



The EU's strategic SD frameworks in response to the international SD agenda: What is the impact on SD governance and Greening the European Semester?

ESDN Conference, 06-07.11.2014, Rome Louis Meuleman DG ENV – 06.11.2014

SD & the Europe 2020 Strategy





- EU2020's triple strategy: Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive growth
- EU2020 -> Flagship Initiatives -> Roadmaps -> Communications -> also legal proposals
- Monitoring & reporting process: European Semester
- EU2020 does not replace completely the 2006 SDS, but opinions differ about what to do

Positive developments in 2013/14



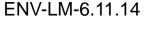


New policy guidance:

- 7th Environmental Action Programme
- Circular economy Communication
- Waste Package
- Green action for plan SMEs Communication
- Sustainable Buildings Communication
- Stock-taking Communication Europe 2020 review
- Communication on the SDGs

IT Presidency:

- 1st informal meeting labour & environment Ministers (17.07.2014, Milano)
- ENV Council conclusions on greening Semester and EU2020 review (28.10.2014)



Commission Juncker: What can be expected?





- "I strongly believe in the potential of green growth" (Juncker, 15.07.2014)
- New coordination point for SD (1st VP Frans Timmermans)

The EU and the 2015 SDGs



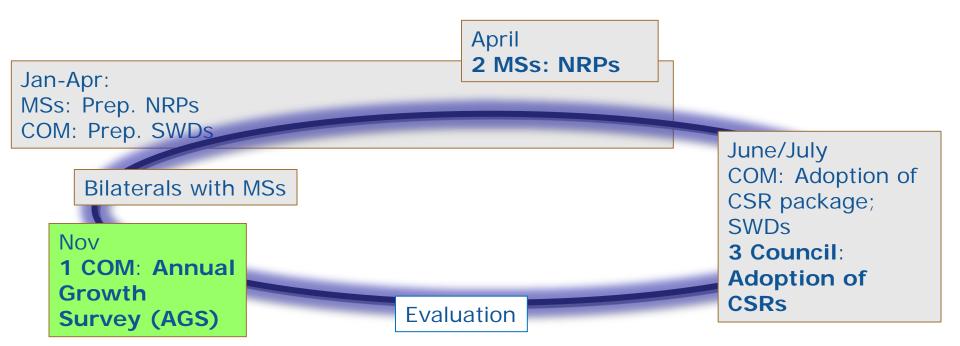


- Communication Spring 2014
- OWG proposed SDGs
- Joint Council several council formations (Dec)
- New Communication in preparation on Global Partnership: Means of implementation, monitoring, review and accountability
- Elements e.g.: sound regulatory environments, sustainable investments, financial management, policy coherence, capacity building and exchange of knowledge
- At EU level possible to link to the **European Semester**? ENV-LM-6.11.14

The European Semester; Main steps





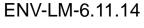


AGS = Annual Growth Strategy

CSR= Country Specific Recommendation

NRP= National Reform Programme

SWD= (Comm.) Staff Working Document

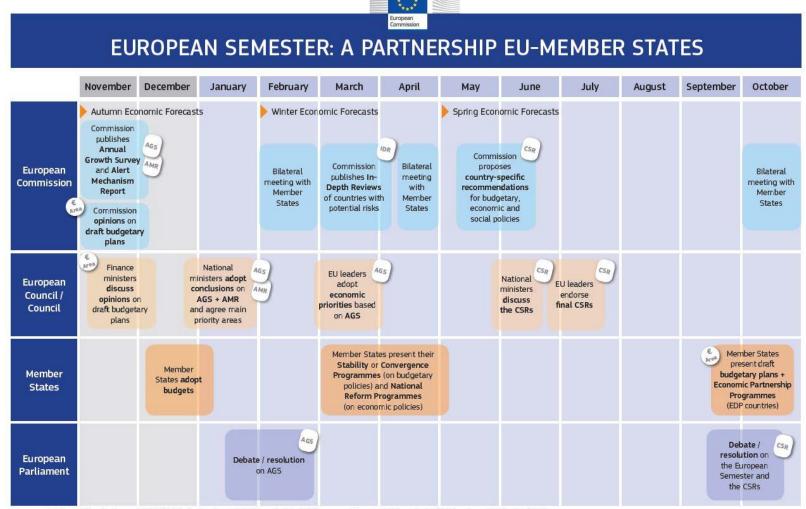


Semester as (part of) monitoring and implementation of SDGs in the EU?



