



EPE as a pathfinder :

EPE was launched in 1994 (Bylaws art1) to promote 'shared responsibility' linked with a Sustainable Development Action Plan and has been promoting dialogue , engineering multi-stakeholders partnerships related to environmental issues contributing to sustainable development.

Raymond Van Ermen, as EEB Secretary General, has been one of the co-founders in 1994. Initially Board member he became Executive Director in 1996, then Advisor to the President before becoming again Executive Director ad interim in 2020.

Honorary President :
Ms. Geraldine Walsh

Presidents

Mr. Claude Fussler
Mr. Peter Hindle
Mr. Bart jan Krouwel
Mr. Robin Edme
Mr. Tom Vereijken
Ms. Geraldine Walsh
Ms. Dasa Silovic

The EPE Presidents were received by :

- The President of the European Commission, Romano Prodi
- The President of the French Republic, Jacques Chirac
- The Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Commissioners who addressed EPE Conferences were MM Pascal Lamy (Trade), Janez Potocnick (Environment), Michel Barnier (Finance)

EPE President Tom Vereijken was member of the High Level Group of the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials.

Table of content :

1. EPE and the Networked Knowledge Society
 - Multi-stakeholder partnerships
 - Innovative partnerships
 - EU Renaissance & Objectives 2020,
2. EPE & the Green Revolution
 - Eco-efficiency
 - Resource efficiency
 - Circular economy
 - Raw Materials
 - Global deal for climate :4 Market leverages (2008).
 - Buildings retrofit : Trainrebuild & Abracadabra
3. EPE & the Inclusive and Sustainable Finance Revolution
 - Green finance and Eco-innovation
 - Fundetec
 - Value Base Investors and the SDGs
4. EPE & the digital revolution
 - Blockchain and finance
 - Blockchain and the SDGs
5. Europe in the World
 - Rio92+10
 - Rio92+20
 - Sustainable Trade – STIC

- Foreign Direct Investment -Asia
6. Europe Ambition 2030.

EPE and the Networked Knowledge Society

With the 'globalisation' and the era of an information society supported progressively along the years by new digital tools as website, e-mails, blockchains, an effect of co-operative behavior, related to the interaction of all people in the world, has been leading to new 'empowerment' issues.

As Peter Johnson¹ noted *increasing the intensity of networking around the world, through enabling people to sustain more links will have a positive impact on social capital, social cohesion, economic stability and equity*. Accelerating the transition to greater resource-efficiency (the resource efficiency alliance, the circular economy) energy-efficiency (buildings retrofit), water management (European Water Partnership, The Nitrates) and accelerated development of knowledge-based services (supply chain and green purchasing).

EPE has not focused on 'laws, regulations, taxes' but on governance, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and citizens empowerment tools in an information society linked with market leverages, Along the years EPE aim has been to move from dialogue to alliances and actions in order to accelerate the transition towards sustainable development.

In 2004, the EPE celebrated its 10th anniversary with a message of its President, Bart Jan Krouwel (Rabobank) titled *Collective Leadership for Partnership Building*.

¹ DG Information Society.

Engineering Multi-stakeholder Partnership, a fast track towards sustainability

- Joining forces to unlock the sustainability potential
- Accelerating the transition towards sustainability
- Collective leadership for partnership building
- 7 Revolutions for prosperity and health.

Business and multi-stakeholder partnership: EPE's Council has shaped along the years an agenda which addresses business and society joint concerns :

- Competitiveness and innovation
- Trust and confidence
- New processes, products and services
- Purchasing policies
- Focus on specific products, services (textile, food, electronics, forestry and tourism)
- Focus on financial instruments.

