

SCENARIO 6: SUSTAINABLE EUROPE FOR ITS CITIZENS



THE EUROPEAN UNION BECOMES A DRIVER FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN EUROPE AND BEYOND

Why and how?

In a scenario where sustainability sits firmly at the heart of the European project, the EU27 will prioritise the interests of citizens, in the EU and beyond. Europe will have a strong focus on Europe's core social values – democracy and participation, social justice, solidarity and sustainability, respect for the rule of law and human rights, both within Europe and around the globe.

Citizens seek economic, social and environmental wellbeing. Economic wellbeing in the form of prosperity for all, starting with redistribution of wealth. Social wellbeing in the provision of quality, inclusive and affordable public services, the promotion of cultural diversity and a caring society. Environmental wellbeing residing in a healthy natural environment that sustains all life on Earth and protects our soils, waters and air, provides nutritious, healthy food and where climate change is minimized.

As a result of this focus, the EU27 will ensure a better health and quality of life for its citizens. This will increase public trust in European institutions. It will move away from the current focus where commercial and corporate interests are all too often prioritized over the public interest. Decisions are made in the public interest and transparent, accountable and inclusive institutions will be the norm.

The EU27 will ensure that policies agreed by the Member States are fully implemented and enforced. Scandals like Dieselgate, which caused tens of thousands of premature deaths, will not be repeated.

By 2025, this means:

Delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the principles and Sustainable Development Goals: leaving no one behind, living within Europe's fair share of our planetary boundaries, and putting respect for human rights at the core of EU and national policy-making.

The full implementation of the Paris Agreement by decarbonising our economy, enhancing energy efficiency and accelerating the just and sustainable transition to clean and affordable renewable energy, based on the principles of climate justice, in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

The notion of 'Better Regulation' implies that all EU policies, laws and regulations are focused on ensuring policy coherence for sustainable development and on enforcement of high standards for jobs, health, safety and the environment, delivering tangible benefits to all citizens and the regeneration of environmental capital. Policy coherence as a key objective will result in an end to negative externalities of domestic policies for the Global South and the phasing out of perverse public subsidies, especially for unsustainable food production and fossil fuels.

Companies and their subsidiaries outside the EU and throughout their supply chains are under a legal obligation to assess, mitigate and prevent negative environmental and human rights impacts of their business activities globally.

International trade is recognised as a means to achieve social, environmental and economic objectives, not an end in itself. A positive agenda for trade and investment agreements will be designed primarily to advance wellbeing and the public interest instead of cost reduction for companies. Europe will raise the bar for all other regions and actively discourage a race to the bottom.

Through strengthening representative and participatory democracy and ensuring civic space for people's participation beyond elections, citizens can better engage with the European project and shape a positive European vision for the future.

The EU27 and the Member States will consider education as a public responsibility that offers lifelong learning for all in order to develop active citizenship, critical thinking, social inclusion, cultural diversity and an understanding of sustainable development and human rights.

Gender equality and women's and girls' rights will be priority in all EU policies and practices, both domestically and externally

A just transition to a green and socially fair economy, in which our human and natural resources are cherished, within the planetary boundaries.

A European Social Model provides full protection to all workers, all consumers and all generations of people living in the EU.

Effective and coordinated taxation measures ensure that all companies pay appropriate taxes and contribute to national public budgets for socio-economic wellbeing. The EU27 will effectively fight tax evasion and close down European tax havens.

Pros and cons:

Europe reinvents itself and better communicates the benefits, rights and protections it delivers to citizens. Acceptance of and trust in European institutions will increase as citizens experience the benefits of European cooperation.

Policy silos are dismantled, incoherencies and contradictions are resolved. All policies and programmes are contributing to the sustainable development agenda.

IMPACT ON POLICIES



Capacity to address citizens' concerns and democratisation

- The EU27 will introduce new methods to increase the influence of citizens and civil society on key European policy issues and give them a bigger role in EU decision making, to strengthen transparency, participation and accountability.

Climate and a healthy environment

- Common standards are set that bring citizens clean air and water, renewable and community based energy, safe and healthy food. Ambitious measures to phase out fossil fuels and the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, including from the Global South, are implemented, leading to a fair share (sufficiency) in the use of natural resources.

