Sciences.

Vladimir Zakharov is the author of more than 200 publications, including 6 monographs.

His interests include Sustainable Development and Environmental Policy, Green Economy and Green Growth, Climate Change, Biodiversity Conservation and Health of the Environment, as well as Civil Society.

Green economy is a challenge and a chance for Russia as a country of richest natural resources, whose economy to a great extent is based on the hydrocarbons use. It assumes a necessity to harmonise the current Russian economy according to green growth needs, and to invest “raw materials” money for a sustainable future. Economic modernisation of Russia should take into account the country's great opportunities for the ecosystem services market and environmental investments.

It is necessary to support modernisation on the way of win-win policy. To accomplish this, it is necessary to introduce economic incentives. Modernisation should be profitable.

The key trend in the country's development is energy production. The actualisation of the available potential to increase energy efficiency implies measures to ensure energy savings at all levels, from industries to households.

Modernisation should account for the country's potentialities to use renewable energy sources. The most promising trends are the use of renewable energy sources for internal needs, including energy supply to sparsely populated areas (up to 70% of the country's territory).

The priorities of environmental policy must be included into the plans of development aimed at solving socio-economic problems that are of everybody's prime concern. The priority measure is to introduce a system of indicators for sustainable development. The foundation for this form of accounting was laid by the decrees of the Russian President to improve energy efficiency and to introduce the accountability of the regions based on energy efficiency indicators.

The key role here should be played by civil society and the institutions of sustainable development in particular. Such public policy institutes would help to consolidate the efforts of the expert community and civil society to ensure sustainable development.

New opportunities for Russia are opened up by the global Rio+20 process. The country's priorities in innovation policy, energy efficiency, and economic modernisation according to modern requirements determine the movement toward sustainable development. Russia, together with the other BRICS countries, could be a leader of the sustainable development movement.

Green Economy in Wales



Peter Davies

SUSTAINABLE FUTURES
COMMISSIONER FOR WALES

COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR
WALES (CCW)

Peter's career background is in the field of corporate social responsibility working for the Confederation of British Industry, Department of Trade and Industry and Business in the Community. He chaired the CSR Europe National Partners network from 2002 to 2005. He was Managing Director at Business in the Community UK from 1995 to 2005 – working with over 800 member companies to improve their impact on society.

Peter returned home to Wales in 2005 and was appointed Commissioner for Wales and Vice Chair of the UK Sustainable Development Commission, providing independent advice to the Welsh and UK Governments. Peter was appointed as the first Sustainable Futures Commissioner by the Welsh Assembly Government in April 2011.

Peter also was appointed as independent chair of the Climate Change Commission for Wales in 2010

In addition, Peter also coordinates The Prince of Wales' Charities in Wales and is project consultant for Wales and the Millennium Development Goals Task Force.

Peter is also consultant to St James Ethics Centre corporate responsibility research programme in Australia.

www.sustainwales.com/commissioner

Wales was at the heart of the first industrial revolution exporting coal and iron around the world, leaving an industrial heritage which accounts for higher levels of energy intensive manufacturing industry and higher CO2 emissions per head than other parts of the UK.

Since the devolution of powers to Wales 11 years ago sustainable development has been central to the new Welsh Government, with the last administration adopting sustainable development as the “central organising principle” of Government, as set out the “One Wales One Planet” policy. This commitment will be further strengthened through a proposed Sustainable Development Bill which is to be included in the new programme of Government

“One Wales One Planet” sets out the aim of establishing “a strong, stable and sustainable economy” for Wales that is able to develop whilst stabilising, then reducing its use of natural resources and mitigating its impact on climate change”

The Welsh Assembly Government Energy 2010 Policy Statement, a “Low Carbon Revolution” identified the potential to generate within 15 years from renewables, especially from wind and marine-based sources, up to twice the electricity it consumes as a nation.

While the 2010 Green Jobs strategy “Capturing the Potential” set out two major aims to support business to

- meet climate change targets and become more resource efficient.
- innovate and take advantage of opportunities from moving to a low carbon economy

Such policies set out a vision and a set of aspirations that would transform the Welsh economy based on renewable energy producing low carbon goods and services. So what has been the progress on this journey to date?

The Welsh “anchor” companies have certainly led the way with major manufacturers such as Tata Steel, Dow Corning and Toyota investing in major carbon reduction initiatives and innovative new low carbon products.

The Welsh Government's energy efficiency retrofit programme, “Arbed”, has led to the refurbishment of 6000 homes in key regeneration areas, generating strong local supply chain for low carbon products and services, investing in the local skill base and providing job opportunities in areas of high unemployment

The Higher Education Sector has collaborated to establish a Low Carbon Research Institute which has drawn on EU structural funds to create a research and development capacity for new products and services

At the community level we have seen growth in more localised approaches to economic development based on developing local food and energy economies, with efforts to increase local purchasing within models such as the transition town movement.

However progress on the expansion of renewable energy production has been slower than anticipated, especially in the generation from onshore wind, where a lack of community involvement and support has demonstrated the critical importance of “bringing the people with you” in the transformation

A new business led Energy and the Environment sector panel has been established to accelerate the transformation with a focus on generating new enterprise, growing renewable energy, expanding the environmental goods and services sector, and supporting energy intensive users in transition to low carbon.

The sector panel has identified key enablers that need to be addressed to accelerate this transformation - addressing regulatory frameworks to streamline decision making; access to finance, investment in strategic infrastructure, workforce development and planning, defining supply chain opportunities and improved business / academia links.

The key to acceleration lies in the nature of the partnership between government, business and community – the triangle of change – in creating structures for economic renewal and reinvention that take a long term perspective. The need for transition needs to be recognised by wider society, so the process is both top down and bottom up, with the most difficult task being to engage the wide range of communities in the need for change.

Session B-2b Economy: the debate on growth and measuring

Chair: Martin Siecker, EESC

Green Growth versus De-growth



Christian Hey

SECRETARY GENERAL

GERMAN ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON THE ENVIRONMENT (SRU)

Christian Hey studied Public Administration and holds a PhD in Political Sciences. He is the Secretary General of the German Advisory Council on the Environment (SRU) since 2001. He was also Steering Committee Member of EEAC from 2001 to 2009. Within the network he chairs the Energy Working Group (since 2006). Previously he was Project Coordinator in the Institute for Regional Studies in Europe (EURES) in Freiburg (1989-1997); from 1997 to 2001 dr. Hey worked as EU Policy Director at the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), Brussels.

The SRU is presently preparing its report “Care for a limited world”, to be published in spring 2012. An introductory chapter will be devoted to the new limits to growth debate. The chapter addresses the question if an economy within safe boundaries will be compatible with greened economic growth or not.

Or in other words: Does the promise of green growth, to decouple resource use from economic growth hold?

Starting point is the assumption of strong sustainability, that “biophysical limits” to the use of natural resources and sinks need to be respected in order to prevent “uneconomic growth” (Daly) or eventually irreversible collapse of important natural earth systems with severe economic, political and social ramifications.

The essential conclusion is that there is no alternative to radical technological innovation increasing resource efficiency, minimising throughput and substituting environmentally intensive products and processes by more sustainable solutions. Radical technology innovation implies the transformation of complex systems, such as the transport or energy systems. Scenarios suggest that, at least in the case of climate change, technological solutions are available. The challenge however is managing the rebound effect, resulting from higher demand as consequence of productivity increases and avoiding problem shift, for example the attempt to solve the climate problem at the expense of biodiversity by increased bio-energy support. Any green economy strategy therefore must firmly establish stringent budgets for the use of natural resources within “safe boundaries” maintaining natural capital.

In the longer run however there are reasonable arguments, that innovation and technology will not be sufficient. There are physical and thermodynamic limits to dematerialization and increased resource efficiency. Therefore, economic, fiscal and social policies need to get prepared for lower growth rates as a matter of precaution. Issues like income distribution, the share between private consumption and investment and maintenance of public goods, better tax basis for public expenditure, life-long working times need to become reconsidered, if our economic, social and political systems are to become less dependent on economic growth.

The better and faster a green growth agenda is being implemented the later the low growth agenda becomes an urgency. Business as usual is not a solution as overconsumption of natural resources will backfire to the economy and our political institutions.

French civil society debate on de-growth and development

Dominique Olivier¹⁰

Among the group of actors, one observes few advocates of de-growth, but on the other hand there are also only few supporters of a veritable sustainable development, that includes striving for a balance between its three pillars and promoting new qualitative criteria for the evaluation of progress and human well-being.

For example, in France, despite of serious and in-depth work on indicators for sustainable development, the Minister of the Economy pretends it is not possible to take these indicators into account for the preparation of the national budget law!

