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BY



## Transformed Europe. VISION 2030 of a Europe that has successfully implemented the SDGs.

*This 'new narrative for Europe' wants to propose a vision in 2030 of a Europe that would have succeeded in achieving the objectives of sustainable development in a timely manner. From there, the text wants to do a backcasting exercise and identify the societal and governance innovations that would have allowed us to change paradigm as well as economic, financial, business and citizen mobilization models in order to succeed.*

*This European dream can become a reality, in the remaining 12 years, if we are ready to review our cultural models and our ethics of individual and collective responsibility, our vision of 'leadership', 'added value' and 'comparative advantage'*

*This text is based on socio-cultural evolution studies, in particular on the dynamic evolution of the respective 'powers' of the State and EU Institutions, Business and Organized Civil Society in their interaction between each others and with Ordinary People and is inspired by prospective scenarios proposed by famous authors. It includes a vision of Europe by a youth organisation.*

*It outlines a 'Scale up' strategy based on the 'domino theory' and the levers which could have great impact as well as the axes of an 'Enhanced Partnership', in line with SDG 17, between state and non-state actors to achieve these objectives .*

*It will be presented to the Presidents of the European Institutions and to the Members of the European Council before the European Council of December 2018.*



This new narrative for Europe is an exercise in collective intelligence.

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The writing of this vision is due to the inspiration of and borrowing from:

- Carine Dartiguepeyrou author of: *La nouvelle avant-garde. Vers un changement de culture*. Ed l'Harmattan 2013 et *Le futur est déjà là*. Ed Le bord de l'eau 2017
- Olivier De Schutter, author of *The EU's Fifth Project: Transitional Governance in the Service of Sustainable Societies*. Franqui Conference 2014.
- EESC opinion on the Future of Europe "The Europe we want by 2025"
- Enrico Giovannini, author of *L'Utopia Sostenibile*. Ed. Laterza 2017.
- Naomi Klein, author of *No Is Not Enough*. Ed Allen Lane 2017
- Pascal Lamy, co-author of « *Où va-t-on ?* ». Ed. Odile Jacob 2017
- Jeremy Rifkin, author of *The Empathic Civilization. The Race to Global Consciousness in a World in Crisis*, Ed. Tarcher 2010.
- Alain de Vulpian : author of « *Eloge de la métamorphose, en marche vers une nouvelle humanité* » Ed. St Simon 2016
- Happymorphose, <http://www.mouvancehappymorphose.com/societe-comme-un-cerveau/>
- USA National Intelligence Council report '*Paradox of Progress*'
- Muhammad Yunus author of *A World of Three Zeroes: the new economics of zero poverty, zero unemployment, and zero carbon emissions*. Scribe Publications. (2017). .

The Youth vision has been drafted by V4SDG - Visegrád for Sustainability: Federika Fait, Sándor Madar, András Volom



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## Transformed Europe Vision 2030 of Europe having succeeded the SDGs implementation.

### Part One. Concepts for a 'paradigm shift to bring humanity to a new world'

1. We embraced Einstein vision that '*we cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them*' and identified concepts to change the mindset necessary to change the development vision and paradigm. We knew that, as Carine Dartiguepeyrou writes, 'behind all transformation is a change in the cultural paradigm. Our capacity for evolution is directly related to our ability to adapt and therefore to the diagnosis we make of our human society and our environment.
2. After the generations who knew the Second World War, the Iron Curtain, the fall of the Berlin Wall, together with the new generations we became aware again of the value of our solidarity and we succeeded because '*when we become aware, we do not go back*'. Human consciousness can evolve in many ways. We have been able to effectively improve solutions to seemingly intractable problems such as those we experienced in the early 21st century, environmental degradation and climate change, nuclear proliferation and terrorism, hunger, inequalities and the lack of regulation of globalization, by raising and changing the consciousness that continued to create or failed to avoid these problems. And by making clear that, as Ervin Laszlo writes, the evolution of consciousness has become a precondition for our collective survival.
3. So what are the potential new approaches.
- 4. Interdependence civilisation and enhanced global partnership**
5. We decided to innovate from a vision of a civilization of empathy<sup>1</sup> or love<sup>2</sup>. Collaboration calls empathy. We have managed to co-create, with the world of finance, companies, unions, universities, citizens acting as savers, consumers, electors, societies and economies beyond capitalism, communism and other ancient isms of the twentieth century. We have built a new look at the economy and finance, a "full spectrum" economy. The economy is above all a question of values. We decided to focus on the 'commons' while the economy was based on policies to re-consolidate wealth and power in the hands of those who run the economy.

<sup>1</sup> Jeremy Rifkin

<sup>2</sup> John-Paul II



## 6. Polyateralism and cultural changes

7. Happily, at the European level, in the areas covered by the Sustainable Development Goals and climate, multiple coalitions were in place with their commitments and champions. 2018 has been the year of *'polyateralism'*<sup>3</sup> between state and non state actors at all levels in Europe and between Europe and our partners in the world, in the collaborative economy and the globalized knowledge society and global disclosure system of the digital age. This is why, thanks to the numerous initiatives already in place demonstrating that *'tomorrow is already there'*<sup>4</sup> with a clear and attractive vision of what the world could be like and chart a credible and challenging path to a different future, we succeeded in the civilization changed initiated by 1972 with the first report to the Club of Rome<sup>5</sup>. In addition to the UN Rio 72,92 and following decennial conferences, the UN Paris Climate agreement and the UN Agenda 2030 adopted by 2015, the same year as the Encyclical Letter *'Laudato si'*<sup>6</sup>, an appeal to *'care'* for the common home and a new call for ethics to support behavioural changes which resonated in the business sector have been milestones of a long journey leading to this civilizational change. Governments are partners of new forms of polyateralism.
8. This paradigm shift has been based on one hand on a mindset change deeply rooted in mainstreaming cultural changes : on one hand recognising our interdependences led to develop a new form of leadership making the best of these interdependences<sup>7</sup>, on the other hand the feminine aptitudes of compassion, collaboration, empathy and creativity, present in women and men, emerged as *'the operating system of twenty first century progress.'* Finally policy makers and corporate leaders were seeing what the deep feminine has always known; that there is an inescapable interdependence of the social, environmental, economic and spiritual. These were exciting times! A pattern emerged: moving from a system based on unbridled looting to a culture based on solicitude, based on the principle that if you take something, you take care and give back. A system in which everyone sees their value recognized. Where the definition of green employment is expanded to any work that is meaningful and rewarding for our communities and consumes little fossil energy. To care for the sick is renewable energy. Teaching is renewable energy.
9. We succeeded because we started from people's concerns and their silent revolution. As the socio-anthropologist Alain de Vulpian says, from a pyramidal society people passed to an organized society as-a-brain<sup>8</sup>. Women and men at the beginning of the twenty-first century, based on decades of change, have developed a self-organization in networks

<sup>3</sup> Pascal Lamy

<sup>4</sup> See French movie *'Le Monde de Demain est déjà là'*

<sup>5</sup> Limits to Growth ? Denis Meadows.

<sup>6</sup> Franciscus

<sup>7</sup> Carine Dartiguepeyrou

<sup>8</sup> [SOCIÉTÉ COMME UN CERVEAU - HAPPYMORPHOSE](#)



chosen by each one, based on the digital revolution and seeking forms of self-production of well-being. in small networks.

10. This strategy was very much inspired by the USA National Intelligence Council report 'Paradox of Progress' with its 3 scenarios (Islands, Orbits, Communities). This CIA US report stated *"the most resilient societies will likely be those that unleash and embrace the full potential of all individuals (...). In all societies, even in the bleakest circumstances, there will be those who choose to improve the welfare, happiness, and security of others—employing transformative technologies to do so at scale. While the opposite will be true as well—destructive forces will be empowered as never before—the central puzzle before governments and societies is how to blend individual, collective, and national endowments in a way that yields sustainable security, prosperity, and hope »*<sup>9</sup>.
11. We watched with cold blood and determination the world as it was in 2018 and the transformations that were taking place. The planet has been transformed because planetary boundaries have been crossed, especially in terms of climate and biodiversity. The cosmopolitisation of the human race, which has been going on for 70,000 years, has continued. Cultures have become transnational and global just like trade and politics.
12. Scientific discoveries regarding the place of humanity in the cosmic saga, the sciences of matter, life, consciousness and even mathematics have transformed the gaze of humanity on itself. We needed to 'change software'. For that, we relied on the sciences of chaos and complexity. They had taught us that the more a system is composed of a large number of interacting variables - which have exponentially increased between us the actors of the planetary system - the more it is sensitive to the butterfly effect and the more important it is to put in place models of collective intelligence, by multiplying small networks and connecting them together. In this respect, the Europeans, based on the thousands of partnerships developed, in particular with the support of the European Union, have developed a major initiative in support of the SDGs called 'Europeans-as-one brain'.
13. China has become the leader in the global scientific community and with other Asian countries such as India and South Korea has shifted the historical dominance of the Triad (USA, Japan, Europe) on science and technology. Scientists are collaborating more and more across borders. A phenomenon that could be popularized with the great international experiments in particle physics, when 3000 physicists from around the world signed, in 2012, the discovery of the Higgs boson. The countries of Europe, together and coordinated, have managed to rise to the forefront in the fields of particle physics, astronomy, space and environmental technologies have managed to maintain themselves as 'innovative partner'<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>9</sup> Global Trends. Paradox of Progress. National Intelligence Council- USA. January 2017.