Renaissance Europe 2005-2010 Synergies in a networked knowledge society

An alliance of Change Agents for a Progressive, Entreprising and Sustainable Europe in a Multi-Polar Global Alliance for a Well-Being Society

- hosted its conference '*A Second Renaissance for Europe, empowering European change agents*' (European Parliament-June 2003)
 - released the report *The Metamorphosis of Europe and the Well-Being Society a new horizon for Europe, 2004-2015.*
 - Met in Montecatini (Italy) at the EMI invitation
 - Met in Budapest (Hungary) Redesigning Europe in the Third Millennium, (May 2004)

System leadership for transformational change requires to address together three revolutions : the green revolution, the inclusive and sustainable finance revolution and the digital revolution. EPE investigates initiatives to be taken to tackle the 3 revolutions together with the SDGs implementation as purpose.

2. EPE & the Green Revolution.

The general term of 'innovation' includes 4 types of innovations, which are not mutually exclusive: project innovation, process innovation, marketing innovation, organisational innovation. With resource efficiency constraints in particular, we will see more non-technological innovation in the two coming decades that during all the XXst century to increase our sustainable production and consumption efficiency in particular

There are three main kinds of dominant organisational innovation where EPE helped to think 'out of the box' :

- . New business practices
- . New methods of organizing external relations
- . New methods of organizing work responsibility and decision making

2.1. Eco-Efficiency 'Objective 2002'

A partnership WBCSD-EPE, with the support of DG III, (enterprises) new coalition, acting as a network of networks and catalyst, addressing values shift, a new and shared bottom line, structural changes, governance issues, co-operation models, focused on innovation and continuous improvement

2.2. EPE Multi-stakeholder Laboratories Leading to Innovation Partnerships

EPE's laboratories bring together public and private stakeholders to accelerate the deployment of major innovations with societal benefits by committing them to undertaking supply and demand side measures (funding, regulation, standards, procurements etc) across sectors and the entire innovation system. EPE laboratories act across the whole innovation value chain, bringing together all relevant actors at EU, national and regional levels in order to: (i) step up research and development efforts geared around best practices and success stories to be scaled up; (ii) coordinate public and private investments in demonstration and pilots; (iii) anticipate and fast-track any necessary regulations and standards; and (iv) mobilise 'demand' to ensure that any breakthroughs are quickly brought to market and to the benefit of the society.

2.3. Resource Efficiency Alliance 2012

A new wave of innovation will be required. EPE, with its Resource Efficiency Alliance Partners, wanted to promote the 7 Revolutions concept to underline the "Metamorphosis of Europe" : the Energy Revolution , the Cradle to Cradle Revolution, the Bio-economy Revolution, the Blue Economy Revolution, the Well-Being Revolution, the Business Models Revolution, the Finance Revolution .

These 7 'revolutions' will need and should lead to new cooperative models.

European Partners for the Environment facilitated four think-tank meetings during 2011 and 2012 in the framework of its Resource Efficiency Programme, hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee . The themes were:

- oceans, the new frontier;
- responsibility & accountability;
- environment and poverty,
- transformative partnerships,

European Partners for the Environment facilitated with the Greens in the European Parliament a think tank meeting on 'Re-industrializing Europe in a Circular Economy'.

EPE hosted a network on Phosphorous at the request of the Dutch Nutrient Platform.

Dialogue with Trade Unions ETUC Co-Founders of EPE and EPE Mobility management (Brussels December 2012-February 2013) : Greening the logistics, Railways and Intermodality.

Workshops on textile and sustainability with visits in Italy.

2.4. The Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP) of the European Commission

The Resource Efficiency Alliance of EPE was co-host with the EU Belgian Presidency of a dinner and evening at the Egmont Palace with a debate '**Eco-Innovators in Europe**' at the ETAP Forum hosted by the EU Belgian Presidency (Brussels-December 2010)

EPE was Twice Rapporteur of the ETAP Forum hosted by the European Commission (Poznan and Brussels November 2010 Financing the eco-innovators) and Moderator of a 2 days OECD conference on eco-innovation (Berlin-2007)

2.5. The European Green Purchasing Initiative launched with ICLEI (Network of Cities) addressed issues as supply chain management, extended producer responsibility and fair trade.

