



## HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE

### On track to 2030? Delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals in the EU

The European Commissioner for Economy Paolo Gentiloni and the Belgian Federal Minister of Climate, Environment, Sustainable Development and Green Deal Zakia Khattabi are co-organizing a high-level conference on the theme *'On Track to 2030? Delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals in the EU'*. The conference will take place on 18 June 2024 at the Royal Belgian Library in Brussels. Her Majesty Queen Mathilde will give opening remarks.

The aim of the event, which will coincide with the **publication of the Eurostat SDG monitoring report**, is to review the progress made toward the SDGs during the current Commission's mandate as well as the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU. The European Commission presented its **first-ever EU Voluntary Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and **integrated the SDGs into its cycle of economic policy coordination** known as the European Semester. Belgium has also submitted its **Voluntary National Review** and **further integrated the SDGs into federal policy formulation**.

The event also aims to identify **areas where more progress is needed** ahead of the next legislature and the UN Summit of the Future. It seeks to galvanise the support of political actors across all levels of governance to commit to full implementation of the SDGs in this decade of action.

While the EU has made progress on most of the SDGs, a sequence of external shocks strained the post-pandemic recovery and slowed progress on sustainable development. Globally, the picture has been even more challenging, with more efforts needed to help our international partners make the SDGs a reality.

The conference will bring together **high-level representatives of EU and international institutions, national governments, influential academics, civil society, business and opinion leaders** in a true whole-of-government approach, to discuss the progress made so far and key policy priorities and challenges ahead. It aims to attract 200 participants in person and many more online.

The event will focus on the cross-cutting themes of **measuring progress toward the SDGs, unlocking the wellbeing economy, and realising the SDGs globally amid the setbacks**.

The conference will consist of a high-level opening session, an engaging opening lecture, three conversation-style panel sessions, and a closing address. It will also feature a networking lunch and a closing reception. The conference will be in English.

## DRAFT AGENDA

9:00-9:30		<b>Welcome coffee</b>
9:30-9:35		<b>Welcome remarks by moderator Maithreyi Seetharaman</b>
Opening keynotes 9:30-10:05	9:35-9:45 9:45-9:55 9:55-10:05	<b>Her Majesty Queen Mathilde</b> <b>Paolo Gentiloni</b> , European Commissioner for Economy <b>Zakia Khattabi</b> , Belgian Federal Minister of Climate, Environment, Sustainable Development and Green Deal
Special Session 10:05-10:35		<b>Opening lecture by Sandrine Dixson-Declève</b> , Co-President of the Club of Rome:  <i>“Sustainable Development Goals for all”</i>
10:35-10:50		<b>Coffee break</b>
Session 1 10:50-12:00		<b>Mind the gap to the SDGs: The experience of the EU Voluntary Review</b>  <i>The panellists will discuss their experience with the preparation of the EU Voluntary Review, the importance of measuring the distance to goals, and main obstacles to advancing faster.</i>  1) Scene setter by guest speaker: <b>Enrico Giovannini</b> , economist and former Minister (10 minutes)  2) Moderated panel with speakers (40 minutes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Petros Kokkalis</b>, MEP</li><li>• <b>Camilla Brückner</b>, Director of UN/UNDP Brussels Office</li><li>• <b>Mariana Kotzeva</b>, Director-General of Eurostat</li></ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maria Rodriguez Alcazar</b>, European Youth Forum President</li> </ul> <p>3) Q&amp;A (20 minutes)</p>
12:00-13:30		<b>Networking lunch</b>
Session 2 13:30-14:40		<p><b>Realising the SDGs globally amid the setbacks</b></p> <p><i>The panellists will discuss their experience with the advancement of the SDGs globally amid the complicated global context and what the EU and international institutions can do to help advance the SDGs around the world in this decade of action.</i></p> <p>1) Scene setter by guest speaker: <b>Jo Swinnen</b>, economist and professor (10 minutes)</p> <p>2) Moderated panel with speakers (40 minutes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Koen Doens</b>, Director-General of DG International Partnerships</li> <li>• <b>Carsten Staur</b>, Chair of OECD Development Assistance Committee</li> <li>• <b>Guillaume Lafortune</b>: Vice President and Head of Paris Office at the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network</li> </ul> <p>3) Q&amp;A (20 minutes)</p>
14:40-15:10		<b>Coffee break</b>
Session 3 15:10-16:20		<p><b>Follow the money: Unlocking the wellbeing economy</b></p> <p><i>The panellists will discuss their experience with the integration of the SDGs into national and European</i></p>

		<p><i>policy-making, and the budgetary frameworks and investments needed to realise the economy of wellbeing.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Scene setter by guest speaker: <b>Prof Phoebe Koundouri</b>, economist and author (10 minutes)</li> <li>2) Moderated panel with speakers (40 minutes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Irene Tinagli</b>, MEP</li> <li>• <b>Mark Bowman</b>, Vice President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Policy and Partnerships</li> <li>• <b>Maarten Verwey</b>, Director-General of DG ECFIN</li> </ul> </li> <li>3) Q&amp;A (20 minutes)</li> </ol>
Closing 16:20-16:30		<b>Closing speech</b> by <b>Virginijus Sinkevičius</b> , European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries
		<b>Closing reception</b>