



**European  
Partners for the  
Environment**



**Leadership for Transition and Rio+20**

**How to bring partnerships to the next level?**

**By Raymond Van Ermen**

**18 July 2012.**

## Summary

European Partners for the Environment facilitated four think-tank meetings during 2011 and 2012 on behalf of the Resource Efficiency Alliance, hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee prior to Rio +20. The themes were: oceans, the new frontier; responsibility & accountability; environment and poverty, transformative partnerships, the Europeans at Rio+20; Leaders and Front Runners preparing Rio+20.

At Rio+20, EPE representatives Peter Glynn and Raymond Van Ermen concentrated on 'partnerships' and the role of business, trade unions, civil society and public authorities in this context. This report is summarizing our 2011-2012 findings and proposals for the next steps.

Rio+20 should not be judged only on the final declaration 'The Future we Want'. If the Green Economy 'top-down' approach at the UN conference has been a failure (*the green economy is a new form of colonialism*), according to Mr. Evo Morales, President of Bolivia), the 'bottom-up' approach to the green economy in the context of poverty eradication at Rio +20 is a success story. The 700 side events have demonstrated the extraordinary vitality and talents of myriads of initiatives and organizations. The UN should capitalize on them. This is why the 2022 global event should be a '*Summit of Partnerships*'.

Despite the fact that the final declaration states that sustainable development "*can only be achieved with a broad alliance of people, governments, civil society and private sector, all working together to secure the future we want for present and future generations*" (§13), the UN approaches to 'partnerships' and the public authorities and business *multi-stakeholder value chain partnerships* approaches are all in their infancy. The partnership concept is the right way to structure relationships, with governments and others going forward to accelerate the transition and facilitate massive change along the value chain.

There is a move towards a new generation of partnerships. Previously, some were pushing 'partnerships' to avoid State intervention or Convention negotiation. Others were against partnership, mainly referring to public-private partnerships. Today the new approach to partnerships refers to 'value chain partnerships' between public and private sector and civil society.

The new partnership generation does not question the specific role of public authorities. It is inclusive but does not subvert the statutory authority of a government. Partnerships do recognize the importance of the private sector, trade unions and civil society' respective roles. They empower partners through information. They take care of the weak link and support champions. They help partners to look ahead, secure a just transition and decent jobs. They are open-coordination platforms exploring together and with society how to innovate, best catalyze society efforts as well as the market and scale up. A Convention would create the 'confidence framework' needed. It would define goals, indicators, rules and create the convergence mechanisms to secure a scale effect and massive changes.

Partnerships are not addressed by *'The Future we Want'*, which is a gap. This is why there should be a ten years roadmap with (i) a *'Convention Framework on Partnerships'* adopted together with the *'Sustainable Development Goals'* (SDG's) and (ii) a *'Summit of Partnerships 2022'*.

The *'Convention Framework on Partnerships'* should be designed to build trust, put private sector and civil society on an equal footing, accelerate change. It should focus on partnerships contributing to a green economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development. It should link with the major issue of responsibility and accountability of the public and private market actors. Front runner countries should be determined to go ahead if a UN consensus is out of reach.

The draft *Framework Convention* would primarily focus on the setting-up of a reporting and cooperation system among the green economy and good life for all multi-stakeholder partnerships in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Its purpose would be to fix the conditions for access to public funding and create synergies between the multi-stakeholder partnerships that contribute to the implementation of paragraphs 13, 55, 58, 71 and 73 of the Rio+20 Declaration and apply the recommendations in paragraphs 46 and 47.

With the events generated by the debt and euro crisis, the European Union has lost a great deal of its lustre and international influence in the face of emergent countries; it has a number of assets to turn to good account at international level if it can – faster and better than the others – propose new governance models and implement them at home.

At Rio+20 side events European front runners have demonstrated particular skills on which we should build. A ten-year strategy is proposed and the next steps relating to partnerships which should be on a European roadmap are proposed. It includes i.a. (i) a Blue Economy Pilot *'Responsible Use of the Seas Dynamic Multi-stakeholder Joint Review System'* to be launched by 2014 during the Greek EU Presidency, after consultation with the interested parties during 2013 (ii) a *Covenant of Banks, Pension Funds and Insurance Companies 2013* to mobilize private capital in support to Europe 2020 objectives (iii) a post 2014 EU Sustainable Development Strategy based on a *Multi-stakeholder Agreement for Good Life for All in an Inclusive Europe*

My sincere thanks to colleagues and friends who were kind enough to give their opinion and suggestions on the preliminary drafts of this report : Peter Glynn, Brice Lalonde, Michel Prieur and Geneviève Verbrugge.

Of course, I am solely responsible for its content.

Raymond Van Ermen

*Raymond Van Ermen*

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*As EEB Secretary General, he has been involved in several processes such as Greening the EU Treaty or the Arhus Convention and has designed European Partners for the Environment, together with Claude Fussler from Dow Europe, Michel Miller, ETUC, Konrad Otto-Zimmerman, Iclei, Bedrich Moldan, David Rehling, Geraldine Walsh, Ellias Nellas as NGOs, representatives, Claus Stuffman (former DG Environment) as Executive Director and Jacqueline Aloisi de Lardereel -UNEP as godmother.*

*Later on, as EPE Executive Director, he has been involved in several partnership initiatives and think tank meetings such as the European Water Partnership (EWP) and worked on issues like sustainable banking, sustainable trade, empowering citizens & market actors to accelerate the sustainability transition, a new societal pact, value chain management and the nexus food-water-energy-raw material-climate-poverty, etc.*

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*Homage to Mr Almir Nogueira de Amorim and Mr João Luiz Telles Penetra, two fishermen who were murdered two days after their participation on 19 June in a meeting at Peoples' Summit discussing the impacts of big projects (basically oil, mining and steel) in the Rio de Janeiro State. Almir Nogueira de Amorim and João Luiz Telles Penetra, or "Pituca" as he was known, were both leaders of the Associação Homens do Mar – AHOMAR (Association of Sea Men) which was set up in 2009 to defend the rights of the fisher-folk working in Rio de Janeiro, and particularly those affected by the construction of a gas pipeline for Petrobras. Since the founding of the organisation, its members have reported being subjected to death threats, physical attacks and killings. According to AHOMAR's members, the attacks are perpetrated by people linked to death squads, security guards hired by the companies in charge of building pipelines and militias operating in the region. On 24 and 25 June 2012 the bodies of human rights defenders Mr Almir Nogueira de Amorim and Mr João Luiz Telles Penetra were found following their disappearance on 23 June 2012.*

Source: 'www.ejolt.org – environmental justice & ANPED

### 1. Introduction

European Partners for the Environment facilitated four think-tank meetings during 2011 and 2012 on behalf of the Resource Efficiency Alliance, hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee prior to Rio +20. We wish to express our sincere thanks to the EESC President, the EESC Sustainable Development Observatory and the EESC staff and all the individuals who took part in the events and made such a significant contribution.

