

**Innovative Environmental Governance and Regulation in the European Union :
Any Lessons for US ?**

A Civil Society Perspective

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Summary.

Europe, like the rest of the world, is facing “a new peace and democracy agenda”, needs to give itself a “new mission”, and has to design “a new deal”. It requires a new approach to “governance”. Today the risks have for name *resource scarcity* and *war for resources*. The opportunities have for name a *resource efficient and low carbon economy* and a *well being society for all*. In Europe, the leverage of this process should be the European Union Sustainable Development Strategy.

The usual vision of public authorities, companies and civil society having differentiated roles should be completed by a major new development : in the “new market for sustainable development”, public authorities, companies and civil society are now **all** acting as Sustainability Standards Setters, Sustainability Investors, Sustainability Purchasers, Sustainability Performance, Reputation and Trust Builders

Sustainable Development and Climate Change should be on the agenda of a new Transatlantic dialogue .

I. Challenges.

I. A New Peace and Democracy Agenda .

At EU level, we are used to be dealing with a long list of thorny issues which the EU would tackle individually. In fact, several of these can be grouped under three sets of issues that cover respectively: (i) our neighbourhood relations and the enlargement, the EU’s absorption capacity, our democracy (ii) strategic resources – water, energy, raw materials – as well as security and environmental issues, (iii) our relations with the Middle East, Russia, Iran. For each set of issues, it is clear that if nothing changes, we are heading for disaster.

1.1 The War for Resources.

War on “scarcities”. The political divisions of the Cold War, Klare asserts (1), have given way to a global scramble for oil, natural gas, minerals, and water. You can read everyday how this new agenda affects the relationship of the USA or Europe with Russia, China, Israel and Palestine, Irak. Darfour The war for resources is a risk at our doors.

1.2. The Democracy Crisis.

Climate change is also a question of democracy, “a challenge to the democratic imagination”. Will democratic structure be up to the task? “ *In order to solve the climate crisis we have to address the democracy crisis. I believe that a campaign that’s based on a very large set of ideas focused on the future and the public interest now faces such a withering headwind that a higher priority is to change democracy and open it up again to citizens*” (Al Gore).

The European Governance system as far as the dialogue with civil society organisations is concerned works rather well. Environmental NGO’s have the possibility for example to

- meet the President of the European Commission. It is as if President Bush received together the Sierra Club, WWF, Green Peace, Friends of the Earth, NRDC ..
- meet the “Ministers of the Informal Environment Council” of all the 27 Member States and the Commissioner for the Environment. It is as if the same American NGO’s had a meeting with the “Ministers for the Environment” of all the US States plus the EPA.
- host meetings in and with the European Parliament

It is at citizens’ level that the EU governance system has problems. Whereas we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, the European elites live in fear of their people! The best proof is the expected European Union Heads of States and Governments decision to give up the word “constitution” so that there would be no “referendum” at all neither in France, neither in the Netherlands, nor in the United Kingdom. As the saying goes: “fear is an ill adviser”. For decades one has talked of the growing gap between European elites and EU citizens. The murmur that swells among the “elites” (i.e. as much the political world, commercial enterprises, some civil society organizations “in Brussels” , including trade unions) is that one must do everything to prevent having again to ask the EU citizens’ opinion over any revised formulation of the Treaty, whatever its name: constitutional treaty, fundamental law or anything of the sort.

This fear of the people hides behind the arguments that were hacked to death thousand times (it is too complex, people do not answer the question, we cannot not take again the risk of refusal, etc.) and to which some well-designed “security” arguments are added to frighten the middle-classes: yesterday it was the weapons of massive destruction and today it is climate change. But this does nothing but reinforce citizens’ mistrust, who know too well what is a lie by the State. Today, the greatest challenge for the European Council is to overcome its own fears and show that it has still the capacity to innovate as it did it in the past, for example when it decided to elect the European Parliament by universal suffrage!

