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DRAFT REPORT

on the communication from the Commission to the Council and European Parliament on Ten years after Rio: preparing for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002
(COM(2001) 53 – C5-0342/2001 – 2001/2142(COS))

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy

Rapporteur: Mihail Papayannakis

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PROCEDURAL PAGE

By letter of 6 February 2001, the Commission forwarded to Parliament a communication to the Council and European Parliament on Ten years after Rio: preparing for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 (COM(2001) 53 – 2001/2142(COS)).

At the sitting of 3 September 2001 the President of Parliament announced that he had referred the communication to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy as the committee responsible and the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy and the Committee on Development and Cooperation for their opinions (C5-0342/2001).

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy had appointed Mihail Papayannakis rapporteur at its meeting of 12 March 2001.

The committee considered the Commission communication and the draft report at its meetings of 26 March and 2002.

At the last meeting it adopted the motion for a resolution by ... votes to ... , with ... abstention(s)/unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: ... chairman/acting chairman; ... (and ...), vice-chairman/vice-chairmen; ..., rapporteur; ..., ... (for ...), ... (for ... pursuant to Rule 153(2)), ... and... .

The opinions of the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy and the Committee on Development and Cooperation are attached.

The report was tabled on

The deadline for tabling amendments will be indicated in the draft agenda for the relevant part-session.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

European Parliament resolution on the communication from the Commission to the Council and European Parliament on Ten years after Rio: preparing for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 (COM(2001) 53 – C5-0342/2001 – 2001/2142(COS))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council and European Parliament on Ten years after Rio: preparing for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 (COM(2001) 53 – C5-0342/2001¹),
- having regard to Article 2 of the Treaty,
- having regard to the European Commission Communication “A Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development (COM(2001) 264)²,
- having regard to the Environment Council Conclusion of 8 March 2001 (6752/01) on the World Summit on the Sustainable Development,
- having regard to the Commission’s Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions “Towards a global partnership for sustainable development” (COM(2002) 82)³,
- having regard to the decisions of the Göteborg European Council on promoting a sustainable development strategy in the Union, and in particular, to revise it annually at its spring meetings,
- having regard to its previous resolutions on the sustainable development and especially its resolution on the “sustainable development strategy for the Barcelona Summit” (B5-118/2002),
- having regard to Rule 47(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy and the opinions of the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (A5-..../2002),

A. Whereas the Rio+10 Summit in Johannesburg represents a vital opportunity to reinforce

¹ OJ not yet published

² OJ not yet published

³ OJ not yet published

the notion of a global community and extend sustainable development principles that aim at reconciling continued economic stability and development with high social welfare and environmental protection requirements, at world-wide level,

- B. Whereas the expectations raised at the Rio Summit in 1992, have not been realised, the commitments have not been honoured, and substantial obstacles will have to be overcome and concrete policies will have to be outlined if we want to see that the Johannesburg Summit leads to concrete action to make sustainable development a reality,
- C. Whereas world population will increase to 7.5 billion people by 2015, i.e. a 50% increase since 1990. The extra people are equal to the entire world population in 1950,
- D. Whereas 20% of the world's population account for 86% of global consumption. In 1960, the world's richest 20% had an income 30 times higher than the 20% poorest, rising to 82 times higher in 1995 (UNDP Human Development Report 2000),
- E. Whereas clean water supply is likely to become one of the most pressing issues in the 21st century. In 1997, one third of the world's population lived in countries experiencing a shortage of water compared with consumption needs; this could rise to two thirds by 2025 (World Resources, 1998-1999),
- F. Whereas one third of the world's population (around 2 billion people) does not have access to adequate energy services,
- G. Whereas in 1996, 25% of the world's approximately 4630 mammal species, 11% of the 9675 bird species, and 15% of all flowering plant species are at significant risk of total extinction (IUCN, 1996). 70% of the fish stocks on the planet offer no possibility for increased catches,
- H. Whereas since the Rio Conference, new developments which took place are showing that there is an urgent need to agree on the design of a “new economic model” (new global deal) recognising the complementary roles and responsibilities of governments, business sector and civil society and which would be a new breakthrough “pro-people, pro-poor, pro-planet”,
- I. Whereas in its “Global Deal” proposal, endorsed by the Göteborg European Council, the Danish government suggests that OECD countries should show leadership by setting the objective of:
- meeting the commitment to provide 0.7% of GNP as ODA,
 - completely decoupling environmental degradation from economic growth within ten years,
 - engage constructively in the trade dialogue on how to incorporate sustainable development and environmental concerns,
 - live up to commitments in the various international environmental agreements,
- J. Whereas, however, the Danish proposal rely on an inter-governmental process only and does not adequately address how such a “global deal” would solve the “crisis of implementation” which remains a major constraint to the realisation of goals of Agenda 21,