In the economic sector, different lobbies still support arguments in favour of growth with a little greening but without a paradigm change.

Among the trade unions, there is an objective limit with a strong polarisation about the defence of jobs and the rejection by employees of hard or even brutal changes in their professions, their daily life and even their workplace; employees do not believe in secure and intelligent transitions, because the past has shown the contrary to them.

The pragmatic approach reuniting a majority of actors is that of combining a relative de-growth with a more qualitative development. Indeed, we can have the same comfort and the same well-being with avoiding wastefulness and being modest in the use of natural resources. Moreover, recovery, recycling and re-use of waste that cannot be avoided give us a huge margin for progress.

For a more qualitative development, there are attractive perspectives in areas such as housing, health and culture. On the other hand, serious questions remain unresolved: Is it possible to decouple development and to reduce the consumption of energy and rare and non-renewable resources?

And in addition: Which productivity and competitiveness will result from a new economic system directed towards sustainable development, and therefore which new distribution of the cake of which we are not sure whether it will continue to grow?

Even if new evaluation tools are useful, even indispensable, but very difficult to implement, one key question arises for civil society and the public authorities, and calls for an innovative response: Which new democracy, which participative process or new co-construction of societal projects and compromises can be found?

[unedited translation from French]

¹⁰ For biographical information, see page 61.

The 'National Prosperity Index' as proposal for Germany



Roland Zieschank

PROJECT MANAGER

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY CENTRE,
FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN (FFU)

Roland Zieschank has been scientific assistant at the Research Unit for Environmental Policy at the FU Berlin since 1990. His research fields are environmental reporting and the development of national indicators for the environment, including resources and restrictions of information systems, as well as national strategies for sustainable development, possibilities of integration of environmental aspects in decisions by public groups and political concepts that allow industrial societies to improve their resource efficiency.

Roland Zieschank has also held positions at the federal agency for the environment (Umweltbundesamt), the Technical University of Berlin and the Science Centre Berlin.

The social welfare debate has recently been revitalised both at the national level of many countries and at the level of international organisations like OECD, Worldbank and the EU. There are clear signs that the costs of environmental change and of the maintenance of social cohesion are not adequately represented by economic quantities like gross domestic product or gross national income (GDP/GNI). In its first part the presentation analyses possible indicators complementary to GDP, starting with an assessment of theoretical and empirical approaches from various countries, ranging from the findings of the French “Stiglitz-Commission” to approaches like the Canadian Index of Well-Being. In a second part, the presentation describes the result of an empirical study to design a national welfare index (NWI) that allows a comparison with the German GDP/GNI, providing a time series of NWI from 1990 to 2009.

Within the last years, the German NWI is decreasing compared to GNI. Given this difference it has to be discussed in detail whether Germany is really approaching the aim of accounting economic sustainability or whether economic results as shown by the GDP/GNI had to be interpreted in a different way. The intensive debate carried out at OECD (but also in other countries with topics like “Buen vivir”) about the relation between economic growth, nature capital and real welfare enhancements on the basis of these conceptual reflections and empirical results is becoming more important.

The discussions of the NWI that has taken place in Germany during the last months demonstrated that such a concept can serve as a starting point for a debate on the issues of economic growth, sustainability and prosperity going beyond academic circles.

In the third and last part of the contribution, some theses on the political use of alternative welfare measures are discussed – namely the question whether they can assist a transformation strategy to a 'Green Society' not only by showing the discrepancy between GDP growth and welfare but also by pointing out the welfare aspects of a dematerialization of the economy.

Session C-2 Sustainable consumption and life styles: the North-South perspective

Chair: Gabor Naray-Szabo, NFFT (HU)

Rapporteur: Koen Moerman, FRDO-CFDD (BE)

Summary of the session and discussion

Koen Moerman (FRDO-CFDD, BE) presented the “Opinion on animal and plant proteins” approved by his Council last February. Starting point of the opinion is the observation that the actual amount of meat consumption in the total food pattern of countries of the North cannot be generalised on world level, esp. given the expected demographic changes. Furthermore, this pattern puts a high pressure on ecosystems. Therefore, the Council calls for a transition of our system of producing and consuming proteins towards a system that is more sustainable from an economic, social and ecological point of view. The opinion suggests different measures on the demand and supply side to foster such a transition. It is important to make people aware of the impact of their food choices, and to inform them about sustainable protein products, including plant alternatives for food products of animal origin and meal concepts with less or no meat.

Jan-Gustav Strandenaes (ANPED) dealt with the North-South conflict on SCP. He argued that improvements in energy efficiency are overwhelmed by increasing production and consumption in the North and the South. Referring to studies by Bjart Holtsmark, he stressed that there is no solution for global warming when countries of the South are not willing to reduce their CO₂ emissions in production and consumption. There is too much moralism about this issue in the NGO world. It is also important to get the perspective right when discussing about sustainable lifestyles: for example the production and consumption of food is much more detrimental to the climate than aviation. Also here, less moralism is required, as well as a better understanding of the carbon footprint of all our activities. Finally, Mr. Strandenaes underlined the importance of regulation, financing and taxation in the debate around SCP – information and education will not be sufficient to direct consumers' choices.

Anja Wucke (GIZ) reported about the activities the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). The GIZ operates in many fields: economic development and employment promotion; governance and democracy; security, reconstruction, peace-building and civil conflict transformation; food security, health and basic education; and environmental protection, resource conservation and climate change mitigation. GIZ sees SCP as a major challenge, and relates in

its projects the meeting of basic needs to the survival of the natural environment. Development is important, but we need to leapfrog the inefficient and unsustainable phases of development in the South. She gave some examples of GIZ projects in that sense: a national strategy for SCP in Mexico, sustainable shopping basket in India, the Common Code for the Coffee Community (4C).

Discussion:

- First presentation: A participant asked whether animal welfare was taken into account in the opinion about diminishing the consumption of animal proteins. Koen Moerman replied that this was not explicitly mentioned, but that animal welfare is undoubtedly linked to a sustainable consumption of animal proteins and deserves much greater attention. Animal welfare is not a luxury, but an essential part of sustainable development, as it promotes food security, poverty and disease reduction and environmental protection.
- Second presentation: Participants discussed about the right of Southern countries to develop themselves. It was argued that the old North-South debate is becoming outdated due to the rise of the emerging economies (India, Brazil ...). Jan-Gustav Strandenæs urged to rethink the entire aid issue, targeting the real poor people and heading for a clean development. We need a new approach in the North and the South – G77 today seems lacking interest in the SD issue.

Opinion on animal and plant proteins



Koen Moerman

SCIENTIFIC STAFF MEMBER

FEDERAL COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT (FRDO-CFDD)

Koen Moerman (1961) studied philosophy and communication science at the University of Ghent (Belgium). After a career in the communication field as copywriter and editor, he joined the Belgian Federal Council for Sustainable Development (FRDO-CFDD) as member of the scientific staff. In this council, he is occupied with issues of strategies for sustainable development, the greening of economic and fiscal policies and sustainable finance.

In February 2011, the Belgian Federal Council for Sustainable Development (FRDO-CFDD) approved an opinion on animal and plant proteins.¹¹ This opinion develops additional elements to an earlier opinion (published March 2010) on a sustainable food system.

To ensure a sustainable food system, it is particularly important to have a clearer view of the production and consumption of proteins in our food systems. The world is faced with the prospect of securing a balanced diet for nine billion people within the capacity of the world ecosystem by 2050. It therefore comes down to a transition of the protein production and consumption systems to a system with greater ecological and social sustainability and more guarantees for the economic players in the chain. A sustainable target picture entails that a food system has to be organised at European level by 2050 that is in large measure self-supporting. For this to be achieved, EU policy and international trade agreements must be steered in this direction.

To achieve this goal, the Council advocates a protein transition as part of a general transition to a more sustainable agriculture and food system. The protein transition is a deliberately organised process, based on active cooperation between governments, economic players and civil society.

A first pillar of the protein transition is the transformation of the current system of importing plant proteins (especially soybeans). This system must become more sustainable. The Council proposes a number of principles for achieving a more sustainable system, integrating ecological responsibility, decent work, just relations with local communities and economic viability. New initiatives are to be taken in this sense, or existing ones have to be improved and enhanced. In addition to voluntary initiatives such as the Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS) and Pro Terra, the Council underscores that the government must also play an important role in making the soybean chain sustainable.

A second pillar of the protein transition is geared to production and consumption, and endeavours, pursuant to a balanced and healthy dietary pattern, to shift consumption from animal proteins to more sustainably produced plant proteins. In this connection, the Council makes a number of concrete proposals concerning supply and demand.

On the supply side, measures include launching pilot projects to make the shift more efficient, setting clear standards for sustainable animal and plant products, promotion of these products in the distribution sector, the use of fiscal and economic instruments to redirect the production towards sustainable products and supplying vegetarian meals in all restaurants subsidised by the government.

On the demand side, the Council advocates the promotion of balanced and healthy dietary patterns, that contains neither too much, nor too little protein. It is necessary to inform consumers about sustainable protein products, including plant alternatives for food products of animal origin and meal concepts with less or no meat, to make people aware of the impact of their food choices.

¹¹ http://www.frdo.be/DOC/pub/ad_av/2011/2011a01e.pdf

SCP in the North–South perspective

Jan-Gustav Strandenaes¹²

SCP and the North

1992 and the Rio UNCED Conference identified the consumption and production issues as the prime cause of the development gap between developed and underdeveloped countries.

And placed the onus for rectifying this squarely in the Northern camp.

More a result of moral ineptitude than astute analysis? Or perhaps a bit of both?

SCP: Bringing sustainable consumption and production into the equation

Steady increase

- From 1990 to 2004, the world energy consumption increased by about 30% and CO₂ emissions by 26%, while the world GDP has increased by over 50%.
- Modest improvements in overall energy efficiency (GDP per unit of energy consumed) and carbon intensity (CO₂ emissions per unit energy or GDP).
- Improvements in efficiency have been overwhelmed by increasing production and consumption.

Household consumption

- Indirect energy consumption associated with household consumption (energy used to produce products consumed) in the United States has been estimated to be 50% of the total energy supply, giving a total of 85% of the total energy supply attributable, directly and indirectly, to household consumption.
- In Australia, CO₂ emissions associated with private consumption, direct and indirect, were six times the energy associated with public consumption.

SCP and food

- Agricultural production, in addition to generating CO₂ from fossil fuel use, is also a major source of methane (CH₄) from animal production and nitrous oxide (N₂O) from fertilizer, both of which are powerful greenhouse gases. In addition, in some areas, expansion of agricultural land through deforestation is an important contributor to CO₂ emissions. Most food related energy use, however, comes not from agricultural production itself, but from processing and distributing food.
- In the United Kingdom, food and drinks, which make up the bulk of daily household consumption, are estimated to account for almost half of the indirect greenhouse gas emissions embodied in the goods and services that households consume. About 25% of Total national greenhouse gas emissions are estimated to derive from the production and distribution of food and drinks.

¹² For biographical information, see page 41.

Resource pressure

- Population x consumption = resource pressure.
- There is every reason to believe that the 21st century will see strong economic growth in the so-called developing world with an increased demand for energy.

Larger reductions from where?

“The climate issue or global warming issue today is not to a large degree tied to what may be called 'luxury consumption'”. It is in no way “only tied to the question of the energy consumption from the rich world. On the contrary, the solution to global warming is to be found in connection to what is happening to the energy consumption of poor people, simply because there are so many of them.”¹³

Agreement and disagreement

During the UN ECOSOC AMR 2009 these statements were corroborated and expanded by Dr. Pachauri, Director of IPCC, and Lord Stern of LSE. They were met by strong opposition and incredulity by the Ambassador of Pakistan and the spokesperson of G-77.

Little or no progress, reduce or perish, but only opposition

SCP issues have failed in so many aspects: to Influence and change policy, to enthuse the public, to direct production, to change lifestyles
Whereas most say we must reduce everywhere, and it would be immoral not to do so, and it would be unethical to disagree with this statement...
Such statements garners: strong public opposition, have caused wide spread government unease, developed benign multilateral confusion, ... and the Marrakech process remains unfocussed.

Contextualise SCP

SCP needs to be linked to households and lifestyles in a positive way.
We should talk about a quality change forward.

How to change?

- Studies show that consumers pay much more attention to purchasing price than to operating costs – despite substantial savings over just a year's time
- Where energy conservation result in financial savings for a household, money will be available for other consumption, which will generally involve some additional energy consumption, direct or indirect, offsetting the initial reduction to some extent.
- Regulations and policy are more efficient than individual choices.
- Taxation is effective, and used wisely can induce rather quick results.
- Education and training for sustainable consumption has a key role to play in creating more critical and responsible attitudes towards consumer behaviour in the everyday lives of future adults.

We are in a quandary:

- We need quick actions but will see no quick results.

¹³ Bjart Holtmark, economist and researcher, Institute for Statistics, Norway.

- We need quick capital and massive finance to pay for these actions, with no promise of quick and massive returns.
- We need simple understanding to complex problems.
- We need commitments to last for 30 years and more, but our fear and impatience, do not speak of maintaining a high level of commitments for as long as it takes.
- Our growing anxieties of something gone irredeemably wrong and our tendencies to be pugnacious about issues that concerns what is perceived as dramatic changes in our lifestyles may cause us to accept choices that should not be accepted.

Millennium Consumption Goals

Proposed by a number of NGOs and think tanks from the developing world:

- Energy use and GHG emission: Direct energy consumption, Increase renewable energy use, Reduce motorised vehicle use
- Water use: Direct overall use, Domestic use
- Pollution and waste: Decrease overall pollution, Urban waste, Food waste, Military spending
- Land use: Improve urban land use, Rural land use, Decrease deforestation
- Health and diet: Improve general healthcare, Decrease obesity, Improve diet and decrease obesity as well as environmental burden, Decrease food toxicity
- Lifestyles and livelihoods: Reduce working hours and lifestyles
- Economic and financial system: Improve measurement of well-being, Improve taxation systems, Improve banking

We need

Cooperation: Drive policy in the Marrakech process, through the Advisory Board; Focus on the CSD outcome in 2011 by identifying the issues to be discussed in the review process; Maximise the use of process; Develop strategies and programmes for National SD Strategies and cooperate through NSDS.

More cooperation: on CSR, environmental governance, indicators; on climate change/global warming, food and household consumption, energy consumption, ...and the production of the above.

And even more cooperation: Joint efforts in project development, policy development, fundraising, advocacy work, lobby work, position development

Concretise the project: Capacity building, content development information dissemination, NSDS

Where is the life we have lost in living? Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?' (TS Eliot, 1934, Choruses from the Rock)

SCP – perspective of a development cooperation organisation



Anja Wucke

PROJECT MANAGER

GERMAN SOCIETY FOR
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
(GIZ)

After her studies in Technical Environmental Protection, Anja Wucke worked for a consulting company implementing local environment projects in Germany and Haiti.

She has been working with the GIZ for 15 years. During that time She has been involved in different departments dealing with topics such as Waste Management, Waste Water Purification, Eco-Efficiency and climate in the context of Developing Countries.

She also led a project in Argentina for several years.

Currently she is Project Manager of the GIZ Sector Project Rioplus – Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development.

As developing countries directly dependent on natural environment to meet basic human needs and, at the same time, are highly vulnerable to pollution, environmental degradation, natural disasters and climate change, SCP offers an alternative path towards sustainable development, smoothing the progress through leapfrogging inefficient phases of development.

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GIZ (German Development Cooperation) is committed to the principles of German development policy and to the vision of sustainable development. GIZ supports partner programmes, mainly on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), in various SCP-relevant areas delivering advisory services at policy level as well as practical implementation at micro level and a special focus on capacity development.

As a holistic approach, SCP has to be implemented in different fields of action. Specific policies and tools for the macro-, meso- and micro-economic levels facilitate the way to a Green Economy. GIZ provides advice to partner countries on the development of national SCP programs and action plans, as well as on designing regulative, fiscal and economic instruments for promoting SCP.

Example: development of the Mexican Strategy for SCP.

Together with its counterparts, GIZ works on the consumer side by promoting environmental policy instruments such as consumer protection and information, the encouragement of more sustainable life styles, and the establishment of sustainable procurement systems, both in the private as in the public sectors. Awareness raising, the creation of standards and guidelines, and public-private partnerships are examples with which the consumption patterns can be shifted and the demand of sustainable products and services can be increased, enforcing the market. *Example: consumer awareness campaign in India.*

On the production side, GIZ has been assisting the design and implementation of sustainable production and environmental management programmes in industry, including industrial zones or specific value chains. Enhancing business competitiveness and reducing the negative social and environmental impacts at the same time has been possible through SCP-approaches and instruments. Concepts such as cleaner production, eco-efficiency, eco-industrial parks, and corporate social and environmental responsibility have been in the portfolio for many years. *Example: sustainable management in industrial states of Tunisia.*

The GIZ not only supports specific SCP-relevant programmes, but also different fields of action included in the SCP concept. GIZ also conducts several projects on special sectors or subsectors, such as energy, transport and solid waste, or on specific value chains from production to distribution and consumption. *Examples: The Common Code for the Coffee Community (4C), Waste Management Plan for Maputo.*

The involvement of stakeholders is an important factor in ensuring the success of these approaches, not only in governmental decision-making processes, but also where the private sector takes initiatives or implements measures and would benefit from civil society and vice-versa.