Social and inclusive policies

- All European citizens and residents enjoy the same level of protection, based on international human rights. Income gaps are narrowed, equality goals are achieved, wellbeing is improved and health disparities decrease within and between countries and across generations.

Trade policies

- Trade policies become more transparent and contribute to the achievement of social and environmental objectives, including global climate agreements, the protection of the health and wellbeing of citizens, and are consistent with fundamental rights.

Foreign policy, migration and international cooperation

- Europe assumes a leading role in ensuring a human-centered response to global migration, for the benefit and protection of all those involved. It contributes its fair share, both as a donor and as host for refugees, ensuring equal and fair access to services for all.
- The EU continues to be a key donor to implement its commitments to the protection of human rights in its international cooperation. The EU actively supports binding rules on human rights for its businesses that are operating overseas.

Budgets

- The EU Budget lives up to its potential to catalyse sustainability, economic justice and wellbeing, to maintain and restore our natural resources and biodiversity. It includes participatory spending tools as well as strong accountability mechanisms. In other words, there will be a [budget for the people](#).
- More progressive tax policies and a tax shift from labour to environmental use.

ILLUSTRATIVE SNAPSHOTS



- Trade, regional development and food policies incentivise local, national and regional governments to develop sustainable and locally distributed energy and food production systems: local production for local needs. International trade prioritises sustainability principles.
- An EU Enforcement Agency monitors the implementation of EU laws and quickly responds if needed. Amongst other tasks, this body actively monitors emissions from a wide range of products (cars, household appliances, etc.) for conformity with the agreed standards and applies effective sanctions in case of breaches of the regulations.
- EU budget and indicators: a new definition for economic progress in the EU is published regularly which goes beyond reliance on GDP and guides and measures impact of spending on the sustainable wellbeing of all citizens and their environment. All spending lines are fully sustainability- proofed, resulting in more targeted spending, and greater linking of resources with performance of Member States and regions in achieving the EU's 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

- Energy, climate and social policies: the EU27 introduces a fund to make 50 million houses in Europe energy neutral, thereby lowering living costs for citizens, stopping energy poverty and drastically reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- New and effective civil society participation improves democracy, governance transparency and trust of EU citizens in building a positive and sustainable Europe.
- Europeans consume healthier food produced by reformed European agricultural systems and they enjoy widely restored European nature and increasing green spaces in the cities.
- Europe's ecosystems are sufficiently protected and restored to deliver socio, economic and health benefits. Nature based solutions are at the center of Europe's development.
- Free movement: the EU guarantees effective free movement to all people living in Europe.
- EU accessibility legislation will be adopted to ensure the 80 million persons with disabilities in Europe who currently cannot use mainstreamed products and services can participate on an equal basis with others as consumers in the internal market.

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Initiators:



Contacts:

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First signatory organisations:

1. AUR - The National Association of Human Resources Specialists - Romania
2. 11.11.11 - Belgium
3. Act Alliance Europe
4. ActionAid - South Africa
5. Africa Solidarity Centre – Ireland
6. Afrique Culture Maroc
7. AGE Platform Europe
8. AICEM Italy
9. ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy – Belgium
10. Alleanza Italiana per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile (ASviS - Italian Alliance for the Sustainable Development)
11. Alliance for Cancer Prevention – UK
12. Altera – Italy
13. Amigos de la Tierra / Friends of the Earth Spain
14. Amt für MÖWe – Germany
15. Asociación Española de Educación Ambiental

