



# A EUROPEAN ECO-EFFICIENT ECONOMY

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BRUSSELS, 2 OCTOBER 2009



# **Eco-Efficiency and Carrying Capacity**

## **World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD):**

***“Eco-efficiency is reached by the delivery of competitively priced goods and services that satisfy human needs and bring quality of life, while progressively reducing ecological impacts and resource intensity throughout the life cycle, to a level at least in line with the earth’s estimated carrying capacity”.***



# **Reduce Ecological Footprint**

**Estimating carrying capacity is not easy, but the Ecological Footprint is currently a widely used tool to, on an aggregate level, relate human activities to the earth's carrying capacity. Europe's current Ecological Footprint is estimated to be 2,5 times above its fair share of a sustainable Planet.**

- ***We therefore propose that the EU sets itself a general objective for the EU to reduce its Ecologic Footprint with 50% in not more than 20 years.***



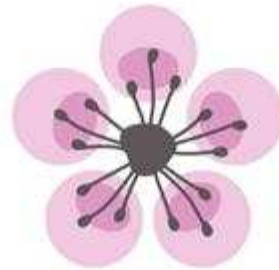
# **Eco-efficiency is essential part of sustainable development**

- NEEDS TO BE GIVEN DIRECTION:
- **Combination of targets and timetables, of supply and demand side measures, legislation and market instruments, information and mobilization of people.**
- **An economy that dramatically reduces resource and energy use to sustainable levels, while contributing to prosperity globally, is achievable.**
- **Requires political leadership, determination and courage.**
- **Requires active public support and engagement. That can be achieved if the changes are managed to make them socially acceptable and fair and if sustainable behaviour is made easier.**
- ***Moving to an eco-efficient economy is not just a technological innovation programme. It is an essential part of a sustainable development agenda with an appropriate social dimension.***



## **Our focus currently on:**

- The new European Commission which has to set its priorities for the next five years, draft a new Lisbon Strategy, start working on a new Environmental Action Programme and a new Financial Perspective.**
- The December European Council which has to come to a verdict on progress in the implementation of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.**



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<http://www.springalliance.eu>

Initiated by

European Environmental Bureau

European Trade Union Confederation

Platform of European Social NGOs

Concord [European NGO confederation for Relief & Development]



