

EU 2020

The Resource Efficiency Alliance Contribution to the Commission Consultation on the future "EU2020" Strategy. December 2009.

"This is not the time for business as usual or for routine – what we need is a transformational agenda (...). J.M. Barroso¹.

"This is a time of deep transformation for Europe"².

We support the Objective. After the Lisbon Strategy 2010, the EU needs a new strategy offering a new vision and "**transformational agenda**"³ to secure a European flourishing and competitive economy and a well being society in a globalised world, while protecting the natural resource base.

The Commission working document makes the right analysis: "The challenge of becoming a smarter, greener economy will require increased policy coordination to make the economy more competitive. Our social, economic and environmental objectives must go hand in hand if we are to deliver on our thematic priorities for 2020"

Today the European Union stands at a crossroads. Facing low growth, increased public debt and structural unemployment in a new global framework, EU Member States need to transform the present crisis into opportunities for a new Renaissance and have an economy more based on skills and talents. Humanity stands at a crossroads as well and the top challenges for humanity require new solutions, many of which can only be implemented through an energy revolution, new materials and substances, new services and new lifestyles to secure high life satisfaction, high life expectancy and one-planet living. By addressing these issues and offering to the world innovative solutions, European Member States will establish their citizens' prosperity and wellbeing and contribute to EU competitiveness, global security and peace.

The European Union will be faithful to its vocation, and it will remain a "major" actor if it adopts a "transformational agenda"⁴ and "system Innovation" to make Europe more resilient, shape globalisation in the emerging new world and the direction of technological and societal change within the carrying capacity of ecosystems.

The Commission working document doesn't address the implications of an "empowering people" priority. Rightly, one of the three priorities proposed by the Commission working paper is "empowering people in inclusive societies". Indeed, we are reaching a tipping civilizational point, as noted by Lester Brown, as the risk is that "the accumulating problems and their consequences will overwhelm more and more governments, leading to widespread state failure and eventually the failure of civilization. (...) We have the technologies to restore the earth's natural support systems, to eradicate poverty, to stabilize population, and to restructure the world energy economy and stabilize climate. The challenge now is to build the political will to do so. Saving civilization is not a spectator sport. Each of us has a leading role to play"⁵.

We need a new era of "political innovation" resulting from an "open innovation process", in a knowledge society, involving the State, the Market and Civil Society. But citizens' empowerment requires a clear message regarding what is asked and what is expected from Citizens.

¹ Political Guidelines for the next Commission. J.M. Barroso

² Commission working document. Consultation on the future of the EU 2020 strategy. COM(2009)647/3

³ Political Guidelines for the next Commission

⁴ Political Guidelines for the next Commission

⁵ Lester Brown.

1. The EU 2020 should shape a new societal contract.

Sixty five years after the second world war, one has to accelerate change “at war time speed”⁶ to make the European Union more resilient to address global challenges: climate change, biodiversity, scarcity of some natural resources, energy, finance and to make her prosperous for all. Therefore, major political innovations are needed for which we need y leadership. One of the most important political innovations in Europe is due to a Trade Union, to Churches and groups of intellectuals in Poland, East Germany and Czechoslovakia. History has already paid tribute to their immense role. They succeeded in building an alliance with political leaders in West and East Europe, in particular Hungary, the USA and the USSR, which made the reunification of the European continent possible. Today, twenty years after the falling down of the Berlin Wall, **we need a similar alliance** in order to increase the “resilience” of our political, economic, social and ecological systems and make them ready to address new global crisis and their impact on the Union.

The transformation of our economies towards a sustainable low-carbon and globally competitive economy and a well-being society for all is technically and financially achievable, but it will require a “**new societal contract**” and a “**multi-stakeholder joint agenda for action**”.

It should

- Address a “pro-active” message able to “mobilize” efforts, transform fears into energy to act, anxiety into solidarity, and greed into shared responsibility.
- Propose a vision of our **interdependence, common goods and responsibilities** in the European Union as leverage for innovation and equity.
- Lead to an “**intergenerational pact**” with pillars such as eco-growth, a skills pact and inclusiveness.

2. The EU 2020 adoption procedure should be participatory

The future does not exclusively depend on changes in production and consumption patterns and clean technologies but also on new forms of solidarity and social relations. “Social changes are required to achieve the most attractive future. Technical changes will not be enough. We need to invest in new governance schemes, new business models, new lifestyles and culture. More changes in terms of goals- attitudes – habits have to be expected in the next 2-3 decades than there have been in the past 100 years”⁷. This is why a “new societal pact” and a “multi-stakeholder joint agenda for action, inspired by the Compacts and Covenants already adopted at Member State level (UK, Estonia, France, the Netherlands) and/or at regional level (Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales), should be an important component of such a European Compact.

