

EEAC 31st CONFERENCE

**Sustainability, solidarity and resilience
shared values in the European Union**

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA, PARLIAMENT HOUSE

OCTOBER 4 & 5, 2023

EEAC
31st
conference

Organised by:
*Department of Sustainable Development &
Consultative Council for Sustainable Development*



DEPARTMENT OF
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
of
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



EEAC

Programme



Registration of participants

OCTOBER 4 and 5: 08.00–09.00

Parliament House, entrance C1, no. 2-4 Izvor street

**BUCHAREST, ROMANIA, PARLIAMENT HOUSE
OCTOBER 4 & 5, 2023**

Day 1, Wednesday, October 4 BĂLCESCU Hall

09.00– 10.30

Opening session

László BORBÉLY, State Counsellor to the Prime Minister, coordinator of the Department of Sustainable Development - Romanian Government

Mihai Alexandru GHIGIU, Head of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Romania

Mircea FECHET, Minister of Environment, Water and Forests

Alexandra-Maria BOCȘE, State Adviser on Climate and Sustainability - Presidential Administration of Romania

Rozália BIRÓ, President of the Committee for Foreign Policy – Romanian Parliament

Oana-Marciana ÖZMEN, Committee for Industries and Services - Romanian Parliament

Arnau QUERALT-BASSA, Chair of the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils Network

Adrian CURAJ, Chair of the Romanian Consultative Council for Sustainable Development

Moderator: Peter WOODWARD, Director of QUEST Associates Ltd

Keynote speakers (video) :

Adina VĂLEAN, European Commissioner for Transport – European Commission

Virendra RAWAT, Representative of Green Mentors to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

10.30– 11.00

Coffee break

Day 1, Wednesday, October 4
Hall of the Foreign Policy Committee

11.00– 12.45

Parallel Session 1

Sustainability in Europe: challenges, trends and actions

From now to 2050, Europe needs to deal – with a renewed sense of urgency– how it will shape its green and digital transition in a revised and complex geopolitical situation that also requires a new model of governance for sustainable development. This session will present the main grand societal challenges such as climate and demographic changes, social and sanitary crises, focusing specifically on water and health issues: What are good trends that have been observed in the past? What can partnerships do for finding solutions and improving resilience? How institutions need to revise their structure and functioning to deal with these emerging challenges?

Moderator: Jeanet van ANTWERPEN, Council Member of the Dutch Council for the Environment and Infrastructure

11.00-11.15 Cristian DAVID, Member of the Romanian Consultative Council for Sustainable Development

11.15-11.30 Daniel DUBAS, President of the European Sustainable Development Network

11.30-11.45 Nastasia BELC, Member of the Romanian Consultative Council for Sustainable Development

11.45-12.00 Hannah JANETSCHEK, Head of Sustainable Development/ International Affairs, German Council for Sustainable Development, RNE and co-chair of the Global Forum for National SDG Advisory Bodies

12.00-12.45 Discussions

12.45-14.00

Lunch

Day 1, Wednesday, October 4
BĂLCESCU Hall

11.00– 12.45

Parallel Session 2

The contribution of the EU Multi-annual Financial Framework to sustainable development: opportunities and best practices

This session will present the financial opportunities for supporting in achieving the SDGs. The panel will focus on the key challenges that national governments face in integrating the SDGs (especially biodiversity and climate targets) into their budgeting processes during the EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027, and how these challenges can be overcome. One way this is discussed is by looking at the lessons learned from the past budgeting cycles, particularly during 2014-2020 MFF and how these lessons can be applied to the current budgeting process. The panel will speak about how climate mainstreaming has been used in in the green deal and how nature protection also needs budgeting rules in the MFF. Moreover, bringing in SDG 16 perspective means speaking about what it means to build a transparent budget for sustainable development. Building accountable institutions means more than only being good watchdogs and careful implementers. For advisory councils and policy-makers, it means knowing what methodologies work for green and sustainable budgeting. Using the MFF and the ways that its policies have been implemented to guarantee good spending, we will outline how advisory councils have played and can play a role to increase accountability.

