



Make Europe the World Leader of Sustainable Development: A Unique Opportunity to Build a Stronger European Union

Think tank meeting “Blockchains for the European Green Deal and SDGs”

An initiative of *European Partners for the Environment and Be the SDGs*
hosted by the *European Economic and Social Committee Observatory on SDGs* and
the *EESC Partnership with Civil Society*



Comité économique et social européen
European Economic and Social Committee

Tuesday 14th January 2020

Place of venue : TRE 7701 - Trèves Building, 7th floor, 74 rue de Trèves, 1040 Brussels

PROGRAMME (draft).

Morning.

9 :15 – 10:00 Opening :

- EESC
- EPE. Stuart Hutton, *Be the SDGs* an eco-system of Blockchains for SDGs.

Keynote speech : Blockchains, the Green New Deal and SDGs.

Pēteris Zilgalvis, J.D. Head of Unit, Digital Innovation and Blockchain, Co-Chair, FinTech Task Force
European Commission

10:00 – 11:30 Roundtable one facilitated by Raymond Van Ermen.

A Blockchains eco-system for the SDGs and Climate : a community, an observatory.

- Lucas Zaehring "PositiveBlockchain.io" worldwide database of blockchain-SDG projects
- Tom Baumann, Climate Change Coalition to advance the use of blockchain
- Patrick Duvaut, Director Innovation, IMT Paris : JuriGreen
- Shaun Conway, Ixo Foundation
- Nick Begingler, #Hack4Climate Innovation Program
- Ian Choo, Ekofolio
- Heinz Werner Engel, Vescobel, circular economy, recycling and a purpose driven social economy
- Stuart Hutton, CDIT, inclusive and sustainable finance blockchain
- Ocean protocol (tbc)





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11 : 45– 13:00 Roundtable two. Facilitated by Ms. Jarita Christie.

Blockchains for the Green New Deal : a decentralized scheme to empower local authorities and people

- Raymond Van Ermen, EPE
- Mathilde Mesnard, deputy director of the Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD (tbc)
- Philipp Sandner, Frankfurt School Blockchains Center
- Peter Verkoulen, The Dutch Blockchain Coalition
- Francisco Benedito, Spanish Blockchain association Alastria and representative for the Climate Chain Coalition in Spain and LATAM.

Debate in view of drafting a paper '*Blockchains and the European Green Deal in a Digital Age*'.

13 :00 Lunch

14 :00- 15:00 Roundtable three facilitated by Gertjan Storm

Pilot Alliance Common Good and Food Systems in the Digital Age.

- Daniel Azevedo, Director of the Commodities and Trade, Copa-Cogeca
- Genevieve Leveille, CEO of AgriLedger a Agri/Fin-Tech company making use of Blockchain technology to support the democratisation of the agricultural supply chain for small-holder farmers giving them access to Market and Financial Services.

15:00 – 17:00. **The new European Partners for the Environment**, think tank and do tank to leverage together three revolutions (green, inclusive & sustainable finance, digital).

Background

"We are at a pivotal moment in environmental history where the way in which we deploy AI technologies offers the possibility to measure and protect our environment and redirect our economy– a feat that we have failed to accomplish over the past forty years".

The reasons for this failure are numerous, but include a lack of 'tools' to:

- monitor commitments, secure transparency, build trust regarding commitments and funding;
- trace supply chain performance ;
- support the 'weak link' in value chain; and,
- programming capital for sustainability.

Our global environmental governance frameworks are not keeping pace with the rate of technological change, creating a need for a new consortium to reimagine and supercharge environmental governance and public-private partnerships using blockchains to target our action and investments.





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The Sustainable Development Goals fifth anniversary.

A research paper from the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (2018) highlights the potential for blockchain to support action on about two-third of SDGs are found to be strongly connected with blockchain applications. The report highlights in particular SDGs 8, 9, 10 and 16 and through our proposal we believe this list could be expanded to include the following:

- SDG 2 (zero hunger);
- SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation);
- SDG 8 (decent work);
- SDG 9 (industry, infrastructure & innovation);
- SDG 10 (reduced inequalities); and,
- SDG 16 (peace, justice, strong institutions).

Areas that align well with the potential use of blockchain for the achievement of the SDGs and the climate agreements could address: sustainable production and consumption ; sustainable lifestyles ; institutional carbon trade, individual carbon trade; smart grid; renewable energy; sustainable food systems, land use, biodiversity and ecosystem services and Inclusive and sustainable finance.

The meeting will explore how to contribute to the fifth anniversary of the 2015 agreements on SDGs and climate.

Be the SDGs.

Europe Ambition 2030 is proposing an Eco-system of Blockchains for SDGs and the Social Good, with its Observatory to improve monitoring, reporting, verification, societal innovation. A key leverage for multi-stakeholder partnerships, supply chains, inclusive and sustainable finance. It will greatly improve the effectiveness, bring transparency and trust, generate societal innovations.

It will be focused on (a) demonstrating the origin of raw materials or products and supporting fair trade and the fair monetization of labour; (b) allowing for a greater visibility of public spending and a greater transparency of administrative and production processes; (c) participation in democratic decision-making by enabling accountability, rewarding of participation and/or anonymity; (e) managing property, land registry or other public records; (f) contributing to financial inclusion and exchanges of knowledge regarding a new development model, risk management in the public interest and the social good.

The European Green Deal.

