

The External Dimension of Sustainable Development International Conference on the External Aspects of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy

Wednesday 28 January 2009, 9:30 – 17:30
Palais d'Egmont, Place du Petit Sablon -1000 Brussels

In June 2006 the European Council approved a renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS), extending and consolidating the strategy it had first adopted at its Gothenburg meeting in June 2001. One of the objectives of the SDS is to “actively promote sustainable development worldwide and ensure that the European Union’s internal and external policies are consistent with global sustainable development and its international commitments”. To this end, the SDS reiterated specific policy commitments to address global poverty and sustainable development challenges which the EU made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (2002) and announced various policy measures in areas such as energy and climate change, the management of natural resources, and sustainable production and consumption. While climate change is currently at the top of the political agenda, other external aspects of the SDS are not receiving the same level of policy attention.

In December 2009, the European Council will be reviewing progress in the implementation of the SDS and will agree on a ‘road map’ of priority actions for the following years. In order to contribute to this debate, the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), in cooperation with EGMONT, the Belgian Royal Institute for International Relations, is organising a conference in Brussels to bring together experts, officials and stakeholders from EU Member States and non-EU countries, in particular developing countries. The conference will discuss a number of EU policies of significant importance to global sustainable development, and assess the extent to which the Union is living up to the commitments made in the SDS. The conference is organised with the support of the Belgian Federal Departments of the Environment and Sustainable Development.

Programme

- 09.00 Welcome and registration
- 09.30 Opening by *Mr Raf Van Hellemont, Director General, EGMONT* and *Dr Marc Pallemarts, Senior Fellow, IEEP*
- 09.40 Keynote speech by *Mr Paul Magnette, Federal Minister of Climate and Energy of Belgium*

- 10.00 **Session 1: The link between climate change, finance for sustainable development and human and environmental security in developing countries and the adequacy of EU assistance to developing countries**
 Chair: *Mr Sami Andoura, EGMONT*
 Speakers: *Dr Marc Pallemarts, IEEP*
Dr Saleemul Huq, International Institute for Environment and Development, United Kingdom
Mr Romeo E. Matsas, EGMONT (to be confirmed)
 Debate
- 11.15 Coffee break
- 11.45 **Session 2: The impact of EU policies for the development and the use of biofuels on sustainable development in developing countries**
 Chair: *Mr David Baldock, IEEP*
 Speakers: *Ms Joana Chiavari / Ms Sirini Withana, IEEP*
Dr Helen Watson, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
 Debate
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 **Session 3: The impact of the Common Fisheries Policy on marine resources and sustainable livelihoods in developing countries**
 Chair: *Dr Indrani Lutchman, IEEP*
 Speakers: *Mr Koen Van den Bossche, IEEP*
Dr Ahmed Mahmoud Cherif, PECHECOPS, Mauritania
 Debate
- 15.15 Coffee break
- 15.45 **Session 4: The EU's use of natural resources and its impact on developing countries: the Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production and the proposed regulation of imports of illegally harvested timber**
 Chair: *Mr Roland Moreau, Director General, Federal Environment Department*
 Speakers: *Mr Kristof Geeraerts / Ms Camilla Adelle, IEEP*
Mr Chris Beeko, Forestry Commission, Ghana
 Debate
- 17.00 Concluding Remarks by *Mr David Baldock, Director, IEEP* and *Mr Raf Van Hellemont, Director General, EGMONT*

- REPLY COUPON -

Registration in advance is absolutely necessary, is free of charge, and can be faxed (02-223.41.16), sent (69 rue de Namur, B-1000 Brussels) or e-mailed (conferences@egmontinstitute.be) to EGMONT Institute **by Wednesday 21 January 2009.**

Name:

Title:

Organisation:

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