Session D-2 Climate change, energy and food security: the land issue and EU CAP reform

Chair: Jan Verheeke, Minaraad (BE), chair EEAC WG Land use

Climate change, energy and food security



Filipe Duarte Santos

COUNCIL MEMBER,
PROFESSOR

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON
ENVIRONMENT AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
(CNADS, PORTUGAL)

Filipe Duarte Santos is professor of physics and environmental sciences at the University of Lisbon. He was visiting professor or visiting researcher at the universities of Oxford, Surrey, Munchen (LMU), Amsterdam (VU), North Carolina (Chapel Hill), Wisconsin (Madison) and Indiana, among others.

He is presently review editor of the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report, Vice-Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 2008-2009 and elect for 2012-2013 and Director of the Ibero-American Program CYTED- Science and Technology for Development for the field of Sustainable Development, Ecosystems and Global Change.

Climate change is one of the most challenging environmental problems of the XXI century. The strong connection with the energy sector stems from the very high worldwide dependence on fossil fuels which is presently about 80 % of the global primary energy sources. There is widespread agreement in the United Nations that the increase in the global average temperature of the atmosphere should not go above 2°C relative to its pre-industrial value in order to avoid a dangerous interference with the climate system. To achieve this goal the total amount of CO₂ emissions should not exceed 750 Gt CO₂ from now until 2050. However, the use of the total amount of estimated resources of conventional and non-conventional fossil fuels leads to an emissions volume about 118 times larger.¹⁴ If we want to control climate change we must stop using fossil fuels as soon as possible. Instead we must improve energy efficiency and rely much more on modern renewable energies.

Food security is becoming a major concern because of the recent price increases of food commodities. The estimated number of people with hunger in the world is again approaching one billion. There are indications that climate change, through more intense extreme weather and climate events, is having a negative impact on food productivity. It is very likely that higher global average temperatures and more frequent droughts, caused by climate change, will depress crop yields in many regions of the world in the future, especially in those regions that are already affected by water scarcity. Projections indicate that this global decrease in production is far from being counteracted by the effect on photosynthesis of an atmosphere with larger CO₂ concentration. As regards the connection between food security and energy, it is emphasised that increasing energy prices have a very pronounced influence on food production and prices.

Climate change, energy and food security are central issues in the process for sustainable development. If the challenges that they create are not addressed properly and in an integrated way, they will become strong drivers of unsustainability.¹⁵ They are among the main topics of the Rio+20 Conference. The presentation addresses the present and future situations regarding these three issues, the evolving connections between them and how to respond to the challenges that they generate within the context and framework of the green economy. It is shown that to address in an integrated way the three issues it is necessary to develop relevant metrics to measure societal wellbeing and environmental sustainability beyond GDP and macroeconomics. Furthermore it is essential to introduce mainstream ecosystem values into national and international Financial Institutions, national planning worldwide and corporate accounting.

¹⁴ WGBU (2011): *World in Transition, A Social Contract for Sustainability*.

¹⁵ Santos, F. D. (2011): *Humans on Earth. From Origins to Possible Futures*, Springer.

Looking back, Looking Forward: Sustainability and UK food policy 2000 – 2011

Sue Dibb¹⁶

Until March 2011 the SD Commission was the UK Governments' independent advisor on sustainable development.¹⁷

Food is at the heart of the sustainability challenge. In the last 50 years more people have been fed, food has become progressively cheaper, and we have an unprecedented choice of foods across the seasons. Yet by no stretch of the imagination could our complex web of food supply, consumption patterns and impact be described as sustainable.

The SD Commission's work over the last decade has contributed towards articulating what a sustainable food system is – one that addresses the multidimensional challenges of health, fairness, environment and economy – and what is required for its delivery.

In the SDC's final report - *Looking Back, Looking Forward* - authors Professor Tim Lang and Sue Dibb review progress towards sustainable food policy in the UK from 2000 – 2011, the period that reflects the lifetime of the SDC. It identifies specific challenges for food and sustainability and highlights priorities for action going forward. Its purpose is to advise policy makers in the UK Government and other stakeholders who continue to pursue this important goal. It draws on previous work by the SDC and is also informed by the findings of a survey of 145 experts within Government, business, academia and civil society. SDC's verdict on UK Governments' performance in promoting sustainability across the food system in the 2000s is that while there was progress in awareness and delivery in some respects, not enough has occurred to dispel SDC's concern about failures to achieve systemic change. Rising food prices, the need to waste less and feed growing populations while reversing biodiversity loss, climate change and environmental damage requires better understanding of what producing more food sustainably means for the UK. This transition will need new approaches to make it easier for people to eat healthily and sustainably and to enable producers and the food chain to shift to sustainable models of production, distribution and retail.

The SD Commission says this is not a time for Governments to step back – effective government leadership is essential. Markets alone cannot deliver. The report's core message is the need for urgency to speed up the pace and scale of change.¹⁸

¹⁶ For biographical information, see page 72

¹⁷ www.sd-commission.org.uk

¹⁸ Looking Back, Looking Forward: Sustainability and UK Food Policy 2000 – 2011, SDC, 2011 (www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/looking-back-looking-forward.html)

Will we be left without agricultural land and food?



Franc Lobnik

CHAIR, PROFESSOR

SLOVENIAN COUNCIL FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
(CEPRS)

Prof. Lobnik is head of the Center for Soil and Environmental Science at the University of Ljubljana and President of Council for Environmental Protection of the Republic of Slovenia.

Mr Lobnik has held several positions at the universities of Maribor and Ljubljana, most notably he has been director of the agronomy department from 1987-1994 and Dean of the biotechnological faculty from 1996-1998.

Furthermore, he has been Member of the Management Committee of Ljubljana University 1995-1999 and Member of University Senate 1996-2000; head of the Centre for Soil and Environmental Science; member of the Executive Committee of ICA (Interuniversity Consortium for Agricultural and Related Sciences) from 1998-2002; Member of GCHERA (Global Consortium of Higher Education and Research in Agriculture); President and Vice President of the Council for Biotechnical Science at the Ministry of Science and Technology from 1997-2002 and Steering Committee member of the EURO SOIL Bureau 2000-2003.

Prof. Lobnik was Chair of the EEAC Steering Committee from 2003-2004.

His current research activities include geochemistry and soil development, soil as natural resource, land use, soil mapping and GIS, pollution monitoring, analytical methods in soil and environmental science, as well as risk assessment of metal-polluted soils, the fate of pesticides in soil, heavy metals in the soil-plant-groundwater system and bioremediation of contaminated soils.

Soils are of key importance for life because of the environmental, economic, social and cultural functions that they perform. Soils supply water and nutrients to plants and provide support for roots and store and retain minerals, organic substances, water and energy as well as various chemical substances. They transform and decompose organic compounds including organic xenobiotics such as phytopharmaceuticals, they represent a natural filter for groundwater, the main source of drinking water, and they exchange oxygen, carbon dioxide, methane and other gases with the atmosphere. They represent a living space for numerous organisms with unique genetic compositions (approximately 2 billions in 64 cm^3). Soil organisms enable the biogeochemical cycling of energy and matter through complex and interconnected processes.

Are we aware of this multi-functionality?

The main threats are erosion (water and wind), decrease in soil organic matter content, soil pollution (point and dispersed), construction of infrastructure and urban sprawl (soil sealing), soil compaction, salinization, and natural hazards (floods and slides) and are compiled in the EU document »Towards a Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection« (COM, 2002). The need to protect the soil from these potential threats is now widely recognized with initiatives at national level where many countries have or are developing soil protection strategies and legislation as evidenced by the current discussion amongst member countries of the European Union.

In Europe, especially in Slovenia, we are witnessing soil losses for urban development. The most extensive propositions for changes in agricultural land use concern road construction, industrial and commercial zones, logistical centres, new residential areas, recreational objects and individual residential construction, representing dispersed building on the countryside which interfere with large connected complexes of agricultural land. Slovenia's size of arable land is among the smallest compared with other EU countries, ranking at 24. There is only 8,8 % of arable land and 24,3 % of agricultural areas, while the EU average is 27,4 % of arable and 45,0 % of agricultural areas. Research shows that we have lost 7 ha of the most fertile agricultural land per day in the period of 2002-2007, which equals to one average Slovenian farm. Slovenia now only has 2545 m² of agricultural land per capita and even worse, only 884 m² of this is arable land.