Moderator: Gabriela DRĂGAN, Vice-chair of the Romanian Consultative Council for Sustainable Development

11.00-11.15 **Eero YRJÖ-KOSKINEN**, Executive Director Institute for European Environmental Policy

11.15-11.30 **Gábor BARTUS**, Secretary General at National Council for Sustainable Development in Hungary

11.30-11.45 **Carmen Moraru**, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance - Romania

11.45-12.00 **Teodora Elena PREOTEASA**, State Secretary, Ministry of Investments and European Projects, Romania

12.00-12.45 **Discussions**

12.45-14.00

Lunch

Day 1, Wednesday, October 4

Hall of the Foreign Policy Committee

14.00– 15.40

Parallel Session 3

Boosting Resilience and Institutional Partnerships in Romania: lessons learnt and sharing best practices

This session focuses on sharing of experiences and best practices for improving institutional cooperation at the level of central and local authorities within a country. The panelist will expand on cooperation with other organizations such as academia and research, economy sectors, NGOs and citizens. SDG16 recognizes the importance of fostering institutional partnerships. Advisory councils have been an avenue for strengthening these partnerships. How do we move from here in the future? Next to the Romanian case study, neighboring countries such as Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Montenegro will also share experiences of good practices for better institutional cooperation.

Moderator: Eden MAMUT, Member of the Romanian Consultative Council for Sustainable Development

14.00-14.15 József BENEDEK, Member of the Romanian Consultative Council for Sustainable Development

14.15-14.30 Carmen Aurelia ROMANIUC, Deputy Director, National Institute of Statistics, Romania
Cristian IORDACHE, Advisor, Department of Sustainable Development, Romanian Government

14.30-14.45 Giuseppe ETIOPE, Senior Researcher at the National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology - Rome, Italy

14.45-15.00 Ciprian CIUCU, Mayor, District 6 of Bucharest, Romania

15.00-15.40 Discussions

15.40-16.00

Coffee break

Day 1, Wednesday, October 4
BĂLCESCU Hall

14.00– 15.40

Parallel Session 4

Cooperation, Partnerships and Synergies for Sustainable Development in the European Union

This session will show the opportunities in cooperation between countries and organizations between EU countries. The panel will present best practices in cross-border cooperation focusing on water and biodiversity and the related legislative framework. We will take the topics of biodiversity loss and the Danube river cooperation as a case study. How has the Danube region been managed? Here a clear focus is on what has made this partnership into a success. How have the regions sustained a peaceful collaboration and what can we learn from this?

Moderator: Peter WOODWARD, Director, QUEST Associates Ltd

14.00-14.15 Interactive opening session

14.15-14.30 Peter GAMMELTOFT, OECD Water Governance Initiative, Former President of the International Commission for Protection of The Danube River (ICPDR), Chairman of the Danube Sturgeon Task Force (DSTF).

14.30-14.45 Stelian MATEI, Senior advisor, Department of Sustainable Development - Romanian Government
György DEÁK, Member of the Romanian Consultative Council for Sustainable Development

14.45-15.00 Florian MARIN, Vice-president of the Workers' Group and member of the ECO and NAT Section of the European Economic and Social Committee

15.40-16.00

Coffee break

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Day 1, Wednesday, October 4
BĂLCESCU Hall

16.00– 17.00

Plenary Session

Wrap-up of the day & Informal debate about upcoming EU Elections and past year's experiences of the Advisory Councils

Moderator: Peter WOODWARD, Director, QUEST Associates Ltd

17.00-18.30 Parliament tour

18.30-22.00 Dinner (by invitation only)

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA, PARLIAMENT HOUSE
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Day 2, Thursday, October 5 BĂLCESCU Hall

09.00– 09.40

Opening Session

SDG16, Institutional building, Romanian lessons in the context of the EEAC experience of the Advisory Council

Ileana-Luminița BĂLĂLĂU, Director, Department of Sustainable Development - Romanian Government

Jan-Baptist VERHEEKE, Vice-chair of the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils Network - EEAC Network