To deliver the European Green Deal, there is a need to rethink policies for clean energy supply across the economy, industry, production and consumption, large-scale infrastructure, transport, food and agriculture, construction, taxation and social benefits. To achieve these aims, it is essential to increase the value given to protecting and restoring natural ecosystems, to the sustainable use of resources and to improving human





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health. This is where transformational change is most needed and potentially most beneficial for the EU economy, society and natural environment. The EU should also promote and invest in the necessary digital transformation and tools as these are essential enablers of the changes.

Commission Communication.11/12/2019.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf

The workshop will review the role of blockchains in support of a participative Green Deal as the Green Deal for Europe should be designed in such a way that blockchain would be in place to secure a better tracing of EU money in the framework of structural funds used to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs and climate agreement. In particular the Blockchain Observatory and its eco-system of blockchains for the SDGs will bring together relevant experts who together create a knowledge base to inform on risks mitigation in the public interest and the social good.

The Blockchains Observatory would review the role of its ecosystem blockchains in view of managing climate risks, joining the Green Deal, find business opportunities, and empowering citizens in the implementation of the SDGs in

- four systems : food, cities, energy and health¹
- three support levers : finance, the circular economy, digital tools.

Common Good and Food System in the Digital Age.

The goal of the pilot on *common good and food systems in the digital age* (proposed in conclusion of a Vatican conference on *the Common Good in the Digital Age* - September 2019) is not to 'define' the common good but to create new mechanisms for dialogue and governance in the area of inclusive and sustainable finance and planetary boundaries for, through a new management of food systems, food security, oceans and forests, to *regenerate our planet, that is to say its soil, water, biodiversity, restore a balance between men and provide enough food for al* (as Vandana Shiva phrased it) and contribute to human development.

The Commission European Green deal will include an initiative *From 'Farm to Fork': designing a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system.* (see the Commission communication)

The *Be the SDGs* blockchain community will be focused on a value chain approach, with participation of fair trade initiative and 'just transition' related parties.

The Food cluster of the eco-system of blockchains should address how blockchains related to food could contribute to develop collective intelligence for inclusive growth, to create a fair and green economy and ensure a just transition, and understand and deepen social value while addressing the SDGs and climate agreements in an integrated manner to

¹ Business & Sustainable Development Commission





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1. Address SDGs objectives and in particular :

- SDG 2 (zero hunger);
- SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation);
- SDG 8 (decent work);

2. stay within the 9 planet boundaries relating to:

- Climate change
- Biodiversity loss
- Nitrogen cycle
- Phosphorus
- Ocean acidification
- Land use
- Freshwater
- Ozone depletion
- Atmospheric aerosols
- Chemical pollution

3. **Address child nutrition.** Titled 'Children, food and nutrition: Growing well in a changing world,' the UNICEF report finds that communities often face a "triple burden of malnutrition": 149 million children five and under suffer from stunting and almost 50 million from wasting; 240 million children are experiencing "hidden hunger", deficiencies of vitamins and minerals; and rates of overweight and obese children are rapidly increasing.

A number of opportunities with the science-based "potential for large scale-transformative change" in the domain of "land systems" and the contribution "Nature-based solutions" can bring about across the range of the "planetary boundaries"-issues and with "synergies" (= positive outcomes in terms of climate mitigation, biodiversity preservation, land / soil health / restoration), are part of the EPE-approach.

The emphasis on "food systems" can hence be explained, also given the fact that consumers as citizens can "invest in" wellbeing and health by more optimal food choices, and represent the largest target group at the global scale that can be conceived of (taking account of the fundamental differences in the group many of which are still facing hunger and poverty). A major concrete opportunity for action and already underway is "reduction of food waste and losses" in the EU member states, given the current state of affairs and the 2016 estimate of 85 million tonnes per year in the wider Europe, across the supply chains (= 85 billion kg).

Why you should join :

1. **Be part of a community of SDGs and Climate experts collaborating with an eco-system of blockchain initiatives and their experts**, each bringing innovative approaches and addressing the SDGs implementation in different ways. Community members will have different and complementary fields of





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expertise. Together they will run a Blockchain Observatory to bring together the collective intelligence needed for a vibrant eco-system, shaped around clusters. The first clusters are inclusive and sustainable finance (the first domino); food security and biodiversity; natural resources management (minerals, forests); climate change and carbon offset; oceans; Amazon and tropical forests; and the circular economy.

2. **Improve the effectiveness of your initiative.** This **eco-system** will generate social innovation towards greater inclusion and social well-being designing a new development model while facing the nexus of challenges related to returning to or staying within the Planetary boundaries. Indeed, this design aims to increase effectiveness and should facilitate the following objectives to accelerate the transformation of our world to:

- Empower people
- Secure accountability of ‘commitments’ at international and EU levels
- Build trust between partners of value chain processes
- Engage risk assessment in the public interest
- Provide transparency in EU funds spending
- Equip plans of action, such as the Green Deal, at EU and international level with monitoring mechanism
- Programme capital for sustainability

3. **Develop your knowledge and expertise, if needed be trained.** Solutions must be geared to work at a scale, pace and level of incentives that matches the social, economic and technological forces that are leading to environmental decline.

- They must directly challenge and bring greater **transparency** to the existing financial systems that benefit certain actors and organizations who offer products that cause damage to our environmental systems. One of our pilot initiatives, CDIT, aims to do this.
- We must create the **incentives** that catalyse change in supply chains and product designs while also helping them to find new business models that harness more environmentally and socially responsible activities. One of our pilot is a pilot for sustainable sourcing of Palm Oil, which addresses one of these activities.
- We need to think through **new governance models**.
- We need to understand what incentives, **safeguards and standards** are needed to ensure that environmental data and processing power are used to help humanity solve long-term global environmental challenges.

