

SUSTAINABLE EUROPE 2030

CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES

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The UN 2030 agenda with 17 SDGs is a roadmap to a peaceful and prosperous world, and Europe is leading in the effort of achieving the goals. Therefore it is important to discuss the challenges and the strategies that Europe has to deliver the SDGs in 2030.

CHALLENGES

Climate change

Biodiversity loss

Fiscal unsustainability

Ageing population

Depressed productivity growth

Social inequality

STRATEGIES

Improve policy coherence

Sustainable development should become the central objective of all sectors and policies. This means that EU policy makers must identify likely spillovers - good and bad - onto other policy areas and take them into account. Careful assessment of the full effects of a policy proposal must include estimates of its economic, environmental and social impacts inside and outside the EU.

Invest in science and technology for the future

By promoting innovation, new technologies may be developed that use fewer natural resources, reduce pollution or risks to health and safety, and are cheaper than their predecessors. The EU and Member States also needs to ensure that legislation does not hamper innovation or erect excessive non-market barriers to the dissemination and use of new technology.

Improve communication and mobilise citizens and business

To tackle the rising disaffection with the political process, policy making must become more open. An open policy process also allows any necessary trade-offs between competing interests to be clearly identified, and decisions taken in a transparent way. Education about sustainable development and public policy can encourage a greater sense of individual and corporate social responsibility and in establishing a framework to ensure that businesses integrate environmental and social considerations in their activities.

Getting prices right to give signals to individuals and businesses

Market prices have a powerful influence on the behaviour of individuals and businesses. Market reforms to get prices right can create new business opportunities to develop services and products that ease pressure on the environment and fulfil social and economic needs. Sometimes, this means public money for services which would otherwise not be supplied, such as essential public services in sparsely populated areas. More often, the issue is one of removing subsidies that encourage wasteful use of natural resources, and putting a price on pollution.

Take enlargement and the global dimension into account

EU needs to look beyond the Union's present borders to be relevant for the countries which will join the Union during the coming years. To make an effective contribution to achieving global sustainable development the EU and its Member States need to co-operate effectively with other countries and international institutions.