



**Friends of
the Earth
Europe**

Countdown to Johannesburg - Key demands for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Following the Bali Preparatory Committee meeting and endorsement of the EU's overall position for the Summit in Sevilla, Friends of the Earth Europe (FoEE), as part of Friends of the Earth International (FoEI) – the world's largest grassroots environmental network - reiterates our serious concerns about the WSSD preparation and offer our recommendations:

The EU's responsibility for a successful outcome of Jo'burg:

A meaningful action programme & political declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leadership in the international process <p>The EU must take a lead role in the international process and push immediately for a drastic improvement in the negotiations, arguing for vision, meaningful action plans with clear targets, timetables, dedicated funds, institutional requirements, monitoring, reporting enforcement and compliance measures. So far all these critical elements are missing. FoEE welcomes the EU's renewed commitment to the Rio Principles and Agenda 21 but asks the Union to reinforce its support for two of these key principles of sustainable development, the precautionary principle and common but differentiated responsibilities.</p> <p>Urgent action is needed in key sectors of EU policy-making – such as trade, corporate accountability, agriculture, fisheries, energy, transport and water - and much more needs to be done to develop a coherent EU approach to sustainability.</p>
Governmental commitments vs. voluntary agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measure success based on merits of Type I outcomes- <p>Any outcome needs to be judged on the merits of the Type 1 results. Partnership agreements (Type 2 outcomes) make little sense without a strong political declaration and action programme (Type 1) and can not replace them. FoEE remains deeply concerned that the partnership agreements will be the only significant 'outcome' of the Summit. Type 2 outcomes will result in the "privatisation of sustainable development", as UNEP Executive Director Klaus Töpfer has warned. We are opposed to any process that could result in a further increase of corporate influence over the United Nations.</p>
Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Affirm that trade must be subservient to sustainable development, and not the opposite <p>FoEE is particularly concerned that the Summit could make sustainable development subservient to the WTO's trade agenda. Many passages in the relevant Council Conclusions, as much as in the Chairman's paper so far, refer to the so-called 'Doha Development Agenda', suggesting that the WTO-driven free trade regime will deliver sustainable development. The evidence since Rio suggests that the opposite is true. The spread of corporate globalisation has led to worsening environmental conditions worldwide and a further widening of the gap between rich and poor, both between North and South and within countries. Increasingly, countries are played against each other to provide investors with low environmental or social standards and the lowest taxes.</p>

<p>Trade (continued)</p>	<p>Ministers must ensure the primacy of sustainable development over the global trade regime is established and that references to the outcomes of the Doha Ministerial Conference are deleted. A full and independent review of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations as well as of proposed trade liberalisation measures in view of concerns about the impact of trade liberalisation on equity and sustainability must also be delivered by Heads of States and Governments. Export-led development should be rejected in favour of participatory, equitable and sustainable policies that support local needs, economies and communities. The development of new economic and political policies that will lead to fair and sustainable economies fit for the 21st century must be initiated.</p>
<p>Sustainable development governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen sustainable development governance and reaffirm the authority and autonomy of Multilateral Environmental Agreements vs trade rules <p>Due to the rapid development of WTO rules with strong enforcement measures, the implementation of some Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) have suffered from a ‘chilling’ effect, with some members arguing that some MEA trade provisions are not compatible with WTO rules.</p> <p>At stake is the very essence of global governance, where the MEAs represent a rare and strategically important space in today’s international governance architecture to protect people and the environment. As demanded by the European Parliament (2), Ministers must ensure that the Political Declaration affirms in a clear statement the authority and autonomy of MEAs, and clarifies that the objectives, principles, and obligations of MEAs shall not be adversely affected by the rules of the multilateral trading system.</p> <p>Governments must also commit to improving global governance structures in general including through strengthening the UN Environment Programme, so that environmental, health and social policies are developed and implemented swiftly and effectively.</p>
<p>Corporate accountability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch negotiations for a corporate accountability convention <p>The EU has so far limited itself to supporting merely voluntary initiatives such as the OECD guidelines for foreign investors, Global Reporting Initiatives, OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises and the UN Global Compact.</p> <p>FoEE believes that whether or not such voluntary initiatives play a role, they cannot credibly be presented as an alternative to internationally agreed binding rules of accountability.</p> <p>A coherent framework is needed which ensures that business meets the minimum environmental and social standards necessary for sustainable development and which secures rights for citizens and communities to help provide them with sustainable livelihoods.</p> <p>We therefore urge Ministers to demand that a process of negotiation is set in place at Johannesburg for a binding global corporate accountability (including liability) convention. This essential platform for sustainability is one of FOE’s key demands and is fully supported by many other civil society groups, such as Oxfam, WWF and Greenpeace. Insufficient corporate control is one of the key reasons why unsustainable development has continued in the last decade.</p>

