



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

**Rome**  
**23 March 2017**  
**Sala della Regina**  
**Chamber of Deputies**

**#EuropeAmbition**

## Europe Ambition 2030

Following the adoption of the “2030 Agenda for sustainable development” by the Un General Assembly in September 2015, in the recent Communication “Next steps for a sustainable European future” the European Commission wrote that “The EU is fully committed to be a frontrunner in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, together with its Member States, in line with the principle of subsidiarity”.

According to many, this approach does not seem ambitious enough for an institution that is facing its worse crisis since its foundation, as President Juncker said in his 2016 “State of the Union”. This lack of ambition is difficult to understand especially considering that the European Union has been one of the drivers of the negotiations towards the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement, and that all over the world governments, businesses and civil society organisations are thinking about how to make the Agenda 2030 “the” driver for a more prosperous, equitable and sustainable future.

The celebrations of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Rome Treaties are a great opportunity to launch a process to build a new vision for Europe and a metamorphosis of the European Union based on the values and objectives defined by the 2030 Agenda. The implementation of the SDGs should become a key leverage for achieving the aims (“promote peace, its values and the wellbeing of its peoples”) of the Union as laid down in article 3 of the Treaty.

The conference will be the opportunity to discuss how European State and Non-State actors should change to become “champions” of the SDGs and demonstrate, in the current times of anxiety, uncertainty and temptations to self-withdrawal, that the European political, financial, economic and cultural leaderships can get together to make the EU “the” world champion of sustainable development and, in this way, fight against the risks of economic disintegration, global protectionism and social conflicts.

Of course, adopting the SDGs as an overall political framework could require a redesign of EU governance and policies, as well as of the relations with its Neighbours. But the next two years represent a historical opportunity to make these changes, also taking into account the agenda that is already in place, which includes, among other things, the revision of the EU 2020 Strategy, the reform of the EU budget, the elections for the European Parliament and the nomination of a new Commission.





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## PROGRAMME

09:30\_10:00

### Opening remarks

Laura Boldrini, *President of the Chamber of Deputies, Italy*  
Pier Carlo Padoan, *Minister of Finance, Italy*

10:00\_10:30

### The Agenda 2030: A Historical Opportunity for the European Union The «Europe Ambition 2030»

- > Europe Ambition 2030: Who We Are, What Are We Aiming At?, Enrico Giovannini, *ASviS*
- > The Open Letter/Declaration, Céline Charveriat, *EPE*
- > SDG's: The Lever of the Europe We Want, Tom Vereijken, *EPE*

10:30\_11:45

### Roundtable 1: Towards a new EU development model. The role of non-State actors

*Moderator: Dasa S. Silovic, Chair, International Board of the CEE Network on Gender Issues*

#### Message by a young leader: Marco Galaverni, *WWF*

Marta Bonifert, *Board Member of the Hungarian Business Leader Forum*  
Jérémie Fosse, *President, Eco-Union*  
Abigail Herron, *Head of Engagement Global Responsible Investment Team, Aviva Investors*  
Leida Rijnhout, *Programme Coordinator Resource Use & Consumption, SDG Watch Europe*  
Karin Wanngård, *Mayor of Stockholm\**  
Leo Williams, *Director, European Anti-Poverty Network*

11:45\_13:00

### Roundtable 2: A new partnership between State and non-State actors

*Moderator: Teresa Ribera, Director, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations*

#### Message by a young leader: Manuel Gath, *President, European Federalist Youth, Germany*

Bettina Laville, *President, Comité 21*  
Josè Herrera, *Minister for Sustainable development, Government of Malta\**  
Giampiero Sammuri, *Vice President, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Italy*  
Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo, *Chancellor, Pontifical Academy of Sciences and Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, Holy See*  
David Sassoli, *Vice-President, European Parliament\**  
Dario Scannapieco, *Vice President, European Investment Bank*  
Carmenu Vella, *Commissioner, Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission\**

13:00\_13:15

### Reactions from young leaders

Simone Fissolo, *European Federalist Youth*  
Paolo Petrocelli, *President of Unesco Giovani, Global Shaper*  
Leonardo Quattrucci, *European Commission, Global Shaper*  
Diva Tommei, *CEO Solenica, Global Shaper*

13:15\_13:30

### Conclusions

*\* to be confirmed*