The most alarming fact is that many of the changes in land use have occurred due to the increase of value of these areas and great earnings for dealers and builders. Most interesting is the difference between the selling price of the agricultural area and its value after the change in land use for infrastructural and urban purposes.

Suitable legislation which will strictly protect the most fertile agricultural land in Slovenia saw its epilogue in the Slovenian Parliament this year, with the adoption of the amendment of the law on agricultural land, which has introduced once again the payment for changes in agricultural land use on the basis of land quality. The chart is progressive and will hopefully reduce the pressure on the most fertile land.

Reinvesting in organic farming



Dorothee Braun

PROJECT MANAGER
GERMAN COUNCIL FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
(RNE)

Dorothee Braun holds degrees in Psychology and Agriculture from the Free University of Berlin. Since 2006, she has been a scientific adviser at the secretariat of the German Council responsible for issues of international cooperation, sustainable agriculture, education for sustainable development, peer review and related projects ("Dialogue on the future of society: vision 2050"). Previously she worked in conflict prevention through social competency, and led violence awareness trainings at schools in East Germany. She also worked in conflict prevention as well as agricultural projects for the GIZ in eastern and southern Africa.

There is growing understanding that agricultural production plays a crucial role in sustainable development. Unsolved challenges - such as global food security within the perspectives of climate change, greenhouse gas mitigation, biodiversity conservation, or market competitiveness and rural development - put current national and EU policies to the test.

Organic farming functions as a role model in advancing the “European model of agriculture”. Due to its core principles, such as fostering the cycling of resources or integrated farming, and its potential to combine environmental and economic efficiency, organic farming has a favourable starting position to further advance its standards towards implementing the concept of sustainable agriculture. Best practices of organic farming serve as guidance to redirect agricultural policies to a more sustainable path. In particular, as the current debate on reforming the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) addresses the need to further incentivise farmer's contributions to environmental protection.

Consumer demand for safe, high quality, ethically produced foods is continuously rising. Therefore, also production and consumption of organic food and products has increased rapidly over the past two decades. However, there is a growing incongruity between transition rates achieved in Germany, and the increase in consumer demand. This leads to the importation of organically grown food accompanied by the associated negative environmental impacts regarding transport, waste, water management, etc.

The transition rates are failing to meet the governmental goal of a 20% increase in organically cultivated land within the total area of land used for agricultural cultivation in Germany. Thus, organic farming has to face the many challenges of increasing economic demands and environmental requirements. Improving productivity must go hand in hand with expanding the proportion of land used for organic farming.

The way forward:

- Create new market accesses for organic food and products through cooperation in vertical marketing channels.
- Set up ambitious and well-funded research programs. Researching organic farming is fundamental and should be expanded. Considering the relatively small share of organically cultivated farmland in Europe, investment in the technical potential of organic farming is not yet a business that pays.
- Develop mandatory standards through dialogue. EU regulations on organic food production only formulate minimal standards with regard to synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, genetic engineering, animal welfare and diversification in crop rotation. Thus, mandatory standards should reflect positive impacts on biodiversity and environmental protection. Furthermore, transparency and accountability with regard to waste, water management, animal health, and social criteria need to be reviewed and improved.
- Develop a roadmap 2050. Such a roadmap could provide pathways to linking transfer payments to environmental efficiency and to internalising external costs in a way that health and social equity implications are considered. Politics and business are called upon to develop reliable structures and new alliances between market stakeholders and research to effectively implement the overall concept of sustainable agriculture in a global context.

European Agricultural Policy as Catalyst for Transformation of Agriculture and Horticulture



Agneta Andersson

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR,
PROJECT LEADER

DUTCH COUNCILS FOR
ENVIRONMENT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE (RLI)

Agneta Andersson is international coordinator and project leader at the Dutch Council for Environment and Infrastructure (RLI). Together with the EEAC working group chairs she produced the annual EEAC Forward Looking Paper during the last four years. She also ran the secretariat of the EEAC Working Group on Agriculture-Land Use during the periods 1999-2001 and 2002 -2009.

Currently she is project leader of the RLI advisory project on the future of agriculture. She also has recently finalised an RLI advisory project on the Common Agricultural Policy which results in an advisory letter entitled 'European Agricultural Policy as Catalyst for Transformation of Agriculture and Horticulture' (RLI 2011-1). She supervises the internal preparations for the EEAC Annual Conference 2012.

The Dutch Councils for the Environment and Infrastructure (RLI) recommend¹⁹ that the transformation to a competitive, innovative and sustainable agrifood cluster should be the guiding principle in the CAP negotiations. After a transition period the Dutch agricultural and horticultural sector will be able to survive without income support. During this transition period CAP funding should be deployed towards encouraging adding value to supply chains and rural areas. This added value is key to escaping the squeeze in which agriculture and horticulture now finds itself. It is presently caught between the forces of international competition and high price volatility within an agrifood cluster involving completely new (global) players on the one hand, and increasingly stringent demands from society on the other. These demands concern products (food, biomass), sustainable production processes (animal welfare, environmental standards, concerns regarding genetically modified organisms (GMOs)) and the contribution of agriculture and horticulture to sustainable rural development (wildlife, landscape, water management, climate policy).

The Dutch agrifood cluster occupies a top position in the world thanks to its unique geographical and institutional advantages, such as its river delta location, sea harbours, fertile soil, early urban development, long history of efficient administration (water boards, trade relations, co-ops), international outlook and pioneering mentality. In the Netherlands, 73.000 businesses are specialised in agriculture, horticulture and livestock, which, together with the processors and suppliers that depend on them, provide jobs to 685.000 people. The agrifood cluster is strongly export oriented and closely intertwined with knowledge infrastructure and technology development (e.g. Wageningen University & Research centre and technical universities) and with sectors such as logistics, transport and mechanical engineering. Due to its knowledge of high-tech agricultural production in a highly urbanised river delta, under high societal pressure, the Netherlands can actively contribute towards making global food production more sustainable. Similarly, by exporting its know-how and technology, it can enhance the effectiveness of development efforts in the third world and less developed EU member states.

Dutch agriculture and horticulture can therefore be a frontrunner in Europe in creating new added value. In order to do this, the Councils advise the Dutch government to have the courage to take strategic decisions in order to strengthen the position of the Dutch agrifood cluster as a whole. Success will depend less on the CAP and more on the completing, deepening and making full use of the Single European Market, the strengthening of the Economic and Monetary Union, as well as social, economic and territorial cohesion within Europe.

The Councils think that the main focus in the negotiations should not be on reducing the net contribution to the EU budget, but on the development path of the agrifood cluster in general towards more sustainability.

The advice starts with a brief analysis of the importance of the Dutch agrifood cluster and the role of governmental bodies at international, European and national level in this cluster. As a consequence of this analysis, the Councils recommend setting the transformation in motion as soon as possible, in part by initiating experiments, and not wait for new EU legislation.

¹⁹ RLI (2011): European Agricultural Policy as Catalyst for Transformation of Agriculture and Horticulture. Advice from the Dutch Councils for the Environment and Infrastructure (RLI 2011-11).





PANEL DEBATE

How should Europe 2020, the Resource Efficiency Flagship and the EU SD Strategy best work together in order to contribute to aspired achievements in Rio and implementation?



From left to right:

Moderator: Willy De Backer, Free Journalist

Panellists:

- Stefan Moser, Deputy Head of Unit 'Strategic objective solidarity', European Commission, Secretariat General
- Jörg Mayer-Ries, Steering Group ESDN (European Sustainable Development Network)
- Martin Siecker, Member EESC (European Economic and Social Committee)
- Jeremy Wates, Secretary General EEB (European Environmental Bureau)



Willy De Backer

Freelance journalist and moderator
3Eintelligence

Willy De Backer is Head of the Greening Europe Forum of EU think tank Friends of Europe. Before that he worked as an independent journalist and consultant specialised in global energy, environment and sustainability policies. Willy was chief editor and co-founder of the EU online policy portal EurActiv.com from 1999 until 2007.

Willy is a frequent speaker and professional moderator for conferences on EU policies (especially energy, environment, climate change, sustainable development, transport and CSR) and on internet media and citizens' journalism.

Before getting into journalism and becoming an internet entrepreneur, Willy De Backer worked for nearly ten years as MEP assistant and staff member of the Green group in the European Parliament. From 1984 until 1989, he was one of the secretaries-general of the Federation of European Green Parties. In 2008/2009, Willy was part-time European director of the Global Footprint Network (GFN).

Willy's Blog: The Great Transition can be found at <http://www.scoop.it/t/the-great-transition>.