The think-tank themes were: Oceans the new frontier (December 2011); Responsibility & accountability (April 2011); Environment and poverty, transformative partnerships, the Europeans at Rio+20 (June 2012); Leaders and Front Runners preparing Rio+20, the major conference of December 2011. These events have been sponsored by the French Ministry of Ecology, the ADEME Agency and the GRONTMIJ Company. the Union of Greek Ship-owners and the European Water Partnership. We are grateful to them.

Despite the fact that the final declaration states that sustainable development '*can only be achieved with a broad alliance of people, governments, civil society and private sector, all working together to secure the future we want for present and future generations*' (§13), the UN approaches to 'partnerships' and the public authorities and business *multi-stakeholder value chain partnerships* approaches as explored in OECD or the World

Economic Forum papers are all in their infancy. Partnerships are not addressed by *'The Future we Want'*, which is a gap.

At Rio+20 'how to bring partnership to the next level' has been debated in several side events. Three major reasons explain this need:

1. We need massive change
2. We need systemic change
3. We need green-economy and good-life-for-all value chain partnerships.

Rio+20 has been a formidable 'market place' where key partners from all over the world have been confronting their experiences and presenting new initiatives. We are really in a fascinating era of both social and technological innovation. An era for a new social compact (sustainable growth development model). Race to the top for innovation relating to inclusiveness and bottom-up social change were presented.

Europeans, and sometimes change agents from specific EU Member States, are playing leading roles in shaping partnerships and have demonstrated special skills at Rio + 20, some because they have learned tough lessons (such as the failure of the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference), others because they have developed a long tradition of multi-stakeholder dialogue (such as the Dutch Covenant system), some because they have a leading position in leading institutions and networks, a few simply because of their personal leadership. This report explores how to leverage these important assets.

Many partnership best practices exist. There is a need to bring them to full scale for massive changes. For this to happen, Rio+20 has been the opportunity to learn more about some UN initiatives and their plans, but none will succeed if we are limiting ourselves to what is in place and what the Declaration 'The future we want' is addressing.

Now is the time for *Leadership for Transition*, we heard in Rio. Why is it not happening at the scale and pace level needed? asked the UNEP Executive Director.

The UN is still searching for the best way to meet these needs and the Rio+20 final declaration doesn't give a strategy.

This is why, building on the Conference 2011 and workshop 2012 hosted in Brussels by the European Economic and Social Committee and European Partners for the Environment prior to Rio+20 and the side events attended, this report presents EPE Rio+20 findings and the strong messages heard during side events and makes two major proposals for the ten years to come.

Independently from the Rio+20 final conclusions, the objective is to demonstrate that European Interested Parties, precisely because the EU influence in Rio+20 was decreasing, have and should been taking steps to implement what they are recommending at UN level. *The challenge is to join forces and bring together key stakeholders to bring the transformative change we need in the world<sup>1</sup>.*

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<sup>1</sup> UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at the EU Sustainable Energy for All Summit. 16 April 2012. Brussels.

## **2. Vision**

**In 2022 the UN Secretary General presents the ratified Framework Partnership Convention and 100,000 certified *partnerships for a green economy and 'ben vivir'* to the Global Partnership Summit. These partnerships have been a key leverage to large-scale implementation of paragraphs 13, 55, 58, 71, 73, 226 of the Rio+20 Declaration (2012) and applied the recommendations in paragraphs 46, 47, 283.**

**Partnerships are gathered together in “baskets”. The basket that brings together the highest number of millions of participants is the “youth” basket.**

**The Convention sets the framework for multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development: objectives (the Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs), conditions for access to public funding, reporting and review mechanisms.**

**It creates the convergence needed for massive, large-scale change. The transition towards a well-being society for all and the transition in the energy and environmental fields have been accelerated thanks to these partnerships.**

**Launching the draft Framework Convention dates back from the autumn of 2012 when the President of the French Republic gathered together leading initiatives and partnerships in Paris to launch the process with Brazil, the host country of the 1992 and 2012 United Nations conferences, the EU and several governments.**

**The draft Framework Convention has been adopted by the 2015 UN General Assembly together with the SDGs, then submitted for ratification, while existing partnerships had to be brought into line with defined rules and objectives by 2022.**

**In 2022, when the Global Partnership Summit takes place, the Convention has been ratified, the partnerships certified and a system making the partnership actors accountable has been established. The change is clear, the transformation process speeded up and the transition a success.**

## **3. To accelerate the transition – European Skills**

At Rio+20 there were 700 side events and parallel sessions. Obviously this report cannot pretend to reflect neither all of them nor even a significant part.

This report is building i.a. on:

- two workshops and one conference hosted by EPE in Brussels in view of Rio+20
- the Rio UN Global Compact Business Forum
- the International Lawyers Conference
- UNDESA Rio days on partnerships
- The Green Economy Coalition event
- The EESC Sustainable Development Observatory meetings in Brussels.

Any other contribution is most welcomed.