European Commission

EU2020 multilevel monitoring, reporting; soft and hard measures



Greening the Semester



 Objective: Support transition to green economy: Tackling resource challenges and dependency of imports, creating green and other jobs, while creating a healthier and cleaner environment.

Why?

- Economic rationale: The opportunity costs of not starting this process of greening may be huge, and there are substantial short and longer term benefits.
- Political rationale: 7th EAP: integrate the relevant elements of 7th EAP (incl. circular economy and resource efficiency) in the Semester
- How? (1) better data, (2) better alliances, (3) policy coherence
- Who? All actors involved in SD & env/econ/social governance
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Three priorities (from environment perspective):

Env Tax Reform/phase out EHS Tax shift labour-> resources



Circ.ec / Res.Eff waste etc

Skills and jobs

Results of the 2014 Semester in terms of SWD & CSR environmental references



SWDs 2014: country-specific analysis

Environment in the 2014 SWDs per topic							
Number of references	2013 SWD	2014 SWD	Δ	Δ%	Did we have better data?		
Environmental taxation	18	22	4	22%	new study EFR 12 MSs		
Waste	17	20	3	18%	updates existing data		
Air pollution	5	17	12	240%	air quality review IA data		
Env. harmful subsidies	8	13	5	63%	new study EFR 12 MSs		
Traffic congestion & transport	4	12	8	200%	link with air pollution		
Circular economy/Res.efficiency	6	12	6	100%			
Floods	0	11	11	new	new study floods		
Water	7	11	4	57%	new study water/economy		
Impact assessments	2	6	4	200%	Indirect relevance for env		
SME resource efficiency	2	4	2	new	new study SMEs		
Other topics	7	10	3				
Total nr of references:	76	138	62				
Increase ENV ref. 2013->2014:				82%			

EC ENV LM 18.09.2014

Results of the 2014 Semester in terms of SWD and CSR environmental references.



CSRs 2014:

Countryspecific political assessment

CSRs with environmental topics (one CSR may have more than 1 ENV topic							
	Adopted 2013		Adopted 2014				
Waste management	BG, EE, PL	3	PL	1			
Water management	BG, PL	2		0			
Flood protection		0		0			
Environment taxation	BE, CZ, ES, FR,	10	BE, CZ, ES, IE, FR,	10			
	HU, IT, LT, LU,		HU, IT, LT, LU, LV				
	LV, RO						
Environmentally harmful		0	BE, FR, IT	3			
subsidies							
Transport/congestion	MT	1	BE, EE	2			
incl./or air pollution							
		16		16			

CSRs on the Climate & Energy headline targets, related to environment:

	Adopted 2013		Adopted 2014	
Non-ETS GHG reductions	BE, LU	2	BE, LU	2
Energy efficiency	BG, CZ, EE, FI,		BG, CZ, EE, ES, FR,	11
	LT, LV, MT, PL,		HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, LU	
	SK	9		
Renewable energy	DE, MT, UK	3	DE, MT, UK	3
Energy infrastructures	BG, DE, EE, IT,		BG, DE, EE, IT, LT, LV,	10
	LT, LV, MT, PL,		PL, PT, RO, SK	
	RO, SK	10		
		24		26

Greening the Semester





SDG implementation and Semester



Questions for discussion:

 What are the pros and cons of integrating SDG implementation for EU MSs with the European Semester process of governance?

Pro:

- Not invent the wheel,
- Efficient,
- Integrated with the macro-economic agenda,
- Policy coherence between SGDs and EU2020
- Boost transformational agenda towards green economy

Contra: Risk of watering down? How to keep focus? Additional structures needed?

 What can be used at global SDG implementation level from EU experiences with Semester as multilevel/actor/sector/scalangovernance process?







Thank you for your attention!

Website Greening the European Semester with studies and information on the meetings of the Expert Group Greening the Semester:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/green_semester/index_en.htm