Stefan Moser

Deputy Head of Unit 'Strategic
objective solidarity' European Commission,
Secretariat General

Stefan Moser was trained as an economist and a lawyer. He is deputy head of unit in the Commission's secretariat-general in charge of policy coordination, in particular on those related to the Europe 2020 strategy's flagship initiative on resource efficiency such as climate change, environment, energy and transport. He previously worked in the Commission's environment directorate-general on climate change (notably the EU ETS), air and transport policies. Prior to that, he worked in the Commission's competition directorate-general on state aid control in the field of public undertakings and services, particularly the financial sector.



Jörg Mayer-Ries

Head of Division ZG III 1,
 “General Aspects of Environmental Policy,
 Sustainability and Environmental Protection Strategies”
 Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation
 and Nuclear Safety (Berlin, Germany)

Jörg Mayer-Ries holds a degree in Political Economy from Oldenburg University as well as a PhD in Political Economy from the Free University in Berlin.

He has been director of Studies for Economic, Environmental and North-South-Policy, Lutheran Academies at Loccum and at Berlin. Senior Consultant for Sustainability Policy, Innovation and Research Policy at IFOK, Institute for Organisational Communication, Berlin.

His fields of activity include environmental and sustainability policy, strategic aspects of environmental and sustainability policy, innovation and research policy, governance and management concepts as well as spatial aspects of sustainable development.



Martin Siecker ²⁰

Member Group 2,
 Employees European
 Economic and Social
 Committee (EESC)



Jeremy Wates ²¹

Secretary General
 European Environmental
 Bureau (EEB)

²⁰ For biographical information, see page 64

²¹ For biographical information, see page 88

REPORT of the PANEL DEBATE

The final panel debate of the EEAC Annual Conference 2011 focused on the political dimension of the European Union's Rio+20 preparations. The discussion made the connection between the EU's Europe 2020 agenda, the Resource Efficiency Flagship Initiative and the Sustainable Development Strategy and questioned whether these different strategies would feed into a strong and ambitious programme of the Union for Rio+20.

Asked by journalist and moderator Willy De Backer whether the EU's Sustainable Development Strategy was still alive, Stefan Moser, Deputy Head of Unit "Strategic Objective: Solidarity" at the Secretariat General of the European Commission re-iterated the Commission's serious commitment to work on sustainable development within the Europe 2020 Strategy. He considers it as a success that the long-term view is now captured in this strategy. Also, the Impact Assessment system of the Commission is a success story as a tool for better integrating policies and providing transparency of the decision-making process. The EU SD strategy played an important role in shaping the Europe 2020 strategy. To ensure coherence across the board, the relevant elements of the EU SDS should be integrated into the European Semester as the main governance tool of the Europe 2020 strategy. Moreover, it will now be crucial to work with key decision-makers that the concrete policy proposals as part of the Europe 2020 resource-efficient Europe flagship initiative such as on the agriculture, fisheries and regional policy reforms will effectively deliver on sustainability. The Commission remains of course always open to consider further arguments from stakeholders on the possible added value of the EU SDS in the future.

Joerg Mayer-Ries, Head of Division in the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and member of the Steering Group of the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN), supported the idea of developing coherent transition strategies, and an EU SDS could have this role. In his point of view the added value of an EU SD strategy lies in:

1. taking a longer term perspective, namely 2050,
2. addressing the global dimension,
3. addressing important governance issues, including European values in this respect regarding democratic rights, and
4. improve policy integration.

Regarding the latter argument he adds that the EU 2020 strategy provides this better than the previous Lisbon strategy, but still, it is mainly driven by the notion of how to make the EU competitive.

Willy De Backer asked whether Rio+20 is really radical enough in its questioning of the existing economic paradigm. Is the focus on the "green economy" really

looking enough at the resource constraints faced by the global economy (energy, raw materials, water, biodiversity etc.)? Is there no difference between the “green economy” and “greening the economy”, he asked and would Rio+20 not fail if it does not question the existing logic and practices of our world economy?

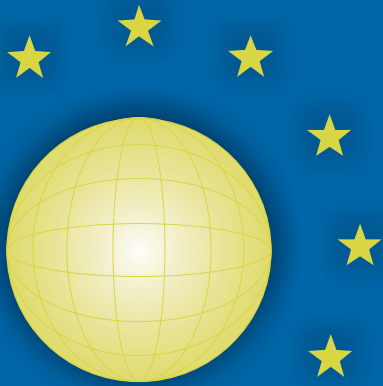
Quite a bit of the debate centred on the need to look at sustainable consumption. Is the consumer not the weak link as awareness of the need for more sustainability in consumer behaviour does not necessarily lead to action? Will future governments need to constrain choice? But how would that affect their popularity? Is there really any good thinking on the politics of sustainability?

Is the International 10-year Framework Programme for Sustainable Consumption and Production well enough integrated into the draft Rio text?

Another question looked at the EU's Beyond GDP initiative. Has any real progress been made since the EU's great conference and the Stiglitz Report written for French President Sarkozy? Do we need new indicators for sustainability?

Jeremy Wates, Secretary-General of the European Environment Bureau thought such indicators are really necessary. He also addresses that the Europe 2020 strategy is driven by the aim of growth, while an UE SD strategy should be the overarching framework for the EU. He welcomes the Resource Efficiency Roadmap, but says that instruments and targets are lacking. In his view, a 7th EAP could strengthen the resource efficiency policies. Ecological constraints must be paramount. He agrees with the point made by others, that core policy areas such as CAP, CFP and regional policies continue alarmingly in a business as usual mode.

Martin Siecker, member of the European Economic and Social Committee, addressed the social aspects of the Rio+20 agenda. He reminds the increasing gap between rich and poor, and that the distribution of income is totally out of balance. He welcomes the work of the World Business Council for SD with its 'Vision 2050', but also here he misses that aspect of inequalities. Regarding consumption he feels that the “inconvenient truth” of overconsumption needs to be told, and he indeed sees a problem that citizens do not want to give up certain habits.



EEAC CONTRIBUTIONS

**Network of
European Environment
and Sustainable Development
Advisory Councils (EEAC)**



The Green Economy" Agenda in the context of SD and Institutional Framework for SD at national level

Context

The international community decided to take advantage of the forthcoming twentieth anniversary of the Earth Summit in 2012. The UN General Assembly decided to hold again a UN Conference on sustainable development in Brazil in 2012. The aim of this conference is to arrive at a renewed political commitment to sustainable development, to assess the progress made since 1992, to check whether there are any implementation gaps in the Rio and Johannesburg agreements, and to examine the challenges of today.

The UNCSO 2012 will discuss two topics: "a green economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development," and an "institutional framework for sustainable development."

Important players in this process, alongside the member states, are the UN intergovernmental organisations and the Major Groups.

The network of European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils, EEAC, attaches great importance to the Rio2012 conference, as a unique opportunity to give a new, necessary impetus to a more sustainable development for our planet. EEAC is participating in the process by providing an input based on the know-how and experience of its members across Europe.

EEAC is providing input on the two UNCSO topics with this statement, which is accompanied by two more detailed Background documents *included herewith. The analysis and recommendations are based on a) a collection of national good practice examples and challenges for GE and b) the analysis of a survey on governance for sustainable development, both of which are issued as separate papers.

The statement and background papers are presented at the EEAC Annual Conference 2011 in September, as further step in the process towards the 2012 UNCSO. The EEAC network intends using this statement as the basis for continuing dialogue with the European institutions and other actors about making the economy work for SD.²¹ It is also aimed to endorse comments on the Communication from the European Commission on Rio+20.²²

²² Since 2001, the EEAC network has been a strong advocate to greening the European Sustainable Development Strategy by defining natural environment and the resources and eco-services as core element of any sustainable pathway, see: EEAC (2001): Greening Sustainable Development Strategies. Proposals by the European Environmental Advisory Councils for the EU Sustainable Development Strategy). See also: EEAC supporting a major Rio-plus-20 event

Challenging, encouraging, innovative: Addressing the “Green Economy” Agenda in the context of SD

With this recommendation, EEAC Member Councils collectively address the European Commission, the entrepreneurial community and other stakeholders, while, individually, the national Sustainable Development Councils use the EEAC network to share ideas and compare approaches in respect of the national work profile they are meant to execute. EEAC Member Councils deliver effective programmes and initiatives as referred to in this statement to advance specific low carbon strategies and to make green economy a tool that works for the environment and the social prosperity. We base these recommendations on selected examples from our respective national work profiles, projects and partnerships, published as a collection of national good practice examples. This overview is result of self-evaluating processes as element of EEAC network processes to advance EEAC Member Councils. The conclusions will therefore reflect on lessons learned, strength and weaknesses of EEAC Member Councils as well as on their main fields of activities.