While the EU influence on the official negotiation process is perceived as 'decreasing', from the meetings attended at Rio+20, a few key 'drivers' (EU Countries and Initiatives) emerged with which it is suggested to build synergies:

- The Dutch are very active at UN level in the field of UN-Business partnerships<sup>2</sup>.
- The Danes, following the trauma of the Copenhagen climate conference, have embraced a new strategy based on '*Sustainia vision*' and 'global green growth' presented at the Business Forum.
- The British have pushed for (but failed) a UN Convention on Companies' sustainability reporting and should remain very active in the domain as well as 'global green growth'.
- The French Club Rio launched by the Committee 21 got the participation of the President of the French Republic and 4 Ministers twice in 12 days. The French are also key players in the international environmental lawyers network.
- The Greeks have been able to facilitate a side event for the Mediterranean attended by Prince Albert II of Monaco, representatives from Greece, Cyprus, Malta, France, Italy, Spain, several UN agencies and a large variety of interested parties from both the North and the South of Med Region.
- The Germans were particularly visible in the Business Forum.
- European Business people are playing key roles in business coalitions such as WBCSD, ICC, PRI and in new coalitions which have emerged: Integrating ESG into Executive Pay, Financing Global Green Growth, Principles for Responsible Insurance, CEO Water Mandate, Natural Capital Declaration, 5 Stock exchanges initiative, Green Industry Platform, sustainable agriculture principles, etc.
- European Trade Unions were key actors in the International Trade Unions congress.
- European MEPs and MPs have been key players in the conference of Global legislators.
- The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions have played a major role in their respective fields of action.

Europe's experiences in dealing with consensus building demonstrate skills which will be useful for leading the transition needed.

#### **4. We need a new generation of partnerships**

According to a German report entitled *Partnerships for Sustainable Development; Why and How Rio+20 Must Improve the Framework for Multi-stakeholder Partnerships*<sup>3</sup>:

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<sup>2</sup> The Dutch expertise in developing transformative partnerships and scale-up (Ten based pyramids as Hubs of partnership):

1. André van Heemstra, GC Local Network Netherlands
2. Myrtille Dann, BoP innovation Centre
3. Marc van Ameringen.

- The CSD database lists 349 partnerships that are working in areas relating to sustainable development. Many more are in place in Europe and outside Europe with the support of European interested parties.
- 37% of CSD partnerships were found without output at all in terms of the criteria applied<sup>4</sup>.

Another form of partnerships is what is called public-private partnerships (PPP's), "a form of governance that pools the resources of the various partners to provide collective goods" such as water service. There is a great deal of controversy surrounding these kinds of partnerships<sup>5</sup>.

Transformative partnerships: many of the structural answers lie well beyond the limits of any Government, Company or other interested parties' own influence, in particular when addressing the nexus food-water-energy-raw material-climate-poverty. *"Multi-company partnerships with governments and other agencies therefore become important if the business is truly to help take a lead in the ecological transition. The PPPs considered today are not the same sort of public-private-partnerships that became popular in the 1990's in the water sector whereby a private firm works on a water service delivery contract for a public-sector utility. Instead new forms of PPPs seem to engender more a sense of partnership at the strategic level between multiple private-sector, civil-society and government players – an action dialogue to tackle a common resource problem facing all of them and which is ultimately the responsibility of the host government to create a framework for"*<sup>6</sup>. The European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) initiated by DG Research and Innovation are a very interesting approach from this perspective. The World Economic Forum is exploring a mechanism to ACT, a marriage of fact-based Analysis and multi-stakeholder Coalition building leading to a water-sector Transformation process in a country that was keen to engage in such novel cross-sector, public-private-civil activity.<sup>7</sup>

The proposals below do not address the 'public-private partnerships' between one public authority and a company, as defined in the existing guidelines developed at UN, OECD and EU levels. The proposals are focused on multi-stakeholder partnerships based on "shared value"<sup>8</sup>, a new definition of the notion of performance<sup>9</sup>, new forms of "transparency", "dialogue", "cooperation" and "partnerships" for a "fair" and "inclusive" transition. This is a fantastic source of innovations and consequently of prosperity and abundance!

Three main reasons as underlined at Rio+20 are:

- systemic changes

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<sup>3</sup> SWP Research Paper 2012. German Institute for International and Security Affairs. Marianne Beisheim.

<sup>4</sup> Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainable Development. Emergence, influence and legitimacy. Cheltenham 2012, Philipp Pattberg.

<sup>5</sup> SWP.

<sup>6</sup> Water Security. The water-food-energy-climate nexus. The World Economic Forum Water Initiative.

<sup>7</sup> Water Security. The water-food-energy-climate nexus. The World Economic Forum Water Initiative p233. See as well as the 'Davos Initiative' principles p 236.

<sup>8</sup> *Creating shared value*. Michael E. Porter, Professor at Harvard University, and Mark R. Kramer, senior fellow of the CSR initiative at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, co-founded FSG.

<sup>9</sup> *The Performance Economy*. Walter R. Stahel. Ed Palgrave. Second Edition, 2010.

- full scale and massive changes
- value chain management which requires a paradigm shift in the way business works with an increasing number of companies having to co-operate, with the need of multi-stakeholder approaches, keeping value chain partnerships in Europe to reduce disruptions.

This was the theme of the Conference of *Leaders, Champions and Pioneers of Sustainable Development and Green Economy* that took place in Brussels on 21 December 2011 with the support of the French Ecology Ministry<sup>10</sup>. The avenue explored at the conference focused on 'sharing' to be done simultaneously in three closely interconnected fields: *sharing of natural resources, sharing of financial resources and sharing of knowledge*. At our December 2011 conference we identified three categories of such multi-stakeholder partnerships:

- knowledge partnerships
- standard-setting partnerships
- service partnerships.

## 5. Transformative partnerships

As far as the business sector is concerned, the outcomes of the Rio+20 Corporate Sustainability Forum are more interesting than the Official Conference final declaration. They address 'transformative solutions'<sup>11</sup>.

Transformation challenges:

- Cooperation at value chain is a driver
- Business needs to be part of an inclusive world
- Market alone can't deliver the protection of the commons.

Transformative means:

- Systemic issue
- Core competences of all partners are complementary
- Appropriate set of partners and trust
- Building partnership to scale up and replicate.

At the December 2011 conference we defined transformative partnerships as "permanent cooperation between state actors and non-state actors that aim to make collective goods available and contribute to sustainable development in the context of poverty eradication".

Transformative partnerships will be key to designing an integrated system for managing the nexus water-energy-food-raw material-climate-poverty and related challenges. Such partnerships should provide new mechanisms for cross-institutional collaboration.