1.3. Radical democracy and Eco-vision.

Willy De Backer, former editor in chief of Euractiv qualified the book “Plan B, Citizens facing up to the European Union”(2) – of which I am a co-author- as part of the “*Radical democracy “ trend which starts from a diagnosis which highlights the EU’s “democratic deficit” and wants to “reconnect citizens” to the European Union. “Plan B” starts indeed from an analysis of the new “interdependence” of the world as a result of globalisation and demand a more participatory democracy*

But the authors proposals do also belong, in my opinion, to the second trend as defined by Willy De Backer, *a new “Eco-Union” According to this eco-perspective, rising material growth and consumption (our current definition of “prosperity”) have not really led to more happiness and new threats such as globalization, terrorism and “ecological overshoot” are undermining this type of prosperity. One version of this eco-vision has been expressed by new UK Labour star David*

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Miliband in a speech given at Cambridge University on 4 March. Miliband, (currently environment secretary - but named by some as the real heir to Tony Blair) has urged the EU to become the “Environmental Union” and to focus on becoming a low-carbon economy that would have shaken off its dependence on oil. Our proposals are linking “radical democracy” and “eco-vision”. redefining Europe’s mission.

1.4. A New Mission

Europe needs to address people’s fears and desires. Europeans need to imagine new ways to secure “progress for all” and “trust”. With the “No” to the draft EU Constitution expressed in the referenda in France and the Netherlands, it is in relation to globalization that the EU has appeared as a threat: threat of impoverishment for Europeans, according to some, threat of a lack of solidarity and justice for a better world, according to others. But now a new momentum is obviously there reshaping the debate. It is now in relation with the new challenges of the XXIst Century related to climate change and resource scarcity that Europe can best give itself a new “mission” (in line with the priorities which emerged from the citizens panels organised recently by the Commission putting energy and environmental issues as top priorities for Europe).

Indeed, Mankind is at a turning point and the question is, as for the USA, “*have the Europeans a special mission ?*”(in the eyes of some) or “*has Europe new business and jobs opportunities ?*” (in the eyes of others). My answer is definitely YES to both. It is of major importance for the Union to become again, in the eyes of all European citizens from new and old member states, a major lever for a flourishing economy and a society of well-being for all, and to be perceived again as an accelerator of societal progress able to “re-enchante the world” at a time of new challenges.

According to Jeremy Rifkin, an American author who played a key role in helping Europeans to reshape the “European Dream” today’s Europe would be envied by the other regions of the world and “*marks a new stage in the history of mankind, since it is the Europe of peace-building between countries that used to repeatedly take up arms against each other, a Europe promoting the collective well-being of its peoples, a Europe of values in a society that has succeeded in establishing connections between local and global levels and between the past, the present and the future, fostering unity in diversity*”(3).

The European Union is presented by British experts “*as a pathfinder for the global transition to sustainable development. Globalisation is a transforming force. The rate of increase in interconnectedness and mutual interdependence is unprecedented. (...) The European Union is the world’s most advanced experiment in sharing sovereignty while maintaining diversity. (...) We need a politics that is not driven by anxiety but by confidence. The European idea is a powerful weapon of mass construction – we just have to learn how to use it*”. (4)

Europe would be in a good position to succeed in turning the Well-Being Society into a project of economic and technological, social and cultural innovation, security and peace, for four reasons:

- (i) the European Union is the only entity that has defined the goal of promoting the well-being of its peoples AND working for sustainable development as an objective in its draft Constitution. The draft European Constitution Art I-3, §1 states that “the Union’s aim is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its peoples” and its Art I-3, §4 states that “in its relations with the wider world, the Union (...) shall contribute to peace, security, the sustainable development of the earth, solidarity and mutual respect among peoples, free and fair trade, eradication of poverty and protection of human rights”. I guess this will remain valid after the new Treaty debate to take place at the end of the year.