1. What dominates our economy is an economic model that is based on a downward trend towards non sustainable development: depleting resources, changing the climate to dangerous levels, alienating economic growth from people's prosperity, running ever riskier businesses with huge damage potential, accompanied by policies that result in the separation and fragmentation of policies instead of strengthening the case for systemic answers and strategies. In short, this development must not be continued.
2. The EEAC wish to propose an economic model that is grounded in sustainable development principles. This is not to be interpreted as a replacement of the current economic model but rather a model of business organisation that can run parallel with and eventually replace those business models that are based on ever increasing natural resource consumption. It is our view, following investigations amongst our Member Councils, that the green economy can provide meaningful employment opportunities whilst at the same time addressing the big challenges of climate change and natural resource depletion. A process of greening the economy needs to be fail-proofed against attempts to green-washing and protectionism. With specific metrics for roadmaps and accountability of all responsible actors, this process has to allow for bottom up action. In our view, there is a case for

in 2012 on a sustainable global society and economy Recommendations taken by the EEAC 2009 Annual Plenary Session, Dubrovnik, 24th October 2009; http://www.eeac-net.org/workgroups/pdf/EEAC_supporting_a_major_Rio-plus-20.pdf

²³ COM (2011) 363 final: Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Rio+20: towards the green economy and better governance. (Brussels, 20.6.2011)

a green economy, but it is only viable, tangible and credible when it forms part of the wider context of sustainable development.

3. Greening the economy, first of all, only works when it puts the society first. Good practice experiences show that greening strategies can create new and decent jobs to a large extent. Green jobs can be found, for example, in renewable energy, manufacturing green products, developing environmentally efficient working practices, reducing waste and pollution, recycling and recovery, managing environmental assets and delivering ecosystem goods and services e.g. food and timber, maintaining and enhancing biodiversity. Green jobs would be called decent if they offer a rewarding atmosphere, fair pay and a high quality in terms of skills and working environment. Putting jobs and growth against the environment is an old and out-dated concept. European examples show that green economies serve the people.
4. We recommend that sustainable development should become the central organising principle of government. This would involve framing and qualifying national fiscal policies, reform programs and the Europe 2020 in order to integrate long-term sustainable thinking and global cooperation. Policies in different fields need a sustainability umbrella (i.e. to be 'SD proof') to ensure that there is both horizontal and vertical integration across the whole range of governance.
5. For tooling up the European green economy we recommend, as a starting point, revising the EU SD strategy and ask the European Council to decide, as required in 2011, when a comprehensive review will take place. We recommend this to start immediately after the Rio conference in order to transpose the results into the European policy framework. In the global debate about green economy the EU needs to demonstrate its commitment to SD and walk the talk by increasing effectiveness and active delivery. The EEAC therefore advises that the strategy adopts an operational approach that would allow for the framing of roadmap actions.
6. Scientific concepts for taking nature's services into account and respecting them in the economic logic of business are well known. Pricing and licensing operations by issuing certificates, taxing concepts and other market based instrument are being used, But still, we do lack a comprehensive approach that would deliver a turn-around of mainstream economies. The notion of a green economy is not new in substance, but what is new and what we support is a change in perspective of those who are taking decisions on the market. Increasingly, market players invest in green business, and the business community is actively connecting the long term sustainability thinking with their vision 2050 business case. In order to have a strong green economy the deeper it has to connect to the policies towards a sustainable development. This is in some way incremental, but has also some angles that change the

framework conditions. For this purpose, both soft and hard instruments and approaches might be used.

7. The EEAC recommends that we move towards a green economy by demonstrating that the green economy can deliver meaningful jobs that can contribute to both material well-being and meet the global challenges of climate change and resource depletion. The EU Member States can learn from each other about how such a new business model can be constructed and developed. It is about gaining confidence about a new economic trajectory and about gradually replacing the old model, which was based on largely unconstrained natural resource use – there is an element of complementarity in what we suggest. Taking responsibility in global transformation processes urges us to reframe the notion of 'Green Race', as coined by the WBCSD, that is often called upon. The impact of green economy strategies must not generate new forces for international inequality but rather foster and encourage cooperation, particularly in the use of natural resources. The EEAC recommends actions to design and enhance active learning processes in developing countries, disseminate technologies, allow for the access to knowledge and freely available technologies as well as the development of public/private/academic research, and international cooperation and collaboration in that respect. It further advises to redesign trade arrangements and to reflect on the current global regime of intellectual property rights.

We have elaborated these recommendations further in a background paper, with the key elements:

- Facing the dominant mode of degreening
- Green means greening means enabling
- Society first
- Policies against green-washing
- Make use of diversity
- Creating new decent jobs
- Respecting nature's capital
- Adding to the governance portfolio
- Funds needed to progress instrumentation of green economy
- Revising the EU SDS
- EU SDS to frame the roadmap option
- Taking responsibility in global transformation processes
- Advancing EEAC Member Councils

Learning from long-standing and diverse experience: Institutional Framework for SD at national level

The EEAC has worked over the last 10 years on governance for SD, with a focus on national institutions and processes, stakeholder involvement, policy and delivery coordination issues, and the links between different governmental levels, e.g. sub-national, national and EU. This included a recent survey in around half of the EU member states and some regions, on which these recommendations are based.

EEAC underlines that further progress in sustainable development requires transition processes, i.e. rather fundamental shifts in direction of sectors and the economies as a whole, as reflected under the section “green economy”. The notion of transition at the same time includes striving for social justice and decreasing inequalities by ensuring effective multilevel “just transition” processes. For such transition processes, the aim of achieving further convergence and integration of the dimensions of sustainable development, requires improvement and reinforcement of governance at all levels, and that SD governance is placed at the core of all levels, incl. the UN system:

Here EEAC also wishes to express its support for certain proposals on the institutional framework for SD at global level, as addressed in the background paper on this issue.

A number of core elements of governance for SD at national and sub-national levels have emerged as good practice, - relatively independent from the politico-cultural background of a nation, region or municipality. It is the EEAC's view that the following should be pursued:

1. Sustainable development should become the central organising principle of government. More effective coordination is required amongst the various economic, social, and ecological policy domains in order to achieve a more 'joined up' approach to the big challenges we are confronted with today (inter-related crises concerning the climate, energy, biodiversity, poverty, the scarcity of raw materials, the financial and economic issue, unemployment ...).
2. EEAC considers political leadership at a high level as crucial, i.e. the prime minister should be responsible for sustainable development, which matches with his/her encompassing and leading role in government. At the same time, political and administrative coordination mechanisms need to be firmly put in function, i.e. in government, in the ministries and in parliaments.
3. Civil society should be continuously encouraged, where needed, to get organised in order to be an actor in policy processes, and be triggered to initiate and organise bottom-up actions. This includes wider awareness raising and stimulating informed debate on sustainable development. Governments

should be open to and foster involvement and participation. Sustainable Development Councils are a model for multi-stakeholder bodies, which are typically composed of stakeholders from the major groups and beyond, active in all these respects and pushing the SD agenda. Deliverables of SD and environmental councils are integrative and transdisciplinary thinking as well as dialogue style politics, for both of which they are also laboratories. In order to live up to their potential they need to be sufficiently resourced and mandated.

4. On political strategies EEAC recommends a two-track approach: There should be an SD strategy with a medium and long-term vision, and at the same time all actors should work on mainstreaming SD in core policies, in particular socio-economic strategies and budgetary processes. SD strategies need to be 'SMART', which also implies that they are monitored and revised, as well as turned into actions, along the targets, possibly in the form of an action plan (see item 5 in the GE section above).
5. On complementing SD tools EEAC considers sustainability impact assessment (SIA) a useful instrument that is designed to provide ex-ante assessment of impacts of policy proposals. It is crucial, also for credibility, that serious alternatives are considered and impacts on the key dimensions of SD, and weighing up to take place in the political sphere with transparency in the entire procedure. Indicators for SD have evolved as key tool for measuring progress: agreeing such indicators is a critical component of developing an SD strategy. EEAC considers it important that dashboards with headline indicators are agreed and also that work on (an) aggregated indicator(s) continues, both in a coordinated fashion with member states.
6. EEAC members share the concern that communication on SD needs to be stepped up significantly: Communicate SD to a wider audience in more practical terms, demonstrate how it is connected to daily life, such as working, housing and consumption. Show it as project of inherent interest, as it is about improving the quality of life of citizens, and with “best practice” how it offers new opportunities. The local or community level shall have a special and important role in connecting SD to daily life. For example, community based groups through their work on practical outcomes play an important role in communicating and demonstrating the SD message. SD also needs to be treated as priority theme by the government, integrated in the communication systems of the individual authorities, and it needs to be better integrated in the educational system of each country. Using an SD strategy as red thread in communication has proven useful in many member states. There should be an active media policy for getting SD at the core of both traditional and new media, and again by stimulating that an SD angle is taken when 'classic' domains and topics are covered. More efforts are needed to

translate the SD philosophy in the business language and a clear message should be sent that following SD principles is a “sound business case” and not bad for profit.