Transformative partnerships offer good prospects for being learning institutions and generate eco-innovation.

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<sup>10</sup> For further information, see [www.epe.be](http://www.epe.be)

<sup>11</sup> Rio+20 Corporate Sustainability Forum. Overview and Outcomes. Innovation & Collaboration. Public Policy Recommendations. Commitments to Action. 21 June 2012.

Transformative partnerships are on the UN agenda in particular for sectors such as:

- Water stewardship (from site to area of influence)
- Food
- Cities
- Buildings.

Transformative partnerships are focused on systemic change:

- Follow-up to a Meeting at Davos Groups of Companies and groups of public authorities
- Meeting between Ban Ki moon and Unilever CEO
- Launching of UN business partnership service.

Key trends and gaps:

- Pace too slow
- Large-scale PPP needed.

To accelerate:

- Focus investment on key areas and new innovative financing mechanism
- Incentives to share knowledge between companies, open source
- Quality control
- New engagement model
- Model board driven, Board's fiduciary duty should include corporate sustainability<sup>12</sup>.

UN partnership service platform for UN & business: the major needs are:

- An area for dialogue on shared values
- The right partnership model
- An accountability working system.

Coordination and glue: a Task force of 16 companies and UNDP has been established after Davos 2010. A Report has been launched at the UN General Assembly 2011. The Partnership service has been launched at Davos 2012 with the involvement of Unilever, KPMG, Novonordisk, UNDP, etc.:

- 8 guiding principles
- Mission : building on UN role
- Need for UN and business to work together
- Themes: Child, energy for all, etc.

Task Force Objectives:

- Create shared values
- Build partners capacity and an effective collaboration model
- Strengthen coherence and integrity.

Four services:

- Integrity and due diligence, the right partners
- Support Life cycle partnership, data, glue, accountability execution, monitoring, evaluate

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<sup>12</sup> Corporate Sustainability Forum report, page 25.

- Understand , the learning
- Build capacity, not governance structure.

The challenges are:

- Results framework is needed
- Investment and timing
- Collaboration inclusiveness
- connecting supply and users (energy)
- New regulation for getting private investment
- Companies management: from CEO commitment to board engagement
- Incentives and rewarding.

## 6. Partnerships and the Green Economy

*“No to capitalism and the green economy. Yes to a Ben Vivir Society.”* This banner at the *Summit of the Peoples* and the difficulties that EU civil society groups members of CONCORD had with their counterparts in non-EU countries are a major signal: sustainable development is about a good life for all society and a green economy. The partnerships should reflect this agenda in an integrated manner.

How to address together the elimination of extreme wealth and poverty was addressed at Rio+20 side events and this ‘joint approach’ is interesting. Rarely so far were the talks about both extreme wealth and poverty and their interconnection, between countries as well as between groups within society. This seems to change. Inclusive growth within the green economy, through social mobility and social justice, will become very important. There is a need for special indicators related to the right to common goods, access and affordability.

Green economy. What is progress? A key question to move forward addressed in particular by the Green Economy Coalition<sup>13</sup>. The economy is not working and tipping points are closer. There is a need to reaffirm market governance by ethics and human rights in shaping our future and Green economy. How do we get there? It is about leadership at State and Community levels (cities as well as community of faiths). Key decisions regarding investments which are critical in shaping our collective destiny have to be taken. There is a need for establishing a framework for justice for all and for confronting the greed economy. This means capital control, rules and regulations for banks, finance control, a transaction tax and state budget coherence.

At our December conference 2011 we underlined that to be innovative, efficient as well as to scale up and accelerate the transition towards a green economy in the context of poverty eradication, partnerships themselves should continually evaluate their performance and implement relevant changes. Criteria to measure the effectiveness of individual and collective efforts should be designed.

The conclusions of Rio+20 and especially § 58 reflect a very strong lack of support from many UN Members for the green economy approach proposed by the UN and supported by the EU. The best way to design a confidence-building process and to move forward is

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<sup>13</sup> The Green Economy Pocketbook. The case for action.

to get partnerships to the next level in many sectors in order to demonstrate that a green economy strategy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development works and meets the requirements defined in §58. This is why partnerships are needed in sectors such as:

- Water
- Agriculture
- Procurement
- Trade
- Investment
- Energy
- Cities
- Resource efficiency.

## **7. Trust**

As stated by Pierre Sané, President of Imagine Africa International at the Global Compact event, *"the present economic and financial crisis is primarily a crisis of values and greed, the rules of engagement have changed, business should lead by example, human rights should be part of the DNA of corporations and critical gene of sustainability"*.

Trust needs to be built within society, while a sense of frustration is growing. We need:

- to empower people to get to shared vision and goals
- to identify complementary competences
- to demonstrate transparency and integrity, predictability,
- to secure responsibility and accountability.

Partnerships should meet and the UN Convention on Partnerships should refer to the nine principles for a green, fair and inclusive economy – the new social contract for the economy – as proposed by the Green economy Coalition<sup>14</sup>:

- The Sustainable Principle
- The Justice Principle
- The Dignity Principle
- The Healthy Planet Principle
- The Inclusion Principle
- The Good Governance and Accountability Principle
- The Resilience Principle
- The Efficiency and Sufficiency Principle
- The Generations Principle.

## **8. Action Plan 2012-2022 at UN level**

The legacy of Rio+20 should not be limited to the final declaration while the side events were full of innovative approaches and exciting developments in terms of partnerships. This is why the outcome of Rio+20 will be addressed here at two levels:

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<sup>14</sup> ibidem.

- How to bring 'partnerships' to the next level, building on the successful side events and initiatives launched at Rio + 20?
- Should the UN envisage new approaches giving more recognition to transformative partnerships?

We should explore if and how Europeans can build a strategy for 2012-2022 in two steps:

- **A UN 'Convention Framework' 2015** for Partnerships between Market Actors to advance the Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Such a Convention would link the SDG's process with partnerships.
- **A UN Summit of Partnerships in 2022.**

There are five major arguments in favour of a UN Convention on Partnerships between Market Actors of the Green Economy:

- The Rio+20 conference conclusions do not address partnerships.
- The conference conclusions provide no leverage to secure the scale effect and massive changes needed to accelerate the transition
- The value of the 'green economy in the context of the poverty eradication' proposition can be best demonstrated through partnerships
- A Convention would create a framework for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
- A Convention would make major market actors, private and public, accountable.

