



5th Civil Society Forum for Sustainability

Shaping Europe's Green Future: Dialogue with Policymakers

Date: 26 - 27 June 2023

(Brussels)

More than 60 civil society organisations (CSOs) from across Europe and beyond met in Brussels for the fifth edition of the "Civil Society Forum for Sustainability: Shaping the European Green Deal" on the 26 and 27 June 2023.



Over the course of two days, CSOs with an interest in the just transition, deliberative democracy, social justice, and environmental sustainability came together to discuss the future of the European Green Deal and Agenda 2030

Organised by the [REAL DEAL](#) project, the Civil Society Forum is a space for CSOs and other stakeholders from across Europe to come together and exchange views on the European Green Deal (EGD), the EU's strategy to make Europe climate-neutral by 2050. The Forum is co-organised by [SDG Watch Europe](#), [SOLIDAR](#), and the [European Environmental Bureau](#) (EEB), alongside REAL DEAL project partners.

The event focused on strategies to advance Europe's green transition towards the 2030 Agenda and the future of the EGD, with a specific focus on its social, economic, participatory, environmental, and international dimensions. The aim of the meeting was to develop policy recommendations through a discussion with policymakers, CSOs, and other stakeholders.

Civil society in dialogue with policymakers

On day one, CSOs met at the European Parliament for an event on the EU Voluntary Review, a report on the EU's progress towards achieving the SDGs. The meeting opened with a speech from **Marta Iglesias López**, Board Member of SOLIDAR, who emphasised the importance of SDGs and their implementation for our common future. This was followed by presentations on the Voluntary Review from **Petros Kokkalis** MEP, SDG Alliance, **Udo Bullmann** MEP, SDG Alliance, **Petra Petran**, from the Cabinet of Paolo Gentiloni, and from representatives of the European Commission.

The first day also included a presentation from **Julie Rosenkilde**, member of the SDG Watch Europe Steering Group, of the **Civil Society Spotlight Report: "How far is Europe from achieving the SDGs?"** co-authored by the Real Deal project. Rosenkilde delivered the report's core messages to policymakers, which focused on how the EU should move forward on SDG implementation, emphasising the importance of an overarching strategy and a costed action plan, a shift to a wellbeing economy, economic system change, and the need for greater adherence to the principle of policy coherence for sustainable development.



Marta Iglesias López of **SOLIDAR** opens the floor as **SDG Watch Europe** presents key messages from the **Civil Society Spotlight Report** at the European Parliament

During the panel, the civil society representatives had the opportunity to directly interact with policy makers, exchange ideas, and discuss strategies for ensuring that there is follow up strategy on the European Green Deal (EGD).

The way forward and future of the European Green Deal

The second day hosted discussions on the future of the European Green Deal. Presentations were delivered by speakers from the scientific, academic, policy, and civil society spheres, including representatives from the Heinrich Böll Foundation, European Environmental Bureau, Fair Trade Advocacy Office, Social Platform, the European Association for Local Democracy, and Climate Action Network Europe. Jeffrey Moxom of the EEB presented the **Real Deal Gap Analysis of the European Green Deal report**, highlighting the report's central findings, including the main deficiencies of the EGD according to civil society organisations, alongside key recommendations.

At the Forum, **Stephen Sec** presented the **REAL DEAL Handbook: "Citizen Consultation and Participation for the European Green Deal"**. The Handbook delivers practical guidance for citizens, civil society organisations, implementing authorities, governments, legal professionals, and other stakeholders engaged in consultation and participation related to the EGD.



Imme Scholz, Co-President of the Heinrich Böll Foundation and Co-Chair of the Group of Independent Scientists, emphasised that the achievement of the SDGs can only be realised through systemic change and ambitious public policy that is supported by the public and CSOs.



Jeffrey Moxom, SDG Watch Europe Coordinator, EEB, presented the main findings of the Gap Assessment of the **European Green Deal Report**.



Patrizia Heidegger, Deputy Secretary General of the EEB and Director for EU Governance, Sustainability and Global Policies highlighted the importance of transformative system change and the establishment of a new social-ecological contract that fosters 'hope' for people residing in Europe.



The panel discussion with leading CSO representatives from left to right:

- **Eric Ponthieu**, Fair Trade Advocacy Office,
- **Silvia Valentini**, CAN Europe,
- **Barbara Caracciolo**, SOLIDAR,
- **Adrien Licha**, ALDA, and
- **Laura de Bonfils**, Social Platform.

The panellists shared strategies to ensure that the EGD is more comprehensive, effective, and impactful.

The Forum included working group discussions in which participants deliberated on the future of the EGD. Five working groups, each focusing on a specific dimension of the EGD (social, economic, participatory, environmental, and international) were formed to develop policy recommendations.