- (ii) Europe has become aware more quickly than the other continents of the importance of these threats and has introduced policies and methods which show the way forward, even though they are still embryonic;
- (iii) Europe has “champions and leaders” in these matters, who are already very well connected at a world level;
- (iv) better than the other continents, Europe is made up of connections between public authorities, businesses, and trade unions/civil society; and it is the partnership between public and private sectors and civil society which will be a source of innovation and of new forms of “competitiveness”.

But let’s make no mistake! To be the first in managing to overcome the so-called “evolutionary wall”, Europeans need still to change their perceptions and methods in great depth and find new ways of cooperating to fully bring into play the “power of synergies” from partnerships that pool knowledge, skills and resources within a networking society. From this point of view we have certainly much to learn from the US experience.

All European Citizens, from the North as from the South, from the East as from the West, from the continent Europe or islands, from close to the centre as from overseas all share the same desire : to secure the well being of our society, a quality of life for us, our children and the generations to come, in a peaceful world. Today the risks are called *resource scarcity* and *war for resources* while opportunities take the shape of a *resource efficient and low carbon economy* and a *well being society for all*.

II. A New deal ?

Contrary to what thinks the Czech President of the Republic (a new EU Member State, former Communist Country) these new urgencies are neither a “Western” or a “Green” agenda against the rights to development of “new Member States” and “developing countries or against “business” nor “a communist plot cooked up by the losers of the cold war”. It is an imperative for mankind shared at global level by public authorities, the religious, scientific, business communities, It is – as any crisis – a risk and an opportunity (including to make profit and enhancing competitiveness). It is the necessary path to help emerging economies and developing countries “ leapfrog”. It is what the German Minister of the Environment, Sigmar Gabriel is calling “*a New Deal for the economy, environment and employment with at its core a third industrial revolution*”.

To make a success of the next decade the EU must indeed face three major and inter-connected challenges to which it must adapt: (I) retrieving the citizens’ confidence (by redefining the reasons of living together – the Mission) (II) becoming the “leader” of a low carbon economy and a society of well-being for all (another way of saying a competitive and innovating economy through sustainable development in a context of climatic change), (III) transforming the Union’s relations with its neighbour and finding a new answer to the enlargement issue, co-operation with Russia, Iran and pacification in the Middle East.

We hope that Europe will leverage this new momentum to re-enchante Europe with a *New Project for Europe based on 4 Keys*.

- a Resource Efficient Economy. After the *Steel and Coal Community*, after the *Single Market*, after the *Euro*, the “New European Economic Agenda” is to build a *Resource Efficient and Low Carbon Economy*. This objective should be w in the new EU Treaty (2008), in the EU Budget and be part of the EU Diplomacy. It should change the way companies invest and purchase, their business model, their way to co-operate with civil society, local authorities and consumers’ daily decisions. It should lead to a real “metamorphosis of Europe” at an accelerated speed.

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- A Well-being society for all. This shift towards a new economy, based on new indicators, should also be the leverage for a well being society for all. The Well-Being Society is a federative project implementing both one of the three core objectives of the Union as defined in the draft European Constitutional Treaty (otherwise referred to as the draft European Constitution) and the EU Sustainable Development Strategy. The Well-Being Society can mobilize people around a positive dynamic that does not negate crises but responds to them proactively. This project provides powerful leverage for “remobilizing” the general public as well as for businesses from the private and public sectors, social entrepreneurship, public services and voluntary organizations; it is a factor of innovation for new products and new services and a “creator of progress”.
- A New Peace Agenda. The war for resources is a risk related to access to energy and water. For the EU, the best way to tackle the peace agenda of the 21st century is to launch a second Olympic ring, a new answer to many not resolved issues concerning our relations with our neighbours from Russia and Iran, to Israel and Palestine. This is why we are recommending the setting- up of a Three-Sea Alliance by 2010, at a time when the EU enlargement is going both too fast and too slowly to meet the new challenges. The USA, China and Japan, which are all very active in the region, should be involved.(if you want to know on this subject please visit the website www.raymondvanermen.org)
- A Representative and Participatory democracy.. The European Union has been built over the past fifty years through the implementation of three "routes": the intergovernmental route (e.g. European Council), the federalist route (e.g. European Parliament) and the functionalist route (e.g. the internal market and the euro).. There is a convergence of interests today around the development of the fourth engine in the rocket "Europe": the participatory route

III. Network Governance

To work out a strategy towards this “resource efficient Economy and a well being society for all”, you need to keep in mind several key elements when shaping the framework.

