



ROME INVESTMENT FORUM 2016
Financing Long-Term Europe
Rome, 16-17 December 2016

Roundtable on “Finance for the Common Good: New approaches to solidarity, inclusion and social responsibility”

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2015 and 2016 were key years reshaping the ‘sustainability’ path.

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Change Agreement and the Encyclical Letter “Laudato si’” were three major 2015 milestones.

The 2016 election of Donald Trump and the Brexit are marking the beginning of the end of the Anglo-Saxon leadership in place since World War II?

What role for the European financial industry in such context?

In its Communication «Next steps for a sustainable European future, European action for sustainability» the Commission states: *Sustainable development has since long been at the heart of the European project. The UN 2030 Agenda reflects for the first time an international consensus that peace, security, justice for all, and social inclusion are not only to be pursued on their own but that they reinforce each other.*

In our view, the Sustainable Development Goals are defining the new ‘economic and financial development’ framework for a financial industry willing to lead at global and European levels and ‘*Invest for the Common Good*’ so that ‘*no one is left behind*’.

The European Movement in Italy - together with EPE - European Partners for Environment and CSF - Centro Studi sul Federalismo – organised on 14 -15 April 2016 with Value Based Investors a Conference in Rome on how to mobilize public and private capital in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The meeting addressed in particular “*Sustainable Finance and Care in the Light of Laudato si’*”.

This meeting with value based investors and representatives of the Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant Churches addressed what should be the roadmap of Long Term Investors aiming to contribute to the Common Good.

As underlined by Cardinal Turkson in his speech introducing the Conference, “*the ‘true’ nature of finance consists in favouring the use of surplus resources to promote the real economy, which means the well-being and development of the whole person and of all people*”.

Our initiative aimed to contribute to develop a "reset action plan" by the "transformative cooperation" of value-based investors, workers, civil society organisations, faith groups and public authorities.

As European Movement in Italy we are engaged in two main projects.

The first one (LADDER) is about development education and awareness raising as a process for a change of attitudes within local Authorities and civil society working at local level, understood as multipliers. We will meet in Montecitorio on February 24th 2017 under the patronage of the Italian Chamber of Deputies.

The second one is in the follow-up of our conference in Rome.

In cooperation with the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development, we are preparing an event to take place, in Rome again, the 23rd of March 2017 with a focus on sustainable finance and care in relation with food security & bio-economy, water & soil.

We will invite Financial Institutions interested to join and to contact us.

Will 2017 be the time for a *metamorphosis* of Europe to face the challenges of the 21st century inside and outside Europe, a '*Transformed EU*' to be called for at the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the signature of the Treaties of Rome ?

In view of this anniversary, the European Movement has taken the lead of a large network of civil society associations united in a common awareness about the state of the Union and the need of a citizens' initiative the 25th of March 2017.

The European Union risks disintegration due to serious errors of political and economic strategy, to the inadequacy of its institutions and the lack of democracy.

Walls have been rebuilt with the bricks of national egoisms, and they are stifling the idea of a Europe establishing the right of citizens to free movement.

In the last ten years, austerity has blocked the investments in the real economy, exacerbating inequalities, creating uncertainty and precariousness, and dismantling the European social model.

Europe has to be the land of rights, welfare, culture, and innovation. Europe should have learned the values of peace, hospitality, equality, and coexistence from the best part of its history and from its tragedies.

The European Union must face the grand challenges of our times restoring the hope in the well-being of the whole community, assuring common good, the strength of rights and solidarity.

The European Union must reject wars and pursue the respect of rights and human dignity; ensure the reception of those asking for refuge, the freedom to migrate and the right not to migrate by engaging in solving those global problems that are at the origin of many migratory flows such as wars, hunger and natural disasters; equip with an effective plan for cooperation and development and with a Mediterranean policy for peace, democracy, and equality.

It is fundamental to restore the meaning of politics, in order to eliminate inequalities by stopping austerity policies; to provide the European budget with its own resources in order to finance a great plan to support a

New Deal capable to create employment in a low carbon economy, to sustain the circular economy, and a new productive and sustainable model to win the fight against climate change; to create social and territorial cohesion, contrasting poverty by investing in costs, in rural and internal areas and governing the economic dynamics triggered by new technologies.