- K. Whereas over the last ten years, sustainable development in Africa has remained elusive and most countries in the African region continue to be marginalised while eradicating poverty, hunger and promoting sustainable development livelihoods are central to the achievement of sustainable development,
- L. Whereas human activities are having an increasing impact on the integrity of complex natural ecosystems that provide essential support for human beings and economic activities; managing this natural resource base is essential for protecting the land, water and living resources on which human life and development depend,
- M. Whereas there is a deep “global governance gap”, while good governance at the national and international level as well as transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems are essential for sustainable development,
1. Welcomes the decision of the UN General Assembly in Resolution A/55/199 convening the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 in Johannesburg, which represents a unique opportunity for world leaders to set the sustainability agenda for the next 10 years with a programme of work which would build on the agreements generated at the Earth Summit in Rio; regrets therefore that certain countries appear reluctant to commit themselves to an ambitious agenda, thus permitting only slow progress so far; also regrets that only a small number of EU Heads of State have as yet committed themselves to attending the WSSD itself; that without such high level attendance the success of the Summit will be in jeopardy,

Sustainable management and conservation of natural resources

2. Considers that the Johannesburg Summit should develop specific initiatives, building on work undertaken since Rio, in areas such as: fresh water, oceans and seas (including coral reefs), coastal zones, mountains, land use, forests, desertification, biodiversity, waste, chemicals, air pollution, biosafety, energy, minerals and metals,
3. Specifically supports the development of a global action plan on access to safe freshwater, based on principles of Integrated River Basin Management,
4. Recognises the critical role played by various economic sectors and the need to ensure these sectors take full account of the limits of natural resources, and the need to share resources equitably. To this end, calls on the EU to set out its commitments for reform of agriculture and fisheries policies ahead of Johannesburg. This includes a new partnership on third country fisheries access agreements that takes full account of the social and environmental interests in the region, and respects the right of developing countries to exploit and benefit fully from their own natural resources,
5. Supports effective solutions for the sustainable development management, use and conservation of natural resources, inter alia, through programmes of action, voluntary processes and mechanisms, legal instruments and co-operation with industry designed to take into account the views and interests of relevant stakeholders; seeks to find effective

solutions to serious global and regional environmental problems through international and regional legal instruments, including multilateral environmental agreements, while taking care to ensure the participation of local and indigenous populations in such measures; as part of these solutions, supports immediate work on a global charging system relating to the aviation and maritime sectors, as a means of internalising the “external” costs of international transport. Revenues should be used to support the provision of global public goods, particularly by the rural poor in relation to sustainable agriculture and rural development,

6. Encourages international joint observation and research and the dissemination of scientific knowledge for effective disaster and risk reduction,
7. Urges countries to fully meet their national commitments, such as limitation and reduction targets for greenhouse-gas emissions and ratify the Kyoto Protocol so as to ensure its entry into force before the Johannesburg Summit,

Changing Production and Consumption Patterns

8. Recognises that sustainable management, use and conservation of natural resources are needed to reverse current trends in unsustainable consumption and production at the national and global levels; recognises at the same time that, in order to address poverty in developing countries, there will be a need to increase consumption. Stresses therefore that significant improvements in resource efficiency will be critical to achieving sustainable development,
9. Recognises the need to adjust lifestyles in order to significantly reduce the use of resources and generation of waste by developed countries. This requires absolute decoupling of economic growth from resource efficiency and use; calls on WSSD to agree absolute decoupling in the developed countries, with a view to significantly reducing overall resource use by 2010,
10. Wishes, in this regard, that efforts should be made to change consumption patterns of the north using a variety of instruments, including process and product standards, taxation on energy and other resource use, removal of environmentally harmful subsidies, targets for the market share of products certified as sustainable, increased awareness of the impacts (both local and global) of consumption choices, (eco-labels etc.), and to combine such instruments into integrated product policies addressing all phases of the product life-cycle, including design, production, consumption and disposal,