A Polycentric Europe is taking us into the global age. EU Institutions, Business, Civil Society shaping, implementing and monitoring policy together is what Romano Prodi calls a “Network Europe”. The EU institutions help coordinate activity among a range of players. The EU’s primary role has become “orchestral”. It facilitates the coming together of networks of engagement that include nation-states but also extend outward to transnational organizations and inward to municipal and regional governments, as well as social partners and civil society organizations. From this perspective, the European Union is the “first governing experiment in a world metamorphosing from geographic planes to planetary fields” (3).

There is an emerging paradigm, that of network governance. This refers to partnerships between different types of players around a common objective. In a knowledge-based, networking society, these new, complementary forms of governance play an important part. Two categories may be distinguished:

- action-oriented partnerships between the public and private sectors and civil society aimed at solving problems;
- “learning organizations”, which are interactive structures helping discussions on progress and sharing intelligence.

Multi-level and participatory governance (an other way to define empowerment) is representing a shift from “government to governance”.

3.1. Several Social Model are co-existing

Today, as R&D studies demonstrate “there is a strong evidence of significant, perhaps critical erosion of social cohesion within and between the EU societies. Several R&D projects highlight the stresses to existing community structures due to rapid socio-economic change (EU enlargement, transition to market-driven economies with ‘globalisation’) and suggest the importance of **governance innovation** and rebuilding communities to cope with new challenges under radically changed conditions. (5)

One of the difficulties Europe is facing with is the various welfare regimes, leading to different families , employment and income experiences linked to

- A ‘social-democratic’ regime, found in Scandinavian countries ;
- A ‘liberal’ regime in the UK and Ireland;
- A ‘corporatist’ regime in continental Europe
- A ‘residual welfare’ regime represented by Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece.

3. 2. A Galaxy Europe

An obvious frequent mistake is to regard Europe as a circle with the Union’s institutions in the centre or as a pyramid with the institutions at the top. Europe is polycentric, the institutions are not at the top of an imaginary, nonexistent pyramid. We are increasingly living in a world which is not “State-centric” (like the communist system) and we must be aware of the strategic and tactical implications of this polycentrism. We do not underestimate the importance of the institutions, far from it, but to be efficient at the institutional level, we believe they should be positioned in the right place together with their links with the other players in the “European galaxy”.

In this framework, Civil Society is a significant part of the “galaxy” made of communities of organisations which, with regard the European Union, have defined for themselves diverse “missions and objectives”. Civil society, which is made up of all citizens, relies on a fabric of non-governmental organizations. These NGOs communicate with their members, among themselves and with political, economic and social players. Their mission is to promote, support, defend and implement the common good and/or sectoral interests as well as solidarity between their members at a local, national, European or world level.

Europeans, who would like a more interdependent world, consider that the EU must play the major pilot role of a “normative power” in many important world issues such as the Millennium Objectives for poverty alleviation, the so-called Kyoto Process against climatic change, the 2010 Countdown for the Safeguarding of Biodiversity, the UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity, the World Summit on Sustainable Development to change consumption and production patterns, etc. But these issues also illustrate a system that becomes less and less “State-centric” and be build on a “participatory approach” at the opposite of the “winner take all” mindset. The concept of shared and differentiated responsibility highlights the “specificity”, the “necessity” and the “complementarity” of the few actions by the “state”, the market and civil society, which are necessary to overcome the challenges of our time.