At our December 2011 conference we stressed that since the ultimate responsibility for providing citizens with key basic needs (food, shelter, water) and key governance services lies with the State, Recipient Countries and Donor Countries should ensure from the outset the monitoring and evaluation of the partnerships for sustainable development that they support in an open dialogue with all interested parties. We also agreed that partnership efficiency requires responsibility and accountability of public and private actors, transparency, inclusiveness and fairness, in particular because part of civil society fighting against 'privatization of multilateral system' sees partnerships as an enemy (Water Stewardship Alliance).

Partnerships along the value chain are needed but they will not work without an accountability system for each partner in the chain. The value chain involves private and public actors. Naturally, although we are all market actors, this accountability system must not apply to everyone but only focus on those market actors which have a strong leverage effect in the value chain. This means private market actors together with public market actors which, apart from their legislative power, have leverage relating to the market economy, such as public procurement or investment. These public authorities have binding duties in relation to the common good and to public goods, hence the importance of the objectives in the field of green or sustainable public procurement. Another point is the fact that in addition to 'buyers' or 'investors', these actors may also be 'communities of agents of change' that can act through their levers in order to mobilize buyers and investors and create trust.

These public and private market actors of partnerships towards a green economy can accelerate the major transition needed if they are able to do so and this would be the purpose of the Convention-framework to design a Collective Accountability Systemic Review System (CASRS) to enter into a dialogue with stakeholders and report to them in order to make progress towards sustainable development. The *CASRS system* should involve: (i) major public buyers (public procurement from governments, cities and regions, for example) and private buyers (through their purchase of products & services, including in the financial and advertising fields, or the guidelines that they impose on their suppliers), (ii) both public and private financial institutions, (iii) the major groups (in the UN framework) and large 'communities' or societal organizations which are also stakeholders on the market or may have an impact on the market or on trust (the community of signatories of CDP<sup>15</sup>, PRI, networks of cities and regions, university and college networks, TV channels, press, religious<sup>16</sup> and philosophical communities, major NGOs, bloggers, etc.).

Despite positive developments and shifting trends, corporate sustainability as practiced today is insufficient – a quantum leap is needed. This is why we need leverage such as a Convention with rewarding mechanisms.

There are multiple issues at stake: ensuring a scale effect for the green economy niche markets while creating a framework for greater transparency and traceability, changing performance criteria and having an integrated approach within the value chain – hence the importance of the concepts of *contributive democracy*<sup>17</sup>, responsibility about the "*binding capacity to act*"<sup>18</sup> and transformative partnership. The objective is also to reintroduce a number of topics in performance criteria such as common goods, collective rights, the sustainability of products, sustainable consumption patterns and a long-term perspective.

### **8.1. Resource sharing for a green economy in the context of poverty eradication**

Sharing resources in three fields (*sharing natural resources, sharing financial resources and sharing knowledge*) is needed. It implies a positive and even optimistic vision, in spite of the huge challenges ahead. This positive vision should be developed along the triple lines of "a desire for growth", in keeping with a philosophical approach: to grow in terms of our capacity to manage complexity, to grow in terms of human awareness of our interdependency and what it brings as new forms of freedom and abundance, to grow in our prosperity, ethics and joy of life. A new vision is also taking shape with regard to a "*less self-centred individual, better aware of interdependencies*", the "*me-us*"<sup>19</sup>.

Sharing natural resources should be based on a leap concerning all types of innovation: technology, business model, use patterns. There is therefore an essential link to be established with the sharing of knowledge and innovation. This process no longer occurs along a North/South line but also along a South/South and a South/North line.

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<sup>15</sup> Carbon Disclosure Project, a community of investors asking businesses to report on three themes: climate change, water and wood.

<sup>16</sup> An example would be the leverage effect of all the relevant market players which would implement the roadmap proposed to them, either through "The Islamic principles relating to the conservation of the natural environment" by King Abdul Aziz University in Djedda, 1983, or through the *Caritas in Veritate* Encyclical by Benedict XVI, 2009.

<sup>17</sup> A phrase from Gilles Berhault, President of Comité 21 France.

<sup>18</sup> Myriam Revault d'Allonnes, *ibidem*, p 37.

<sup>19</sup> *La ré-alliance. Il y a une suite à notre société individualiste*, Françoise Bonnal. Ed. Payot, 2008.

Such an investment in a low-carbon, resource-efficient society actually implies a different management of financial resources.

In the three fields of natural resources, financial resources and knowledge, 'sharing' involves a new cooperation method, new partnerships. Ethical rules within the framework of globalization are essential. Ethics and efficiency come together to underline that lying, a fairly harmless problem in a limited group, becomes a scourge in large social organisations such as the one we need for organizing 'sharing'. This is why steering, control and reporting issues together with rewarding schemes are crucial at European and global levels.

Likewise, the new tools which the information society puts at our disposal have deeply changed the context of the empowerment issue since 1992, when sending a single mail was a whole adventure. The Internet revolution and its aftermath, such as new approaches like 'crowd-sourcing' (open outsourcing), the role played today by bloggers as trust builders<sup>20</sup> and other B2Bs, have transformed the market. The whole potential to steer it towards sustainable development is still largely lying fallow!

## 8.2. Shared values

*"Equity is the overarching demand from the civil society world and must be the foundation of the collective global response. We call for equity within generations, equity across generations, and equity between humans and nature. For this we need to revert back to making individual and societal decisions based on equity and ecological factors and not merely on monetary factors"*<sup>21</sup>.

A Natural Capital Declaration signed by 37 banks, investment funds and insurance companies was presented at Rio+20. This initiative was criticized by the Summit of the Peoples. Readers should be aware that financial experts working on the restructuring of the Financial Industry in Europe are sharing the same strong opposition.