Poverty eradication

11. Emphasises that the WSSD should promote a better understanding of linkages between the environment, poverty, trade and human security so as to ensure a better integration between environmental protection and policies for poverty eradication and economic development; therefore, in the process leading up to the Johannesburg Summit, seeks enhanced co-operation and solidarity with developing countries based on partnership and mutual responsibility for combating poverty and promoting sustainable development, taking into account in particular the process launched at the 1995 World Summit for

Social Development,

12. Pledges the WSSD to initiate a global plan of action with clear, time-bound commitments, resources and monitoring mechanisms so as to attain the International Development Targets and the Millennium Development Goals¹, in particular the target of halving extreme poverty in the world by 2015,
13. Welcomes the Doha Development Agenda to integrate, inter alia, developing countries more effectively into the trading system, to remove trade distortions and to give the least developed countries duty-free and quota-free market access and supports the launching of a new round of trade negotiations at the next session of the WTO, with sustainable development as an overarching objective,
14. Upholds the goal of moving closer to the internationally agreed target of 0.7% of the GNP being spent on development assistance and advocates the swift implementation of the HIPC debt relief initiative, which enhances the poorest countries' capacity to reduce poverty by their own means. The HIPC initiative should also be extended to less poor but similarly indebted countries, and an international monitoring process should be developed to make certain that new debt remains at sustainable levels; calls on WSSD to agree to a firm plan of action for achieving these goals,
15. Recognises the need to secure access of the rural poor to natural resources and enhance their capacity to manage those resources sustainably,
16. Emphasises the fact that prevailing models of economic development have failed to reduce poverty in the least developed countries. WSSD should launch a debate, around the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions, to promote a new model of economic development based on securing sustainable livelihoods, including investment in public health, education and trade in high value and service-based economic sectors,

Role of local and regional authorities

17. Regrets that the Commission's both Communications make little mention of the contribution of local and regional authorities to sustainable development, despite Agenda 21's defining of local government as a "major group", one of the nine key partners in delivering sustainable development,
18. Calls for the development and the implementation of "Local Agenda 21" strategies on sustainable development, in order to promote innovative local solutions, supporting

¹ In 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted the Millennium Declaration, which embodies 8 Millennium Development Goals:

- a) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger,
- b) Achieve universal primary education,
- c) Promote gender equality and empower women,
- d) Reduce child mortality,
- e) Improve maternal health,
- f) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases,
- g) Ensure environmental sustainability, and
- h) Develop a Global Partnership for Development.

partnership of local people, community and voluntary organisations, indigenous people, local authorities and communities together with business and trade unions,

Strengthening governance for sustainable development at the national, regional and international levels

19. Believes that good governance, including respect for human rights, the rule of law, democracy, transparency and combating corruption, forms part of the necessary foundation for sustainable development in all countries; it is of the view that the WSSD should initiate new efforts to improve partnerships with civil society, business and industry and other groups in seeking sustainable solutions to development challenges; to show their commitment to good governance, international decision-making bodies should lead by example and adopt inclusive, transparent and accountable decision-making processes, notably within the G7/8, and WTO and its dispute settlement system. This should be based on financial support and capacity building at home, as supported by the Doha Agreement,
20. Acknowledges that both governance on sustainable development and international governance may require implementation and co-ordination efforts at the regional level and will need a more coherent regional institutional framework; urges international organisations, notably the United Nations bodies and organisations, working on environmental and sustainable development issues at regional or national levels, to extend their consultations with non governmental organisations and other major groups; calls upon the Summit to discuss ways and means to promote compliance with, and enforcement of, multilateral environmental agreements; at the same time, WSSD should clarify that responsibility for workers' rights and environmental protection remain with governments and the respective international *fora* (ILO, UNEP, etc), and that the roles of these *fora* should be strengthened,