<sup>10</sup> [La place de la France dans la science mondiale | {Sciences2}](#)



14. China has regained the position given to it by its demography. In technology, economics, geopolitics, science. Hegemony in 1990, after the breakup of the Soviet bloc, the United States no longer dominates the world. Scissors between the rise of Asia, the impact of Trumpism and Brexit, the digital revolution, the severity of environmental problems, the era of Anglo-Saxon influence on financial management models that economic has faded.
15. The convergence of the global credit crisis, the energy crisis and the climate and biodiversity impacts as well as the setbacks in environmental policies had led the global economy to the brink of abyss.
16. **Common Goods - an Engine of the European Union.**
17. Acknowledging the impacts on society that the major global environmental challenges would increasingly have, we have prepared the EU to be resilient and innovative, as well as a global partner in achieving the outcomes of the SDG-agenda 2030 globally, based on a vision of common goods, solidarity and the richness of our interdependencies.
18. Of the seven measured planetary boundaries, four were transgressed (biosphere integrity, climate change, biogeo- chemical flows and land-system change).
19. "Using indicators designed to measure a 'safe and just' development space, we quantify the resource use associated with meeting basic human needs, and compare this to downscaled planetary boundaries for over 150 nations. We find that no country meets basic needs for its citizens at a globally sustainable level of resource use. Physical needs such as nutrition, sanitation, access to electricity and the elimination of extreme poverty could likely be met for all people without transgressing planetary boundaries. However, the universal achievement of more qualitative goals (for example, high life satisfaction) would require a level of resource use that is 2–6 times the sustainable level, based on current relationships. Strategies to improve physical and social provisioning systems, with a focus on sufficiency and equity, have the potential to move nations towards sustainability, but the challenge remains substantial."<sup>11</sup>
20. Europeans succeeded to harness the potential of human capital, key to sustainable development, inclusive economic growth, wellbeing and societal stability. Empowering and educating the vulnerable groups and individuals, strengthening and developing capacities accompanied by supportive networks and innovation will be key to a sustainable future.

## 21. Civic Capital, co-creation and co-leadership

<sup>11</sup> "A good life for all within the planetary boundaries" (Leeds University c.s. February 2018)





22. Harnessing the potential of human capital is key to sustainable development, inclusive economic growth, social wellbeing and societal stability. In this women, as a focus group and currently under-represented group, are a strong segment of society contributing to economic development and social and economic wellbeing<sup>12</sup>. Creating a socially just, rule of law and human rights based societies sine qua non implies gender equality and equal opportunities for women in the political, economic and social model on which Europe 2030 should be based. Gender equality cuts across the Sustainable Development Goals demonstrating the important contribution women can make to the achievement of the Europe 2030 strategy in all its aspects. Gender equality objectives should be mainstreamed throughout the strategy<sup>13</sup>.

23. Civic capital is a 'capital' that is too little known and yet essential. *Civic capital* is the capacity of a human community to be united, creative, respectful of the rules. It is important as the 'performances' and 'outcomes' of nations vary greatly according to the strength or weakness of this 'civic capital'. We decided to strengthen the civic capital of all Europeans.

24. Civic capital includes rights and responsibilities. In 2018, the protection of personal data became a very important issue related to the Human rights that the EU is challenged with today and which has an obvious impact on worker's and citizens at large.

25. When human beings evolve culture through new agreements or new forms of organization, the result is a corresponding development for human consciousness through the network effect of cultural transmission. In an institutional context where a change of treaties would require a lot of time, and while we were facing emergencies, we managed to mobilize in a new way. We decided to accelerate progress as from mother years 2018-2019.

26. We are at one of those historical moments when we are recovering a global imagination; when ideas and capacity collide in movements that transform institutions and embed structural change. We have put in place mechanisms for co-creation and co-leadership. Co-evolution is both conscious and collaborative. Co-leadership, like a jazz band, has allowed us to unleash the creative potential of the greatest name and to 'grow in humanity' through qualitative development. Thanks to these choices, we have found a new optimism for Europe based on a purpose, a vision and shared values.

<sup>12</sup> [Objectif de Développement Durable : égalité des sexes](#)

<sup>13</sup> Dasa Silovic





27. Paraphrasing Edgard Morin, when you consider this incredible adventure of past decades how to think that the adventure of the future would be less incredible? So we decided to make Europe in the 21st century, again, an 'incredible adventure' as it was at the end of the Second World War and to write a new chapter in human history.

28. We have had to face the last decades floods and droughts, freezing cold and intense heat, climatic migrations. Our shores have been eroded, our cities, our fields and our forests affected, our rivers, rivers, water tables impacted. We faced in a spirit of solidarity that galvanized our fellow citizens. Yes, at the same time as we adapted our cities and territories, we first and foremost stood together, we unconditionally helped people who were in survival mode and very precarious! We have recreated, developed a culture and an ethic of solidarity, of the common good. We have been inclusive: to really tackle both material and immaterial poverty, but also to invest in the cultural avant-garde.

29. We have highlighted the positive potential of our interdependencies. We took action and articulated ethics and method. With the enthusiastic participation of the younger generations, from schools to universities, municipalities, social networks and the media, building on the digital revolution and the revolution of sustainable finance, we have progressed in solidarity, built a new well-being territorial, celebrated our heroes of everyday empathy, our field associations. Banks and insurance companies, foundations and businesses facing the costs and risks of climate change have financially supported solidarity initiatives and the intangible capital of talents and knowledge for the common good.

30. We wish here to pay tribute to all those who during these decades have devoted time, efforts, choices to express empathy, solidarity, shared responsibilities in thousands of fields of action related to the

- Poor
- Migrant
- Handicapped
- Elderly
- Farmer through sustainable agriculture, sustainable and fair trade
- Children, Girls
- Environment, zero waste, circular economy
- Nature
- Cultural heritage
- Education
- etc

31. In 2018, we realized that transition will only become a priority if citizens decide to do so and the economy will reinvent itself only if our societies imagine new sources of value and



a new relationship to time. It was not easy because there were many who, with the technological and digital transformation, wanted everything and immediately, without investing or transmitting or thinking about the future.

32. However more and more young people have become passionate and projecting themselves in 2050, with the help of climate coaches, have become actors in the low carbon transition, sketching scenarios as futuristic as realistic. Innovation has been everywhere.
33. We have succeeded in building 'new value' through our ability to manage flows, to circulate information, to transmit it and to make it grow. We were able to communicate on the way, the process undertaken, the vision, the potential for emancipation that rests on values such as being more than having, freedom, simplicity, resourcing, altruism. Young people have played a key role as the capacity for inspiration is an essential element of the motivation for a collective project and a desirable future. They knew how to touch the person in his entirety, that is to say in his rational intelligence but also emotional or even spiritual. They were able to arouse envy, identify talents and associate them with this ambitious project.

#### 34. Politics as support to the champions of the transition to scale up

35. A new way to make politics was to be in support of the champions of a new economy and a new social contract. To think of Politics in a new way as being at the service of local initiatives, in order to allow them to flourish by removing the constraints that could weigh on them. The task of higher levels of governance must, to this extent, be to manage externalities; to organize the care within which the local initiative takes place, so as to foster its development through what might be called 'reception facilities' which allow the diversity of innovations to be promoted by adapting the legal and economic institutions that make them available and promote their development. In this context, local transition experiments must be aided in dialogue and "citizens in transition" must be helped to reach a critical mass in order to create a systemic changeover<sup>14</sup>. The role of non-state actors must be seen and organized as a "value chain" involving local authorities (regions, cities), companies and financiers (insurance companies, banks, pension funds), start-ups, Social entrepreneurs and workers, universities and research centers, consumers and the media, and so on.
36. The transition must be organized on the basis of an in-between that would break the traditional opposition between top down and the bottom up, between centralized and decentralized management. European Innovation Partnerships with their system of 'commitments' as well as the European circular economy platform launched by the EESC with its 'commitments' were pilots.

<sup>14</sup> Olivier De Schutter.



### 37. Citizen-cooperator. The transformation potential of the digital revolution.

38. In the era of the digital revolution, our citizens have been able to develop their power of action (empowerment). Our companies were able to develop the *'interdependence leadership'* that had become a quest for a lot of companies that felt they needed to change. A new, tripartite social contract, built on an ethos of collaboration, civility and inclusiveness emerged. Social instability, erosion of civil institutions and ecological degradation are antithetical to business prosperity. Under the right conditions, a virtuous circle emerges. The corporation acts to reduce systemic risks, in turn, helps create a stronger talent pool, revenue stream and collaborative arrangement on the part of the body politic that grants the corporation its license to operate.
39. In the context of developments in society globally driven by the digital society and more in particular knowledge systems we succeeded to use the digital revolution to develop a virtuous circle based on commitments monitoring system and peer to peer dialogue. In order to promote sharing and cooperation across a diverse group of institutions, the partnership agreement signed by financiers as well as representatives of civil society including faiths, leveraged the blockchain, perceived in 2018 as a ground-breaking digital technology supporting decentralised methods for consensus reaching as well as sharing, storing and securing transactions and other data with fewer to no central intermediaries.
40. The blockchain technology is already explored in the sector of green bonds. (see Part III.
41. The same system has been applied to other sectors such as water. By providing a secure, transparent and distributed ledger to record transactions between parties, blockchain-based technology fundamentally transformed the way water resources were managed and traded. First and foremost, harnessing this capability enabled everyone from households, industry consumers, water managers and policymakers to access the same data on water quality and quantity and make more informed decisions. Such transparency helped inform consumer decisions around when to conserve or use water. It in turn helped prevent corrupt behaviour in situations where there may be an incentive for local authorities to tamper with or withhold water quality data. Blockchain technology also supported peer-to-peer trading of water rights in a given basin, empowering water users who have are willing to share their excess resources with others in the area to do so 24/7 without relying on a centralized authority. A scenario where farmers in the same water basin could make the decision to trade their allocations based on the latest weather data, crop prices, market trends and longer term climate trends – much of which is already accessible via their mobile devices, became reality. This type of transparent, real-time approach to water management greatly mitigated tensions within and across certain localities by democratizing access to information and preventing the tampering of data<sup>15</sup>.