This is a time when responsible citizens, within the framework of a concerted approach among market actors of partnerships towards a green economy about the definition and indicators of performance, should push for the introduction of shared values, business models, rewarding schemes and the issues pertaining to a *new humanist synthesis* for a fairer, more fraternal world: (i) interdependency and solidarity, one planet=one country; (ii) recognition of needs and the universal human access rights to healthy food, water services, energy, shelter and participation; (iii) environmental footprint, the water-food-energy-raw materials-climate nexus; (iv) protection of common goods; (v) consumption patterns and lifestyles; (vi) sharing land resources and managing territories; (vii) sharing financial means; (viii) sharing immaterial resources and knowledge.

## 8.3. Global Green Growth

In Rio+20 the Danish Government announced the *3GF 2012* event of 9-10 October 2012 in Copenhagen on Resource Efficiency and Growth. The Global Green Growth Forum is a partnership between the governments of Denmark, Korea and Mexico, leading global

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<sup>20</sup> Summer university 2011, ACIDD.

<sup>21</sup> People's Treaties at the Rio Summit of the Peoples.

corporations and international organizations. Special attention will be directed at public-private pathways of action to the commitments on sustainable growth of Rio+20 and the G20.

Given the issues at stake, the Rio+20 follow-up process should be an opportunity for the world and for Europe for focusing and mobilizing citizens' energy on the levers for new growth and new abundance which are actually made possible by sharing as well as by the vision of a circular economy, the capacities of the information society and the new business models, including financial ones.

Sharing this new impetus – this desire for growth – and the potentialities for this new abundance is an additional reason for a new mechanism to be created for "sharing ideas, ambitions, problems and resources". This would be the role of the UN Convention-framework and its collective accountability systemic review system (CASRS) for reporting and dialogue that should be established at world and regional levels (including European level). Launching a draft convention on the accountability of the public and private market actors involved in these partnerships for a green economy in the context of poverty eradication should be able to create a virtuous circle.

#### **8.4. Convention-framework Five Pillars**

The Convention – with monitoring, reporting, verification and rewarding mechanisms – should be based on five pillars:

1. *Objectives*: Specific 'sustainable development goals' and timetable, including sustainable consumption goals, which would incorporate and expand the Millennium Objectives. The sustainable development goals would be based on: (i) recognition of universal human needs and the access rights to food, water, services, energy, shelter and citizens' information and participation, (ii) new accounting rules.
2. *Access to information* within the new context of the knowledge-based society and a cooperation project.
3. *Reporting and rewarding* including finance, performance rewarding schemes (bonuses, stock options, etc.) in connection with environmental, social and governance criteria (ESG).
4. *Monitoring and verification*: a system which would be supported by governments, UN agencies and environmental agencies and would be provided in particular by sustainable development rating agencies.
5. *Dialogue*: a virtuous circle would be started and amplified by dialogue – on the basis of reports – among interested parties. It would be initiated by the *High-Level Forum* at UN level, the *Resource Efficiency Platform* at EU level and the open coordination multi-stakeholder platforms within the value chain in specific areas/fields such as the energy-food-raw materials-water nexus, oceans, transports, finance, urban development, sustainable lifestyles and youth.

Among these partnerships, many are those which belong to a new generation of multi-stakeholder partnerships, involving in particular buyers, investors and consumers as actors in the green market economy. In order for these partnerships to avoid being accused of reflecting the "privatization of multilateral organizations" while enabling the

massive, large-scale change needed to accelerate the transition towards a new development model, a framework is required.

This framework should constitute a 'system' with a vision, objectives, indicators, a reporting mechanism and labelling/certification.

The draft Framework Convention presented here does not cover:

- public-private partnerships between a public authority and private company in the area of infrastructures and services. These are covered by guidelines, a list of which is annexed to this document. The Convention proposed here aims to link multi-stakeholder partnerships (not the public sector or the business world) to SDGs and establish a dialogue system among stakeholders at world level.
- reporting by the governments of UN Member States, except when these act within the framework of green economy partnerships on the market as buyers (public procurement of goods and services) or investors (state companies).

The draft Framework Convention would primarily focus on the setting-up of a reporting and cooperation system among the green economy and good life for all multi-stakeholder partnerships in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Its purpose would be to fix the conditions for access to public funding and create synergies between the multi-stakeholder partnerships that contribute to the implementation of paragraphs 13, 55, 58, 71 and 73 of the Rio+20 Declaration and apply the recommendations in paragraphs 46 and 47.

### **8.5. The 2022 Summit of Partnerships**

In 1992 and 2012 the Official UN Conference Center, the Business Forum, the Conference of Cities and the Summit of the Peoples took place far from each other as parallel tracks. By 2022, the Summit of Partnerships should be the place uniting these parallel tracks.

In view of such a Global Summit of Partnerships, targets would be fixed such as 100,000 certified *partnerships for a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication*. They would be listed in a background document to the Global Partnership Summit and their contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals assessed.

The Summit would review how these partnerships have been a key leverage to large-scale implementation of paragraphs 55, 58, 71 and 73 of the Rio+20 Declaration (2012) and applied the recommendations in paragraphs 46 and 47.

Partnerships which are gathered together in "baskets" would have dedicated sessions. The basket that brings together the highest number of millions of participants is the "youth" basket.

The UN Secretary General would open the Summit.

## 9. Expected obstacles – Hard lessons

The failure of the campaign towards a UN Convention on Companies Sustainability Reporting is full of lessons.

According to the Global Compact, CSR is reaching a critical mass and "*Green must be clean*" (anti-corruption). This is probably why some UN Members and some parts of the business sector did not want any 'convention' on SD company reporting.

We should expect that a UN Convention on Partnerships will face the same opposition.

This is why several options should be considered if the UN Convention-framework fails such as:

- A convention limited to interested Governments
- Guidelines rather than a Convention.

**In our opinion, as we all know that the perspective of such a UN Convention agreement reached by consensus is limited, a group of Front-Runner Countries, including the EU, should announce right from the start, prior to the negotiations, that they would go ahead in the form of a 'reinforced cooperation' between Front-Runner Countries, should a UN consensus not be reached.**

## 10. EU

As the UN Conference has not agreed on a partnership monitoring scheme and corporate sustainable development reporting, the conclusions below are implementing at EU level the EU proposals in view of Rio+20 and the recommendations of the German report above.