Making Globalisation Work for Sustainable Development

21. Considers that sustainable development should ensure that globalisation contributes to ensuring long term welfare for all countries, by achieving increased international equity and by respecting the carrying capacity of the world's resources and ecosystems.
22. Considers that trade rules and their implementation should support rather than contradict the effective implementation of environmental, social and health objectives. Furthermore, trade should actively promote ecologically sustainable production of and trade in goods and services by providing positive incentives, technical assistance and capacity building in developing countries. Trade instruments should be used to address conflict and poverty issues, as well as environmental issues,
23. Recognises the growing role played by Foreign Direct Investment and that this should support corporate social responsibility, while social, development and environmental criteria in lending and financing decisions by Export Credit Agencies and investment banks should be strengthened; calls on WSSD to strengthen existing guidelines for multinational enterprises, leading to adoption of a legally binding instrument. Investment provisions should also be introduced in international environmental agreements relating

to natural resource use,

Means of Implementation

24. Pledges all countries to intensify their efforts to implement already agreed commitments at UNCED and recommends the ratification and effective implementation of conventions and protocols adopted since UNCED and aiming at sustainable development, the endorsement and adoption of environment and development targets to revitalise the political commitment and more effective action and follow up at national, regional and international level; international assistance flows, including debt relief and official development assistance (ODA-which must be increased), should supplement domestic and private efforts towards sustainable development. To this end, developed countries should recommit to and specify an action plan towards delivering on the 0.7 per cent ODA target,
25. Urges the development partners to continue to make available financial and technical assistance for the promotion of sustainable development in developing countries and countries in transition,
26. Asks the development partners to provide developing countries with access to publicly owned environmentally sound technologies and promote capacity building for absorbing and adapting knowledge and techniques,
27. Calls on the EU to commit to setting up a European Centre to promote the Transfer of Environmentally Sustainable Technology to developing countries, with the main aim of supporting the implementation of Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements such as the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, CBD, CCD, UN Fish Stocks Agreement, etc
28. Pledges for the designing of a “new business model” which addresses targets, timetable, joint monitoring and includes commitments from all signatories; the objective should be to design a multi-stakeholder implementation framework of the WSSD outcome.
29. Calls for the establishment by the Johannesburg Summit of development targets especially focused on the eradication of poverty and for these to be subject to an overall evaluation within 10 years, preceded by a mid-term review; while, at the Rio Summit in 1992 the starting progress was to identify strategies and make commitments, it will from now on be important to measure progress, using universal indicators for sustainable development.
30. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, and the Governments and the Parliaments of Member States.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In 1992 the United Nations Conference on the Environment and development was held in Rio de Janeiro. The Conference adopted a declaration in which the signatories committed themselves to working towards sustainable development by setting social and economic goals, outlining necessary conservation and resource management measures, eliminating unsustainable modes of consumption, establishing a global partnership and describing means of implementation.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (also known as Rio+10), organised to mark the tenth anniversary of the 1992 Rio “Earth Summit”, will be a Summit gathering from 26 August to 4 September 2002 in Johannesburg, of world leaders, civil society, United Nations agencies, multilateral financial institutions and other major actors, having as its “main thrust to move from the answers agreed on paper to action on the ground” (Nitin Desai, Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs to head the WSSD). The countdown has begun, few months remain to the WSSD, and there is as yet no fixed agenda on the table.

Le développement durable, quelle que soit la définition qui sera finalement établie, comprend sans doute la croissance économique (production, commerce, finances ...), la cohésion sociale (mettant en particulier l’accent sur l’éradication de la pauvreté) et l’intégration de l’approche écologique dans toutes les politiques (avec comme objectifs la protection de l’environnement, de la santé publique et de la qualité de la vie), des objectifs encore une fois liés aujourd’hui avec le problème de la cohésion sociale, surtout au niveau mondial.

