



# Make Europe the World Leader of Sustainable Development: A Unique Opportunity to Build a Stronger European Union

Webinar Friday May 8, 2020 – 15:00-17:00 (CET) hosted by *Europe Ambition 2030*.

## Plans for Transforming Our Europe

Still in the COVID-19 pandemic ‘suspended time’, celebrating the 70st anniversary of the Schuman Declaration and preparing a conference on the future of Europe, the webinar will explore

1. Do we need a new social contract and **are the SDGs this ‘new social contract’** ?
2. Do we need 6 **‘EU transformation plans’** <sup>1</sup> in line with the SDGs rather than ‘recovery plans’ ? If yes, what should be the difference ?
3. Do we need to **adapt EU governance** towards system leadership for transformational change in a digital age ?

Europe should draw lessons from the youth movement and the Covid-19 crisis, on one hand as Humanity must prepare for other pandemic and possible ecological collapses linked with *‘planetary boundaries’*, on the other hand as the potential for a *‘Transformation of Europe for the Better’* is there.

**Draft Messages to be reviewed, improved before and during the webinar**

1. **Europeans need a new social contract securing ‘care, safety and sustainability’** : The New Social Contract is defined by the SDGs of the UN Agenda 2030, *‘Transforming our World’* adopted by 2015.
2. **Europe needs ‘transformation plans’<sup>2</sup> with the greatest mobilisation of people and resources ever in peacetime**, innovative governance schemes and societal innovation towards more resilience, solidarity, justice.

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<sup>1</sup> Systemic Thinking for Policy Making, the OECD and IIASA

<sup>2</sup> ibidem p





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Figure 4.4. Six Exemplary Transformations



3. **The European Green Deal is their Growth pillar and EPE is joining the Green recovery Alliance..**
4. **Entry point for transformational changes on which the EPE will focus are .**
  - (i) finance which should be *green, just, resilient, rooted, responsive*<sup>3</sup>. The Financial pillar of the new social pact is defined by a new 'impact approach'<sup>4</sup> and new transparency rules to monitor the use of European Funds in particular in support

<sup>3</sup> Nick Robins.

<sup>4</sup> Given the evidence and the knowledge about environmental risks and their actual and potential consequences for society - greatly enhanced by the Covid-19 crisis and described by the World Bank as an environmental crisis -, we cannot afford to continue to allow further harm to global high priority such as Biodiversity and Climate and ignore the evidence and knowledge about the opportunities at scale "nature-based solutions" offer. Ignoring these trends would also imply that governments will increasingly be faced with cases of "stranded assets" in business, with the potential risk of additional financial burdens to society - the taxpayer





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- of European Recovery, the Green Deal and the Common Agriculture Policy to be
- (ii) **A dedicated blockchain CDOIT-European Funds should be developed. food systems and their link with nature and sustainable consumption. Impact investing and food systems should lead, i.a. to new Africa-Europe Partnership and supply chain and finance initiatives.**
  - (iii) **Buildings retrofit**
5. **Citizens should be empowered to secure EU funds efficiency and will use new levers to accelerate change.** The EU has a track record of not achieving the stated and agreed EU-objectives. A Pillar of the Strategy will be new democracy tools In a digital age, to *build trust , protect fundamental rights, share knowledge*, i.a. by developing an eco-system of blockchains for the SDGs designed as a tool all existing and new initiatives of all interested parties could make use of.
6. **Democracy in the digital age post Copvid-19 needs to be revisited.**

### Annex. Note in view of the Africa-EU Summit 2020

A EU-Post Cotonou Enhanced Partnership.

Proposal. : Build a **post-Cotonou enhanced partnership** with a focus on the countries of the Cotonou agreement and the group of AOSIS with view to an integrated EU-policy approach towards the implementation of the UN SDG-2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

An “EU-Post Cotonou Enhanced Partnership” would acknowledge and build upon the changing global context for action towards implementation of the agendas. The ongoing “revolutions” in the digital society and issues of knowledge and culture, environment and finance, as well as the global and differentiated demographic trends are among the main “drivers” of change in a global and shared sustainability perspective.

This enhanced partnership should be supported by pilots in a digital age :

- A Food Systems partnership with digital tools
- A Blockchain system Trust and Efficiency to address and act upon the issues- ranging e.g. from Trade- and CAP policy to migration - to be addressed in the framework of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

