



**EUROPE'S TRANSFORMATION: WHERE PEOPLE MATTER**

**GROWTH<sub>€</sub>  
TRANSITION**

# **Key Messages & Recommendations**

## Parallel Session: Economy and environment: challenges for a socio-ecological transformation

- **Message:** Technology alone will not do the job – the transformation to sustainable development demands changes in policy, theory, lifestyles, finance, education (...)
- **Recommendation:** Transformation needs active, anticipatory policy as well as continued research on the manifold open questions concerning the relationship between the economy and environment.

## Parallel Session: Socio-Ecological Transformation in Research and Politics

- **Message:** A social-ecological transformation means a profound change of societal structures.
- **Recommendation:** We need appropriate research structures and specific funding for social-ecological research.

## Parallel Session: Science in Transition

- **Message:** Sustainability challenges ahead call for paradigm shifts in higher education, science and science funding towards integrated, systemic and transformative approaches.
- **Recommendation:** Institutionalize free spaces in higher education institutions for experimentation and critical thinking in research and teaching to achieve the SDGs.

## Parallel Session: Are Media Encouraging Transformation?

- **Message:** We need to understand media logic(s), frame our messages correspondingly and point out why sustainability is important to people's life.
- **Recommendation:** Implement an independent European Social Media Platform that is not based on economy-driven algorithms selecting information.

## Parallel Session: To live better with less

- **Message:** A transformation towards a good life for all, where people really matter, needs also to address the individual level.
- **Recommendation:** We call to create conditions (infrastructure, lifelong learning, legal frameworks, transparency, institutions, incentives for innovation etc.) that support lifestyles of reduced material and energy consumption and higher wellbeing.

## Parallel Session: The Majority is not enough! – How to develop sustainable infrastructure projects

- **Message:** Infrastructure must be developed in a sustainable way, taking the SDGs and a better allocation regarding the responsibilities of the public and the private sector into account. Therefore, all stakeholders must be considered in the decision making and their requirements have to be respected. Long-term solutions and quick action are crucial.
- **Recommendation:** infrastructure projects shall include the SDGs; e.g. by establishing sustainable platforms, innovative forms of financing and procurement and an overall commitment to the SDGs shared by all partners.

## Parallel Session: Resource Efficiency Contributions to Decarbonisation

- **Message:** Evidence shows that climate protection and resource efficiency measures are strongly interlinked and influencing each other.
- **Recommendation:** In order to meet the 1.5°C target radical policy measures are needed which integrate both aspects.



## Parallel Session: Learning from Success Stories for Social Innovation

- **Message:** In order to reach people and have impact, we need to communicate differently: not preach but address emotions with stories.
- **Recommendation:** Successful social innovations need a passionate founder, active coordinators, silent enablers – and leave enough room for ownership of participants/people involved.

# Parallel Session: The Role of Women in Transformation

## Sharing Experiences with Change Processes

- **Message:** Changemakers: Don't repeat old mistakes while building up initiatives for socio-ecological transformation – be inclusive in all dimensions (gender, age, ethnicity, ...)
- **Recommendation:** Promote new models for leadership in transformation!

## Parallel Session: Artworkshop

- **Message:** Reflecting all 7 main topics in creative - artistic way, we want to set signals with the art-workshop. We pass on your and our messages on fabric and become ambassadors with the art-book for sustainability.

## Parallel Session: Bringing the SDGs to Life – from status Quo to a Sustainability Transformation

- **Message:** To successfully implement the SDGs, what is required is strong political will/commitment and high-level responsibility; a whole-of-government approach that remains coherent when governments change; and a whole-of-society approach to create societal ownership.
- **Recommendation:** Establish a national strategy with regular monitoring; an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism (e.g. committee, with political consensus); and a broad societal platform involving political parties, civil society organisations, business and academia.

## Parallel Session: Where People Matter

- **Message:** Deeds, not words!
- **Recommendation:** Live up to the commitment to SDGs!

# Parallel Session: A Positive Post-growth Scenario for Europe: The X Ways to Make a Post-Growth Society Work

- **Message:** There is an urgent need for a positive and just pathway to a post-growth one-planet economy.
- **Recommendation:** Dethrone the GDP King and install a *Wellbeing Queen*: Have DG Wellbeing and Ministers of Economic Transition.

