



# **2020 Europe Sustainable Development Report (ESDR)**

## **High-Level Virtual Launch Event**

**Tuesday, December 8, 2020**

**3:00 pm CET**

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) are launching the 2020 edition of the Europe Sustainable Development Report 2020 at a high-level virtual launch event.

The Covid-19 pandemic and its socio-economic impacts have affected European unity as well as international cooperation and pose a significant challenge for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Climate Agreement and the European Green Deal. At the same time, the SDGs are now more important than ever as they provide the sound and promising framework to guide the European response to the crisis triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Next Generation EU recovery package as well as the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF 2021-2027) offer the chance to put Europe's recovery and future on a sustainable path. The "Super Year" 2021 will provide opportunities for the EU and its member states to play a leadership role in sustainable development and streamline the SDGs and Paris Climate Agreement in their policies as well as promote their actions for sustainability at international events, including the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as well as the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and G20 meetings.

Building on its well-received first edition 2019, the Europe Sustainable Development Report 2020 provides an updated SDG Index and Dashboards for the EU and its member states as well as recommendations to strengthen the implementation of the SDGs and European Green Deal in Europe and abroad.

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## AGENDA

- 15h00: **Welcome & Introduction** (Moderator: Conny Czymoch)
- 15h05: **Remarks by Parliamentary State-Secretaries of BMU and BMZ on behalf of the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union**
  - *Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter* (Parliamentary State Secretary; German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety)
  - *Dr. Maria Flachsbarth* (Parliamentary State Secretary, German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation)
- 15h15: **Presentation of the 2020 European Sustainable Development Report (ESDR)**
  - *Guillaume Lafortune* (Director, SDSN Paris)
  - *Céline Charveriat* (Executive Director, IEEP)
- 15h30: **Panel Discussion**
  - *Heidi Hautala* (Member and Vice-President of the European Parliament)
  - *Ester Asin* (Director, WWF European Policy Office)
  - *Prof. Dr. Anna-Katharina Hornidge* (Director, German Development Institute & Co-Chair, SDSN Germany)
  - *Peter Schmidt* (President, Section for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment, EESC)
- 16h00: **Q&A**
- 16h20: **Closing remarks**
  - *Prof. Jeffrey Sachs* (President, SDSN)