Nous savons, par expérience et par l’analyse scientifique, que ces objectifs peuvent s’avérer contradictoires et l’histoire récente a prouvé que généralement ils le sont. La croissance de la production, sa technologie et ses méthodes, ses cycles et ses rythmes, sa globalisation sont de plus en plus détachés de considérations concernant les équilibres sociaux et écologiques, tant au niveau national qu’international, alors que déjà ceux-ci étaient loin d’être considérés satisfaisants aussi bien avant qu’après Rio...

Having this in mind we identified 5 key themes that should be addressed in this report; they have been selected on the basis of the relative severity of the problems addressed, the urgency with which they need addressing, the fact that existing practices are leading to irreversible damage and the important dimension in international level. These priority themes are:

- 1. Sustainable Management and Conservation of Natural Resources** (water, land, soil, air, non-renewable and renewable sources of energy, and biodiversity),
- 2. Making Globalisation work for sustainable development - enabling new pathways**, which will include issues such as “A new Global Deal”, “Changing Production and Consumption Patterns” and “Trade and Sustainable Development”,
- 3. Poverty eradication**, including financing for development and science and technology transfer,
- 4. Governance at all levels and across all sectors and the role of local and regional authorities**, and
- 5. Means of implementation.**

1. For many people and the environment, the situation is worse today than it was ten years ago. Natural resources are vanishing at an unprecedented rate. Most initiatives that address natural resource management and environmental issues without addressing the economic and financial needs of poor populations have had limited success at best. Major crises might have to be faced in the coming years in relation with climate change, access to clean water, energy efficiency, land and soil degradation, and biodiversity.

2. La globalisation met en avant de nouvelles et importantes opportunités de croissance économique, de communication et de circulation des idées, des connaissances et des technologies. Elle fait en même temps naître des nouveaux risques et de nouvelles menaces tout en donnant de nouvelles dimensions redoutables à celles que traditionnellement connaissaient l'économie de marché : les crises économiques et financières se propagent dans tout le monde et presque en temps réel, les délocalisations d'entreprises et le commerce international redistribuent trop rapidement l'emploi, créent du chômage ici, déstabilisent les économies traditionnelles, surtout rurales, là. Les mouvements migratoires qui en résultent, les crises politiques de toute sorte contribuant aussi largement, prennent des allures sans précédent et, pratiquement, sans possibilité réelle et efficace de contrôle et de régulation. Globalisation requires a new global deal, changing production and consumption patterns and new ways of making trade policy.

“Tackling global problems needs simultaneous action from all nations and will only succeed if **all** including the USA commit themselves to politically challenging choices. This global partnership, or even clearer **global deal** needs to embrace **all** stakeholders” (Poul Nielson).

Il faut cependant reconnaître que cette notion générale de global deal ne peut se réduire à des bonnes intentions et des accords internationaux au coup par coup, encore qu'ils soient extrêmement utiles et nécessaires, et très difficiles à faire accepter et respecter, surtout par les États Unis (Kyoto, armes toxiques et biologiques etc). L'état d'avancement du processus de la globalisation appelle de plus en plus fort un leadership et donc une direction technique et politique qui puisse faire accepter par tous les intéressés des cadres et des règles d'action que nous qualifions de soutenables. Déjà des organisations internationales, anciennes et nouvelles, font un travail de réglementation et de coordination, utile et nécessaire dans beaucoup de domaines, du secteur des transports jusqu'à celui de la santé publique et même à celui du commerce et des finances. Cela est pourtant insuffisant même du point de vue technique et pose plus souvent encore des questions politiques graves. Ce qui manque c'est les pondérations et les choix politiques que ces organisations ne sont pas en mesure ni en droit de faire publiquement et dans des règles convenues et acceptées par tous ou la plupart des intéressés. Cette direction politique ne peut être l'œuvre d'un seul État national pour des raisons évidentes. Revitaliser l'ONU ou créer de nouvelles structures multinationales capables d'obtenir un consensus large et librement décidé est probablement l'utopie la plus féconde dans la conjoncture actuelle.

Concerning the more specific problem of a necessary ecological approach, one should stress the fact that the major cause of the combined deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable pattern of consumption and production, particularly in industrialised countries. Changing consumption patterns towards sustainable development will require a multi-pronged strategy focusing on meeting basic needs and improving the quality of life, while reorienting consumer demand towards sustainably produced goods and services. More efficient use of

energy is critical to sustainable consumption.

