



FESTIVAL  
DELLO  
SVILUPPO  
SOSTENIBILE  
2018

PROMOTED  
BY



## Press Release

# Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030: a common and urgent plan for the future of the EU

Milan, May 31<sup>st</sup> 2018 – Europe must become the leader in achieving the SDGs and must guide the actions of the member States until 2030. This is the theme launched at the Milan Conference on **‘SDGS, climate and the future of Europe’**, organized by the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS), and hosted today at the UniCredit Pavilion. The meeting follows last year’s Conference in Rome, organized for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rome Treaties, during which the **Europe Ambition 2030** group, a network of the main organizations of civil society on the European level, presented the *‘Rethink Europe’* document, in which it asked the EU to carry on its policies within the path laid out by the 2030 Agenda.

*“Both euroskeptics and pro-EU are in agreement that the time has come to ‘transform Europe’, following the indications of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and of the Paris climate Accord. A fundamental transformation that concerns the future of all us and that must become the common objective of Member States and of the policies undertaken by the EU institutions”,* said Enrico Giovannini, Spokesperson of ASviS, that, with its 200 members is the largest network of civil society organizations ever created in Italy, and is unique in its role in Europe. *“The European Union is called to confront a series of crucial problems – explained Mr. Giovannini, speaking on behalf of the Europe Ambition group – “these concern our societies and have to do with serious social inequalities and environmental imbalances: these issues must be confronted urgently, building cooperation with the methods and the tools of sustainable development. The rising poverty levels, climate change, hunger and migrations are global challenges and they must be tackled in all of their complex facets, following the integrated logic of the 2030 Agenda”.*

The Milan Conference underlines that also in Europe there are positive examples of Countries that have high scores in the key variables of well-being (income, life expectancy, social support, freedom, trust and generosity) and champions of sustainable economy (Sweden, Denmark and Finland) that are closer than other Countries to the system of partnerships and of solidarity economy. Furthermore, the Conference underscores how the numerous initiatives working to implement the SDGs and the Paris climate Accord show us that the *‘world of tomorrow is already here’* and that, among them the Italian Sustainable Development Festival is without any doubt a European landmark.

As the Milan declaration recites: *“We know that we must get to where we have never been before. On a new Earth. We know that this will be possible only through a partnership among state and non-state actors, men and women, different generations. To transform our Europe we must change its policies based on a new understanding and new forms of action. We must build a new social contract based on the SDGs”.*

The Milan Conference also shares the document **“New Narrative for Europe”** and an appeal of the Visegrad youth group, an association of young people from Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, that expresses a number of proposals that aim to **reform Europe with a quality leap of the integrated policies of peace, solidarity, justice and resiliency**. The Conference also promotes a **‘leap forward’ that will be achieved through an ‘enhanced partnership’** among state and non-state actors, to confront the threats such as climate change, the biodiversity crisis and social inequalities. *“We know that the gap that separates us from our goals is so dizzying and that the time that is left is so short that small steps would not be enough”,* states the Milan



declaration. *“In the face of danger we have chosen to come together and make an evolutionary leap, inspired by Einstein’s vision according to which ‘we cannot solve our problems with the same thinking that we used when we had them created’. We will leverage the digital revolution, the sustainable finance revolution and the societal revolution to transform citizens in ‘cooperators’ of humanity and of the planet”.*

The recommendations debated in the Milan Conference, in the form of an agenda for 2018-2022, together with the 10 reform proposals of the *New narrative for Europe* document, will be presented as part of the preparations of the European Council of December on the future of Europe. Among the more relevant proposals, ahead of the 2019 European elections, there is the change of the eligibility criteria for the presidents of the European institutions, for whom it will be necessary to subscribe to and accelerate the enactment of the UN’s 2030 Agenda.

The Milan Conference welcomes the initiative of the youth organizations on the intergenerational consultations in the 2018-2020 period, that aim to identify the main themes and issues that concern the young and their interest in being part of partnership initiatives relative to blockchain and sustainable and inclusive finance.

The Conference also warmly welcomes the announcement by Romania that the first phase of an ‘enhanced partnership’ between state and non-state actors in support of the SDGs will be launched on April 9<sup>th</sup> 2019, on the occasion of the Romanian presidency of the EU.

***Conference document: A new narrative for Europe***

***Background paper: Vision 2030, a Transformed Europe.***

***For more information, visit: [festivalsvilupposostenibile.it/2018](http://festivalsvilupposostenibile.it/2018) [asvis.it/](http://asvis.it/)***

