

Panel Series

Rethinking Well-being - How to Keep Europe on the Sustainability Track

hosted by MEPs Rebecca Harms, Jo Leinen and Sirpa Pietikäinen

organized by the Bertelsmann Stiftung and the World Future Council

1. Key Information

Dates: Panel I on 13 January 2010 (19h00 - 22h00)
Panel II on 3 February 2010 (18h30 - 21h00)
Panel III on 23 February 2010 (18h30 - 21h00)

Canapés and drinks served at the beginning and during each seminar;
Panel discussions will start approximately 30 minutes after announced time

Venue: European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60, 1000 Brussels

Format: Interactive panel discussion

***We cannot solve problems by using the same kind of thinking
we used when we created them***

(Albert Einstein)

Assuming that today's triple crisis of climate, poverty and finance was mainly caused by the current practiced approach of economic growth as *the* producer of global welfare (*Washington Consensus*), it becomes urgent to find different answers.

Following the quote above, this panel series highlights the necessity for a theoretical and practical paradigm shift towards a more sustainable economic system and aims at developing recommendations for upcoming EU policy processes, especially the development of a *post-Lisbon Strategy*, the revision of the *EU Sustainability Development Strategy* as well as the *Beyond GDP* and *TEEB* processes.

We hope that the panel debates encourage participating decision-makers from EU institutions, governments, media, industry and civil society to actively engage in these EU policy processes to shape a true sustainable future for Europe and the world.

We provide relevant documents, briefing papers and brochures at the events and on our Internet sites as additional support for participants.

Content and structure of the panel series

Panel I on 13 January 2010

***Striving for a Living Economy:
How to shift the traditional growth paradigm towards
well-being of humans and our planet***

Panellists

- Olivier Giscard d'Estaing (Founding Director, INSEAD Fontainebleau)
- Tim Jackson (Author of "Prosperity without Growth")
- Jakob von Weizsäcker (Research Fellow, BRUEGEL Institute)

Panel I will provide the theoretical basis for the following two seminars. The panellists will contrast the current development model of the *Washington Consensus* with alternative models such as the *Living Economies Model*. They will critically review both ideas and discuss their suitability to turn economics into a means towards higher ends (well-being of humans and the environment).

Panel II on 3 February 2010

***Coming to Grips:
How to capture and assess sustainable development in a changing world***

Panellists

- Henrik Brinkmann (Project Manager, Programme Good Governance, Bertelsmann Stiftung)
- Willy de Backer (Global Footprint Network; Independent Energy, Environment & Ecological Economics journalist)
- Enrico Giovannini (President, Italian Statistical Institute, Member of the Stiglitz Commission)
- Raoul Weiler (President, Brussels EU Chapter, Club of Rome)
- Anders Wijkman (former MEP, Chair of CEPS Task Force "A green budget for a sustainable future")

Panel II will focus on potential ways to implement a new paradigm called “Living Economies” examining various proposals aiming to improve sustainable development indicators and policy instruments. The panellists will present and discuss current initiatives and latest tools, namely

- Beyond GDP Process
- European Sustainable Development Scoreboard
- Sustainable Impact Assessment
- OECD Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies
- The “Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress” - a commission of experts founded at the behest of French President Sarkozy and chaired by Joseph Stiglitz and Amartya Sen.

Panel III on 23 February 2010

Cutting the Edge: How to realign the EU Sustainable Development Strategy

Panellists

- Carlos Bastarreche Sagües (Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Spain to the EU)
- Jo Leinen (MEP, Chairman of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, European Parliament)
- Conny Reuter (President, Social Platform)

Based on the findings and results of the two previous seminars, Panel III will assess suggested structures of and ideas for a future EU Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS). Panellists will debate ways to dovetail the EU’s future growth and jobs strategy (“post-Lisbon strategy”) and the EU Sustainable Development Strategy. A main question will be how the EU SDS can best contribute to a rapid shift to a low-carbon economy including a sustainable consumption pattern.