

The EU's Multi-Stakeholder Platform on SDGs: Purpose, Functionality, and SDG Implementation Activities

EU strategic response to the 2030 Agenda

Communication "**Next steps for a sustainable**

European future" (22-11-16): Two work streams:

- mainstream the SDGs in the European policy framework and Commission priorities;
- launch **reflection on further developing longer term vision** and the focus of sectoral policies after 2020
- creation of a high level SDG **multi-stakeholder platform**

GA Council Conclusions "**The EU response to the 2030 Agenda**"(20-06-17) welcome the establishment of the platform, encouraging the Commission to build on existing networks and peer learning mechanisms such as the ESDN

The Reflection paper

- In September 2017, the President of the Commission announced a reflection paper '**Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030**' on the follow-up to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
- This reflection paper will form part of the discussion on the Future of Europe and should be of inspiration for the discussion on the political priorities post-2019.
- It is expected to be adopted towards the end of this year.

The SDG multi-stakeholder platform

- On 22 May 2017 the Commission established the SDG **multi-stakeholder platform**, a high level expert group.

- **Role and Tasks:**
 - ✓ Support and advice Commission on SDG implementation
 - ✓ Contribute to the work on the reflection paper
 - ✓ Exchange experience and best practices
 - ✓ Help to prepare the selection process of the European sustainability award

The SDG MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM

- **Membership:**
 - ✓ Chair: First Vice-President Timmermans
 - ✓ 30 high-level experts (civil society, NGOs, private and corporate sector, academia)
 - ✓ 7 observers (international organisations)
- **Selection process**
 - Members were selected through a call for applications which attracted over 160 candidatures

The SDG MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM

- **Structure:**
 - The **Platform**, chaired by First Vice-President Timmermans, meets once a year and takes strategic decisions;
 - The **Management Committee**, chaired by the Secretariat General meets 3 times a year. It takes care of the day-to-day activities of the platform and operationalises the guidance set out by the platform. The Management Committee reports to the platform.
 - **Subgroups**, chaired by Commission Services, to assess specific themes. Subgroups are composed of members of the Management Committee

The SDG MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM

The Subgroups

1. Governance, Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development and the Rule of Law
2. SDGs at local and regional level
3. Monitoring, assessing and reporting progress on the SDGs
4. Corporate Social Responsibility
5. Equality, justice, inclusion and decent work
6. The multi-annual financial framework
7. The environment and natural resource efficiency, including agriculture and food systems
8. The global dimension of SDGs, including trade and migration
9. The European sustainability award.
- 10. Knowledge and innovation (yet to be confirmed)*

SDG MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM

- **Working method:**
 - ✓ Bottom-up approach with the stakeholders steering the work of the platform and having full ownership of it;
 - ✓ As far as possible, recommendations/position papers are adopted by consensus;
 - ✓ Full transparency: all working documents, including agenda's and meeting minutes, are published on dedicated platform website.

SDG MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM

Outputs:

- Input to the **reflection paper** (to be adopted at 2nd Platform meeting on 11 October)

- 4 **position papers** with concrete recommendations on:
 - i. How to mainstream SDGs in the Multi-annual financial framework
 - ii. How Governance and policy coherence for sustainable development can contribute to the SDGs
 - iii. How SDGs can be implemented at local and regional level
 - iv. how the European Pillar of Social Rights can support the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

EUROPEAN SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

- 2016 Communication "Next steps for a sustainable European future":
*"Each year, a European Sustainability Prize will be awarded to recognise **initiatives with a transformative contribution** to the global **2030 Agenda** implementation"*
- Award **theme** in 2019: **Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality** (in line with theme of UN 2019 High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development)
- **The Platform** is assisting Commission in award process

AWARD TIMELINE

- 14 Sept '18: Deadline for applications;
- 11 Oct '18: Jury endorsement (2nd Platform meeting)
- Oct to Jan '19: Selection process
- Feb '19: Attribution of award/SDG Conference

Thank you for your attention

- https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/international-strategies/global-topics/sustainable-development-goals/multi-stakeholder-platform-sdgs_en