

Report from working group "Sustainable Development"

Our Vision on Sustainable Development

In 10 years from now our Europe has increased and strengthened its leading role in the sphere of Sustainable Development. This has not happened without us, this has happened with us, the youth of Europe. Sustainable Development is something that concerns us all, but especially the youth. We should be involved in the decisions, as these are decisions are the foundations for our future.

When considering some of the different topics, we have the following to say about our future

Energy situation

Our energy production consists of 35% by clean energy sources, preferably produced within the EU itself.

Our energy demands have decreased by 30% of what was produced in 2006.

The Kyoto Protocol has been followed up by the (Washington) Protocol with 30% decrease (in respect to the 1990 level) of emissions for the EU as a whole by 2020

World relations

EU agricultural subsidies are more environmentally and socially justifiable, leading to an increase in organic farming and better chances for farmers in underdeveloped countries to supply their own and the European market

Countries which entered the EU before 2002 will invest 0,7 % of their GNI in development aid.

Countries which entered the EU after 2002 will invest 0,35 % of their GNI in development aid.

Furthermore, the EU has the power to lay down sanctions on countries that do not meet these duties mentioned above.

Animal rights

Reform of the CAP so that it will focus more on the welfare of animals and not the production of surplus food.

Recycling products

EU wide environmental policy on all products produced in the EU or entering the EU (Life Cycle Assessments), from cradle to grave.

High percentage of recycled material is being produced and used.

Strict adherence to the Polluters Pay principle is kept (even if it has increased the price of some products).

The waste hierarchy is used as much as possible within the EU.

Sustainable Transport

A kerosene tax for all intra-EU flights.

This combined with financial support for train, bus and boat, greatly reducing the amount of short intra-EU flights.

Furthermore, the EU has the leading role in the international kerosene tax debate.

Labeling products

A compulsory labelling system for all products that inform the consumer about the environmental (e.g. chemicals used) and social aspects (e.g. child labour) of that product, with provisions so that the EU can ban the most unfriendly products.

Gender equality

Free day care centres present all over Europe, so both men and women can chose their own future. Providing schooling for women, both within the EU and outside. Providing information on birth control and sexually transmitted deceases, both within the EU and outside.

However, our Vision on Sustainable development might not be the preffered vision for all the youth in Europe. There are many dilemmas hidden, and there are many more dilemmas that we can identify.

Here are a few of them...

Dumping problems

Most of our farmers survive on EU subsidies so they can export their products to other countries, both developed and underdeveloped countries. However, this creates many problems for farmers in underdeveloped countries, as we are destroying their market and are forcing them to produce as cheap as possible, resulting in the burning down of tropical forests.

Nuclear energy

In recent years, the debate in Europe on the future of energy has been focusing on climate change, nuclear energy, renewable energy sources and our dependence on other non-EU countries for (fossil) fuels. On the one hand, there is a growing realisation that the EU needs to develop a strategy based on more non-fossil fuels (nuclear and renewable energy sources). On the other hand, this strategy cannot bring changes overnight; it would be impossible to switch to non-fossil fuel sources within the next 50-100 years.

Emmission targets

0,7

Sanctions on countries that do not commit themselves to development aid.

Labelling