Title: Beyond Growth: Sufficiency for a sustainable and equitable future

Co-organisers: the European Economic and Social Committee and European Youth Forum and Generation Climate Europe

Date: 9 December Saturday 2023, 13h15 – 14h45

Place: SE Room 7, UNFCCC Pavilion, Dubai

Web summary:
Overconsumption must be addressed for the preservation of people and the planet. Sufficiency is vital to tackle climate change and inequitable resource use. The event focuses on implications in governance, social justice and culture to foster sustainable and equitable policies for human well-being.

Concept note
While the latest IPCC report on Mitigation of Climate Change only contains the current internationally shared definition of sufficiency policies (mostly linked with the construction sector, for the moment), the "beyond growth" debate and sufficiency approach have been gaining ground among climate experts and other academics.

Consumption levels in the EU are not sustainable. With respect to environmental impacts from resource exploitation, the EU uses between 70% and 97% of the ‘safe operating space’ available for the whole world.

To ensure basic needs and well-being for all within planetary boundaries, overconsumption must be addressed in the global North so that countries in the global South and vulnerable communities can thrive.

1 IPCC Climate Change 2022 Mitigation of Climate Change, Working Group III Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
In this context, systemic change is imperative. Sufficiency becomes a necessity to achieve a more balanced and sustainable relationship with the Earth as it addresses the overuse of resources and means living well within planetary boundaries. We must acknowledge the limits to growth, go beyond business as usual and strive for a more equitable and ecologically resilient world for current and future generations.

The discussion will centre on the practical applications of sufficiency in governance, equity and social justice, and culture. This event aims to enhance the understanding of sufficiency in the context of the "beyond growth" debate and discuss its potential implications to guide the development of climate and other policies that foster sustainable and equitable pathways for the well-being of people and planet.

**Draft programme 90 min**

**Moderation and opening** (10min)
- Daniele Taurino, Board member European Youth Forum (moderator)
- Oliver Röpke, EESC President

**Keynote speeches** (15min)
- Sandrine Dixson-Declève, Co-President, Club of Rome
- Heitor Dellasta, policy coordinator, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, YOUNGO

**Panel discussion: sufficiency implications on governance, social equity and culture** (45min)
- Jesus-Maria Alquezar Sabadie, DG ENV, European Commission
- Niina Ratilainen (Finland/The Greens), Member of Turku City Council, Finland
- Reema Nanavaty, Director of SEWA (Self-Employed Women's Association of India), affiliate of ITUC
- Sven Harmeling, International Climate Policy Coordinator, CAN Europe

**Q&A (Slido/Round of responses by the policy-makers and previous speakers)** (15min)

**Take-aways & Closing** (5min)
- Sophia Wiegand, Vice-President GCE