3. Civil Society.

In R&D studies done for the Commission (5) social quality is defined as “the extent to which people are able to participate in the social and economic life of their communities under conditions which enhance their well-being and potential”. The overall experience of social quality is attributed to four interdependent factors :

Socio-economic security	Financial resources, housing and the environment, health and care, work, education
Social cohesion	Trust, integrative norms and values, social networks, identity
Social inclusion	Citizenship rights, labour market, services (public and private), social networks
Social empowerment	Knowledge base, labour market, openness and supportiveness of EU Institutions

As noted in the studies “essential in this process are the rule of law, human rights and social justice, social recognition/respect, social responsiveness and the individual’s capacity to participate”. This is why we are advocating a representative and participatory democracy equipped with new tools, starting with a pan-European consultation by June 2009.

3.4. Open Doors.

"Threefolding" – a partnership among the public sector, the private sector and civil society – which is first and foremost a social process and it is expected to lead to new forms of governance and management of "corporate" or "governmental" systems is very much on the agenda. The participatory route for Europe would consist in establishing new mechanisms that would respond to the “systemic changes” required and facilitate partnerships via a network type of governance supplementing the multilateral system that the Union already is.

By 2025, the level of global and EU economic prosperity will be 40% higher in an Open-Door scenario. The “open doors” approach (described by several Institutes – Shell global scenarios for 2025 as well as Futurible) is a world in which civil societies in different countries are reassured that their fundamental values can be affirmed and strengthened, not only domestically but across borders, and in conjunction with market forces An “open doors scenario” is also the leverage we do propose to shift Europe’s economy at a wartime speed towards a low carbon economy and a well being society for all.

3.5. A new vision of a Value chain approach and Business partnership

In order for the threefolding partnership between public and private sectors and civil society – which will be a source of innovation and competitiveness – to be brought fully into play, in order for a multiplier effect and a scale effect to be produced and in order for the transition to be sufficiently accelerated to manage to contain mega risks, it is important to notice a major change at the Market level .

The usual vision of public authorities, companies and civil society having differentiated roles should be completed by a major new development : in the new market for sustainable development, public authorities, companies and civil society are now **all** acting as

- Sustainability Standards Setters (as Public authorities Regulations, Companies CSR Supply Chain Guidelines, Equador Principles, Fair Trade Movement Certificates/Labels)
- Sustainability Investors (as Public authorities Banks –World Bank, EIB, Investment Banks & Cleantech Venture Capital, Pension Funds, Individual investment retailers)
- Sustainability Purchasers (Public authorities procurement agencies, Companies purchasing units, Consumers organisations)
- Sustainability Performance, Reputation and Trust Builders (Public authorities with Management systems –EMAS, regulation inspection, Down Jones Sustainability Index, Social Investment Forum EUROSIF, Friends of the Earth campaign in France and the Netherlands targeting Banks “not with my money”)

IV. The EU Sustainable Development Strategy.

A “*continuous improvement cycle*” addressing partnership between Network Europe and the EU institutions towards “a flourishing and sustainable society” needs to be put in place. The European Commission should undertake a strategic review of its vision, its methods and its procedures in the field of partnerships and should support the agents of change. The most suitable framework for this is the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.

The EU Sustainable Development Strategy was presented by the Commission Prodi May 2001 and partially endorsed by the European Council. In February 2005 the Commission presented a fair assessment but public and internal signals revealed that developing a new EUSDS was not a priority in the Commission Barroso. The Luxembourg Presidency forced progress by initiating a Declaration on Guiding Principles for Sustainable Development. The Austrian Presidency succeeded in getting the June 2006 European Council to adopt an improved Commission draft strategy. In January 2007, President Barroso named sustainability as one of the EU’s five key values, to be enshrined in the Berlin Declaration celebrating the EU’s 50th anniversary. But the reference was restricted to fighting climate change” (6). This shows that the European Heads of States and Governments have not realised – contrary even to some CEOs - that Sustainability is a key and a “creator of progress » (CEO of Monoprix, a major French retailer) with a vision for change towards a new global security paradigm : « sustainable security » (climate change, competition over resources, marginalisation of the majority world). It underlines that the full potential has not yet been grasped at all Commission and Member States levels.