<sup>15</sup> [How blockchain, AI and other emerging technologies could end water insecurity | GreenBiz](#)



42. In 2018 the #EnablingRights report identified a range of specific technology needs that human rights champions and defenders have, and the related scope of human rights challenges that digital technology applications could address. Solutions ranging from blockchain technology for workers' digital registries tracking forced labour to satellite imagery and machine learning software tools to identify human trafficking routes; from data analytics and digital network solutions to address the global refugee crisis, to solutions protecting child safety online.
43. Blockchain technology also played an important role in reducing to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and in eliminating remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent (Target 10.c of the SDGs). Blockchain technology enables remittance companies to transfer value internationally, without having to use the correspondent banking system with its rather high fees and slow transaction times. In 2017, a blockchain-empowered international payment service that does not charge any fees or exchange rate markups was launched, enabling free international remittances between the Euro area, the US and Great Britain<sup>16</sup>. Building on this achievement and aided by the proportional approach to regulation taken by European regulators, the industry moved to free or low-cost remittance corridors between all European countries and the rest of the world.
44. In 2018 business reporting on credible contributions to the SDGs was falling short. 75% of the companies in the KPMG study and 62% of the companies in the PWC study referred to the SDGs in their reporting. The value chain approach is widely used as best practice (e.g., by GRI, UNGC, WBCSD and the Gold Standard) as it allows companies to gain a complete picture of their positive and negative impacts on the SDGs and identify areas of greatest business opportunities and risks. Goals with obvious alignment to existing business strategy and matured performance indicators predating the SDGs were most frequently prioritised by companies and include SDG13: Climate Action and SDG8: Decent Work and Economic Growth. However, when prioritised SDGs focus on low-hanging fruit and fail to reflect development priorities in a company's countries of operations, companies miss opportunities to maintain their social license to operate and to anticipate emerging national regulation. Most companies lacked a discussion of any of the 169 targets underpinning the SDGs and did not report on any performance indicators that measure progress of their SDG contributions. These companies failed to demonstrate a meaningful and credible SDG engagement beyond aspirational commitments. This is why 'national and regional multi-stakeholders platforms', as for example, ASVIS in Italy, Comité 21 in France, Conama Foundation in Spain, supported by think tanks and do thanks have been developing successfully multi-stakeholders review of companies performance dialogues supported by blockchains focused on companies SDGs'commitments'. Rating Agencies were excited by these exercises full of lessons. This transformed many business models and lead to many innovations to the great advantage of companies and for society as a whole<sup>17</sup>.

<sup>16</sup> <https://irishtechnews.ie/circle-launches-free-euro-sterling-and-dollar-currency-transfers-in-ireland/>

<sup>17</sup> [SDG Reporting Challenge 2017 - pwc-sdg-reporting-challenge-2017-final.pdf](#)



45. From then on, we adapted ourselves. The European Union has been the world's promoter of China's 'leadership of interdependence' as a new axis of civilization. 'Capitalism' has shifted to a 'distributed capitalism' based on a mass cooperative model based on data sharing, the transparency that the digital revolution allows, a new vision that Jeremy Rifkin summarizes under the following formula: by improving the the well-being of others, we increase ours.

## Second part. Transforming our Europe

46. We succeeded because we set ourselves priorities that spoke to the public and were innovative in the way they were implemented. Building on the United Nations *Transforming Our World Agenda* and the *Charter of Fundamental Rights* of the EU, we have set ourselves five implementation priorities endorsed by public opinion, which have systemic properties (domino effect). and who together have transformed our Europe:

- Build a new social contract by implementing the goals of no poverty (SDG1), zero hunger (SDG 2), zero unemployment, reducing inequalities (SDG10), decent work (SDG 8), quality education (SDG4)
- Return to a framework set by the planetary boundaries to protect humanity and ensure a secure safe space in terms of climate change , biodiversity and management of natural resources.
- Make inclusive and sustainable finance as a lever for transforming Europe and the planet.
- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal access to leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life and equal opportunities (SDG 5)
- Promote the rule of law and enforce non-discriminatory laws, protect fundamental freedoms, secure good governance, accountability and transparency inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels, empowerment to scale up the implementation of the SDG's (SDG16)

### 47. The new social contract & social rights.

48. Compared to other regions of the world, we have so developed a '*new type of competitive advantage*', that lies in the way to inspire, influence, find allies with whom to co-build a 'new social contract 'and accelerate the dynamics of transformation, to' viralize 'regular information on progress towards the goals of sustainable development, the protection of the common goods to humanity and the cultural paradigm shift, of transformation both individual and collective.



49. When we met in Milan in 2018, the World Bank had just warned that deepening economic inequality in the EU risked fuelling populist politics. The report had underlined that inequality has been "mounting in many parts of the EU since 1990 as low-income Europeans have been falling behind in the labor market." Its figures showed that the earnings of the poorest 10 percent of Europeans fell by 7 percent in recent decades, while the earnings of the EU's wealthiest 10 percent grew by 66 percent. The report noted that poor regions in parts of eastern Europe, such as Hungary and Poland, still had less than 50 percent of the EU average GDP per capita, even though national economies in the east have prospered. It said most of southern Europe - Greece, Italy, and Spain - had been falling further behind the EU curve due to low productivity and low growth and that technological change had wiped out 15 percent of manual jobs in Europe in the past 15 years. Manual workers in Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Romania, and Slovenia, were the hardest hit, the report noted. "The machine will stall unless steps are taken to ensure people benefit equally", Kristalina Georgieva, the World Bank chief executive and a former EU commissioner, said in a statement ahead of the publication. Arup Banerji, who is in charge of the EU countries department at the World Bank, said: "The EU is growing, but Europeans are not growing united". Georgieva added, in an interview with the Financial Times newspaper: "If left unattended, the risk is right there that people feel disenfranchised, disillusioned, and left behind."<sup>18</sup>
50. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), numbered from 1 to 17, are universal objectives: 1. No poverty 5. Gender equality 10. Reducing inequalities 12. Consumption and responsible production 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions. 17. Partnerships for the goals. On the one hand they form a set of 'values' that challenge our ethics of life, on the other hand they are an invitation to be more ambitious than the "targets" (targets) set at the global level. What is proposed for Europe, including by Pascal Lamy<sup>19</sup>. They demonstrate the concept of interdependence<sup>20</sup>. But to read the latest Eurostat report<sup>21</sup> on the 'performance' of the European Union, the objectives for which the Europeans are the worst performers are in descending order the SDGs 5,8,1,2,10 is the gender equality, decent work, zero poverty, zero hunger, and bottom of the pack: reduced inequality. That says a lot about the state of society in Europe and our values.
51. On the other hand, there is a great risk that as a result of the tax reform adopted in the United States by the Republican majority, a new world trade war has been started and a race to reduce the tax rate on foreigners in Europe is becoming stronger, leading to more austerity and threats to social protection tools.

<sup>18</sup> [EU populism feeds on poverty, World Bank warns](#)

<sup>19</sup> OÙ va le Monde ? Pascal Lamy et Nicole Gnesotto. Ed. Odile Jacob 2017.

<sup>20</sup> People and the Earth. <http://www.pbl.nl/en/publications/people-and-the-earth>

<sup>21</sup> Sustainable Development in the European Union. Overview of progress towards the SDGs in an EU context. 2017. Eurostat.



52. We have built a new look at the economy and finance, a "full spectrum" economy. The economy is above all a question of values. We decided to focus on the 'commons' as the economy was based on policies to re-consolidate wealth and power in the hands of those who run the economy. We did not put our heads in the sand. We knew that to regain financial leeway, we had to act on three fronts: the mobilization of capital in support of the objectives of sustainable development (see § 41 to 52), tax evasion and public debt.

### 53. The Public Debt

54. The question of public debt is inseparable from the 'new social contract' and the sustainable development goals 'no poverty' and 'reducing inequalities'. This in a context where the weight of the debt is very tied to interest rates and generates the increase in poverty levels over 50 years.

55. In 2018 the public debt greatly exceeded the annual wealth created by most countries (ie GDP). This debt was only bearable by the low level of interest rates. A question then arose: how was it possible for a population to agree to finance the debt of its own state in proportions that make this debt unbearable? When public debt becomes too large relative to GDP, the ability to channel domestic savings into debt financing is a key issue. A public debt is, in fact, rather refinanced than reimbursed. It's intuitive: without domestic savings, the state does not find ... creditors! Public debt is tolerable if domestic savings are, at worst, sufficient to be captured and, at best, used as a moral guarantee to attract foreign creditors. That said, even if it is refinanced, a public debt is worthwhile only if the State on which it rests honors its commitments. But the state has no memory since it reflects the expression of socio-political forces of the moment<sup>22</sup>.

56. Finally, the question is to which political system does excessive public debt entail? What is, in fact, the culmination of this movement of flight in which the State rushes through public debt? Is it toward insidious state ownership of the entire economy and / or the loss of purchasing power caused by inflation that flows from the monetary weapon? The answer lies undoubtedly in a complex chemistry of these two elements that could be described, in Hayek's logic, as inflationary state<sup>23</sup>.