To meet these challenges, the EU needs political innovation and structural reforms relating to its internal management and its common external policies. **Political leadership is needed to convene by 2010 a new European Convention called “Europe 2020”**. This Convention would not aim to amend the EU Treaties. Its purpose would be to adopt a “tripartite framework agreement”⁸ for the “EU 2020 ” to accelerate change towards a Prosperous and Well-Being Europe, re-boosting the European Dream. The Convention will be the place of a multi-stakeholder negotiation involving Public Authorities (EU Council, Parliament, Commission, MS Parliaments, Committee of Regions, Covenant of Mayors, Business, Trade Unions and Civil Society) They will agree on the new narrative of progress which is required for the 21st century and fix the terms of the EU 2020.

⁷ Dennis Meadow at the World Resource Forum. Davos September 2009.

⁸ Un Grenelle de l’Environnement à la puissance 27. Michel Barnier, MEP. 23 March 2009.

3. The EU should encourage political innovation by shaping a Tripartite Framework Agreement.

The scope of innovation may go beyond the conventional organizational boundaries of the innovating organization and involve broader social arrangements that trigger changes in existing socio-cultural norms and institutional structures. This is why it is necessary to convene such a Convention: Europe's transformation agenda can only be realized by combining a wide range of innovation drivers and mechanisms, and both technological and non-technological changes. This is often referred to as **system innovation**. Indeed, Europe's competitiveness in a globalised economy and in line with the EU Treaty's sustainable development objective requires a paradigm change in the way we approach economic and social development, environmental protection, trade and our cooperation with other parts of the world, public services, self-sufficiency and the social economy. The framework agreement will lead to one single Strategy and specific coordinated action programmes.

European Convention - work areas⁹:

- (1) Introduction. Vision.
- (2) Finance as a lever for change.
 - a) Revise Stability & Growth Pact
 - b) Economic Guidelines
 - c) Review Fiscal Incentives and harmful subsidies, the ecological subprimes ¹⁰
 - d) Banks Guidelines (E.S.G. and 5 years agreement Objectives 2020)
- (3) Knowledge-based society and participatory democracy as levers for innovation.
- (4) Inclusiveness. Societal and Intergenerational Pact.
- (5) Smart eco-efficient and low-carbon economy.
- (6) New macro-economic indicators

No one entity alone can address the sustainability issue we face, no one has sufficient resources, no one has sufficient understanding and no one has sufficient credibility and authority to connect the large networks of people and organizations that real change must engage. In a Networking Europe, a European Convention could mobilize and federate the efforts needed, and as an open innovation method, contribute to systemic changes. A first phase should be devoted to debates in Member States with the involvement of front-runners and champion and using Internet tools.

4. The EU 2020 should have a "Europe's Global Agenda for Partnership".

In view of the UN celebration of the 20th anniversary of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio 1992) and the 40th anniversary of the UN Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm 1972), the EU needs to be ready with a new architecture of global and regional partnerships. The European Global agenda for Partnerships will require a fundamental review of current EU-arrangements and agreements with (groups) of third countries. "Policy Coherence for Development" (PCD) represents a current EU-policy area of great relevance to the global agenda and global partnerships. It should be debated with our partners.

Following the adoption of the EU 2020 Strategy, an international conference should prepare "Rio + 20 " and should be focused on EU Partnerships.

⁹ A full report is available on EPE's website "The Transformational Agenda".

¹⁰ "Dirty" subsidies have been estimated at \$250 billion or (0.5 per cent of world gross product) in 2005. Redirecting these to clean energy sources—but not at the expense of access to energy services in developing countries—would boost the transition to low-emissions high growth.



CONTACT

European Partners for the Environment (EPE) acts as the facilitator of the Resource Efficiency Alliance, a group of "economic actors" developing synergies to accelerate the implementation of the EU Objectives 2020 (climate change, renewable energy, energy and resource efficiency) by leveraging their market forces. This is not a "business" initiative but an initiative of public and private market players, including non-governmental organisations and public authorities. Each alliance member which belongs to sectors as different as: metals, cement, banks, retail, procurement, construction, water, buildings offers an input based on its own mandate, skills, means and priorities. On this basis, the Alliance explores how to contribute to a European Economic Recovery Action Plan in response to a "four big crunch" - the financial and economical crisis, the climate change crisis, the security & resource scarcity crisis (energy, water, food, raw material) and the trust in Banks crisis. The Alliance objective is to explore how innovation might be used to assist the shift towards a less resource-dependent society, while maintaining levels of prosperity.



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