



‘Transforming Our Europe’

Action Plan 2018

**A contribution of ‘Europe Ambition 2030’¹
to strengthening the European Union**

through

‘EU governance innovation’

**Partnerships between State and non State Actors
to accelerate the implementation of
the Sustainable Development Goals
and the Paris Climate Agreement**

July 20th 2017

¹ An informal group of non state actors, public and private, for whom the UN Agenda 2030, titled “Transforming our World”, is the right framework of a ‘European transformation’ to make the EU more attractive to its citizens.

In response to the European Commission's White Paper ' *The Future of Europe* ', its five scenarios and follow up communications, the informal group *Europe Ambition 2030* is presenting an **Action Plan 2018** focused on governance and other related innovations to accelerate the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 '**Transforming Our World**' and the **Paris Climate Agreement**.

Without EU Treaty change this action plan 2018 could reconfigure the EU software to better serve and protect citizens, empower non state actors both in terms of democracy and market change, engage a new development cycle, secure resilience, encourage an ethic of care and enhance wellbeing, and develop new forms of international collaboration in an era of polyilateralism. As the transition towards sustainable societies will require the introduction of new forms of governance, encouraging social innovations and participatory democracy at all levels, combined with improved multi-level coordination to facilitate local experimentation is needed.

A major signal of EU governance adaptation should be the announcement by the European Council of December 2017 of a 2018 European Convention of Non State Actors and State Actors followed by an informal European Council with the objectives as proposed below, so that these initiatives would deliver their first results in order to be available prior the end of the Brexit negotiation and the European 2019 elections of the European Parliament and the President of the European Commission.

1. First half 2018. A European Convention of state and non-state actors of Europe (EU and non EU), champion of the SDGs and Climate agreements implementation .

The General Affairs Council unanimously adopted conclusions on the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030, including the SDSGs it contains, within the EU :The first paragraph reads: "*The Council underlines that sustainable development lies at the core of the European values and constitutes an overarching objective of the EU as set out in the Treaties*". Further in the text, the Council unanimously urges the Commission "*to elaborate, by mid-2018, an implementation strategy in all relevant EU internal and external policies*". The Council also calls on the Commission *to identify existing gaps in all relevant policy areas to assess what more needs to be done until 2030 in terms of EU policy, legislation, governance structure for horizontal coherence and means of implementation*". And it calls on the Commission to already now "*define a clear process for consideration of the SDGs and their integration in post-2020 policies, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders along the process*". The Commission seems to be unable to meet these expectations by mid-2018. So, time has come to 'innovate' and give to non State Actors the means to mobilise during the first half of 2018.

A "joint action plan of non-state and state actors in Europe" would be drafted in 2018 by a European Convention of non-state actors on Europe, champion of the SDGs and Climate agreements implementation. This 'joint action plan of non-state and state actors in Europe will be a major milestone in the shaping of the '*new social contract*' advocated in the report *Better Business-Better World*. 20.

2. Second half 2018. An informal European Council on Resilience and Transition, focused on the implementation of SDGs and the Climate Agreement.

The informal European Council 2018 would approve :

- an *European Sustainable Development roadmap to 2030* », , with, i.a.

- (i) indicators of the based on the 'New Development Model in Europe'
 - (ii) more ambitious targets that the UN 2015 agreement related to education (SDG4) poverty (SDG1), good health and well-being (SDG3 and inequities (SDG10)², food system and nutritious food for all (SDG2), environment and resource efficiency (SDGs13,14,15),
 - (iii) pathways and timelines for their achievement providing new tools for citizen participation in EU initiatives and for accountability, through the disclosure by all on SDGs impacts achieved.
 - (iv) a joint partnership action plan between State and non-State actors including a joint financial institutions and citizens action plan putting abundant capital to use behind the world's agreed values³.
- an offer to the UN to host in Europe in 2022 (Rio92+30) a Poly-lateralism Summit of State and Non State Actors Partnerships towards the implementation of SDGs.

As we have entered a new era – well described by the USA report 'Paradox of Progress' -where Heads of States partner with non state actors to implement a strategy to meet the objectives fixed by public authorities, outlined by the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement, representatives of non state actors would be invited .

On this basis, European SDG champions would act as 'ambassadors' of the EU potential to its citizens before the 2019 European elections.

These SDGs, they are not just by accident the goals we need to attain. None of them is impossible, none of them is a financial problem or a technological problem. But none of them will succeed if we do not create connections between every single one of them. The challenge humanity faces today, is to understand that this connectivity has reached a level never before reached in human history. We are in the fourth industrial revolution, and this industrial revolution will affect every single human being on this planet, whether we like this or not. Through governance and frankly redistribution too, we have a unique opportunity to make sure that we leave no one behind, wherever they are on this planet, and to do it in such a way, that it does no longer deplete the natural resources. This is the uniqueness of this fourth industrial revolution. We can get this right. We only have one chance of doing it. And the best chance of doing it is by all of us sticking to these 17 goals . Then we can do it. The downside of that, is that if we miss that opportunity, the few will be richer, the many will be poorer, and our planet will no longer be able to carry us all. So if I have a message today, then it is : it is feasible, it is exciting, it is urgent.

Commission Vice-President Timmermans. 7th June 2017.

² Où va le monde ? (*where is the world going ?*)Pascal Lamy and Nicole Guesotto. Ed O. Jacob 2017.

³ Opening the SDG Financing Lab on 18 April 2017, in New York, US, UNGA President PeterThomson said financing the SDGs will require US\$6 trillion per year, or US\$90 trillion over 15 years, while the cost of inaction would be far greater. He said the private sector must orient its actions and investments in the direction of these needs, and that this work has begun but must be scaled up. He added that in only four sectors – food and agriculture, cities, energy and resources, and health and well-being – investors could find a US\$12 trillion opportunity.