### 57. The Budget

58. Europeans expect their Union to do more. At a time when the EU is doing more than ever before to protect, empower and defend its citizens, resources continue to be stretched at the seams. As Europe decides on its future, the EU needs a budget that is fit for purpose and makes every euro work for its citizens. The EU is expected to play a bigger role in new policy areas like migration, internal and external security or defence. And Europe should also preserve its leading role on the global stage, as a major humanitarian and

<sup>22</sup> Bruno Colmant

<sup>23</sup> ibidem





development aid donor and as a leader of the fight against climate change. That must be achieved with an EU budget that will only get smaller following the departure of the United Kingdom. The Commission reflection paper looks at this challenge and put the key elements for discussion on the table, structured around the five scenarios of the White Paper: will the EU simply carry on, do less together, move ahead at different levels of intensity, do less but more efficiently or do much more together? Each of these illustrative scenarios would have different consequences - both in terms of how much to spend for what purpose, and on where the money could come from. Options range from reducing spending for existing policies to increasing revenues. The missing scenario : the budget aligned on the SDGs targets.

59. A briefing paper titled, 'EU Budget Reform: Opportunities and Challenges for Global Sustainable Development,' explored in 2018 the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), which regulates EU spending. The DIE paper noted that the principles of the 2030 Agenda should be embedded within the EU budget, such that it is more strongly focused on disadvantaged groups and the region's environmental footprint, which the authors indicate can "bolster public support for Europe." They also call for assigning each of the 17 SDGs to one of the six headings of the MFF, and for having the next MFF—proposals for which are due to be reviewed on 2 May 2018—set guidelines for sustainable procurement (as called for in SDG target 12.7). A second DIE briefing paper titled, 'From Damage Control to Sustainable Development: European Development Policy under the Next EU Budget,' examined the "Global Europe" Heading under the MFF, the bulk of which is reserved for development cooperation. The authors noted that in recent years, fragmentation of financing instruments and failure to make clear strategy choices has led to the insertion of EU member States' individual interests around migration and security.<sup>24</sup>
60. After a battle in the European Parliament, the EU MFF 2021-2027 has be aligned on the SDGs and serve to accelerate the transition. Any funding were allocated on the basis of a SDGs impact analysis.
- 61. Restructuring the economic systems to make visible the invisible,**
62. For neoliberal economists, far from being an obstacle to economic accumulation, climate limits are seen as the foundation for new profits. Unfortunately, this is a short-term vision that does not reflect negative externalities. This reality is linked to the need for the financial model to apply a price to the currency, through discounting, to distant externalities while minimizing the current cost.
63. Time was scarce so we needed to move decisively. Vital for this was and is carbon pricing, and in the absence of it, adjustments at the border. Carbon pricing is one form of a "payment for eco-system services" and "PES" will increasingly be applicable as a tool -

<sup>24</sup> [Policy Brief: SDG Knowledge Weekly: European Sustainable Development Policy and the Next EU Budget | SDG Knowledge Hub | IISD](#)



together with other tools such as standards - to address risk pricing issues related to the negative externalities associated with the current unsustainable production- and consumption patterns in the EU. The public revenues resulting from risk pricing at the EU level will be instrumental as part of “environmental fiscal reform” as a core tool for the SDGs globally (ref. IMF).

#### 64. The World of Tomorrow is already there.

65. In 2018, our first initiative was to identify, connect, support and make visible locally and globally the many leaders who already embody in their practice 'the world of tomorrow'. We have strengthened the links between programs and initiatives, we have increased the audience of organizations and networks working for the evolution towards a better world and to increase their influence we have launched an informal reinforced cooperation between state and non-state actors where the policy is listening to the actors of change so that we can accelerate the transition.

66. Europeans seized the vast opportunities offered by the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Climate agreements, with the launching by 2017 of the One Planet Coalition of Coalitions, to ensure sustainable development and the future of Europe for the well-being of its peoples and future generations. Thanks to the 2018 initiatives as the launch of the EU platform on SDGs, the EU action plan on sustainable finance, the Milan convention and finally a European Council meeting end of the year with leaders of state and non state actor we succeeded to align the efforts of all in Europe : business, trade unions, churches, banks, schools, and to launch innovative cooperation system.

**67. In Milan, we launched a European-as-a-brain operation so that networks, partnerships, initiatives contributing to the implementation of the SDGs and climate agreement work together to respond to the need to make a 'leap into humanity'. *Europeans-as-a-brain as a European process***

- Started by connecting existing partnerships initiatives in support to the SDGs and climate agreements
- focused on four "assets": knowledge capital and civic capital to change behavior, financial capital and natural capital to change patterns of development
- collectively and collaboratively use the new tools of the digital revolution to connect, share and collaborate, monitor progress and develop a peer to peer dialogue
- aime to accelerate the transition and build a 'leap forward' which should be 'a leap in humanity'.



68. The Europeans-as-one brain, champions of the new world which is already largely amongst us and can drive Europe towards a brilliant future should build upon the initiatives connected with and supported by the EU : Commission and its SDGs platform, the EESC, the Committee of Regions, the EIB and EBRD, the relevant Agencies.

- Juncker Investment Plan
- Union for the Mediterranean
- Horizon 2020 Research programme
- Covenant of Mayors
- European Innovation Partnership and EIT Healthy living and active ageing
- European Innovation Partnership Smart Cities
- European Innovation Partnership Sustainable Agriculture and EIT Food
- European Innovation Partnership and EIT Raw Materials
- European Innovation Partnership Water
- EIT Innovation Community Climate-KIC
- EIT Digital
- EIT InnoEnergy
- Life +
- SwitchMed, Switch- Asia,
- Multiannual indicative programme for Latin America
- *Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) of the EU's Pan-African Programme*

#### 69. Europe Natural & Human Capital, Biodiversity and Planetary Boundaries

70. One of the five priorities of the Agenda 2030 implementation in Europe is to apply a framework set by the concept of "A Safe Operating Space for Humanity and the planetary boundaries" linked to the issue of "risk mitigation in the public interest" in order to provide a bridge to the actors in the economy and in finance with adverse consequences for the environment

71. Across the planet, the decline in biodiversity continues, "significantly reducing the ability of nature to contribute to the well-being of people". Not acting to stop and reverse this process is endangering "not only the future we want, but also the lives we are currently living". This was the warning message issued by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in 2018. We could only change this terrible finding at the cost of drastic changes.<sup>25</sup>

72. In 2030 China dominates the world economy. One of the reasons is the dependence of the world economy on the rare metals needed on the one hand for the low-carbon energy transition and green technologies, on the other hand for the digital present everywhere, from our means of communication to our military means. The change in the energy model

<sup>25</sup> [Le déclin massif de la biodiversité menace l'humanité](#)



has required a doubling of the production of rare metals over the last 15 years, not without serious environmental problems. Our liberation from oil and coal has led to new forms of shortages and crises. In 2020, an enhanced China-Europe cooperation between state and non-state actors on rare metals and the associated sustainable development goals was initiated. It has allowed multiple innovations.

73. The scope and reach of the EU contribution to the effective and timely implementation of the SDG-agenda 2030, integrating the risks inherent in the Planetary Boundaries-Issues has been articulated around core issues:

- an effective approach to policy coherence for sustainable development in support of the proposed EU contribution, by way of adaptive policies and measures to be reviewed and recalibrated over time, and resulting in an adequate governance-system for sustainability for both the public and private sector actors
- approaches addressing the social issues by referring to and building on the risk mitigation assessment and outcomes mentioned above
- the latter described as a reduction in the period towards 2030 of the impacts and emissions related to the high risk issues defined in the Safe Operating Space-analysis and in particular those related to EU CAP
- the EU CAP issue served as a prominent example of EU-policy coherence for sustainable development to be undertaken as a matter of urgency (EU budget cycle, PB red zone issues...)
- the rapid emergence and development of new initiatives in science, society, finance and business, as well as change in expectations and demands by citizens and consumers, demonstrating the opportunities a proactive implementation of the SDG-agenda provides and the support they imply to public sector actors
- supported by data analytics, co-operative initiatives linked to interactive knowledge systems, as well as monitoring, assessment- and reporting systems in support of accountability for outcomes by both public and private sector actors<sup>26</sup>.

#### 74. Territories, resilience and well-being.

75. We have reviewed our vision of well-being and developed new forms of management of both rural and urban territories. The Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy is one of the great successes of Europe.

76. We have made our cities and our rural territories laboratories of this well-being. We are part of an interinstitutional approach (it concerns Cities, Metropolises, Rural Communes in a cooperative relationship with the Regions and States) multi-stakeholder (in an interaction of initiatives between elected and institutional, actors civil society in all their economic, social, cultural components ... and citizens) multidisciplinary because resilience will be built in a global vision where space plays the role of integration.

<sup>26</sup> Gertjan Storm



77. European cities have become 'Ecopolis' which carry a collective vision of society, supporting notions of general interest and common goods. The city is denser, socially more mixed and organized around the public space. An energy mix is developing from a rise in renewable energies and more generally green and blue economies. A local economy of goods and services, especially food, is consolidating, as an alternative to any import-export. The City is conceived as a network, in a solidarity relationship between different territories, populations, and between the city and nature. Mobility gives a large share to public transport.'
78. Air pollution remained a theme with serious consequences for public health. Cities in particular have been transformed to meet them.
79. European Consumers need to have access to safe, healthy, high quality and affordable food. In 2018, the challenge was how to ensure that these basic human needs, economic growth and equitable social development are met for optimal health and well-being, while protecting the environment and remaining within the limits of a "Safe Operating Space for Humanity", ensuring and guiding the actors on the demand- and supply sides in their daily decision making.

### Third Part. Inclusive, equitable and sustainable finance, a lever for the transformation of Europe and the planet.

80. The key area in which we decided to mobilize and activate knowledge capital and civic capital was to change behavior in the world of finance (as well as on the part of citizen-cooperators) and place the financial system at the service of sustainable development. By mobilizing on this subject we have had a major domino effect on the other three priority axes: the new social contract, the planetary boundaries, the status of women and all the SDGs. We relied on the G20's commitments in support of inclusive and sustainable finance and the conclusions of a conference held in Buenos Aires in September 2018 on the theme "*People and planet, inclusive finance for social inclusion*", attended by dignitaries of major religions and major players in finance, the G20 and civil society.
81. The Commission estimated in June 2017 that realising the SDGs would require annual investments in sustainable infrastructure worth 4,7-6,7 trillion Euros. Climate change was one of the pressing, multiple and interconnected ecological crises which were threatening the future of humanity as the exhaustion of water supplies and pollution of the water-table, deforestation and loss of habitats, soil degradation and the threat to food supplies, weakening of the nitrogen and phosphorous cycles, ocean acidification, ozone depletion. Sustainable finance needed to encompass solutions to all these challenges, while taking into account the risks stranded assets posed to financial sustainability



82. Financial institutions can take the lead in being socially responsible and working for the ‘common good’ as finance returns to its roots by looking at the way they incentivize actions around social inclusion, environmental stewardship and economic sustainability. 2015-2018 emerged as the years of sustainable finance. This highlighted the need to place the financial system at the service of sustainable development (Agenda 2030), environment, care and peace. For the financial industry two SDG’s taken seriously *No Poverty* (SDG 1) and *Reduced Inequalities* (SDG 10) led to a revolutionary change of macro-economic, financial and business models. With the release of the 2018 report on financing a sustainable European economy, Europe entered, after the mistakes of the period which followed the 2008 banking crisis, in a virtuous circle. But it took time.
83. To move towards a ‘stakeholder financial model’ was extremely urgent as Financiers, Governments, Rating Agencies had on the agenda initiatives leading to standards, labelling, regulations, ratings initiatives of sustainable finance products, services and institutions. Sustainable Finance needed to address the environmental, social, economic and ethics dimensions of finance simultaneously.

***84. Sustainable and responsible investors are those who show awareness of the existence of serious unjust situations, instances of profound social inequality and unacceptable conditions of poverty affecting communities and entire peoples and the desire to address them. Willing to engage for a change, they turn to financial institutions which use their resources to promote the economic and social development of these groups through investment funds aimed at satisfying basic needs associated, for example, with agriculture, reasonable prices, access to water, adequate housing, as well as with primary health care and educational services<sup>27</sup>***

85. For a shift to be meaningful, it requires more significant action by ‘broad finance’ stakeholders whose decisions collectively influence finance that includes more than just financial institutions. Included in the range of those ‘broad finance’ stakeholders are traditional players including asset managers, banks and insurers as well as asset owners, a category which includes both the institutional owners such as pension and sovereign funds but also their beneficiaries whose interests are made known through formal and informal governance structures specific to each institution.
86. In 2018, the financing gap to achieve EU climate and energy targets is estimated at €180 billion annually. The Action Plan on Sustainable Finance, launched on 8 March 2018, presents a ten-point strategy to connect finance with sustainability, and is part of the Capital Markets Union’s (CMU) efforts to connect finance with the specific needs of the European economy. The Action Plan represents a step towards implementation of the Paris

<sup>27</sup> Cardinal Turkson. Second conference on value based investors & SDGs. Rome 2017.



Agreement on climate change and the EU's implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Action Plan seeks to: establish a unified EU classification system to define a common language for sustainable finance, and identify areas where sustainable investment can make the biggest impact; create EU labels for green financial products to enable investors to identify investments that comply with low-carbon or green criteria; and enhance transparency in corporate reporting by revising the guidelines on non-financial information to align them with the recommendations of the Financial Stability Board's Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). The Action Plan also addressed sustainability in investment processes, disclosure requirements and prudential requirements, among other areas.

87. The action plan proposed by the Juncker Commission in March 2018<sup>28</sup> was a first step<sup>29</sup>, necessary but not sufficient. When compared with the proposals envisaged by the rapporteur of the European Parliament as well as some Central Bank Governors<sup>30</sup> it became very clear that there was much more to do<sup>31</sup>. Thus under the new Commission post election 2019, other stages were crossed.

**88. A multi-stakeholder partnership agreement *Inclusive and Sustainable Finance* to move towards a 'stakeholder financial model' and address an 'inclusive finance & care' agenda has been signed in Buenos Aires on 21st September 2018. It has been a widening of the Stockholm Declaration regarding sustainable investments, and finance aligning financial services with the common good. It has been strengthened by the application of a blockchain record, providing transparency to the implementation of the partnership agreements, in support to the G20 High Level Principles for Digital Financial Inclusion primarily through Principle 8 (Track Digital Financial Inclusion Progress).**

## Conclusion

89. In 2018, the push needed to put the rocket Agenda 2030 into orbit and achieve the SDGs within 12 years was not strong enough, either globally or at the European level. It was not about walking anymore, it was about running! Business as usual would not have made the deal. We needed to be more efficient and innovative. It was about innovate to change scale and be inclusive based on synergy between four revolutions (digital, environmental, financial, ethical). This has been our success. We succeeded also because we decided to focus on four 'capital': knowledge capital, financial capital, natural capital and civic capital.

<sup>28</sup> [Communication from the Commission: Action plan on financing sustainable growth - 180308-action-plan-sustainable-growth\\_en.pdf](#)

<sup>29</sup> [EC Conference Urges Forward Movement on Sustainable Finance | News | SDG Knowledge Hub | IISD](#)

<sup>30</sup> First meeting of the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) on January 24th in Paris

<sup>31</sup> Report on sustainable finance (2018/2007(INI)). Rapporteur Molly Scott Cato.





90. In this year, 2030, we succeeded to reach the SDGs. With the adoption of the SDGs and climate agreements of 2015 the world was resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and to heal and secure our planet. Eradicating poverty and inequalities, in all their forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty and gender inequality, was the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.
91. With the participation of state and non state actors from all countries, with the contribution of all stakeholders and all people, we wanted to reach a safe operating space for humanity. We realized that a successful implementation of the Agenda 2030 would definitely transform Europe and be a leap forward for humankind. We are glad that because we realized our ambitions across the full extent of the Agenda, the lives of all have profoundly improved and our world has been transformed for the better. We succeeded a 'paradigm shift to bring humanity to a new world'



## Background

### Annex 1. Youth vision 2030.

#### The reason:

In 2018, we realised that populist movements and eurosceptic views are on the rise across Europe. Such ideologies and their illiberal principles are undermining the democratic character of our European Union. These movements are weakening the unity and the coherence of the European project, as well as its institutions by creating obstacles to stronger integration.

We also observed that the younger generations are more susceptible to these disruptive ideologies. If the youth is not inspired anymore by the opportunities and possibilities that the European Union has created over the decades and by the principles and values of freedom, liberty and human rights, the European project has no future. Oftentimes, young people do not understand the importance of these achievements: they were born into this environment which they now take for granted. The youth has to rediscover the benefits of the European Union by imagining how the continent would look like without it.

Populism and euroscepticism, however, are only symptoms that developed in opposition to silently escalating problems under the surface. A new identity was born out of necessity, characterised by disappointment, a feeling of being neglected, left behind and excluded. The root causes of these symptoms can be traced to deepening socio-economic inequalities and imbalances generated by globalisation, growing generation by generation.

For the youth, these stem from unequal access to education, gender inequalities at school and at work place, income gaps, labour market inequalities, challenges to keep up with technological development, adapt to automation and a series of socio-economic inequalities such as the urban-rural divide, access to information, opportunities, transportation and other forms of mobility. The issues caused by the globalisation of the world are often reflected and seen as the defects and the faults of malfunctioning European institutions.

#### The problem:

We believe that the Agenda 2030 of the United Nations and its implementation could inspire the right solutions to mitigate and tackle these issues, but only if it engages with the problems of the future generations: our youth. The Implementation of the SDGs can equally make the European Union institutions better and correct the faults and mistakes of the system to counter



euroscepticism and populism. Therefore, between 2018 and 2020 we launched intergenerational consultations on national levels, identified and acknowledged the core issues of the youth.

The dialogues showed that our education systems are outdated and unable to prepare the young generations for the challenges of the 21st century. The needs of the students are not met and the old fashioned, knowledge based teaching methods are not leaving enough space for their minds to engage creatively, maximize potential and fully develop diverse competencies and skills. At the same time, these would be essential on the job market to satisfy the continuously changing and shifting demand.

Young people also desire to secure decent and stable jobs with sustainable salaries satisfying minimum living expenses, the respect of rights and the opportunity for progress and self-development. Moreover, it is important to reduce wealth inequalities between different groups and regions of the European Union in order to create a more prosperous future for all of them.

One of the most important contemporary problems faced by youth is the lack of mobility. Especially in rural areas, young people are often having a lack of information and knowledge about issues projecting further than their local communities. They have limited access to information about opportunities and possibilities in terms of studies and jobs. They often find it hard to take advantage of those possibilities and opportunities because of factors such as, but not limited to, the lack of affordable transportation or language and cultural barriers.

The youth encounters various forms of socio-economic inequalities to an equal extent, which are similarly present in their everyday lives. Family background is pre-determinative of the opportunities and mobilities that young people can have during their upbringing and when they start their independent life. The health and wellbeing of young people are affected by the capacities and constraints of the family. The youth is oftentimes facing poverty and hunger as well as discrimination and segregation in poor communities. For many, the ability to plan a sustainable life ahead is simply a luxury.

For the younger generations, keeping up with technological development and innovation is not a choice but an existential question. First and foremost, they will have to adapt to the phenomena of automation and artificial intelligence on the job market. In order to mitigate the losses of jobs, programmes focusing on re-education are necessary along a total reboot of our general educational systems.

In the era of digital revolutions, we should boost and improve our digital knowledge and infrastructure. At the same time, we should not do so at the expense of safety and security. Cyber crimes and cyber bullying committed against users must be tackled swiftly. Inclusive online spaces for open debate and productive coworking should become universally accessible to new generations. This means that we must change the way we conduct public affairs. Our systems



must be recreated based on the existing European best practices in e-governance with the provision of training to make it fully accessible not only for the young generations but also for the elderly.

