**Make Europe the World Leader of Sustainable Development:
A Unique Opportunity to Build a Stronger European Union**

Memorandum to the EU Institutions. September 2019.

System Leadership for "Transformational Change" : 7 Pilot Enhanced Partnerships

Each Commissioner will ensure the delivery of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals within their policy area. The College as a whole will be responsible for the overall implementation of the Goals. Europe Ambition 2030 salutes the president of the Commission, Ms von der Leyen decision, as a major step forward. But we should not be mistaken.

As '*Climate action and sustainable development are inseparable'*[1], and on the current path, the world will only achieve 10 of the 17 SDGs by 2030 at the expense of pushing 8 of the 9 *planet boundaries* out of their safe zones with the situation worsening to 2050 and beyond[2] to be the global leader of the '*Sustainability 2030 Agenda'*, contributing to a "*safe operating zone for humanity*" and a global civilizational transformation (while, by doing so, building a stronger Europe facing Brexit, populism, nationalism, illiberal democracies) requires major governance changes to create democratic political order in an era of empowered individuals and rapidly changing economies.

Governance changes is an urgent need not limited to the European Commission but which concerns all EU Institutions and all interested parties. This is why this memorandum proposes 'a system leadership' to be developed with the participation of all EU Institutions and interested parties to implement the *transformational change* in society and in the economy needed to :

- address multifaceted global issues of which in particular the major global environmental challenges, apply appropriate transformative technologies and make Europe more resilient
- *reduce inequalities* by developing and implementing "*A Just Transition*" built around our fundamental capacity for altruism and cooperation and transforming the existing economic and financial operational models generating these inequalities.
- complement multilateralism – in crisis- with *polylateralism,* involving all interested parties at all levels in order to become much more effective in bringing about the large scale transformative change in the economy and in finance an in our current unsustainable production- and consumption patterns, with broad benefits to society and its citizens.
- demonstrate "*power in outcome*," by mobilizing large-scale constituencies in support of the opportunities for large scale transformative change[3]
- bring again *public happiness* in Europe by having Europeans joining partnerships and aligning the environmental, finance- and digital revolutions for the public good in support to *Agenda 2030.*

Smarter-transformational Change and Governance Innovation for a Leap Forward

- **System Leadership and Multi-Stakeholders Partnerships** fostering cross sectoral collaboration, channeling knowledge, expertise, innovation and public and private financial resources. *A System leadership initiative'* build upon 'unconventional alliances' between the members of the European Institutions on the one hand and other strategic actors who are :

---

[1] *IPCC Chair Dr. Hoesung Lee*
[2] How to achieve the SDGs within planet boundaries. Stockholm Resilience Centre and the Norwegian Business School. October 2018.
[3] Paradox of Progress – National Intelligence Council – USA – January 2017.
www.dni.gov/nic/globaltrends

a. 'non-hierarchical powers subject to governments' but key for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs and climate agreements (such as parliaments, central banks),
   b. platforms to provide the Heads of States and Governments with 'new perspectives' (such as IPCC and similar initiatives, as well as IUCN),
   c. autonomous structures key for implementing agreements, innovate and scale up (such as private financial institutions, enterprises, civil society)
   d. actors representing major global and regional partners (such as the United Nations, the UfM, the African Union)

- **Systemic change along the value chain** supported by the tools of the digital revolution securing empowerment, accountability, trust.
- **Transformational policy change** in order to achieve near full success of SDGs within planet boundaries, securing that *no one should be left behind*, starting with a *smart regulation to secure mandatory risk assessment in the public interest* at EU (new CAP) and territorial levels (attached to access to the structural funds) .

7 System Leadership Initiatives for an EU Systemic Strategy based on "polylateralism" and multi-stakeholder partnerships (SDG 17). Each EU Institution would facilitate a pilot multi-stakeholder process.

1. **Annual EU Enhanced Partnership Summit** hosted by the President of the European Council with the participation of leaders of EU Institutions and Member States to co-ordinate the 'enhanced partnership'. The Annual EU Enhanced Partnership Summit should be the place to lead and report back the results obtained and challenges faced by the 6 other initiatives. In addition, the Annual EU Summit would be also the place where other initiatives could be created in new strategic areas (a laboratory proposed to be hosted by DG Communication of the **European Council**)
2. **Sustainable Finance Alliance** (60 platforms and networks for a laboratory proposed to be hosted by the **European Central Bank** or the Network of Central Banks)
3. **A "*farm to fork*" partnership** linked with a new Common Agricultural Policy (60 bn euro) building a new approach to food security, biodiversity, circular economy, water, desertification, land use (a laboratory proposed to be hosted by the **European Commission** and the European Innovation Partnerships on Sustainable Food and Water**)**
4. **Geopolitical Commission and Enhanced International Partnerships** to craft new patterns or architectures of international multi-stakeholders cooperation (a laboratory preparing pilots related to Africa land degradation and food, Med and migration, Mercosur and biodiversity, Oceans and resources – proposed to be hosted by **the High Commissioner for External Relations and Commissioners for International Partnerships and Oceans**)
5. **European Youth Initiative for Climate for power in outcome in support to a climate neutral EU by 2050** (May 2020 youth gathering hosted by **the European Parliament**)
6. **Green Deal and Resilient and Flourishing Territories** managing climate risks and finding business opportunities in the implementation of the SDGs in four systems – food, cities, energy and health[4] (a laboratory proposed to be hosted by the **Committee of Regions and** the Covenant of Mayors)
7. **An Eco-system of Blockchains for SDGs and the Social Good**, with its Observatory to improve monitoring, reporting, verification including in the field of finance[5] (a laboratory proposed to be hosted by the **European Economic and Social Committee**).

---

[4] Business & Sustainable Development Commission

[5] EPE& RFI have launched an initiative on blockchain and sustainable finance : CDIT.