2.6. The European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials of the European Commission

EPE supports the vision of a re-industrialization of Europe but in a Circular Economy . By doing so Europe will invest in addressing three crisis together : the social, the growth and the ecological crisis. Europe will also increase so its productivity in resource use, the best way to increase its 'global' competitiveness and anticipate raising prices of

commodities, decreasing environmental footprint and increasing social well-being..

Tom Vereijken, EPE President and Member of two EU High Level Groups respectively on Raw Materials and Steel stated *‘Europe has the investment power, the technological leadership, the skills and the citizens support needed to succeed in a shift towards a Resource Efficient Union. However the European Council addressing the EU industrial policy should include in its conclusions 3 key leverages*

2.7. Shared Prosperity and Global Well-Being in a Circular Economy 2004

EPE published a memorandum ‘ a Lisbon Process II merging the Lisbon and Gotheburg Agendas. European Competitiveness in a New World proposing a new vision of European ‘competitiveness’. After the ‘Wellk-fare’ and the ‘Neo-liberal’ society models, the time has come for the United Europe to shape, in a global partnership framework, the ‘Well-Being’ society model and to develop new tools mainstreaming ‘sustainable trade and investment, good for the health and for the environment. Scuh a Well-Being society model would give a new face to Europe stressed a letter on 7 July 2004 to Ms Wallström, Commissioner.

2.8. Buildings Retrofit. Contracts with the European Commission

- Conference Retrofit (Brussels – March 2010) EPE-Eurofuel conference
- `TRAINREBUILD was addressing the interaction of the whole retrofit buildings value chain with the aim to accelerate the implementation of EU legislation on buildings (i.e. EPBD Recast, Energy Services Directive, EuP Directives and National Energy Efficiency Action Plans) at EU Member States level. Our project is addressing the retrofit of a wide range of “residential buildings”, spanning from individual to multi-family houses and from private to social housing. TRAINREBUILD target tedtwo focus groups:

Experts of property owners associations in UK (RICS), FR (ARENE), IT (BIELLA), DE, ES, GR (UIPI), BE (ABSA) and Local authorities' officials in charge with the retrofit of buildings in some Covenant of Mayors (CoM) cities in HU, BG, RO, PT (REC), FR (ARENE).

- **ABRACADABRA** is the acronym of Assistant Buildings' addition to Retrofit, Adopt, Cure And Develop the Actual Buildings up to zeRo energy, Activating a market for deep renovation. <http://www.abracadabra-project.eu/project/>The ABRA Community is a european network of stakeholders that believe and invest in building renovation through AdoRES. We currently register in the ABRA Community over 200 members including: housing cooperatives, Policy-makers/public sector, Construction companies, ESCOs, Property owners, Building managers, Research Financial institutions, Practitioners etc.

3. EPE & the Inclusive and Sustainable Finance Revolution

3.1. Financing Eco-Innovation

Under the leadership of Bart-Jan Krouwel, (Rabobank) EPE President, EPE and Arnaud Berger, BPCE, launched the *European Platform on Financial Support to Eco-Innovation (2009)*. In this framework, the platform organized :

- Awareness of/for investors, citizens and governments (eco-innovation invest)
- R&D and Eco-Innovation (FUNDETEC , a DG Research project)
- ECREIN Network (supporting eco-innovation at regional level) with the participation of the regions of Andalucia, Baden-Wurtemberg, Malopolska, Rhone-Alpes, ile de France, Lombardia

3.2. Micro-Finance.

The EPE published a report ‘The European Micro-Credit Guarantee Fund’ drafted by Xavier Mommens, aiming to increase the quantity of credit financing available for micro enterprises.

3.3. “EU 2020 and Long-term investments : How to mobilise private finance in support of a resilient, low-carbon, resource -efficient and inclusive Europe” with the participation of Commissioners Michel Barnier and Janez Potocnik .