Finally, we have to mention environmental inequalities too that are equally concerning from the perspective of the youth. Issues connected to clean energy, clean water, clean air, healthy food products and sanitation are urging matters influencing the life expectancy of young people. In essence, this is a matter concerning the most fundamental human right: the right to life. With good governance, we can create a balance between environmental health and ecosystem vitality in order to uphold prosperous economic and social development with the preservation of a healthy environment that is precondition to human health and wellbeing.

### The solutions:

In light of these problems and demands, we decided to build a new structure of governance based on a new social contract between the youth and institutions of the European Union. We created an agenda addressing the youth with the tools of the SDGs in short, mid and long terms leading to 2030 and beyond by upholding and further improving our achievements.

We started off by raising awareness about the SDGs. We made it an integral part of young people's education in elementary and high school. We encouraged collective projects at universities that are transforming dialogue and knowledge into tangible and local actions. We created communication on the SDGs towards the youth, by the youth with the help of young and forward thinking champions and leaders who are empowering their young fellows. In this form of awareness raising, the diverse social media platforms and generally the internet had a leading role that facilitated to spread information and to reach out to the youth in interactive and eye catching ways.

By 2030, we succeeded in establishing a direct and unbiased channel of communication between the European youth and the governing European institutions. This ameliorated good governance practices and made our democracy more inclusive. This measure equally ensured that the voice of the youth is being heard and their demands are taken into account.

Thanks to the younger generations' desire to change and determination in influencing elder generations about the importance of involving the youth, we put in place advanced decision-making mechanisms. In these mechanisms the youth are consulted and involved in the form of an intergenerational governance structure on a municipal, county, region, country and European levels. We achieved this by organizing country tours, conferences and platforms for dialogue and



action in the form of local think-and-do-tanks. This helped us decrease inequalities, increase mobility and improve policy-making not only in the youth sector but across all areas.

Upon recommendation, the Member States reformed their educational systems to enable young people to adapt to the challenges of the rapidly developing 21st century and to the changing demands of the transforming job market. The old fashioned and knowledge based education was replaced by a more personalized and practical system that is giving tools, skills and competences into the hand of the young generations.

The reformed education systems also helped young generations to cope with the increasing mental pressures of our information society, as well as to eradicate gender inequalities and reduce various forms of socio-economic inequalities and imbalances among the young generations. Further to that, it has encouraged the European Union to build its role as a global force for sustainability, working for the equal development of all peoples on Planet Earth.

This agenda contributed to the creation of a sustainable and prosperous Europe developing in harmony - both economically and socially - with the environment. It helped us break the growing tides of populism and euroscepticism. Thanks to the actions inspired by the document young people could regain their aspirations from the common European project and could become key agents of change for development. This way they had the opportunity to make our Union embrace its role as a responsible global leader working for the whole of humanity.

Most importantly, with this we achieved that young people are recognised as equal partners, leaders in their own right who act as agents of change tackling global challenges.

Participated in the drafting: V4SDG - Visegrád for Sustainability:

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## Annex 2. Public Debt.

### Contribution of Bruno Colmant on public debt.

La dette publique.

La dette publique est un concept insaisissable. Ses facettes sont nombreuses car elle représente à la fois une prospérité future empruntée, un financement de biens publics qu'une population refuse de payer à son coût réel et un transfert continu des créanciers de l'État vers les secteurs publics, à l'instar d'une gigantesque sécurité sociale. La dette publique serait alors à l'épargne



privée ce que l'impôt est aux revenus. Elle serait même « la » représentation ultime de la solidarité étatique puisque son refinancement conditionne les mécanismes fiscaux et de redistribution.

Il y a aussi une dimension temporelle très particulière. Un titre de dette publique constitue, pour ses détenteurs, un capital. Mais, contrairement à un capital privé, qui représente du travail passé progressivement épargné, la dette publique constitue aussi un prélèvement sur le travail collectif futur. Plus spécifiquement, le créancier de l'État lui prête de l'argent grâce à l'épargne du travail passé, tandis que l'État (le débiteur) rembourse sa propre dette grâce à un prélèvement fiscal sur le travail futur. C'est logique : la dette publique est garantie par la capacité de l'État à lever des impôts portant, entre autres, sur les revenus professionnels futurs. En s'endettant, l'État demande donc à des créanciers de lui faire crédit au motif qu'il sera capable d'exiger un prélèvement sur la création de richesse de ses futurs contribuables.

Aujourd'hui la dette publique dépasse largement les richesses annuelles créées par la plupart des pays (c'est-à-dire le PIB). Cette dette n'est d'ailleurs supportable que par le bas niveau des taux d'intérêt. Une question se pose alors : comment est-il possible qu'une population ait accepté de financer la dette de son propre Etat dans des proportions qui, aujourd'hui, rendent cette dette insupportable ? N'est-ce pas schizophrénique de contracter collectivement une dette qu'on sait excessive ? Cela ne relève-t-il pas d'une profonde naïveté de croire que ce seront toujours les travailleurs de demain qui rembourseront cette dette ?

Et puis, d'où l'argent épargné pour financer cette dette provient-il ? De la croissance passée ? D'une confiance en nous-mêmes qui sommes simultanément et concomitamment débiteurs et créanciers collectifs de l'Etat ? Du fait que l'Etat nous a octroyé des biens publics à coût très bas (éducation, transports routiers et ferrés, etc.) qui nous ont permis d'épargner...et de financer l'État que nous finançons désormais.

Ces questions n'ont pas de réponse précise. L'économiste allemand Adolphe Wagner (1835-1917) qui énonça sa loi éponyme, à savoir que plus la société se civilise, plus l'État est dispendieux, ce qui se traduit par le fait que la part des dépenses publiques dans le PIB augmente avec le revenu par habitant. Wagner décèle donc une corrélation entre le niveau de développement, l'étatisation de l'économie....et l'importance de la dette. Wagner explique cela par le fait que le développement accroît la demande de biens publics à un rythme qui lui est supérieur.

Une question parallèle est de savoir dans quelle mesure une dette publique est soutenable ? En matière de dettes publiques, le principal réflexe est de les comparer au PIB et à la capacité fiscale de l'Etat émetteur. Mais une autre dimension doit être prise en compte lorsque la dette publique devient trop importante par rapport au PIB : il s'agit de la capacité de canaliser l'épargne domestique vers le financement de la dette. Une dette publique est, en effet, plutôt refinancée que remboursée. C'est intuitif : sans épargne domestique, l'Etat ne trouve pas ...de créanciers ! La dette publique est tolérable si l'épargne domestique est, au pire, suffisante pour être capturée et, au mieux, utilisée comme garantie morale pour attirer des créanciers étrangers.



Ceci étant, même si elle est refinancée, une dette publique n'a de valeur qu'à la condition que l'Etat, sur laquelle elle repose, honore ses engagements. Or l'Etat n'a pas de mémoire puisqu'il reflète l'expression des forces socio-politiques du moment. C'est ainsi que Marx (1818-1883) considérait que la dette publique était sans lien nécessaire avec le processus de production de capital et qu'elle n'était pas un titre sur du capital réel. Il l'assimilait à un capital fictif, parce qu'il en voyait l'extinction dans la révolution, état préalable à la victoire du prolétariat. Aux yeux de Marx, cela allait même plus loin : comme la dette publique est un travail passé accumulé et gagé par un travail futur, cette même dette devait être annulée par la négation de la propriété privée, qu'il percevait comme un obstacle à l'égalité sociale. Proudhon (1809-1865) n'avait pas une vision très éloignée.

Dans un saisissant recueil de textes des années vingt et trente consacrés à la monnaie et à l'économie, Keynes abordait avec lucidité la dégradation du pouvoir d'achat de la monnaie. Pour l'économiste anglais, cette dernière n'est pas un accident de l'histoire car deux forces de traction induisent la perte de la valeur de la monnaie : l'impécuniosité des gouvernements et l'influence politique des débiteurs. En d'autres termes, l'endettement excessif de l'État, combiné à la difficulté d'en imposer la charge sur ses citoyens, le conduit à déprécier sa monnaie afin d'alléger le remboursement de la dette.

Et finalement, la question est de savoir vers quel système politique une dette publique excessive entraîne? Quel est, en effet, l'aboutissement de ce mouvement de fuite dans lequel l'Etat s'engouffre au travers de l'endettement public ? Est-ce vers une étatisation insidieuse de toute l'économie et/ou vers la perte de pouvoir d'achat entraînée par l'inflation qui découle de l'arme monétaire ? La réponse se situe sans doute dans une complexe chimie de ces deux éléments qu'on pourrait qualifier, dans la logique d'Hayek, d'étatisation inflationniste.

### **Annex 3. Interdependence Leadership and Multi-stakeholders Partnerships.**

The key value of the transition is to use managed interdependence to add value and promote societal innovations that reduce inequalities and ensure an inclusive mode of preservation. The acceleration of the transition to another mode of development and the implementation of the commitments made in the framework of the agreements and the sustainable development objectives which constitute the indispensable framework imply a change in the mode of governance and a change in the way in which each type of actor conceives his role. And so new forms of alliance.

The role of non-state actors must be seen and organized as a "value chain" involving local authorities (regions, cities), businesses and financiers (insurance companies, banks, pension funds), start-ups, social entrepreneurs and workers, universities and research centers, consumers and the media, etc. These stakeholders must be considered as carriers or in support of different forms of 'capital'.