The 7 Themes of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy are: public health, social inclusion, demography and migration, climate change and energy, sustainable transport, sustainable consumption and production, conservation and management of natural resources.

4.1. An ambitious business response.

In June 2006, the European Council urged “Business leaders and other key stakeholders including workers’ organisations and NGOs to propose an ambitious business response to support the implementation of the EU Sustainability Development Strategy” . It is in this context and based on an initiative of the Resource Efficiency Alliance , that on 5 June 2007 European organisations were laying the foundations for a new European Contact Group on Sustainable Development”. The Contact Group is an open initiative for organisations taking the lead in enhancing business innovative solution to facilitate the transition towards sustainability - an accelerator of economic, environmental and social progress as well as a source of innovation and creativity. It is currently comprising:

- European Partners for the Environment (EPE)

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- The European Committee of Environmental Technology Suppliers Association (EUCETSA)
- The European Union Corporate Leaders Group on Climate Change
- The European Social Investment Forum (EUROSIF)
- The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
- Global Information and Communication Technology Sustainability Initiative(GeSI)
- The European Water Partners (EWP)

Building on its strength as a network of networks, the Contact Groups welcomes other European key leading networks active in the field of sustainable development which are willing to

1. identify complementarities and develop possible synergies between existing initiatives
2. examine areas with high innovative potential
3. work towards the implementation of and raise awareness about the objectives and targets set out in the EU SDS
4. offer new options and solutions for improved dialogue, policy and partnerships in support of the European Strategy for Sustainable Development

The aim of the EU SDS Contact Group is to respond to the June 2006 European Council invitation to encourage the business sector as well as European Member States to push beyond the frontier towards a « new economy » with the EU SDS as the over-arching strategy common to all the EU Institutions and the co-ordination mechanism between “Commission strategies” such as (i) Corporate Social Responsibility, (ii) the EU Energy Efficiency Action Plan, (iii) the Thematic Strategy for the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, (iv) the ETAP Programme, (v) the EU Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan, (vi) the EU Water Framework Directive,, etc.

The contact group wishes to capitalize on the good work done by leading networks, scale up best practices, accelerate their implementation and also contribute to the debate on governance issues attached to the implementation mechanisms of the EU SDS.

To this end, the Contact Group will start by highlighting areas of excellence in policy and best practice, capitalising on existing initiatives and success stories of stock exchange listed companies, social enterprises and SMEs , in partnership with Trade Unions, Regions, Cities, NGOs addressing :

- *Investment – a new investment approach*
- *Production – a new technology push*
- *Marketing to Consumers – a new type of sales campaigns and interaction with consumers/retail investors*
- *Education – modern education programmes, illustrating how sustainable development and creative social responsibility are being integrated across and between the various disciplines aimed at current and future leaders*
- *Poverty – new products and services addressing the needs of the poor*
- *Innovation by Agreements – new forms of agreements negotiated between civil society, business and trade unions.*

The Contact Group will address itself to the European Institutions (Council, Parliament, Commission) which share the EU SDS as well to the Financial Community (Pension Funds, Investment Banks, Saving and Cooperative banks).

The Contact Group will submit a first report by July 15th and is planning to hold a second meeting after the release of the Commission Communication on the EU-SDS and prior the December2007 European Council.