A 2013 Conference in the European Parliament hosted by GLOBE-EU and EPE.

3.4. Covenant.

At the request of GLOBE and the Finance Ministers supporting the January 2013 Conference, an Expert Group has been appointed by the GLOBE-EU Chair to submit an initiative: **a Covenant of Banks, Insurance Companies, Pension Funds and Asset Owners in Europe in support of Europe 2020 and beyond**, which would be endorsed by the ECOFIN Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission inspired by the success story of the Covenant of Mayors,

3.5. Value Based Investors and the SDGs.

2016 Conference: Sustainable Finance in the light of Laudato si’ – Rome² with participation of Cardinal Turkson.

2017 Conference: Sustainable Finance and Care: The Next Frontier - Rome³ with participation of Cardinal Turkson.

2018 Conference: People and Planet, inclusive finance for social inclusion – Buenos Aires⁴

4. EPE & The Digital Revolution

We are at a pivotal moment in human history where the way we deploy blockchains offers the possibility - thanks to a digital decentralized empowerment tool - of restoring confidence,

² Hosted by the French Embassy to the Holy See

³ Hosted by the Italian Federation of Banks and Insurances Companies FEBAF

⁴ Hosted by the Bank of the Argentine Nation, Banco Nación

considerably increasing our efficiency, measuring our impact and protect our values, reorienting our economy and finances - to ensure the well-being of all and a "safe operational space for humanity", a feat that we have failed to accomplish in the past 40 years.

4.1. EPE has been working together with the RFI to develop a blockchain for inclusive and sustainable finance, a ground-breaking digital technology supporting decentralised methods for consensus reaching as well as sharing, storing and securing transactions and other data with fewer to no central intermediaries. It was prepared by a workshop in Zürich on April 25th 2018 back to back with a summit of the Islamic Finance on « *Impact Investing & Technology for Responsible Finance* ».

4.2. Blockchains and SDGs. On January 14, 2020, the EPE organized a think tank meeting at the EESC on 'blockchains and SDGs' and published the report ***Empowerment and Trust, a pivotal moment*** with its 7 proposals related to Blockchains.

45 EPE & 'Europe in the World'

Europe in the World & Multi-stakeholder governance

Engineering multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainability, towards a fully inclusive and equitable globalisation. EPE worked at the interface between the 'twin globalisations' : science-technology-industry-trade-profit on one hand and human rights-equity-solidarity-global commons- ethics on the other hand.

4.1. Sustainable Trade.

- Conferences hosted by EPE with the participation of Commission Lamy in Brussels & Cancun (at WTO)
- Exploratory process for a *Sustainable and Innovation Trade Centre (STIC)* chaired by Minister Ngubane (South Africa) and

the support of Ms Ritu Kumar. Workshops hosted in India (New Delhi), South Africa (Johannesburg and Pretoria), Benin (Cotonou), Jamaica.

- STIC Dialogue euro-med (Barcelona 2003)

4.2. Transatlantic Dialogue on Sustainability in view of Earth Summit III and dialogues on sustainable agriculture and food security (Lisbon 1997 and Brussels 1998) co-organized with the Keystone Center (USA) and the Luso-American Foundation (Lisbon).

4.2. EU-Asia Co-operation

- At the request of the European Commission, the Executive Director represented the EU on the Board of RIET (Singapore).
- Asia-Europe roundtable on Foreign Direct investment and the Environment (Brussels May 2001)
- STIC Training of Indonesian SME's with the support of the European Commission (Bali-September 2005)

4.4. United Nations

Objective 2002 - Rio+10 Coalition

'Pro-Poor, Pro-Peace, Pro-Planet) towards a fully inclusive and equitable globalisation. Contribution to the design of a Global Deal

- Europe Coalition in view of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Brussels, May 2001 Tackling poverty through sustainable agriculture, energy, finance, trade and people's empowerment – Borchette June 2002) : "Type 2" initiatives
- EPE-REC seminar : contribution from UN/ECE industry representatives to the WWSD (Geneva-September 2001)

2012 - Rio+20. EPE submitted a memorandum titled UN Summit 2012 and EU Transformation Agenda

European sustainability leaders, champions and front runners preparing Rio+20 met at the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in Brussel in December 2011 with the participation of Commission J. Potocnick.