## Parallel Session: Sustainable Finance

- **Message:** Current investment policies not in line with a path to low carbon economy and climate resilience. Integration of sustainability in all ongoing investment decisions. Systematic change of investment culture with long-term perspectives in decision making before short-term profit thinking.
- **Recommendation:** EU must show leadership on sustainable finance as key element for sustainability on a global level! In the spirit of the EU Action Plan on Sustainable Finance provide powerful targets, instruments and tools to re-direct capital flows and provide transparency for all investors.

## Parallel Session: Digitalization and Environment

- **Message:** Digitalization is an enabler.
- **Recommendation:** Digital tools can help, but key drivers for „reasonable consumption“ are education, experience and social background.



## Parallel Session: Best Practice Examples

- **Message:** As a young entrepreneur you have to adapt every day.
- **Recommendation:** Creating an EU-Wide Market for ICT (compared to the U.S.-Market) is necessary. More funding for practice-based research is needed.

## Parallel Session: Companies taking action to meet SDG 13

- **Message:** Business as usual is not an option for combating climate change.
- **Recommendation:** Business is willing to take over their fair share, but need governments to go ahead.

## Parallel Session: Responsible Production and Consumption Co-operation along value chains in areas of conflict

- **Message:** Cross-Sector co-operation is important to get the 360° insights essential to solve difficult problems along value chains.
- **Recommendation:** Co-operation should be pursued more actively to form “alliances of the willing” for sustainable transformation – respectful of different mission, vision, values of partaking stakeholder.

# Parallel Session: Fiscal Reform for a Low Carbon Transition

- **Message:** Climate Change is one of the most pressing environmental issues society faces.
- **Recommendation:** Energy and carbon taxes can contribute to achieving the transition towards a low carbon society but have to be integrated in a comprehensive mix of policy instruments. A careful design of fiscal reform is important to achieve broad social acceptance.

## Parallel Session: The SDGs as Compass for Transformation

- **Message:** The challenges related to achieving the UN SDGs require fundamental transformation processes.
- **Recommendation:** While the SDGs have been globally accepted as political targets, more research is needed to provide a knowledge basis for their successful implementation. Particular emphasis needs to be put on synergies and trade-offs between the different SDGs and the corresponding sub-targets.

# Parallel Session: A Just Transition to a Low Carbon Economy – The Role of Labour and Civil Society

- **Message:** A Just Transition requires rethinking the distribution and concept of labour.
- **Recommendation:** To secure a just transition, all societal groups – in particular trade unions and civil society organisations – must be included in the decision making processes.

## Parallel Session: “Green” or “brown” investments – another bubble in the making?

- **Message:** While empirically there is no clear trend towards a “green” future, those present were very active in supporting transition away from “brown” investments.
- **Recommendation:** Green finance needs an appropriate regulatory framework and market participants who not believe in a “green” future but also behave as such.

## Parallel Session: Bioeconomy – designed by all of us

- **Message:** The implementation of bioeconomy bears opportunities and risks to environment, economy and society, we have to make sure to address them.
- **Recommendation:** Policies have to guarantee that products do not get too expensive, that biodiversity loss is avoided and
- that an eye is kept on the rebound effect.



# Parallel Session: The built environment in Transition – Adaptation of production and consumption patterns in the D-A-CH region

- **Message:** The implementation of the principles of sustainable development in the construction sector and real estate industry requires a rapid transition towards net zero greenhouse gas emissions, resource conservation, and resilience strategies i.e. the adaptation of the production and consumption patterns of all actors along the value chain. Increased awareness of environmental and social responsibility improves competitive position and reputation and generates new demands.
- **Recommendation:** Collecting, assessing and exchanging information on energy and material flows and environmental and health impacts in the planning and lifecycle of buildings must become a matter of course, and appropriate data and tools are needed. Measures to improve climate protection must also be subjected to a holistic sustainability assessment.

# Parallel Session: Future without Natural Areas?

## Zukunft ohne Naturräume

- **Message:** We urgently need to stop the rapid loss of soil and biodiversity (70% of the vertebrates having disappeared within the last 30 years) threatening also the survival of humanity. If we want to protect existing biodiversity and keep up the most important ecosystem services we need to adopt the principle “Nature Needs Half”. Therefore at least 50 % of the planet have to be protected from human interference in various degrees.
- **Recommendation:** Urgently install a strong EU Soil protection legislation with special regard to agriculture and construction activity. Moreover evaluate existing natural areas with respect to their biological value and implement a much higher number of protected areas ranging from category I “Strict Nature Reserve” to category VI “ Protected Area with Sustainable Use of Natural Resources”. Strictly control the compliance with the rules in the particular protected area. Support environmentally friendly acting enterprises.