16. Asociația Novapolis Centrul de Analize și Initiative pentru Dezvoltare – Romania
17. Asociația România Fără Ei
18. Association BIOM – HR
19. Association of Albanian Municipalities
20. ATTAC ESPANA
21. Attac Finland
22. Babylon Couleurs – Italy
23. BADI (SDJ)
24. BankTrack – Netherlands
25. Bankwatch Romania
26. BirdLife Cyprus
27. BirdLife Europe
28. BirdLife – Finland
29. BirdLife Denmark
30. BirdWatch Ireland
31. Both ENDS – Netherlands
32. Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust – UK
33. BUKO Pharma-Kampagne – Germany
34. Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds
35. BUNDjugend – Germany
36. Campact – Germany
37. Cancer Prevention & Education Society – UK
38. Caroma Nord - Moldova
39. CBM – Europe
40. CEDD - Center of Excellence for Sustainable Development - Romania
41. CEE Bankwatch Network
42. CEE Network for Gender Issues - Hungary
43. CEEweb for Biodiversity – Hungary
44. CEEweb for Biodiversity – Poland
45. Centar za zivotnu sredinu/ Friends of the Earth Bosnia and Herzegovina
46. Centre for Transport and Energy - Czech Republic
47. CEV- European Volunteer Centre
48. Child Fund Alliance - Belgium
49. Child Helpline International
50. CIDSE – Europe
51. Civil Society Europe (CSE)
52. Civil Development Agency – Germany
53. Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe)
54. Climate Alliance - Europe
55. COFACE - Confederation of Family Organisations in the EU
56. COFACE Families Europe
57. Collectif Cause Mejean - Gaz de Schiste NON ! – France
58. Comhlemh - Ireland
59. CONCORD, European NGO confederation for relief and development
60. Conservation International Europe CI-Europe
61. Coordination SUD - France
62. Culture Action Europe
63. Cyprus Youth Council
64. Czech against Poverty
65. Czech Society for Ornithology
66. Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW)
67. Deutscher Bundesjugendring (DBJR)
68. Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR)
69. Don Bosco International
70. Don Bosco Network – Italy
71. DOPPS - BirdLife Slovenia
72. Eco-union - Spain
73. Ecobaby Foundation – Netherlands
74. Ecocity – Europe
75. Ecologistas en Accion – Spain
76. Ecologists Without Borders Association - Slovenia
77. Education International

78. EEB - France
79. ESN
80. EU-CORD
81. Eurochild - Europe
82. Eurodiaconia - Europe
83. EuroNGOs
84. European Academy of Paediatrics (EAP) - Belgium
85. European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)
86. European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA)
87. European Civic Forum
88. European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning
89. European Coalition for Corporate Justice
90. European Community Development Network
91. European Disability Forum (EDF)
92. European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
93. European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless
94. European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU)
95. European Network Against Racism (ENAR)
96. European Network of Migrant Women (ENOMW)
97. European Network of National Civil Society Associations
98. European Parents' Association
99. European Partners for the Environment (EPE)
100. European Partnership for Democracy
101. European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)
102. European Volunteer Centre
103. European Women's Lobby
104. European Youth Forum
105. Evangelische Akademie Sachsen-Anhalt e. V. – Germany
106. F_S NUA
107. Fair Trade Advocacy Office
108. Fair Trials
109. FairWork – Netherlands
110. Federacion planificacion familiar estatal – Spain
111. FEMS European Federatin of Salaried Doctors - Italy
112. FERN – Europe
113. Finance Watch – Belgium
114. FleXibles, Verein zur Forderung neuer Arbeitsformen – Switzerland
115. Focus Association for Sustainable Development – Slovenia
116. Food & Water Europe – Belgium
117. Foundation For Environmental Advocacy & Development (FENRAD-NIGERIA Rights)
118. Friends of the Earth Cyprus
119. Friends of the Earth Europe
120. Friends of the Earth Malta
121. From Pink to Prevention – UK
122. Fundación Alborada – Spain
123. Fundación Jóvenes y Desarrollo – Spain
124. Future Worlds Center - Cyprus
125. GCAP Italy
126. GEOTA – Portugal
127. Germanwatch
128. Global 2000 – Friends of the Earth Austria
129. Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)
130. Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD)
131. Global Forum on Migration and Development
132. Global Health Advocates
133. GONG – Croatia
134. Greek Forum of Refugees
135. Green Budget Europe
136. Green Economy Foundation - Ireland
137. Greenpeace
138. Growing with hope – Russia
139. Health Action International (HAI) - Netherlands

