



Make Europe the World Leader of Sustainable Development: A Unique Opportunity to Build a Stronger European Union

Rome

23 March 2017

Sala della Regina
Chamber of Deputies

Europe Ambition 2030

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Open Letter to the Heads of States and Governments Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Treaties of Rome

At a time when multiple crises and tectonic shifts in Europe and on the global stage threaten European peace, democracy and prosperity, there is no alternative to the development of an ambitious vision for the future of the European Union.

By placing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), agreed by all countries of the world in 2015, at the heart of the European project, the peoples of Europe and their leaders have an unprecedented opportunity to defend, promote and further strengthen core European and universal values of justice and equity between generations, people and nations.

We are convinced that the “2030 Agenda for sustainable development” has the power to unite an increasingly fractured Europe, to change European mind-sets and rebuild trust, to leverage “better business for a better world” and to contribute to the security of our continent.

Leaving no one behind by eradicating extreme poverty, reducing inequality, guaranteeing access to health, education, decent jobs and nutritious food for all, while protecting the environment are all goals which should and could inspire European governments, local authorities, business and citizens to act and come together.

By becoming again the “world’s SDGs frontrunner”, the European Union would make a decisive contribution to improve the quality of life of European citizens and to enhance humanity’s capacity to prosper in peace within the planetary boundaries.



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We believe that the implementation of the SDGs, from the local to the European level, provides a unique chance for transforming European governance, by:

- Creating a comprehensive framework to underpin Europe's 2030 strategy;
- Empowering non-state actors, such as regions, cities, business, universities and civil society;
- Creating partnerships between state and non-state actors to innovate, create projects to scale and speed up implementation;
- Promoting a new development cycle as well as new business models, making real the motto "better business for a better world";
- Aligning public and private finance towards a positive impact on people's wellbeing and the SDGs;
- Ensuring a just transition for workers and communities for those territories or sectors, which will need to undergo major transformation;
- Providing new tools for citizen participation in EU initiatives and for accountability, through the disclosure of progress towards the SDGs by both governments and non-state actors.

All European actors, whether European Institutions, Member States and non-state actors, can and should do more to create a scale effect that will accelerate the transition, in time to avoid irreparable economic, social and environmental damage.

Their efforts must be guided by a common "European Sustainable Development roadmap to 2030", which would be based on ambitious, science-based targets and indicators; joint action plans between State and non-State actors; as well as pathways and timelines for their achievement.

We believe that, by making the SDGs a reality, Europeans could build together, for now and for future generations, a more prosperous, attractive, competitive and inclusive society, which delivers essential rights, prosperity, peace and sustainability for all, while engaging in new alliances with our neighbours and with the other parts of the world.

We urge all those who dream of such a "European transformation" to become members of the "European Champions League for SDGs" and to work tirelessly in this direction, contributing to what would become an unprecedented achievement in the world's history.

