

MEPs for SDGs Launch Event European Parliament, 19th February 2020

Agenda 2030

In September 2015 all 193 United Nations Member States unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The purpose of Agenda 2030 is to eradicate poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet. There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets linked to the SDGs.

What is “MEPs for SDGs” ?

The European Parliament has an important role to play in holding the European Commission to account in implementing the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. MEPs for SDGs is a dedicated, informal group open to MEPs from all 27 Member States, all Committees and political groups committed to sustainable development to bring them together with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). The initiative is set up to foster collaboration between the European Parliament and CSOs, as well as the other EU institutions and also with EU Member States to develop an informed, robust and coordinated approach towards the ambitious implementation of the SDGs in Europe.

What is SDG Watch Europe?

SDG Watch Europe is a Europe’s civil society alliance for sustainable development representing more than 5000 organisations, local authorities, cooperative enterprises and universities across the EU, bringing together environmental and climate, social, welfare and health, humanitarian and development, human rights, education, research and cultural organisations and networks representing children, young people, women, families, and people with disabilities.

1. MEPs for SDGs Roundtables

Every 2 to 3 months throughout 2020, SDG Watch Europe will host action-oriented roundtables in the European Parliament to motivate the discussion between the MEPs for SDGs group and CSOs in order to identify joint approaches and action for the ambitious implementation of the SDGs across the EU.

Each roundtable will focus on a specific theme. Relevant external experts will provide food for thought to bring our discussion further.

SDG Watch Europe will seek continuous feedback from relevant stakeholders including MEPs, Member States representatives and others, and keep the group informed about upcoming roundtables.

The roundtables will support MEPs in increasing their understanding of the different aspects of sustainable development as well as the challenges to ensure Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development across all sectors.

In order to strengthen synergies within the group, SDG Watch Europe welcomes suggestions and proposals from MEPs and civil society actors for additional roundtables.



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2. Work with the Committees of the European Parliament

Given that each and every Commissioner is responsible for the implementation of the SDGs in his or her policy area, the EP's Committees now have the opportunity - and the responsibility - to hold each Commissioner accountable for his or her actions towards the implementation of the SDGs. Through MEPs for SDGs, SDG Watch Europe seeks to work with MEPs towards a stronger accountability mechanism for the European Parliament to regularly question the Commissioners. SDG Watch Europe suggests to invite the Commissions to each respective Committee once a year to make them report on their efforts. Through MEPs for SDGs, SDG Watch Europe can work on questions and provide input for the Committees' scrutiny of the Commissioners.

3. Work with Member States Governments, Parliaments, EU Institutions and Citizens

Active public participation is key for success in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Throughout 2020, MEPs will be supported to engage regularly with stakeholders such as advocacy groups on youth, women and others working on social, environmental and global justice issues.

MEPs play a crucial role in the communication with Member States governments as members of the European Council. Through the roundtables and other events, MEPs for SDGs will gain a solid understanding on processes within the European Council, in which governments are either supportive or actively blocking policies for sustainable development.

Most Governments have SDG-related structures in place, such as national entities serving as SDGs implementation focal points and/or various committees responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Agenda 2030. SDG Watch Europe will ensure that "MEPs for SDGs" are provided with information about these national-level SDG structures in the MSs governments and SDG working groups in the parliaments.

Date	Upcoming Activities
19/02/2020	1. How to Ensure that the European Green Deal becomes a Driver of Sustainable Development: A renewed role for the European Parliament?
April -May 2020 (TBD)	2. Transforming the European Semester into the EU's Sustainable Development Cycle
June 2020 (TBD)	3. The Way Forward: Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development in the EU

As part of the initiative, we ask MEPs to commit to become [sustainability heroes](#) and to use their political influence to support the 12 demands described in the [Manifesto for A Sustainable Europe](#) for its Citizens. Participating MEPs are encouraged to promote their commitment to which SDG Watch Europe will give support and visibility. We invite parliamentarians to read the [MEPs for SDGs chapter](#) which outlines the commitments required for MEPs joining this group.

#MEPs4SDGs