The Forum also welcomed European policymakers for a closing dialogue with CSOs and other stakeholders. During this session, participants shared their input with policymakers, including:

- **Thaís Gonçalves**, Policy Officer, DG EMPL, European Commission
- **Aurelie Godefroy**, Deputy Head of Unit, DG INTPA, European Commission,
- **Tanja Buzek**, Coordinator for the Domestic Advisory groups in trade agreements, EESC,
- **Margarida Marques**, MEP, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats.



Civil Society Forum for Sustainability Shaping the European Green Deal: Brussels, 26 & 27 June 2023: Programme

The Civil Society Forum for Sustainability – Shaping the European Green Deal is co-organised by SOLIDAR, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and SDG Watch Europe within the framework of the REAL DEAL project, a Horizon 2020 research project focused on reshaping citizens and stakeholders' participation and deliberative democracy in the framework of the European Green Deal (EGD) and a just transition and with the participation of the SOLIDAR Just Transition for the Global South partners.

The in-person meeting of the Civil Society Forum will focus on the future of the European Green Deal and its transformative potential. How can the next environmental and social strategy of the European Union lead to achieving the Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by and within the EU? How can it ensure we meet the climate targets set by the Paris Agreement? How can it better integrate the social dimension? What incentives can foster a Just Transition for the Global South? How can spillovers be tackled and policy coherence for sustainable development ensured? These key questions will be tackled together with citizens, civil society organisations, experts and policymakers with an exciting two-day programme.

Monday 26th June 2023

Venue : Spaak 7C50 Room, European Parliament, 60 rue Wiertz, 1047 Brussels, Meeting Point at Spinelli Entrance

Part 1: Are we on track with the SDGs? Civil Society in Dialogue with Policymakers on the EUVR	
13.00-14.00	Welcome and meet outside the EP
14.00-14.05	Moderated by Patrizia Heidegger, EEB Opening words by Marta Iglesias López, Board Member, SOLIDAR
14.05-14.15	Welcome by Petros Kokkalis MEP & Udo Bullmann MEP, SDG Alliance Remarks on the EP SDG Report
14.15-14.25	Remarks on the European Voluntary Review: Petra Petran, Cabinet of Paolo Gentiloni, European Commission
14.25-14.35	Presentation of the Civil Society Spotlight Report, Julie Rosenkilde, SDG Watch Europe
14.35-15.25	Questions to panelists + Audience Q and A and discussion
15.25-15.30	Conclusions and closing

Venue : Mundo-Madou, Av. des Arts 7/8, 1210 Brussels, Artemisia Room

SDG Watch Europe Annual General Assembly	
15.30-16.00	Walk from EP to venue
16.00-16.30	Coffee and welcome words: SDG Watch Europe Steering Group
16.30-18.00	SDG Watch Europe Annual General Assembly
18.30-20.30	Social Event



Civil Society Forum for Sustainability: Shaping the European Green Deal

Tuesday 27th June 2023

Venue : Mundo-Madou, Av. des Arts 7/8, 1210 Brussels, Artemisia Room

Part 2: The Way Forward and our Common Future	
09.00-09.30	Registration, opening words and welcome by organisers
09.30-10.00	UN Global Sustainable Development Report 2023, Imme Scholz, Co-President, Heinrich Böll Foundation and Co-Chair of the Group of Independent Scientists
10.00-10.30	The EGD, Key Findings of the Gap Analysis Report and the Pact for Our Common Future Patrizia Heidegger, Deputy Secretary General and Director for EU Governance, Sustainability and Global Policies, Jeffrey Moxom SDG Watch Europe Coordinator, EEB
10.30-10.45	Break
10.45-11.30	Civil Society Panel Discussion moderated by Barbara Caracciolo, SOLIDAR with Eric Ponthieu, Fair Trade Advocacy Office, Laura de Bonfils, Secretary General, Social Platform, Adrien Licha, ALDA, Silvia Valentini, Climate Policy Officer, CAN Europe
11.30-12.30	Working Groups Part 1
12.30-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.30	Working Groups Part 2
15.15-15.30	Break
15.30-17.00	Policy Dialogue: Looking ahead, moderated by Rose Heffernan, WECF with Margarida Marques, MEP, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, Thaís Gonçalves, Policy Officer, DGEMPL, Aurelie Godefroy, Deputy Head of Unit INTPA F2- Environment, Sustainable Natural Resources, European Commission, Tanja Buzek, Coordinator for the Domestic Advisory groups in Trade Agreements, EESC Pär Holmgren, MEP, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance (TBC)
17.00-17.30	Conclusions and closing