

A Blueprint for a Social and Green Deal

Follow-up Event of the Beyond Growth Conference

7 December 2023 - 19:00-22:00

European Parliament, room JAN 6Q2

-Conference brief-

In a nutshell

Conference title: A Blueprint for a Social and Green Deal.

Organisers: MEP Philippe Lamberts with the support of MEPs co-organisers of the Beyond Growth 2023 Conference (BGC) from 5 different political groups and non-attached. The event is also supported by a number of BGC partner organisations (see list below).

Participants: upon invitation only - all partners, speakers and institutional actors linked to the BGC.

Web streaming: the conference will be livestreamed on the [BGC website](#) for all other participants (no registration necessary).

Date: 7 December 2023, 19:00 - 21:00, followed by a reception until 22:00.

Place: Room JAN 6Q2, ANTALL Building, European Parliament (Brussels site).

Reception: Catering space in the 3rd floor of the ANTALL Building.

Expected audience: 265 people on site, 500 online.

Price: The conference is free of charge.

Coordinator :

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Conference Background

The [Beyond Growth 2023 Conference](#) organized by the 20 MEPs from five different political groups and non-attached in the European Parliament in May 2023 marked a turning point in the battle of ideas around post-growth. A large, enthusiastic and diverse community has gathered in the forum of European democracy to bear witness to the considerable progress made by the scientific world and civil society over the last decade in moving beyond the economic models inherited from the 20th century, which are still at the heart of European policymaking.

With ecological crises accelerating before our eyes, as is the evidence of the limits of economic models based on economic growth and their impact on the environment in which citizens are living, it is clear that the Beyond Growth conference cannot be an end in itself, or simply the prologue to a new conference in 5 years' time. Instead, it must be understood as an invitation to engage further in discussions on EU policy-making, building on what already exists to improve it.

Looking ahead to the next European elections and the next Commission's work programme, this conference therefore aims to focus on how to turn the EU's flagship initiative, the European Green Deal, into a European Social and Green Deal.

Towards a Social and Green Deal

The European Green Deal is now completing its first, political, cycle: since December 2019, a significant number of measures have been adopted, sometimes painfully, sometimes disappointingly, and much remains to be done. Building on what has been achieved and recognising that this flagship package has no equivalent in the world, many now call for the launch of a second political cycle - a social cycle - in the development of the Green Deal, as it is considered ill equipped to address the interlinks between the ecological imperative and the reduction of socio-economic inequalities.

Three main challenges and limitations are generally put forward by critics. First, the European Green Deal relies on a green growth-centered approach which unrealistically assumes that it is possible to simultaneously sustain economic growth while improving environmental sustainability and social justice. Second, its 'just transition' perspective is too narrowly defined, marked by a social investment focus, with insufficient financial volume available for support. As such, it rests on a corrective logic designed to compensate for the effects of the green transition, does not challenge industrial labour relations, and risks reproducing or renewing social inequalities within the EU and with the rest of the world. Third, its industrial agenda remains centred on cost-competitiveness and its 'Better Regulation' agenda, fails to make EU funding conditional on social, environmental and financial requirements, and to promote the creation of quality jobs, fair working conditions and collective bargaining.

The organisers therefore seek to discuss the shortcomings of the social dimension of the Green Deal, and to focus on the steps required to build a more ambitious, more integrated and more effective strategy to the social-ecological transition in Europe. With the help of leading decision-makers, scholars, trade unionists and civil society actors, the conference aims to explore in particular which institutions, policy mix, financial resources, governance mechanisms and actors can help design a blueprint for a Social and Green Deal.

Speakers

Chair

Philippe Lamberts - MEP and Co-President (Greens/EFA), Beyond Growth Conference organiser

Keynote

Éloi Laurent - Senior Economist at OFCE, Sciences Po Centre for Economic Research (Paris)

Panel

Yolanda Díaz - Second Vice-President and Minister of Labour and Social Economy of Spain, representing the Spanish Presidency of the EU (tbc)

Alain Maron - Minister of Climate Transition, Environment, Energy, Public Hygiene, Social Action and Health for the Region of Brussels, representing the Belgian Presidency of the EU (tbc)

Judith Kirton-Darling - Deputy General Secretary of IndustriAll European Trade Union

Laura de Bonfils - Secretary General at Social Platform

Closing remarks

Agata Meysner - Director at Generation Climate Europe (tbc)

Organisers

This conference is organised by MEP Lamberts, supported by the 19 other Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from five different political groups and non-attached who organised the Beyond Growth 2023 conference last May. It is also supported by BGC partner organisations (see the list below).



Philippe LAMBERTS (BE)



Bas EICKHOUT (NL)



Ville NIINISTÖ (FI)



Manuela RIPA (DE)



Marie TOUSSAINT (FR)



Ernest URTASUN (ES)



Kim V. SPARRENTAK (NL)



Pascal ARIMONT (BE)



Sirpa PIETIKÄINEN (FI)



Maria WALSH (IE)



Pascal DURAND (FR)



Aurore LALUCQ (FR)



Pierre LARROUTOUROU (FR)



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Martin HOJSÍK (SK)



Manon AUBRY (FR)



Petros KOKKALIS (GR)



Marisa MATIAS (PT)



Helmut SCHOLZ (DE)



Dino GIARUSSO (IT)

Supporting partners (final list to be added)