### 10.1. A European CASRS

The initiative to establish a Convention at United Nations level should be relayed by regional initiatives such as those which the European Union should take. More specifically, the EU should have its own CASRS managed by the *Transition Platform* announced by the Commission<sup>22</sup>. With the events generated by the debt and euro crisis, the European Union has lost a great deal of its lustre and international influence in the face of emergent countries; it has a number of assets to turn to good account at international level if it can – faster and better than the others – propose new governance models that can foster the sharing of the three above-mentioned types of resources. This is why we need a European CASRS.

At our December 2011 conference we required public private partnerships involving Europeans, a performance assessment that is transparent and can be monitored, on the basis of agreed indicators in line with EU targets and commitments and the Paris Declaration on Aid effectiveness which calls for a 'managing for results' approach in development cooperation.

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<sup>22</sup> *EU Resource Efficiency Transition Platform* – Communication concerning the roadmap to a "Resource-Efficient Europe", COM(2011) 571 final.

The EU Commission has identified five areas for Europe's presence in Rio side events (with key goals, targets backed up by figures, win-win-win demonstration) and the Environmental Council has adopted conclusions requesting "*concrete actions with agreed timeframes. The EU should design a EU partnership strategy in support to the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication in the following areas*":

- Access to energy
- Water efficiency
- Ecosystem service and sustainable land management
- Oceans/seas
- Resource efficiency, waste.

As from 2013, the EU should initiate an annual evaluation at EU level of partnerships for sustainable development related to these five priority areas identified by the Commission (see above) and the nexus water-food-energy-raw materials-climate change-poverty with the participation of the EU and Member States Donor Countries, Companies, Trade Unions and NGOs.

Such a joint performance evaluation should be designed in the form of a cycle and should address: (i) funding, eco-innovation and new technologies, (ii) sustainable consumption, (iii) value chain management, (iv) how to scale up and replicate pilot projects that have received a positive evaluation, (v) coordinated measures to build up state capacities in the partner countries.

Other poverty and environment issues are or should be addressed as well in terms of partnership areas related to sustainable management and restoration of natural resources in the field of:

- Food
- Nutrition
- Sustainable agriculture
- Fisheries
- Forestry
- Sustainable cities
- Chemicals.

Climate change strategies should not be separated or excluded from the forward agenda. The 5 areas identified for Europe's presence in Rio and the natural resource fields identified are all materially impacted by climate change, and much of the strategies already put in place by governments for climate change are directed at these issues.

## **10.2. A Blue Economy pilot**

After the *Europe and the Global Blue Economy* laboratory (2 December 2011) with the participation of DG MARE, a new meeting on 3 April 2012 addressed whether and how, beyond a EU regulation on Companies Sustainability Reporting initiated by DG Internal Market, a 'convergence of initiatives' should design an *Oceans Collective Accountability Systemic Review System (CASRS)* to secure a '*responsible use of the seas*' to be facilitated by or with the support of DG Mare.

Only a few major companies have goals about the *responsible use of the seas* (unlike e.g. on carbon footprint). This needs to change and mandatory Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) reporting related to *responsible use of the seas* should be in place. From this point of view, we welcome the forthcoming proposals of DG Internal Market relating to extra-financial reporting and integrated reporting. This system should address responsible operation, safety, safer drilling and environmental management. It should also address the nexus relating to oceans as food-energy (oil, gas, renewable energy)-raw material and working responsibly in all regions of the world.

Furthermore, we welcome the pledges made by European Commissioner Mrs Damanaki, in Barcelona on 2 April 2012 for the efficient involvement of companies and other stakeholders with marine research, innovation in supporting the Blue, Green Economy and creation of new jobs. We welcome the *Principle for Responsible Investments* initiative to foster sustainable fisheries policies and increase transparency regarding companies' seafood sourcing practices, calling for increased transparency by companies into their fish sourcing policies, covering both wild and farmed fish. But the question of *responsible investments and the seas* should be extended to the other Blue economy business as offshore exploration, etc.

To stimulate activities and investments in relation with a Blue Economy, the Commission should launch a pilot *Dynamic Multi-stakeholder Joint Review System* based on sustainable goals for oceans and the role of the Financial Community and large companies:

- (i) *Blue Economy Targets*: Sustainable Development Goals and timetables, including Sustainable Consumption Goals
- (ii) *Access to Information*: access to information should be secured and a European Oceans Responsible Management Observatory should be in place
- (iii) *Reporting and Rewarding*: Companies reporting, rewards (i.a. bonus) linked with Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performances
- (iv) *Monitoring and Verification*: (projects screening for several sectors such as sustainable fishing, shipping, dredging, etc.) on the basis of 'Oceans Responsible Investments/Companies Guidelines'
- (v) *Blue Economy Multi-stakeholder value chain open-coordination platform*.

A *Responsible Use of the Seas Dynamic Multi-stakeholder Joint Review System* should be launched by 2014 during the Greek EU Presidency, after consultation with the interested parties during 2013.

### **10.3 A Pact of Companies and a new regulatory framework**

The EU should consider a 'EU Business Pact' built upon two main elements:

- A EU regulation on large-scale companies sustainability reporting & ESG performance and rewarding schemes to be linked with the SDG's
- The Rio+20 Corporate Sustainability Forum recommendations and commitments to action put in practice at EU level.

Public-Private Partnerships between the European public authorities and companies should be linked with the Companies Board signature of the EU Business Pact.

It is suggested to host a PEP 21 think-tank meeting on this proposal during 2013.

#### **10.4 A Covenant of Banks, Insurance Companies and Pension Funds and a new regulatory framework**

A High-Level Conference is organised by GLOBE-EU and GLOBE-Europe<sup>23</sup>, associations of Members of the European and National Parliaments, with EPE and the confirmed support of the Ministers of Finance of, i.a., Belgium and Finland. The Conference will provide a unique opportunity for European Commissioners, European Ministers of Finance, Members of the European Parliament and Member States Parliaments, Financial Sector representatives at public and private levels and civil society actors to debate on the required initiatives to mobilize private capital in support to Europe 2020 Objectives and to link it with the post Rio + 20 agenda.

The EU faces an annual funding gap of between €150-250 billion for meeting the EU 20-20-20 targets and between €250-350 billion for meeting the more ambitious 30% emissions reduction scenario. An ambitious green investment programme associated with Europe 2020 and a Roadmap 2050 which could generate as many as 6 million additional green jobs should be funded by the private sector (by far the largest component) making commercially profitable investments.