7. Overall, it still remains an on-going task to building capacity for SD at all levels and in all respects: awareness raising, knowledge, thinking “in the very long lines” and out of the box, in all societal groups, and concrete approaches and action, including in and by the government. EEAC, therefore, calls for a more systematic approach and current efforts to be re-examined and invigorated.

The background paper for this section on the institutional framework for SD further elaborates on:

- Challenge: transition needed
- SD strategies
- SD tools
- Communication

Conclusions

This Statement wants to encourage advanced thinking on the issues of green economy and the reform of institutional processes towards sustainable development. It connects to the preparation for the UN CSD Conference in Rio de Janeiro 2012.

In our view the strategic high-level policies on all levels should adopt sustainable development as a broad orientation combining a number of different policy areas. It is normative to the extent that it offers a 'vision' of a future based upon principles regarding the long term, planetary boundaries, the circular flow economy (recycling economy) and intergenerational justice. We recognise that governments may find it difficult to pursue sustainable development policies, particularly when faced with major challenges such as deficit reduction, or energy and food security, and the need to respond to the demands from society for jobs and prosperity. However, the principles of sustainable development and its long-term objectives towards e.g. climate mitigation and resource use offer an opportunity to set shorter term policies and programmes that translate transformation into prosperity and job opportunities.

Acknowledging the complexities and difficulties that governments, policy actors, academics and individuals have encountered over the years since 1992 (Rio Earth Summit) the concept of sustainable development is still relevant and alive. It may not be confined to the 'too difficult to handle basket'. Much has been achieved at both governmental and societal levels and a whole range of government policies and programmes and initiatives by businesses and individuals can be cited to support this conclusion.

The EEAC suggest that there is a need to make the institutional framework more sensitive to policies, such as sustainable development, that are cross-cutting in nature. These are often mistaken as over complex and referred to as the 'wicked issues'. Such issues are also characterised by a high degree of involvement of governmental structures and by civil society. This should be addressed as part of the solution, not the problem.

Key policy tools in this process are the EU SDS and national SD strategies. These strategies need to be better linked and provide the strategic direction for long-term EU and national policies. The policy architectures (institutions, legislative and administrative routines, political culture) must allow for the European as well as national SD strategies to underpin other strategies and 'road maps', such as Europe 2020, that set out in more detail how the direction of travel can be monitored in terms of timelines, deliverables, rules for measurement and reporting. As mentioned above, the institutional framework is another vital component in the delivery of a society based on sustainable development principles.

This Statement has drawn on the information and experience of Member Environment and Sustainability Councils. In taking a long-term perspective we suggest that it is possible to shift the curve of economic development to a more sustainable trajectory by developing and strengthening the green economic sector alongside more traditional business models.. At a time when there is great international economic uncertainty we are seeking to encourage governments to begin exploring alternative sectors that have the prospect to deliver worthwhile and satisfying employment opportunities but, at the same time, recognizing that the earth's sources have to be used more efficiently and sparingly, and sustainable modes for production and consumption have to be developed that can be shared globally.

With this recommendation, EEAC Member Councils collectively urge the European Commission to revise the EU SDS. The SDS needs to become the 'central organising principle' across the whole range of EU policies and programmes. It should give pointers to other EU policies and programmes to the extent that they should conform to SD principles in determining their outcomes e.g. CAP, CFP, convergence, transport and infrastructure and deliver what is needed for Member states green economy agendas.

Reflecting on the work profile of EEAC Member Councils only some national councils actively engage with private sector or trade unions in their projects or programmes. Rio+20 opens the window of opportunity to fill this gap as it merges the dialogue on development and environment with the dialogue on economy and industrial policies.

Wrocław Consensus

Building Trust, Joining Action

EEAC Annual Conference 2011

15-17 September 2011



Context

- *Since the adoption of the EEAC statement “UNCSD: Rio 20plus” in June 2011 the EU institutions have announced or will be announcing their positions on Rio+20. The Commission published its communication in June. The Parliament will adopt a resolution before the end of September. The Environment Council will adopt conclusions on October 10. These positions will enable the EU to define its input for the Rio+20 Outcome Document before November 1.*
- *This consensus was adopted at the annual conference 2011 with the objective to give further input to the EU institutions and Member States. It builds on what was already included in the EEAC statement mentioned above.*

On the Communication of the Commission

1. The EEAC participants at the Wrocław Annual Conference welcome the Commission's Communication as a useful contribution to the Rio+20 preparatory process.
2. We are particularly pleased by the need expressed to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development (SD) and by the EU's intention to use the Rio+20 as a catalyst for this commitment. We strongly look forward to concrete initiatives by the EU that will put this intention into practice.
3. We welcome the green economy principles and approaches mentioned in the Commission's Communication. Issues which need to be promoted both at EU and global levels are a considerably higher investment level in maintaining natural capital, new policies for considerably increased resource efficiency or the transitions towards low carbon economies. We appreciate the first steps and commitments of the EU in that direction, but more specific and effective measures have to follow. This especially applies to the suggested promotion of market based instruments and the phase-out of environmentally harmful subsidies. Such a policy will have positive impacts on investment and jobs, but more targeted approaches need to be pursued for poverty eradication both in the rich and the poorer countries.
4. The green economy part needs to stir economies towards low carbon production and consumption and responsible fiscal performance. EEAC members can deliver specific inputs based on their activities on green economy strategies, roadmaps, instruments and processes (see our background paper on this issue). This includes the shift towards an energy

efficient and low carbon economy, the greening of agriculture, sustainable tourism, and the recycling of waste. In this sense, the work of EEAC and its members can contribute to the EU position on Rio20plus and EU policies in this field.

5. We would like to see the final EU position for the consultation process on the Outcome Document correct some of the imbalances remaining in the Commission's Communication. In our view, the Communication should place green economy in the context of SD and poverty reduction. In general there is a lack of attention for the social and financial dimension of SD. As a consequence of this imbalance, the EU might miss the opportunity to build stronger partnerships with strategic partners outside the EU. And that might impede the chances of a successful outcome of Rio+20.
6. We are disappointed by the way the Commission seems to interpret the importance of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS) in future EU policy as a whole. The EU is to decide on a renewal of the EU SDS in 2011, which offers an opportunity to strengthen an integrated SD approach. Unfortunately, the Commission's Communication only mentions the EU SDS and refers mainly to the EU2020 strategy. However, this last strategy cannot be considered the SD strategy of the EU, a.o. as it deals only with energy and climate in the environmental field.

Proposals for further enrichment of the EU input for the Rio+20 Outcome Document

7. The EEAC participants at the Wroclaw Annual Conference are convinced that the following elements might lead to a stronger and more balanced EU position for the Rio+20 process. We would like to see them included in the Environment Council conclusions of October 10.
 - The vision and proposals on green economy should explicitly be put into a context of sustainable development and poverty reduction (which actually is one of the two main themes of the conference). This implies, among others, a greater attention to the social dimension of SD.
 - The EU should state more explicitly what will happen to the EU SDS. In our view an integrated SD should become – more than it is today – the central organising principle of all EU policies. This will mean an ambitious redefinition of the EU SDS after the Rio conference. This decision should be taken during the 2012 Spring Council at the latest.
 - The EU should make a strong commitment to rebalance EU 2020, which need to become consistent with SD principles regarding the planetary boundaries, the circular flow economy and intergenerational justice.
 - The EU should not pay lip service to the principle of a better institutional framework for sustainable development, the other main theme of the conference, but also explain more clearly and convincingly which options it prefers and will defend.

- We would like to invite the EU to endorse the concept and to actively contribute to the development of specific so-called 'SDG's' (= sustainable development goals) as an important instrument for a stronger SD policy in the future. SDGs should be complementary to the MDGs (millenium development goals).
 - We also invite the EU to use our statement and background papers on Rio 20plus as inspiration to further strengthen the EU's position. In particular we would like to see a reference to the importance of civil society, including SD and Environmental councils as particular model for multi-stakeholder involvement, as relevant actors in SD strategies and policies.
8. We ask the EU to inform the public before November 1 how suggestions of civil society including EEAC's recommendations have been incorporated in the final input for the Rio+20 Outcome Document.

Wroclaw, 17 September 2011

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