



ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ ПАРЛАМЕНТ PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EVROPSKÝ PARLAMENT EUROPA-PARLAMENTET
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INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE MEETING

European Parliament - national Parliaments

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

TOWARDS THE RIO+20 SUMMIT

21 March 2012
European Parliament
Room József Antall (2Q2)
11.00 - 16.30

An orientation to the debate

On the occasion of the debate on the preparations towards the Rio+20 Summit the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety wishes to put forward some questions to serve as a guidance and orientation to the debate.

1. General observations

Mid January 2012, a **zero draft of the outcome** document, titled "**The Future We Want**" was published and initial discussions were held in New York end of January. The draft includes renewed commitment to sustainable development from the heads of State and Government, a determination to pursue the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and an affirmation of their resolve to strengthen the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Delegates accepted the zero draft as a good basis for the negotiations but emphasized that the goal of an ambitious and action-oriented document will require equally ambitious negotiations in the 145 days between the end of the January consultations and the first day of Rio+20.

Questions

- a. *There has been criticism that the zero draft was not ambitious enough and fell short on the topic equity/fairness. How can the draft be improved in order to include the necessities of developing countries more?*
- b. *Since the beginning of the economic crisis, we saw a lot of ambitious policy proposals for environment protection being watered down in the Council/ Member States - how can an ambitious outcome of Rio+20 be achieved?*

- c. *The EU proved in Durban that climate diplomacy works and created a coalition of the willing. Can this positive momentum be carried on to Rio+20 through bilateral talks and a common position before the conference?*

2. A Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

The EU considers that the agreed political document at Rio+20 should be supported by operational outcomes that should include a "green economy roadmap" with specific goals, objectives and actions at international level. The zero draft focuses on establishing Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) by 2015 in order to complement and strengthen the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) that will expire in 2015.

Questions

- a. *Should one push for setting goals and targets already at Rio+20? What about the suggestion to establish SDG's by 2015?*
- b. *In which way could the proposal for SDG's by 2015 serve to complement and strengthen the MDG's that will expire in 2015?*
- c. *A green economy would have equity and respect for planetary boundaries as basic principles. Do you have best practice examples of investments which take into account the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services that you want to share with other Member States?*

3. Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development

On the institutional framework for sustainable development (IFSD), the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council have called for an ambitious reform. Ideas currently under discussion in the multilateral negotiations relate to strengthening/reforming the IFSD by for example transforming the Commission on Sustainable Development into a "Sustainable development Council" or by establishing a UN specialised agency for the environment based on UNEP.

Questions

- a. *What is your view on how this could be best done? How can the mainstreaming of Sustainable Development in the various domains the UN is active in, best be ensured?*
- b. *How do you ensure, at national level, mainstreaming of Sustainable Development in the various policy areas? How do you involve the Financial and Economic Sector and take the concept of Sustainable Development on board when taking decisions on for example investments? Do you have suggestions resulting from best practices at national level which could be scaled up to the international and multilateral level?*