



*European Economic and Social Committee
Sustainable Development Observatory*

Programme

GREENER EUROPE - GREENER WORLD?

**PREPARING FOR THE 2012 RIO SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
THE CONTRIBUTION OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN EUROPE**

23 March 2011 - 10.00 am – 5.30 pm

Meeting room VMA 3- Van Maerlant street 2 - 1040 Brussels

The United Nations is convening a Summit level Conference on sustainable development in Rio in the summer of 2012, 20 years after the first 1992 Earth Summit, and ten years after the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. The first Preparatory Committee for this Summit took place in New York in May 2010, and further preparatory meetings will take place later this year and in 2012.

The EU is playing an active part in this process, and the Commission has now launched a public consultation with European civil society on some of the key issues that will be addressed at the Summit. The Commission intends to issue a communication on the European position for the Summit in June 2011 that will take account of this consultation.

The EESC in its capacity as a channel for organised civil society in Europe has also been playing an active part in the process. It has held hearings in 2010 to help identify the aspirations of civil society for the Summit, and produced a first opinion on the Summit and the European approach to it in September 2010 ("*2012 World Summit for Sustainable Development*"). It now intends to produce a further opinion in 2011 that will inter alia take account of the civil society responses to the Commission's current consultation and respond to the Commission's June communication.

This hearing will address the questions highlighted in the Commission's consultation document, with particular emphasis on those of relevance for organised civil society. In this way, the hearing will contribute to defining the position of organised civil society – both at the EU-level and beyond – in the build-up to the Summit.

Conference languages: *English, French, German, Spanish and Polish*

Info: sdo@eesc.europa.eu

9:30 – 10:00 am	Registration and coffee
10:00 – 10:05 am	Welcome by Mr Staffan Nilsson , President of the European Economic and Social Committee
10:05 – 10:15 am	Opening Remarks by Mr Hans-Joachim Wilms , President of the EESC's Sustainable Development Observatory

10:15 – 13:00 pm	Session 1: The road towards a 'Green Economy'
-------------------------	--

10:15 – 11:15 am	<p>Green Economy's potential contribution to growth and economic development</p> <p><i>Benefits, opportunities, risks, and challenges, especially for developing countries?</i></p> <p>Presentation by Dr. Steven Stone, Chief of the Economics and Trade Branch, UNEP</p>
-------------------------	--

Respondents:

- **Mr Julius Langendorff**, DG Environment, European Commission
- **Dr. Günther Bachmann**, Secretary General, German Council for Sustainable Development and co-chair EEAC WG Sustainable Development

Followed by a discussion

11:15 – 12:00 pm	<p>Policy actions and instruments needed to transform concepts related to the green economy into real action</p>
-------------------------	---

Presentation by **Mr Derek Osborn**, Rapporteur's Expert for the EESC Opinion on Rio+20 and President of Stakeholder Forum

Respondents:

- **Ms Nicola Beer**, Member of the Committee of the Regions and rapporteur on climate change, Secretary of State for European Affairs of Hessen, Germany
- **Ms Leida Rijnhout**, Executive Director of the Northern Alliance for Sustainability (ANPED)

Followed by a discussion

12:00 – 13:00 pm	<p>How to manage the transition to a Green Economy?</p> <p>Green jobs, sustainable business practices and investment</p>
-------------------------	--

Presentation by **Mr Rudi Delarue**, Director, ILO Europe

Respondents:

- **Mr Joël Decaillon**, Deputy General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), and President of the International Labour Foundation for Sustainable Development
- **Mr Alexandre Affre**, Senior Adviser, Environment and Energy, BusinessEurope

Followed by a discussion

13:00 – 14:30 pm

Lunch break (*Sandwiches will be offered*)

14:30 – 17:30 pm

Session 2 : Strengthening the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development - Reforming Sustainable Development Governance

14:30- 15:30 am

Sustainable Development Governance at the National, Regional and Local Level

Presentation by **Ms Maja Göpel**, Director of the Future Justice Department, The World Future Council

Respondents:

- **Mr Patrick ten Brink**, Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) representative
- **Ms Sascha Gabizon**, Executive Director WECF, Women in Europe for a Common Future

Followed by a discussion

15:30 – 16:30 pm

Progress, challenges and opportunities relating to International Sustainable Development Governance

Presentation by **Ms Hannah Stoddart**, Head of Policy and Advocacy, Stakeholder Forum

Respondents:

- **Mr Michail Tremopoulos**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Prof. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis**, President and Founder, Biopolitics International Organisation

Followed by a discussion

16:30 pm

Response and conclusions of the hearing by **Mr Hans-Joachim Wilms**

17:00 pm

End of hearing