It is urgent to reduce the generational and gender divides by fighting youth and female unemployment; to promote active participation and citizenship also through a European Civil Service, education and training; to set the bases for a European welfare system to guarantee social inclusion and raise the standards of protection for the most vulnerable and less advantaged groups; to defend and valorize the cultural and natural heritage.

In this regard the role of Value Based Investors, supporting the implementation of the SDGs, cannot be overestimated.

This is why we are calling to join champions of the sustainability agenda to present on March 23rd a 'new narrative for the EU' based on the 2030 UN agenda.

Financing the greening of the economy and the management of new risks are, as you well know, on the agenda of the G7 to be hosted in May 26-27 by Italy in Taormina and the G20 to be hosted in July 7-8 by Germany in Hamburg.

Which new steps?

In our opinion, in the present geo-political turmoil, it's the time for a new EU Alliance with our Neighbors from Russia to Morocco to lead the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris/Marrakech Climate Change Agreements.

In both fields, the financial industry has a key role to play. We need leaders of the Financial Industry to partner with other European leaders of the Sustainability agenda to explore these two major steps which would demonstrate that - in the present global turmoil - Europe is back and, thanks to a partnership between State actors and non-State European actors, has engaged a transformation for a "good life for all" in Europe and in the world.

We very much hope that the European Champions of the Financial Industry committed to contribute to the implementation of the SDG's and Climate Change Agreement will join us.

The March 23rd 2017 Rome event will offer the opportunity to present a new EU narrative and strategic vision where the universal SDGs are for the European Citizens programmatic rights and a lever for new forms of cooperation with our neighbors as well as with ACP and Asian Partners. For the Europeans, it is the opportunity to build a new *software* for a '*transformative cooperation*' intended to better manage our interdependence between Europeans and between Europeans and our neighbors and their neighbors, on a planet facing profound changes.

We need a tremendous amount of social long-term investments on a large scale for an unprecedented number of human beings and in a very different perspective from the one that has dominated the financial agenda till recently.

Financing the transition demands some drastic changes in financial rules and generally in the European and international governance, aimed at providing concrete incentives to redirect public and private capital towards the real needs of humankind.

Broadening and sharing a vision on finance for sustainable development and through innovative multi-stakeholders partnerships is vital.

You rightly raised the questions of which are our priorities in order to mobilize more financial means for inclusive investment and to bring it to critical mass and success.

What kind of investment do you envisage? Who is going to move it: Banks and financial institutions? European institutions? Associations? New alliances? Public-private joint action?

The UN, the OECD, the EU have announced the launch of platforms for scaling up innovative finance solutions to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Rome April 2016 Conference suggested that, in addition, there is a need to set up a '*Capital Stewardship and SDG's' Platform*' to register '*commitments*' of non-state actors (financial institutions, regions and cities, companies and foundations, workers organizations and the immense crowd of individuals) to mobilize private capital and foreign direct investments to reach the whole UN 2030 goals. This platform could be a place for dialogue.

Such '*Capital Stewardship and SDG's' Platform*' could be launched at the EU or Member State level as well as at the Euro-Mediterranean level.

We don't expect that this will be decided by the EU itself soon. This is why we are encouraging Banks and financial institutions to partner with representatives of the Business sector as well as presidents of European Regions and Civil Society and launch together such '*Capital Stewardship and SDG's' Platform*' which should indeed be the testimony that European Champions of the 2030 Agenda implementation are building new alliances and Public-private joint action. Such Platform should contribute to accelerate the global transition towards an inclusive, low carbon, resource efficient, just economy, basic condition for '*ensuring that no one is left behind*' and to meet the SDG's by 2030.

These '*Capital Stewardship and SDG's' Platform*' would work in synergy with the Non State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA) platform already launched in support to the climate change agenda and which should continue to be used by institutional investors.

Let us build a vision for our citizens of a European financial industry leading in "Investing for the Common Good". Join us in Rome from March 23rd to March 25th.