If we take stock of the leading sustainable development initiatives of 1992, the first Rio conference, nowadays we can only note that we have not achieved the necessary power of change. First, because too many states are not serious in implementing their own commitments. Secondly because the platforms of so-called environmental and green finance companies have not been able or not to influence the states in this direction. Finally, because NGOs have failed to mobilize their troops to impact the market and finance so that they in turn put pressure on the state. The acceleration of the transition to another mode of development and the implementation of the commitments made in the framework of the AT Agreements and the Sustainable Development Objectives which constitute the indispensable framework of it therefore presuppose a change in the mode of governance and a change in the way each type of actor conceives his role.

*The international agreement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the broader 2030 Agenda in 2015 has shifted the focus of the international community from negotiations to implementation. One aspect of implementing the SDGs has been the development of Multi-stakeholders Partnerships (MSPs). Currently, there are over 5,000 MSPs identified on different UN platforms that have committed to implementing the agenda.*

*Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships have the potential to create more positive impacts by creating synergies, building capacity, filling gaps and scaling-up development efforts. They are also a concrete way to work across the Goals, and to address the interconnected character of sustainable development.*

*To best position MSPs to achieve the SDGs, it is important to now learn from the past. The experience of partnerships created to implement the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) agreements in 2002 was not entirely good. Many MSPs were created, though few survived and made a significant impact on stated objectives.*

*In preparation for the 1992 Rio WSSD, governments did not agree on guidance for partnerships. The Bali Principles were prepared in June 2002, though these were not agreed. It was only at the 11th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in 2003 that governments revisited partnerships and agreed the only guidance notes that is currently made available on partnerships.*

*The international community needs a more robust system of transparency and accountability on partnerships to maximize the investments being made in the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.*

*The UN Secretary General's recent two reports on reforming the development system views MSPs as playing an important role at the national and international levels. It would be a mistake to move forward without clear guidance and an accountability system<sup>32</sup>.*

<sup>32</sup> Minu Hemmati and Felix Dodds



## Annex 4. Europe's SDG Priority. A safe operating space for humanity.

### Overview and insights about trends in society of relevance in the perspective of the implementation of the UN SDG 2030 agenda<sup>33</sup>.

The information described here has been limited to a number of issues that could be seen as relevance to inform readers about a number of developments and insights about sustainability challenges and (actual and potential) solutions in and for the long term. Developments occur in several “spheres” at the same time: in society, the economy and in finance accompanied by an ongoing “digital- cum data analytics-revolution”, implying the challenge to promote convergence towards an effective and timely implementation of the SDGs in the public interest, by the UN member states by way of pro-active government policies.

“Risk mitigation”, “governance” are core issues, in support of the agenda “Sustainable and Inclusive Finance”.

The observations about the UN agenda is followed by a brief description of a number of developments and insights provided by analytical work in science and in a number of other sources (and annex), in support of the UN agenda.

### The UN SDG agenda 2030.

The UN SDG agenda 2030 is addressed in relation to the major global environmental risks to society, in support of the development of opportunities for an effective and timely implementation of the agenda.

For the purpose of the overview a number of sources has been reviewed, from science and initiatives in society, addressing sustainability issues from a number of perspectives.

“**Risk mitigation**” - both in the public and the private interest - is a core issue providing a bridge to “finance” and decision making about the opportunities for “investing in the agenda”. The concept also provides a bridge to the economy - producers and consumers -, thus addressing the (SDG-) issue of the currently unsustainable production- and consumption patterns in our economies. Risk mitigation includes risk pricing and “payments for eco-system services” of which carbon pricing is a relevant example.

“**Governance**” is another core issue to describe (also defined in the SDG-agenda). “Governance” applies to the policy responses of governments to the SDG-agenda, for the sake of this overview limited to the issues of “risk mitigation in the public interest”. “Governance for Sustainability” would thus serve as a framework to adapt the current production- and consumption patterns to

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<sup>33</sup> Gertjan Storm



sustainable levels over time, in line with the SDG-agenda 2030. The approach would help define and support the opportunities for action and solutions in society. The “Drawdown”-project (USA, 2017) can be seen as a relevant example of a civil society initiative addressing a broad range of sustainability challenges and opportunities for action globally providing support for public policy action. The outreach of the project to Europe with the launch of the “European Drawdown-hub” (April 17, 2018) is a relevant example of an initiative with links to science and to society.

A “governance”-approach of the nature briefly indicated here would also come in support of public accountability of governments in terms of taking action on the SDG-agenda and assuming responsibility for the desired outcomes by 2030. The complexity inherent in the SDG-agenda in relation to the planetary-boundaries-issues, and the complexity and the interdependencies and uncertainty inherent in the major global environmental issues imply the need for ambitious policy responses in order to adequately and timely mitigate the environmental risks.

“**Governance for sustainability**” is in turn also increasingly informed and supported by ongoing initiatives of public institutions in finance (central banks, IMF, UNEP Inquiry outcomes, G-20 ...). “Digital green finance” and (other) technological developments of which the “Blockchain / Distributed Ledgers” could be seen in the same vein.

“Governance for Sustainability” would also provide the framework to guide actors in the economy and in finance. The concept of “ESG” as applied by these actors would be a relevant “target for adaptation” to the “Governance for Sustainability”-framework.

The “governance”-issue - both public and private - is supported by “risk pricing” and by valuation of natural capital and eco-system services (“PES” : “payments for eco-system services”).

**Climate risk assessment and carbon pricing** for the purpose of public governance is e.g. informed by the practice of the “Social Cost of Carbon”, as applied by the US government (2013, 2015). The methodology, which includes the findings of scientific analysis and work by the IPCC, could be applied by e.g. the EU if and when an number of limitations in the practice will be addressed. The IMF (working papers) about “local air pollution, health and co-benefits” and “energy subsidies” (2014, 2015) inform about carbon pricing and subsidies in the context of the issue of financial stability of the IMF member states, and “Environmental Fiscal Reform” with the perspective of investing the revenues from “PES” by way of e.g. taxing “inefficient resource- and energy use” (“inefficient” measured according to a set objective and/or standard, contributing to avoiding “dangerous climate change”).

**Developments in accounting** can be referred to as well, with the UN SEEA process as a prime example. The EU Community of Practice Biodiversity and Finance reflects a trend towards broadening the scope of attention and action of financial markets to include i.c. “Biodiversity” in relation to finance. Water and Land Use can be see as new issues being addressed in terms of risk assessment and pricing.



“ESG” as practiced by the private sector is informed by developments in sustainability reporting and performance assessment, disclosure as developed as private sector initiatives in both the economy and in relation to financial markets. These trends are in part driven by decisions in the public sphere (e.g. disclosure of climate risk in reporting by the private sector in France), the latter “lagging behind” in a number of ways as compared to the trends briefly referred to here (“regulatory uncertainty” in the face of the major global environmental risks).

**Climate- and Carbon risk pricing** are being addressed in decision- making about investments by an increasing number of actors in the private sector and in a longer term perspective, both in the economy and in finance (the latter e.g. pension funds and (re-)insurance).

As far as “operations” are concerned the opportunities for realising savings on the expenditure on resources and energy have increasingly been explored and exploited by business globally. The “Investor Confidence Project” in the area of “energy efficiency” developed by the US based Environmental Defense Fund in Europe can be mentioned here.

#### Sources of information.

Readers will find here excerpts of articles and books supporting the narrative.

#### 1. Safe operating space for humanity, one of the 4 objectives proposed by the new narrative for Europe.

“A Safe Operating Space for Humanity: the Planetary Boundaries”-Analysis (2009): the update in 2015: in “SCIENCE sciencemag.org 13 FEBRUARY 2015 • VOL 347 ISSUE 6223 1259855-1”:

#### “Planetary boundaries: Guiding human development on a changing planet”

“... The planetary boundaries framework defines a safe operating space for humanity based on the intrinsic biophysical processes that regulate the stability of the Earth system. Here, we revise and update the planetary boundary framework, with a focus on the underpinning biophysical science, based on targeted input from expert research communities and on more general scientific advances over the past 5 years. Several of the boundaries now have a two-tier approach, reflecting the importance of cross-scale interactions and the regional-level heterogeneity of the processes that underpin the boundaries. Two core boundaries—climate change and biosphere integrity—have been identified, each of which has the potential on its own to drive the Earth system into a new state should they be substantially and persistently transgressed”.

end of quote.

The SDG agenda and the “risk issue” - the SDGs “**reducing risk**” as well as “**Measurement: the complexity of biophysical data**”



are described in the following analysis. The report was launched at the annual event “Natural Capital Forum” in November 2017 and formulates a number of recommendations for a follow-up:

“**The Wealth of Nature**”: Oxford university and the Green Economy Coalition (November 2017):

chapter “3.3 Reducing risk: the Sustainable Development Goals

page 20: “....In short, the SDGs rely considerably on the sound management of not just human capital and physical capital, but also natural capital. Helpfully, they set out targets for the protection and maintenance of natural capital within politically-agreed global limits. These targets could serve to guide the specification of natural capital that is to be deemed critical and not further depleted.

## **2. Measurement: the complexity of biophysical data**

The measurement and assessment of the biophysical components of natural capital is rapidly improving. Examples include the assessment of the chemical composition of the atmosphere, more accurate temperature measurements, better cataloguing of different species and mapping their geographical distribution or monitoring the net primary productivity of entire ecosystems. Advances in measurements have been made across spatial and temporal scales.