4.2. Resource Efficiency.

Several networks have launched the Resource Efficiency Alliance which should become an 'Accelerator of Progress' powering innovation deriving from new synergies between investors, companies, public authorities, civil society and media which believe that we all need to make a decisive "jump forward" into a new and complimentary form of collective leadership and action. A roadmap is debated in order to:

- **exercise collective leadership**, including new alliances to mobilize public and private funds to accelerate the transition towards a low carbon-resource efficient economy within the carrying capacity of ecosystems and a well being society for all.
- **critical mass mobilization** at European, national, regional and local level in the EU
- **engineering new partnerships**, with interested parties i.e. investors/retailers in emerging economies, in the field of sustainable trade, purchase and investments, joint ventures, to develop capacity-building programmes and domestic markets for green and fair trade products.

The Resource Efficiency Alliance roadmap will also release the full potential that lies within the group of committed champions to achieve the specific EU SDS goals of:

- achieving the target of a **20% reduction** in greenhouse gas emissions from energy consumption by 2020.
- achieving an EU average level of **Green Public Procurement (GPP)** by 2010, equal to that currently achieved by the best performing Member States.
- increasing EU global market share in the field of **environmental technologies and eco-innovations** thus fostering sustainable development.
- achieving a balanced shift towards **environment friendly transport modes** to bring about a sustainable transport and mobility system by 2010.
- improving resource efficiency to **reduce the overall use of non-renewable natural resources** and the related environmental impacts of raw material use by 2015 in line with the Johannesburg Plan (2002).

4.3. : A new Transatlantic Dialogue field of action ?

In the past, with the support of one of our member, the Luso-American Foundation (Portugal) EPE hosted a meeting on the agenda of the Transatlantic dialogue and Sustainable Development.

Sustainable Development and Climate Change should be part of the Transatlantic Agenda as both the USA and Europe are facing the same challenges which directly question the future of our civilization. In Europe, public authorities have been encouraged by enlightened business and NGOs change agents. It is interesting to notice the leading role played in Europe by US Companies as Dow Europe, Alcoa or Procter & Gamble. US venture capital and US pension funds are also expected to play a key role. Similarly Europe investment banks and European Companies which have chosen sustainable development as a key strategy are very active in the United States. Both US and European Companies are very active (and competing) in emerging economies. Is this not the right time for all of them to come together and build a common Transatlantic agenda focused on how to help emerging economies to "leapfrog", secure a well being for all and public health - without making the same mistakes as we did ?

I would propose two initiatives :

- Climate Change Adaptation and the Transatlantic Investment Community. With the participation of Public authorities Banks as the European Investment Bank, the new Companies resulting from the merge of Wall Street and European Stock Exchange Companies (Euronext, Nasdaq), American and European investment banks & Cleantech venture capital, pension funds, individual investment retailers.
- Sustainable Development and Religious/ Philosophical Communities. A “Pact” inspired by the Bavarian approach to the implementation of a sustainability plan of action presented at the Madison Conference, such “Pact” being signed between the USA and EU administrations and the Religious/Philosophical Communities”. (Other similar “pacts” between the USA and EU and the Youth could be tried as well).

V. Conclusion.

For the European Union to be efficient in a networking world, in the globalize world of Internet, it must mobilize all its living forces. Participatory democracy is generating more economic well-being for all and more innovation because it produces greater collective knowledge It is a question of marshalling the EU on new stakes and transforming its economy towards an efficient and “low carbon” economy. We must succeed as much as the United States and the United Kingdom did when, at the beginning of the Second World War, they transformed their economy to meet the brutal new challenge they had to face. But today, the new challenges require the participation of all to build a low carbon economy producing well-being for all.

- (1) Resource Wars : the New Landscape of Global Conflict by Klare – Ed. Amazon
- (2) “Plan B : Citizens facing up to the European Union” by Boual, Grosjean, Rabier, Spoel, Van Ermen. Ed. Labor 2006.
- (3) The European Dream by Jeremy Rifkin
- (4) E3G, ‘Europe in the World’ Roundtable
- (5) Social, Economic and Governance Aspects of Sustainable Development. Policy Review Series n°3 DG Research EUR 22093
- (6) G10 Commission Barroso assessment.