Jeffrey MOXOM, Coordinator of SDG Watch Europe

Moderator: Peter WOODWARD, Director, QUEST Associates Ltd

09.40– 10.00

Plenary Session

Sustainable Development Goals now and in the future

Ioan DUMITRACHE, General Secretary of Romanian Academy

Cristian-Silviu BUȘOI, MEP, Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (video)

Moderator: Peter WOODWARD, Director, QUEST Associates Ltd

10.00-10.30

Coffee break

Day 2, Thursday, October 5
BĂLCESCU Hall

10.30– 12.20

Parallel Session 5

The SDGs Summit 2023 Message to Future Sustainable Development Action

This session will focus on the UN Summit on Sustainable Development Goals (18 – 19 September 2023). The Romanian panelist will share their review experience and the panel will discuss how at UN level progress is made for sustainable development. It will be a stocktaking exercise that looks what the halfway mark of the 2030 development goals means for sustainable development in Europe and beyond. SDG 16 recognizes the importance of building effective and accountable institutions. By ensuring access to justice for all, also beyond Europe, social cohesion and trust can be fostered and peaceful societies can thrive. This panel deals with how to do this in the next 7,5 years. Specifically, from the perspective advisory councils, the discussion will be on how they can contribute to the UN processes, both for their own governments' Voluntary Reviews and for their role regarding development cooperation.

Moderator: Jeanet van ANTWERPEN, Council Member of the Dutch Council for the Environment and Infrastructure

- 10.30-10.50** **László BORBÉLY**, State Counsellor to the Prime-Minister, coordinator of the Department of Sustainable Development - Romanian Government
- 10.50-11.05** **Ştefania-Elena DEÁK**, Head of unit, Department of Sustainable Development - Romanian Government
- 11.05-11.20** **Dorine van NORREN**, Member of the ESDN, Strategic Advisor North and South America and Caribbean at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands
- 11.20-11.35** **Louis MEULEMAN**, Vice-chair of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration
- 11.35-12.20** **Discussions**

Day 2, Thursday, October 5
Hall of the Foreign Policy Committee

10.30– 12.20

Parallel Session 6

The Role of Society in Achieving the SDGs

The debate will focus on the monitoring and the progress of achieving SDGs and relevance of indicators. Also, good practices in communication and local policies and initiatives are discussed.

SDG 16's subgoal is to foster meaningful engagement of civil society and recognizes the importance of fostering participatory decision-making processes. By empowering civil society organizations and fostering citizen engagement, SDG 16 enhances transparency and inclusivity in policy-making, leading to more effective and sustainable outcomes. Advisory councils are more and more looking towards citizens and their role and opinion. Assessing the past years of attempting to include this new dimension and the fast differences between EU Member States, what can we conclude?

Moderator: Peter WOODWARD, Director, QUEST Associates Ltd

10.30-10.45 **Iuliana CHILEA**, Director, Romanian Standardization Association ASRO

10.45-11.00 **Gabriela Ciulacu Bițan**, Sustainability Code expert, Department of Sustainable Development - Romanian Government

11.00-11.15 **Oana GROȘANU**, Executive Director, Sustainability Embassy in Romania

11.15-11.30 **Jeffrey MOXOM**, Coordinator of the SDG Watch Europe

12.20

Go to Bălcescu Hall

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Day 2, Thursday, October 5
BĂLCESCU Hall

12.30– 13.00 Plenary Closing Ceremony

Today, Tomorrow, and the Future of Sustainability

Adrian CURAJ, Chair of the Romanian Consultative Council for Sustainable Development

Katalin SIPOS, Vice-chair of the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils Network - EEAC Network

László BORBÉLY, State Counsellor to the Prime Minister, coordinator of the Department of Sustainable Development - Romanian Government

Moderator: Peter WOODWARD, Director, QUEST Associates Ltd

13.00-15.00 Lunch

16.00-18.00 Social event (based on registration)



DEPARTMENT OF
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



EEAC

Day 3, Friday, October 6
UEFISCDI Headquarter

09.00– 12.00

EEAC Annual Plenary Session

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA, PARLIAMENT HOUSE
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