However, the economic and financial architecture underpinning Europe's transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient economy is incomplete. For example, current policies have yet to reduce the risks around low-carbon infrastructure to the point where investment will flow at the scale needed. The result is an unwillingness to invest by the private sector in many critical low-carbon areas.

Investor caution is amplified by the overall economic slowdown and the impact of financial regulation and deficit reduction on the availability of private and public infrastructure finance.

This not only affects Europe's ability to meet its climate targets. In the medium term it could have serious economic and energy security impacts. Therefore there is an urgent imperative to underpin Europe 2020 goals with a series of financial reforms which will encourage long-term investments and enable private investment to flow.

With the new European treaty putting very strict limits on structural deficits – and growing caution among private investors – we believe that decisions made in 2012 could be critical in determining whether Europe can deliver the scale of investment implied by the 2050 roadmaps.

Finance Ministers have several means at their disposal as members of the ECOFIN and at national level to encourage a long-term investment strategy. It should lead to a

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<sup>23</sup> Tentative date : January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013.

European Covenant of Banks, Insurance Companies and Pension Funds, inspired by the Covenant of Mayors, and a new regulatory framework.

### **10.5 Partnerships with Resource Efficiency Agencies and Clubs of Enterprises**

From the workshop hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee and EPE with the support of ADEME on 5 June 2012, it became very clear that Clubs of Enterprises such as those in place in France, Germany or the United Kingdom, willing to be active in the green economy field at global level and be part of partnerships, should exchange best practices, if not coordinate their efforts. This should be the theme of a new think-tank meeting hosted by European Partners for the Environment.

### **10.6 The EU Sustainable Development Strategy next step post 2014**

Truly sustainable forms of governance? Existing governance mechanisms at European level do not meet the needs. New open coordination mechanisms are absolutely essential, particularly in four areas: (i) the financial architecture, including the taxation system, long-term investment conditions and EU exposure to carbon-intensive investments which may constitute systemic risks for the financial system; (ii) the objectives set at world and European levels (public authorities and companies), especially in the fields of climate, energy, efficient resource management, sustainable consumption and ecological footprint; (iii) strengthening resilience in Europe and the management of systemic risks linked to the water-energy-food-raw materials nexus and the scarcity problems for a number of natural resources and climate risks; (iv) innovative public/private/civil society partnerships among Europeans as well as between Europeans and the other regions of the world, for which an *eco-system for innovation* should be established<sup>24</sup>. This should be the case, in particular, for cooperation between the UE and – say – China, just as for partnerships on *poverty* and *green economy* in several areas such as access to electricity via renewable energies.

New processes have been introduced to mobilize stakeholders, such as the *Grenelle de l'Environnement* in France, the *Covenants* in the Netherlands and the *Pact of Mayors* at European level. In the EU the Commission has launched partnerships for innovation. But it won't be enough! It has been proposed to the European Council President, the European Commission President and the EU Danish Presidency, on the model of the *Grenelle de l'Environnement* in particular, that a negotiation for a *Multi-stakeholder Agreement for Good Life for All in an Inclusive Europe* should be launched. This proposal should be again on the agenda for the post-2014 European election as the next step in designing the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.

If we are serious and determined to accelerate the transition, if we want to give a follow-up to the Rio+20 Declaration (§85) roadmap green economy and sustainable development and if the European Union wants to accelerate the implementation of its own roadmap, the Europe 2020 Strategy, a *CASRS* will be the driving force for

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<sup>24</sup> See the opinion of the Resource Efficiency Alliance ([www.epe.be](http://www.epe.be)) about the partnership on "Innovation and Efficient Water Management" launched by the European Commission under the flagship initiative "Innovating Europe" (2/12).

acceleration, the place for dialogue around a new *Societal Pact*<sup>25</sup> made necessary by shifting to a low-carbon, resource-efficient economy and responding to the financial capitalism crisis.

The CASRS will also be the place where new objectives will emerge from the grassroots while being the lever for systemic innovations and redirecting finance towards a long-term perspective as well as the lever for shared values and new prosperity. It is no longer enough for us to be content with doing what we can on our local patch, working in silos or within the framework of a bilateral dialogue or a business/NGO partnership<sup>26</sup>.

We must be part of an *open-coordination* system linking initiatives from the top and those from the grassroots, we must be part of the management of the whole *value chain*, both upstream and downstream... without forgetting the weakest link. We are all interdependent and we must learn to manage this interdependency in order to better share out the three types of financial, natural and knowledge resources, (re)creating abundance and ensuring prosperity for all.

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<sup>25</sup> See for example *World in Transition. A Social Contract for Sustainability*. German Advisory Council on Global Change, 2011.

<sup>26</sup> This is why it is becoming so important to be involved in a value chain, a type of participation encouraged by the CASR.

Annex. Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) guidelines.

- EC 2003\_GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC – PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/guides/ppp\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/guides/ppp_en.pdf)
- Guidelines for effective Public private Partnership (Pacific Economic Cooperation Council)  
[http://www.pecc.org/resources/doc\\_view/1404-guidelines-for-effective-public-private-partnerships](http://www.pecc.org/resources/doc_view/1404-guidelines-for-effective-public-private-partnerships)
- GUIDEBOOK ON PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE IN PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS\_UN  
Economic Commission for Europe  
<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/ceci/publications/ppp.pdf>
- Governance in Public Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development Draft, UN  
<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/ie/Wp5/docs/guidelines.pdf>
- OECD Principles for Private Sector Participation in Infrastructure ,  
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/41/33/38309896.pdf>
- A GUIDEBOOK ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN INFRASTRUCTURE, UN ESCAP  
[http://www.unescap.org/ttdw/common/TPT/PPP/text/ppp\\_guidebook.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/ttdw/common/TPT/PPP/text/ppp_guidebook.pdf)
- Commission Communication on Public Private Partnerships - Frequently asked questions  
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/09/509&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>
- The EPEC PPP Guide, **European PPP Expertise Centre (EC and EIB)**  
<http://www.eib.org/epec/g2g/index.htm>