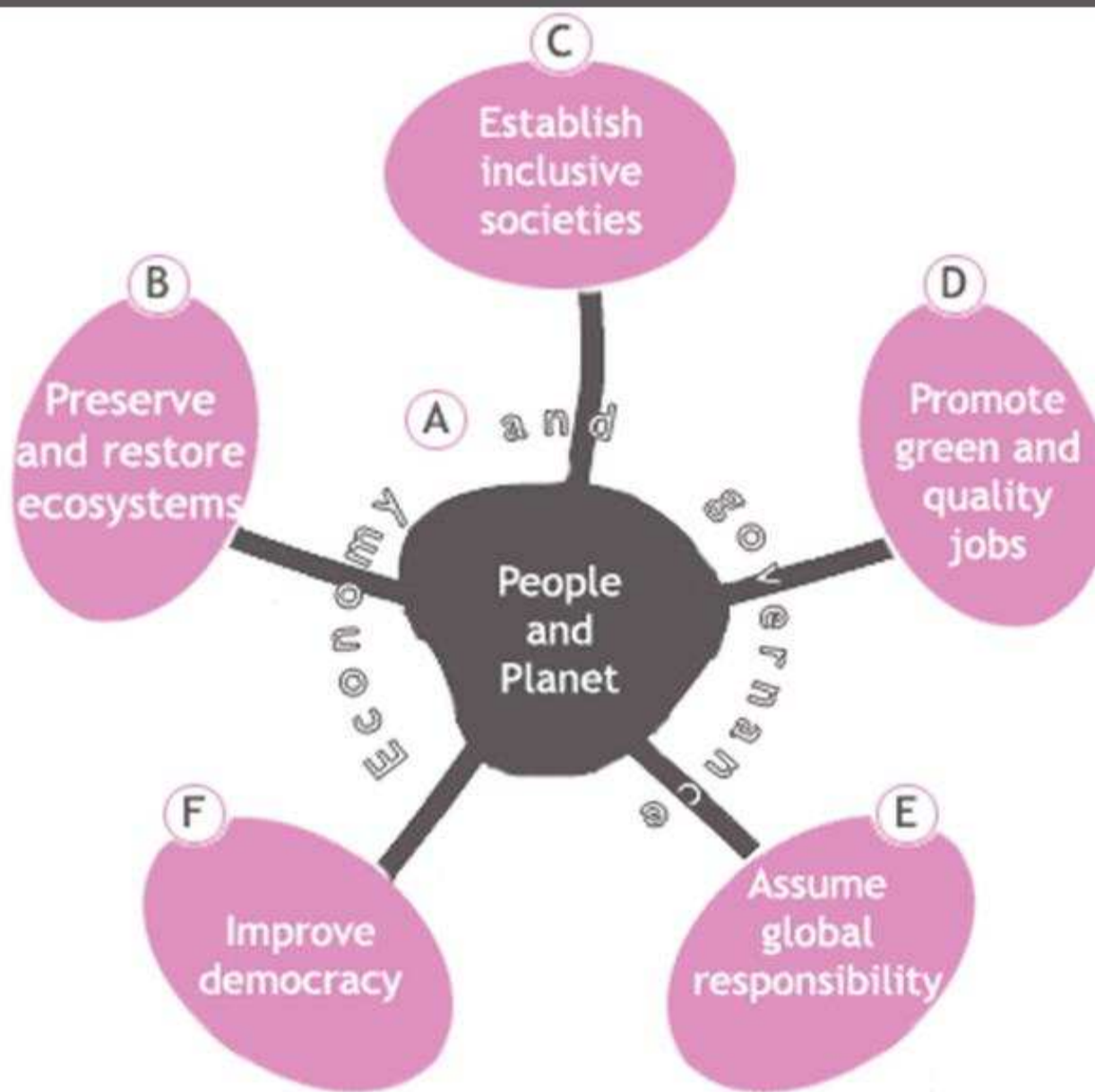
## ACTIVITIES OF THE SPRING ALLIANCE

- **To mobilize civil society across Europe**
- **To convince EU's Decisionmakers to change course: from competitiveness and growth to focus on people and planet: creating an EU characterised by sustainable development, in particular respecting nature's carrying capacity and quality of life for all, economic policies that deliver these, and a positive role globally in meeting social and environmental challenges**
- **Specific Targets: New Commission and Spring Summit/neo-Lisbon Strategy**
- **Longer term potential: joint involvement in debates on Financial Perspective 2014-2020 – CAP – Structural Funds, SDS etc.**

**MANIFESTO FINALIZED 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY – SIGNATURE COLLECTION  
– 28 SEPTEMBER MAJOR CONFERENCE**



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## THE SPRING ALLIANCE DEMANDS

### A. Establish economic and governance policies that serve people and the planet

#### 1. Put in place a new economic strategy [.....]

- By 2020 shift of at least 10% of the national tax incomes away from labour to environmental pressures, resource use and capital, coordinated throughout the EU by applying the Open Method of Coordination combined with Enhanced Cooperation, with a strong mandate for the Commission to monitor, advise, review progress at the national level on an annual basis.
- A refocusing of major EU programmes by:
  - Cutting off or redirecting any funding that harms the EU's environmental and social objectives, including global impacts, or increases EU's energy and resource use. Review the rules of EU institutions to this end.
  - Reforming the Research and Development programme to make sure it contributes to deliver social progress and environmental objectives.

#### 2. Revise the Better Regulation Agenda

## THE SPRING ALLIANCE DEMANDS

### B. Preserve and restore ecosystems

#### 3. Reduce resource use and energy consumption [....]

- **EU resource use reduction targets by 2011, waste prevention targets by 2012, to move the EU towards a globally equitable and sustainable share of the Earth's resources.**
- **Binding EU targets in 2010 for reducing overall primary energy consumption by at least 20% in coming decade and commitment to further reductions.**
- **Significantly reduce energy and water consumption in the domestic sector.**
  - **EU-wide minimum standard for all new housing to be energy passive or positive by 2015**
  - **Renovation programme for total housing stock to reduce energy consumption, targeted support for people in poverty and promoting compact cities.**
  - **Dynamic EU-wide minimum energy efficiency requirements for space cooling and heating equipment and systems, and expanded scope of respective EU policies to set minimum water efficiency requirements. In addition, apply the “top runner approach” to these and other energy related products.**



## THE SPRING ALLIANCE DEMANDS

### B. Preserve and restore ecosystems

#### 4. Prevent dangerous climate change [....]

- **Invest substantially higher percentages of the national investment budgets, including economic recovery plans and structural funds, into reducing greenhouse gas emissions .**
- **Set a mandatory share of at least 35 % of renewables in electricity supply EU-wide by 2020 and promote decentralised production and consumption of electricity and heating and cooling. Specifically:**
  - **Remove barriers to renewable energy development, including market operation practices**
  - **Strategic planning to avoid negative environmental and social impacts**
  - **Explicitly support local generation and use of renewable energies, including 'net metering'**
  - **A regulatory and financial framework for development of smart grid capacity**



## THE SPRING ALLIANCE DEMANDS

### **B. Preserve and restore ecosystems**

**5. Make agriculture and fisheries sustainable**

**6. Adopt a “Biodiversity Rescue Plan”**

### **C. Establish inclusive societies**

**7. Reduce inequalities and eradicate poverty**

**8. Guarantee universal access to public services**

**9. Combat discrimination and racism; guarantee gender equality and respect for migrants' rights**

### **D. Promote green and quality jobs**

**10. Reinforce quality jobs and improve access for all**

**11. Ensure a just transition to quality jobs, and help workers move into new emerging activities**



## THE SPRING ALLIANCE DEMANDS

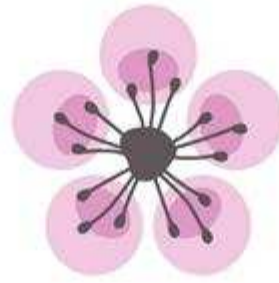
### **E. Assume global responsibility**

- I2. Reform global economic and financial governance**
- I3. Guarantee policy coherence to achieve sustainable development**
- I4. Increase and improve finance for development**

### **F. Improve democracy**

- I5. Invest in dialogue with European citizens, trade unions and civil society**
- I6. Improve access to and scrutiny of decision-making**
- I7. Strengthen the governance of EU strategies and of the Open Method of Coordination**





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<http://www.springalliance.eu>

*Support the Manifesto*

*Work with the Spring Alliance and its members*

*Integrate its demands into your work towards New Commission and new*

*Lisbon Strategy*

*Be represented at the 28 September Conference in Brussels*

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