5. Europe Ambition 2030

The Agenda 2030 '*Transform Our World*' is an invitation to '*Transform Our Europe*' and to make Europeans, champions of the '*leap forward of humanity*' that is necessary to face the challenges of the 21st century.

EPE set up in 2017 the Europe Ambition 2030 Group focused on *innovative partnership governance mechanism, in line with SDG 17*, to implement the SDGs and climate agreements, accelerate transition and make our societies more resilient.

However this represent major new challenges promoting major 'mindset changes', 'enhanced partnership' and 'revolutionary broader alliances addressing the environmental, digital, financial and ethical revolutions all together':

It is about building partnerships making the link between 'environment risks', 'common goods' & the '***new social contract***' which should be generated, as underlined by the United Nations, by the Sustainable Development Goals and the agreements on climate.

It requires 'more collaborative' and '*systemic*' approaches. We need "sharing, co-operating and knowledge system" for a multi-stakeholder continuous knowledge development.

Thanks to the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASvIS), and the leadership of Prof. Enrico Gionvannini and Prof. Virgilio Dastoli, EPE contributed to 2 conferences in the framework of the Italian Festival on SDGs respectively in Milan (May 2018) and Rome. (May2019).

6. EPE achievements are the result of knowledge sharing, partnership and leadership of , i.a.

Claude Fussler, former EPE President and DOW-Europe, later acting as Director for stakeholder relation at WBCSD

Peter Hindle, EPE President, Procter and Gamble,

Lone Johnsen, EEB President and EPE Board Member

Bedrich Moldan, Chair of the Board of the REC

Willy Buschak, ETUC, EPE Vice-President

Konrad Otto-Zimmermann, ICLEI and EPE Vice-President

Geraldine Walsh, An Taisce, EPE Vice-President, President, Honorary President.

Eren Anderson, Swedish Agency for Sustainable Development and EPE Board Member

Tom Vereijken, EPE President, European Water Partnership (Resource and Water Efficiency)

Gilles Berhault, ACIDD (ICT and Sustainable Development)

Martina Bianchini, DOW Europe (Sustainable Chemistry and SCP)

Anne Panneels, European Trade Union Confederation (Employment and Sustainability)

Jean-Pierre Dutruge, Enviropea (EU Funding)

Marta Bonifert, Regional Environment Centre (Environmental Security, CEE Countries)

Geneviève Verbrugge, Consultant (The UN System) Arnold Black,
Resource Efficiency Knowledge Transfer Network – UK (Eco-
innovation) Interim replacement Ian Holmes ESKTN

Heinz Werner Engel, Eco Counselling Europe (Environmental
Management Systems and SMEs)

Geraldine Walsh, EPE President, Dublin Civic Trust (Architectural
Heritage)

John Wante, OVAM (Waste Management)

Jarita Christie, HYDRO (Value Chain Management) and later as
consultant

Robin Edme, EPE President, Eurosif, and later Ministry of the
Environment-France

Simone Landolina, EREC (Renewable energy)

Heikki Sundquist, SITRA (investment in smart business, bio-economy),
retired

Jean-Roger Drèze, Belgian Federal Ministry of Environment (eco-
innovation), retired,

Advisors :

Luc Bas

Gertjan Storm,

Théo Van Belleghem,

Peter Glynn.

Secretariat :

....

Raymond Van Ermen,

Francisco Flores,

Marco Torregrossa,

Marcel van Meesche,

Anze Simenovic.