This progress provides a foundation for efforts that seek an integrated understanding of the interactions between physical, biological and chemical characteristics of natural systems. For example, models used to project climatic changes simulate interactions between ocean, atmosphere, and terrestrial ecosystems are calibrated against their ability to accurately represent past and current climates. Various initiatives are underway to monitor and provide an integrated understanding of the state of natural systems (climate, ice cover, water resources, ecosystem distribution and productivity). Examples include the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) or the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). Such efforts will help to rapidly detect changes in environmental properties and improve the accuracy of models.

page 20:

More generally, pollution and environmental degradations are elements that are insufficiently factored in the natural capital valuation performed by the World Bank. The development of SDG indicators and associated data collection should allow gathering information on several sources of pollution. This could be taken advantage of to correct for environmental degradation in the evaluation of natural capital in the Wealth of Nations dataset. For example, expanding the index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density, which is a proposed indicator for the SDGs (IAEG-SDG, 2017), would help provide further information on the extent of marine pollution. The proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas is also another indicator that could be used to include the value of biodiversity in natural capital (see IAEG-SDG, 2017). Likewise, the proportion of land that is degraded over total land area could be used to assess losses in natural capital caused by unsustainable agricultural practices”.



end of quote.

IMF analysis to inform about the nature and scope of damages and of the OPPs including subsidies (wp 2014 2015).

**3. Unsustainable production- and consumption patterns** and the concept of “a safe and just development space” are described in the following article, which builds on the analysis of a “Doughnut economy”. The scope of the SDG-challenge is illustrated in:

**“A good life for all within planetary boundaries” Daniel W. O’Neill, Andrew L. Fanning, William F. Lamb and Julia K. Steinberger (Leeds University, 2018).**

“Humanity faces the challenge of how to achieve a high quality of life for over 7 billion people without destabilizing critical planetary processes. Using indicators designed **to measure a ‘safe and just’ development space, we quantify the resource use associated with meeting basic human needs, and compare this to downscaled planetary boundaries for over 150 nations.** We find that no country meets basic needs for its citizens at a globally sustainable level of resource use. Physical needs such as nutrition, sanitation, access to electricity and the elimination of extreme poverty could likely be met for all people without transgressing planetary boundaries. However, the universal achievement of more qualitative goals (for example, high life satisfaction) would require a level of resource use that is 2–6 times the sustainable level, based on current relationships. Strategies to improve physical and social provisioning systems, with a focus on sufficiency and equity, have the potential to move nations towards sustainability, but the challenge remains substantial”.

**“Opportunities for action”** have been documented in e.g. the following analysis - providing a possible link to the option of “Blockchain-technology” - i.c. “Corporate supply chains in agricultural products and fisheries”:

**4. Analysis "Natural Capital and Eco-system services: From Promise to practice" (Guerry et al (Rockstrom...) in PNAS, June 2016) : page 6:**

"Table 1. Some promising opportunities to effect large-scale transformative change in the near future": Corporate supply chains in agricultural products and fisheries are among the issues in the overview”.

end of quote.

## 5. Sustainability Accounting Standards

Another way to inform about the development of insight and tools is in the realm of “sustainability accounting standards” and the issue of **“materiality and disclosure”** in business.



The US based initiative “Sustainability Accounting Standards Board”, launched in 2011, has been developed on the basis of an analysis in 2012 by the **Initiative for Responsible Investment, Hauser Center for Nonprofit organizations at Harvard University, September 2012.**

SASB now has a track record in promoting and applying the standards to a range of industries of which “food and agriculture”. The Board also offers a “Materiality Map” to its clients. In this context the “Toolkit” developed by the WBCSD for the Natural Capital Protocol (July 2017) can be mentioned, as an “interactive knowledge system”:

“In 2010 Initiative for Responsible Investment published “From Transparency to Performance: Industry-Based Sustainability Reporting on Key Issues”, which presented an initial proposal for an industry-based prioritization method. This paper elaborates on that proposal for a five-part, fact-based materiality test that identifies issues most material to:

- Financial impacts and risks implicit in sustainability issues specific to various industries
- Sustainability-related legal, regulatory, and policy drivers likely to have the greatest implications for these industries
- Sustainability norms and standards developed by particular industries or broad-based industry watch-dog organizations
- Stakeholder concerns of a substantial nature, and emerging substantial social and environmental trends in given industries
- Opportunities for social and environmental innovation specific to each industry

In addition, this report draws on **three core sustainability concepts** to help prioritize relevant materiality considerations.

- the potential for sustainability factors to cause substantial disruption, either positive or negative, to social and environmental systems. **the greater the potential for disruption the more material the sustainability factor is likely to be.**
- the degree of uncertainty involved in the potential impacts on social and environmental systems of a sustainability factor. **the greater the range of uncertainty the more material the sustainability factor is likely to be.**
- the length of time over which a sustainability factor has potentially disruptive impacts. **the longer the period of time the more material the sustainability factor is likely to be.**

These methods can be applied to all industries to create a focused list of the most material sustainability factors by industry that will help bring clarity to the prioritization of sustainability reporting and cut the “clutter” in corporate disclosures.

Developing minimum effective standards for targeted sustainability KPIs will not only address the challenges and confusions of the current sustainability disclosure environment, but also will increase the competitiveness of U.S. capital markets and corporations; enhance the ability of investors to assess social and environmental risks, value assets, and allocate investments efficiently; strengthen trust in our capital markets and corporations; encourage the private sector to provide goods and services that create positive externalities; limit the potential liability for





corporations reporting material sustainability indicators; reduce costs for government in the oversight of corporations' social, environmental, and governance practices; and renew attention to the long-term in investment, to benefits accruing to future generations from today's investment decisions, and to the creation of a sustainable future.

The mandating of disclosure of sustainability data is the next natural step in the evolution of reporting requirements for U.S. corporations. It is necessary for the reasonable investor and other corporate stakeholders seeking to make fully informed decisions in the light of a total mix of information. It is necessary to maintain honest and transparent capital markets that investors and the general public will find worthy of their trust".

end of quote.

## 6. Land Degradation Neutrality.

Among the contributions by think tanks the issue of Land Use and the objective of "**Land Degradation Neutrality by 2030**" is informed by:

"**Land Degradation Neutrality: land and soil degradation in Europe**": Ecologic Institute , Berlin (from: its newsletter March 2018):

"In September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including target 15.3 which contains the objective to strive towards Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) by 2030. This has opened a "window of opportunity" for many countries to strengthen policies for sustainable use of land and soils and can be seen as a chance to revive EU land and soil policies, which have seen little momentum after the withdrawal of the Soil Framework Directive proposal in 2014.

This report serves as a contribution to inform and prepare the implementation of LDN in the EU. It was developed as part of the research project "Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals on Soils", carried out by Ecologic Institute on behalf of the German Environment Agency.

This report covers five focuses:

- It gives an overview of the definitions and concepts behind LDN,
- It provides a suggestion of necessary steps and guiding questions towards the implementation of LDN at the national level,
- It gives an overview of land and soil degradation in Europe, existing monitoring schemes and policy processes that are relevant for the implementation of LDN in Europe,
- It summarizes the ongoing process of conceptualizing and implementing LDN in Germany and, finally, the report
- It introduces an approach for a new indicator which uses land use categories as a possible proxy indicator for LDN in Germany.



Each category is assigned a certain soil value that considers the exposure to soil threats, building on the hemeroby (naturalness) concept.

With regards to (iv) and (v), a report in German ("Land Degradation Neutrality - Handlungsempfehlungen zur Implementierung des SDG-Ziels 15.3 und Entwicklung eines bodenbezogenen Indikators") has been developed within the same project. It provides more detail on the German implementation process and the concept of the developed indicator. These two reports are complementary".

end of quote.

## 7. Blockchain Technology

**"Brazil's antiquated land titling system enables swathes of Amazon rainforest to be cut down for soy and beef farming"** (Thomson Reuters Foundation, January 2018 <http://news.trust.org/item/20180125090023-zot9p/>): quote from the introduction :

"By Karla Mendes

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 25 (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Brazil hopes to reduce corruption with blockchain - the technology behind the bitcoin currency - as it reels from a string of arrests in the world's biggest graft investigation.

The platform's supporters believe it can reduce fraud in Brazil's antiquated land titling system, which enables swathes of Amazon rainforest to be cut down for soy and beef farming, in a country where half the population lack property rights.

Brazil's state-run technology company Serpro launched a blockchain platform in November and is holding roadshows to introduce it across the world's fifth largest country.

"It is a good tool to reduce corruption and fraud," Serpro's director-president Gloria Guimaraes told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"I see it as one more way for us to help citizens, businesses (and) the government to improve their controls, reduce their fraud and improve their records.....".

end of quote.

**The Future is Decentralized: Block Chains, Distributed Ledgers& The Future of Sustainable Development** (Volume 1) <http://bit.ly/futureisdecentralized> - The Blockchain Commission for Sustainable Development - :

"..... This white paper is designed as the first volume in a series of primers to provide policy



makers, regulators and UN Member States a non-technical introduction to blockchain technology. The Blockchain Commission will be building on this body of work to inspire additional dialogue, research and program investment as we prepare for the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly in New York and the G20 in Buenos Aires. Volume 2 in this series, addressing six additional verticals and featuring case studies in development right now, will be released Summer 2018”.

end of quote.

## 8. Food and Planet Boundaries.

**“Science meets Comics: Proceedings of the Symposium on Communicating and Designing the Future of Food in the Anthropocene”** Reinhold Leinfelder • Alexandra Hamann • Jens Kirstein • Marc Schleunitz (Eds.)

[http://www.nutrition-impacts.org/media/2017\\_TMeier\\_planetary\\_boundaries\\_agriculture\\_nutrition.pdf](http://www.nutrition-impacts.org/media/2017_TMeier_planetary_boundaries_agriculture_nutrition.pdf)

.....

### Method and Scope

For eight indicators covered in Rockström et al. (2009) and Steffen et al. (2015), we identified here corresponding attributable fractions related to agriculture and nutrition. Applying this sector-specific approach, we differentiate between agricultural production (agriculture), food processing and food trade (food processing/trade), and food consumption referring to household and gastronomy activities related to food preparation (food consumption)”.