<p>Water and Energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to meaningful action for sustainable water and energy policies <p>We urge the EU to continue its efforts to achieve measurable results in the areas of water and energy. We especially support initiatives to launch an action programme to enable access to clean, affordable and reliable energy services for the poorest part of the world's population and to establish a global target of 10% of primary energy supply from new renewable sources by 2010 whilst enhancing the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Environmentally harmful energy subsidies in the fossil fuel and nuclear sector need to be phased out.</p> <p>We also urge governments to take serious steps to reach the Millennium Development Goal of halving the number people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation. It is the duty of the industrialised countries (recognising the ecological debt) to provide the necessary funds for these programmes. Environmental and socially harmful subsidies should be eliminated and funding be directed towards environmental on and socially viable activities.</p>
<p>Agriculture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote food security, food sovereignty and non intensive agriculture, not genetically modified crops and patents on life <p>The promotion of food security, food sovereignty and non intensive agriculture are key issues that governments must commit to addressing through the UN. Governments need to commit to eliminating export subsidies and stop dumping. There is a danger that type 2 outcomes will be used to force genetically modified crops on farmers under the guise of sustainable development. No type II outcomes that involved genetically modified organism should be launched. In addition, the patenting of life forms needs to be stopped.</p>
<p>Ecological debt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge the ecological debt and cancel the financial debt of the global South <p>Governments need to acknowledge the ecological debt that the global North owes the global South in the action program. While we support an action programme on sustainable consumption and production, the Global North must urgently take further steps to address this constantly growing debt. As there is no evidence that governments are willing to do so in the action programme, we call for this urgent issue to be addressed in the political declaration. The financial debt of the South needs to be abolished as a necessary precondition for sustainable development.</p>
<p>Coherent EU policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to continuity and strengthening of EU processes for sustainability beyond the WSSD, and adapt key EU policies to objectives of sustainable development <p>While the adoption of the Gothenburg EU Sustainable Development Strategy and the Cardiff Process of Environmental Integration can be seen as positive achievements, efforts towards sustainability have recently undergone a period of 'recession'. In particular the Commission Communication on the External Dimension of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy and the Synthesis Report for the latest Spring Council in Barcelona were disappointments for civil society. FoEE urgently asks for the Ministers' commitment to the continuation and strengthening of the different EU processes dedicated to sustainable development. Within the Sustainable Development Strategy we urge the environmental ministers to give special attention to a reduction in the total amount of resources used in the EU which we see as a key indicator for sustainable development. An indicator for measuring progress (such as Total Material Requirement) should be</p>

	<p>developed for the next Synthesis Report.</p> <p>Moreover FoEE urges the Ministers to push for the reform of EU-policies to make Europe sustainable. Among these urgently needed steps are: a European energy tax (Monti proposal); the phasing out of subsidies that are harmful to the environment; reform of the EU CAP to make EU subsidies work for environmentally friendly agriculture, providing people with safe and healthy food; reform of the Common Fisheries Policy; the reform of the European transport policy with the aim of de-coupling transport growth from economic growth and developing a policy aimed at the reduction in transport in the European Union in general.</p>
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Additional reading:

FoEI's detailed comments on the Bali chairman text

<http://www.rio-plus-10.org/en/positions/59.php>

FoEI's position paper on corporate accountability:

<http://www.rio-plus-10.org/en/positions/26.php>

Civil Society Statement: WTO rules must respect Multilateral Environmental Agreements,

<http://www.rio-plus-10.org/en/positions/32.php>

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