140. Health and Environment Alliance – Europe
141. Health Care Without Harm Europe - Belgium
142. HelpAge International
143. Helsehjelp til papirløse/Healthcare to undocumented migrants - Norway
144. Housing Europe
145. Human Catalyst Association - Romania
146. IBON International
147. IFOAM EU International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements EU Group
148. IMCC – Denmark
149. InspirAction – Spain
150. Institute for Sustainable Development Foundation - Poland
151. International Catholic Migration Commission
152. International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
153. International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPF EN)
154. International Solidarity Foundation - Finland
155. International Youth Association for Training and Inter-employment Programs (TIP) - Germany
156. IPPF European Network
157. Keep Ireland Fracking Free
158. Latin American Women's Rights Service
159. Latvian Ornithological Society (LOB)
160. Legal-informational centre for NGOs - Slovenia
161. Light for the World
162. Light for the World International – Belgium
163. Lithuanian NGDO Platform
164. Lithuanian NGDO Platform (NNVBO Platforma)
165. LSU - The Swedish National Council of Youth Organisations
166. MADE Network
167. Make Mothers Matter EU Delegation
168. Mediterranean SOS Network - MedSOS – Greece
169. Migrant Rights Centre Ireland
170. Milieudefensie / Friends of the Earth Netherlands
171. Misiones Salesianas
172. Moroccan Network of Social and Solidarity Economy
173. Mouvement Ecologique – Luxembourg
174. NABU e.V. – Germany
175. Natagora – Belgium
176. National Society of Conservationists / Friends of the Earth Hungary
177. National Youth Council of Ireland
178. Natur & Umwelt – Luxembourg
179. Naturefriends International – Austria
180. NaturFreunde Deutschlands e.V.
181. NCPD - The National Council for (the status of) People with Disabilities
182. NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark
183. Noganina – France
184. Nyt Europa – Denmark
185. OASIS – Serbia
186. OceanCare – Switzerland
187. Omaniae vzw - Belgium
188. Open Knowledge Foundation Germany Organization
189. Organisation des Travailleurs Immigres au Maroc
190. OT Watch – Mongolia
191. PICUM Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants
192. Piratenpartei Deutschland
193. Plan International EU Office
194. Plastic Soup Foundation – Netherlands
195. Plate-forme Mineurs en exil
196. Platform Aarde Boer Consument – Netherlands
197. Polski Klub Ekologiczny / Friends of the Earth Poland
198. Priatel'ia Zeme-CEPA – Slovakia
199. PROSAUDESC- Association of Health, Environment, and Socio-Cultural Development – Portugal
200. Protect the Future Society – Hungary
201. RAPAM/ Pesticide Action Network – Mexico

202. RENASIS- EAPN Romania
203. Rivers without Boundaries – Russia
204. SASK - Finland
205. Save the Children
206. Search for Common Ground
207. Seas At Risk – Belgium
208. SEO/BirdLife - Spain
209. SLOGA - Slovenian Global Action
210. Slow Food – Italy
211. SMES-Europa Santé Mentale Exclusion Sociale
212. Social Justice Ireland
213. Social Platform – Europe
214. Soletterre / Strategie di Pace ONLUS - Italy
215. SOLIDAR – Europe
216. SOMO (Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations)
217. SOS Children's Villages International
218. SOS/BirdLife Slovakia
219. Spanish Development NGO Network
220. Stichting LOS / Landelijk Ongedocumenteerden Steunpunt - Netherlands
221. Stop AIDS Alliance
222. TAPEPUKA - UK
223. Terre des Hommes
224. Teskedsorden - Sweden
225. The Danish 92 Group
226. The Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU Kehys
227. The Salvation Army, EU Affairs Office
228. Tipping Point North South- UK
229. Toxics Information Project (TIP) - USA
230. Transport & Environment – Europe
231. Trialog GmbH – Denmark
232. Umanotera – Slovenia
233. UNI Europa
234. University of the West of England – UK
235. USO, Union Sindical Obrera – Spain
236. Utopia - SK
237. VENRO Germany
238. VIA Don Bosco – Belgium
239. Volonteuropa - Belgium
240. VSO International
241. WAVE (Women Against Violence Europe) – Austria
242. Wemos – Netherlands
243. Werkstatt Okonomie e. V. - Germany
244. Wetlands International - European Association
245. Women Engage for the Common Future (WECF) - Europe
246. World Vision EU Representation Office
247. WWF Belgium
248. WWF European Policy Office
249. YSAFE (Youth Sexual Awareness of Europe) – Belgium
250. Zavod Svibna – Slovenia
251. Zelena akcija / Friends of the Earth Croatia
252. ZERO - Association for the Sustainability of the Earth System – Portugal
253. Zero Waste Europe