



Press release

Call for Action: The European Network of Political Foundations (ENoP) and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network: The EU must act now on the 2030 Agenda to achieve sustainable development!

Brussels/Paris, March 2019. The European Network of Political Foundations (ENoP) and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) are jointly calling on the EU to act now on the 2030 Agenda to achieve sustainable development.

In view of the upcoming EU elections, the formation of a new EU Commission and the approval of the next EU budget, both networks address the urgent need to significantly increase the EU's efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and embrace the Agenda 2030 as an overarching framework to shape both internal and external EU policies. Emphasizing the importance to respect the universal, interlinked, and indivisible character of the Agenda, the networks call on all political actors of the European Union to stand united for a sustainable future of Europe.

The call builds on consultation with both networks and the inputs of experts from academia, politics, and the private sector at the jointly organised conference on "The SDGs and the Future of Europe" in October 2018.

Call for Action

[ENoP](#), established in 2006, serves as a communication and dialogue instrument between European political foundations and the institutions of the EU. It portrays itself as a bridgebuilder between politics and civil society. The network presently counts 51 member foundations from 22 countries (within the EU and candidate countries) The members are close to party families represented in the European Parliament, belonging to the democratic spectrum but independent in their decision making and financing of international projects.

[SDSN](#), operating since 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General, mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including the implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement. There are more than 200 SDSN members and several national and regional SDSNs (SDSN Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Mediterranean, Northern Europe, and Spain) active in almost all EU member states.

Joint call for action

The EU must act now on the 2030 Agenda to achieve sustainable development!

Brussels / Paris, 7 March 2019

The year 2019 marks a turning point for Europe with the upcoming EU Parliamentary elections, the formation of a new EU Commission and the next EU budget for the years 2021-2027. On the global level, unprecedented transformation is being called for to close the gap between our status quo and the trajectory needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), simultaneously with the Paris Climate Agreement.

In 2018, the European Network of Political Foundations (ENoP) and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) joined forces to work on this objective. In the EU, both networks bring together more than 50 political foundations associated with a broad range of party families, as well as more than 200 knowledge institutions.

As members of the European political (ENoP) and scientific (SDSN) communities, we recognise the urgency to solve the current global challenges. We have the shared responsibility to build on the momentum of the 2030 Agenda, to acknowledge and unfold its cohesive power for a sustainable future. We need to prove our ability as Europeans to act decisively both within the EU and globally.

This call for action builds on consultations within both networks and the input of the participants and speakers of our joint conference in October 2018 entitled "[The SDGs and the Future of Europe](#)". The conference brought together European experts from academia, politics, and the private sector who agreed on the urgent and crucial need for European leadership on the SDGs.

Therefore we, the members of the networks ENoP and SDSN,

- Call on the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Council, and all political parties to wholeheartedly embrace the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as an overarching framework to shape both internal and external EU policies in the current and upcoming legislature
- Reaffirm the commitment to promote the cooperation between our networks for a sustainable future of Europe
- Emphasize that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offers key pathways. We need to solve the pressing social, economic, and ecological challenges in Europe such as youth unemployment, social inequalities, and climate change.

In particular, we call on

- *All political parties* to integrate the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as a reference point in their campaign platforms for the European elections
- *The European Parliament* for leadership in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with its SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement

- *The European Council* for leadership and to build on its commitment for a comprehensive implementation strategy (European Council 18 October 2018; ([EUCO 13/18](#)))
- *The European Commission* to embrace the SDGs as a strategic framework for the EU and the guiding principles for the next Multiannual Financial Framework which covers the decisive period of 2021-2027.

Both ENoP and SDSN are committed to actively shape and inform the run-up to the European elections. You can learn more at www.enop.eu and www.unsdsn.org.

European Network of Political Foundations (ENoP)

The European Network of Political Foundations (ENoP) consists of 51 member foundations and three affiliated entities, coming from 22 countries within the EU. The members are ideologically close to six party families - ALDE, ECR, EPP, Greens/EFA, GUE/NGL, and S&D - represented in the European Parliament and belonging to the democratic spectrum. The Network also serves as a platform for political foundations in Europe to exchange with the EU institutions, civil society organisations (CSOs) and research institutes about democracy support, development cooperation and political dialogue.

Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) has been operating since 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General. SDSN mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement. Much of SDSN's work is led by its 31 National or Regional SDSNs, which mobilize more than 900 knowledge institutions around the SDGs. Several Thematic Networks mobilize experts from around the world on the technical challenges of implementing the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement.