



**A renewed policy framework for sustainable
development –
The international SD agenda and its impact on Europe**

European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN)
*in cooperation with the
Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea*

ESDN Conference 2014

6-7 November 2014, Rome, Italy

Conference Programme

Venue:

Palazzo Colonna, Galleria del Cardinale
Piazza dei Santi Apostoli, 66, 00187 Rome

www.galleriacolonna.it

(Entrance for participant: Via della Pilotta 17)

6 November 2014

08:30-09:00 **Registration**

Conference facilitator:

Gerald Berger, ESDN Office at the Institute for Managing Sustainability

09:00-09:30 **Opening and orientation**

09:00-09:15 **Welcome address by the Italian EU Presidency**

Silvia Velo, Under-Secretary, Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea

09:15-09:30 **Welcome addresses by the ESDN on objectives of the conference**

Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler & Wolfram Tertschnig, ESDN Co-chairs, Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

09:30-11:00 **Session 1: International sustainable development agenda**

09:30-10:00 **The UN post-2015 agenda for sustainable development – status and way forward**

*Michele Candotti, Chief of the Executive Office of UNEP &
Raphaël Dang, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Development and member of the UN Open Working Group on SDGs*

10:00-10:15 **The role of civil society in the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals**

Farooq Ullah, Executive Director, Stakeholder Forum

10:15-10:30 **The international SD agenda and its political dimensions**

Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou, Member of the Hellenic Parliament & Chair of the Committee of UN Affairs of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

10:30-11:00 **Moderated discussion:**

What new policy issues and opportunities emerge from the international SD agenda for Europe?

11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:30-13:15 **Session 2: Impacts of the international SD agenda on Europe**

11:30-11:45 **The Italian EU Presidency's agenda for addressing international SD issues – SDGs and their impact on European SD policy frameworks**
Paolo Soprano, Director, Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea

11:45-12:00 **The EU's strategic SD frameworks in response to the international SD agenda – What is the impact on SD governance and Greening the Semester?**
Louis Meuleman, Coordinator European Semester, DG Environment, European Commission

12:00-12:15 **Basic elements for a comprehensive SDG monitoring framework – Experiences from assessing Sustainable Development Indicators in Europe**
Fritz Gebhard, Eurostat

12:15-12:30 **The role of SD indicators in measuring progress towards sustainable development issues**
Fabiola Riccardini, Italian National Institute of Statistics – ISTAT

12:30-13:15 **Working group session:**
How to best coordinate the policy process and facilitate dialogue on SD issues on the UN-EU-Member State triangle?
What is the role of the EU in steering European and national SDG implementation?
Interactive group work

13:15 – 14:15 **Lunch break**

14:15-14:30 **Session 2 (cont.): Impacts of the international SD agenda on Europe**

14:15-14:30 **Reports from the working groups:**
How to best coordinate the policy process and facilitate dialogue on SD issues on the UN-EU-Member State triangle?
What is the role of the EU in steering European and national SDG implementation?

Incl. plenary discussion

14:30-16:00 **Session 3: Involving societal stakeholders in addressing international SD issues in Europe**

14:30-14:45 **The role and involvement assigned to businesses in the post-2015 process**

Marialuisa Saviano, Vice-President, Italian Association for Sustainability Science (IASS), Italy

14:45-15:15 **SDGs and post-2015 in the European Union – the CSO perspective**

Staffan Nilsson, Member European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the EESC's SD Observatory &

Massimo Pallottino, Concorde Italy/GCAP

15:15-15:30 **Involving societal stakeholders in a national SD strategy process – the Finnish 'Society's Commitment for SD'**

Sauli Rouhinen, Ministry of Environment, Finland

15:30-16:00 ***Moderated discussion:***

How can we best involve societal stakeholders in European SD processes (e.g. SDGs)? What is required to create effective stakeholder involvement?

16:00 ***Coffee break***

16:15-18:00 **Session 4: Governance for SD in Europe**

16:15-17:15 **Panel discussion on the governance for sustainable development in Europe in light of the new international developments (i.e. post-2015, SDGs)**

- *Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler, ESDN Steering Group, Austria*
- *Silvia Donato, Policy Analyst Climate Action and Resource Efficiency, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission*
- *Staffan Nilsson, Member European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the EESC's SD Observatory*
- *Miranda Schreurs, Professor at the Free University of Berlin and Chair of the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC)*

17:15-17:30 **Resume of day 1**

Paolo Soprano, Director, Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea

17:30-18:00 **Announcement of the European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW)**
Stefan Bauernfeind, German Federal Chancellery; Stéphane Bernaudon, French Ministry of Sustainable Development & Wolfram Tertschnig, Austrian Ministry of Environment

18:00 ***End of day 1***

18:15-19:00 ***Guided walking tour through the Roman Forum (starts at venue, ends at the restaurant of the Conference Diner)***

19:00-22:00 **Conference Dinner**
Hotel Forum, Via Tor Dè Conti, 25-30, 00184 Rome
www.hotelforum.com
19:00 Welcome Cocktail, followed by Conference Dinner

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09:00-11:00

Session 5: New challenges for national SD strategies in the context of current socio-economic/environmental challenges and international SD issues

09:00-09:15

National SD strategy process in Southern and Eastern Europe in the context of current socio-economic and environmental challenges

Umberto Pisano & Katrin Lepuschitz, ESDN Office at the Institute for Managing Sustainability

09:15-10:15

NSDSs as tools for addressing current socio-economic/environmental challenges and international SD issues – practical experiences from Southern and Eastern European countries:

- ***The Spanish NSDS experience***

Fernando Díe Ortega, Cabinet of the State Secretary for Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Spain

- ***The review of Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development***

Atila Uras, Programme Officer, United Nations Environment Programme

- ***The NSDS experiences in Estonia and Slovakia***

Eili Lepik, Strategy Office, State Chancellery of Estonia

& František Koločány, Cross-Cutting Priorities Department, Slovak Republic Government Office

- ***CBSS-Baltic 21 Strategy on Sustainable Development 2010-2015***

Krista Kampus, Senior Adviser & Head Baltic 21 Unit, Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat (CBSS)

Incl. Q&A

10:15-11:00

Working group session:

Are the NSDSs effective tools for addressing current socio-economic/environmental challenges as well as SDGs?

What is their added-value, what is still needed?

Interactive group work

11:00

Coffee break

11:30-12:00 **Session 5 cont.: New challenges for national SD strategies in the context of current socio-economic/environmental challenges and international SD issues**

11:30-12:00 ***Reports from the working groups:***
Are the NSDSs effective tools for addressing current socio-economic/environmental challenges as well as SDGs?
What is their added-value, what is still needed?

Incl. plenary discussion

12:00-13:15 **Session 6: Making NSDSs ‘fit for purpose’**

12:00-13:00 **Panel discussion on how to make NSDSs ‘fit for purpose’ regarding current socio-economic/environmental challenges and international SD issues**

- *Wolfram Tertschnig, ESDN Steering Group, Austria*
- *Paolo Soprano, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy*
- *František Koločány, Cross-Cutting Priorities Department, Slovak Republic Government Office*
- *Sauli Rouhinen, Ministry of the Environment, Finland*
- *Stefan Bauernfeind, Federal Chancellery, Germany*

13:00-13:15 **Reflection on the conference and next steps**
Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler & Wolfram Tertschnig, ESDN Co-chairs, Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

13:15 **Conference Closure**