



# OPEN EU Action Plan for EU and EU National Governments



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**PROJECT DOCUMENT**

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**7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development**

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## OPEN EU action plan for EU and EU national governments

The following actions have been generated by participants in the OPEN EU project online debate and webinars between June 2011 and September 2011. Participants have developed a list of priority actions for the EU and EU national governments to take in order to stimulate the transition to a One Planet Economy by 2050. The OPEN EU Network urges the EU and national governments to focus on implementing the following actions. For more information about the OPEN EU project please visit: [www.oneplaneconomynetwork.org](http://www.oneplaneconomynetwork.org)

In order to achieve a One Planet Economy in Europe by 2050 we need to undertake the following actions:

### Governance

- The EC and every EU country needs to create a Sustainable Economy Commission – to support national governments create policies where economic development combines with socio-ecological benefits.
- The EC to extend its voluntary code and guidelines for green procurement to become a legally binding requirement of Member States to meet green, sustainable procurement policies
- The EC and EU governments to include a resource efficiency approach in all policies and throughout policy cycles, e.g. by making resource efficiency an essential part of impact assessments, and ensuring policies are monitored and revised in light of their resource performance;
- The EC to lead by example and seek to negotiate resolutions at Rio+20 to the effect that every government, acting unilaterally, agrees to identify and submit to a Public Sustainability Risk Register - a set of specific risks that threaten its OPE ambitions, including mitigating actions.
- referring to the PSRR, the EC and EU national governments to identify where itself or businesses, institutions, consumers or other bodies who operate within its jurisdiction are named as actors in proposed risk mitigation strategies, and to respond appropriately
- The EC to ensure that the corporate sector is involved in the RIO + 20 process (not only climate intensive companies, but also companies depending on or impacting on biodiversity).
- EC to set up a third "European Convention" to create the narrative Europe needs to mobilize economic actors and markets
- EC to create a co-ordinated set of OPE decisions which require a 'global deal' between European Institutions, the Business Community, Trade Unions Organisations and Civil Society.

- In accordance with existing EU Court case law, DGComp should launch a specialist unit to assess the public benefit of voluntary agreements that enable organisations to take collaborative action to internalise external social & environmental costs. When the benefits of such cooperation agreements that cross-European national boundaries outweigh the costs of reduced competition the agreements should be formally authorised by DG Comp.

## Future generations & environmental limits

- The EC to ensure that sector resource agreements are created at a national level for all EU countries (based on the UK's Climate Change Agreements).
- The EC to develop an agreed legally binding definition of key planetary limits (Directive/Regulation?) requiring all Member States to meet specific targets for resource consumption to respect these limits.
- The EC to call for an agreement that all nations have equal right to damage this planet (irrespective of their welfare, race, religion, etc.) and therefore we should aim in equal per capita limits.
- Every EU government to establish an Office for Future Generations
- Every EU government to establish a 'future' parliamentary committee or a parliamentary panel, with the specific remit of "protecting the future"
- The EC and EU governments set up an Environmental Limits Act guaranteeing constitutional rights relating to the environment analogous to the Human Rights Act
- The EC and EU governments establish a Future Generations Act guaranteeing constitutional rights relating to future generations analogous to the Human Rights Act
- The EC and EU governments establish an annual statutorily-established Congress for the Future convened by Parliament, to help build broad agreement and provide direction on long-term questions.

## Measurement, reporting, monitoring

- The EC to introduce binding resource consumption targets and related trade controls.
- The EC to create strong economic incentives (both on production and consumption side) for sufficiency and quality in consumption (less food waste, less meat & dairy consumption, less stuff, repair rather than throw away etc)
- The EC to develop personal footprint budgets
- Use the Footprint Family as part of a dashboard indicator set for the resource efficiency strategy

- The EC to agree a measurement of resource efficiency and develop a legal requirement on Member States to meet targets for resource efficiency
- Couple national targets on energy consumption with targets on resource consumption
- The EC to publish its own set of indicative projections, looking ahead 10 years, for the average performance of goods and services in its own market which, if delivered, it believes would be consistent with the achievement of a One Planet Economy by 2050
- The EU and national governments to move away from the focus on economic growth

## Investment & market opportunities

- Develop significant public funding for sustainability-driven innovations with a focus on 6th wave solutions such as biomimicry
- Develop significant public funding for sustainable urban infrastructure including mobility and buildings
- Set targets for sufficient investment in a 100% sustainable and renewable energy system in EU by 2030
- Set targets for sufficient investment in 100% sustainable and renewable energy system with all main trading partners
- Set up socio-economic-technological foresight programmes in key sectors & territories,
- Set up an integrated footprint knowledge bank that links to investment products and portfolios.
- Further invest in technology that closes resource loops, e.g. recycling of waste (especially of rare mineral/material) and reusing waste water in water scarce areas
- The EU and national governments to eliminate coal burning electricity production

## Messaging & communications

- Develop a case-log of practical examples of a OPE in action such as Freiburg in Germany and the Transition Towns movement in the UK
- Develop, in collaboration with retailers and business suitable consumer communication and awareness raising campaigns around the OPE theme with a focus on products and services



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## Project Partners

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### **One Planet Economy Network**

C/o WWF-UK, Panda House  
Weyside Park, Catteshall Lane  
Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XR, UK

**Tel:** +44 (0)14 83 41 24 98

**Email:** [info@oneplaneteconomynetwork.org](mailto:info@oneplaneteconomynetwork.org)

**Web:** [oneplaneteconomynetwork.org](http://oneplaneteconomynetwork.org)