Liberalised international trade is increasing the access to, and use of, natural resources and boosting transport-related pollution as well as resource-intensive consumption patterns. We need to create fair trade opportunities for the developing countries, while reducing debt, mobilising more financial resources (official development aid, including debt relief, which represented 0,33% of donors' GNP in 1992, declined to 0,22% by 1998, while the ODA target of 0,7% of GNP reconfirmed in Rio is far from being met) and launching a New Round of multilateral trade negotiations. Doha, Monterrey, Bretton Woods, WTO, ILO need to work consistently towards sustainable development.

3. "The single most important threat to sustainable development globally is poverty and the widening gap between the rich and the desperately poor. This is not only a threat to poor nations but also to wealthy as the instability, conflict, disease and environmental degradation associated with poverty threaten the overall socio-economic status of our planet" (Minister Moosa, Republic of South Africa, September 10th, 2001).

Over one billion people are living in extreme poverty. Their purchasing power is less than one US dollar per capita per day. The target of halving poverty by 2015 can only be reached if poverty reduction is considered a shared international mission which requires political action and is based on the partnership of governments of developing and industrialised countries, multilateral organisations and civil society forces from all countries.

4. The progressive collapse of ineffective systems of governance has culminated in instability, political crisis and conflict-based emergencies for millions of people. At the very heart of good or sound governance operates an increasingly widespread set of generative principles, including participation, equity, sustainability, transparency, effectiveness and the rule of law. The WSSD will have to address a new global governance scheme. Emphasis should be given to the mutually reinforcing character of good governance at the local, regional, national and international levels.

La proclamation de tels principes aurait sans doute un impact utile, mais en fait sa crédibilité serait vite amoindrie si on ne profitait de ce Sommet pour faire avancer certains engagements concrets de tous les participants sur l'application de ces principes dans certains domaines comme le commerce, la gestion des crises financières, la surveillance des transactions internationales de capitaux financiers et boursiers, les crises alimentaires, les migrations, etc. La gouvernance n'est certainement pas équivalente à une quelconque forme de gouvernement des affaires mondiales, mais les accords, les actions et les interventions de toute sorte dans les domaines qui seront considérés mûrs pour une globalisation de la politique devraient être conçues " comme si " elles faisaient partie d'une politique consciente globale. Pour un tel exercice, qui pourrait ouvrir des voies d'avenir, le Sommet de Johannesburg paraît plus adéquat que les réunions de chefs d'État ou de gouvernements de certains pays développés qui tentent de donner des réponses aux problèmes du monde, qui pratiquent donc exactement le même exercice, mais avec beaucoup moins de chances politiques de convaincre tous ou une partie significative des autres pays et de faire accepter des politiques efficaces.

5. In this sense, the Heads of States at the WSSD should seek to answer questions related to how they plan to reach meaningful global environmental and social agreements with the necessary enforcement mechanisms. They need to address the global power structures blocking the way, and set the necessary framework for the global economy. As a first step, they should ensure that Multilateral Environmental Agreements cannot be overruled by the

WTO. It is essential that the outcome of the Summit be action oriented with clearly identified measures for implementation and follow up. Ces mesures et leur application ne peuvent évidemment pas être confiées à la bonne volonté ou à des réunions de temps en temps des intéressés. Encore une fois le problème des règles permanentes et des institutions, déjà existantes et à revitaliser ou nouvelles, est posé. Que l'on le traite en termes de gouvernance ou de régulation ou de direction politique, selon les préférences de chacun, ce problème émerge comme l'élément décisif de la crédibilité et donc de l'efficacité réelle de tout ce qui pourrait être décidé au Sommet de Johannesburg. Dans ces matières, comme on peut aisément le constater à partir des exemples récents, le multilatéralisme est une condition nécessaire, même si elle est insuffisante, du succès, alors que l'unilatéralisme arbitraire est un facteur suffisant de déception et de déstructuration de l'acquis dans tous les domaines discutés ici.

Leading role of EU

Pour une période de temps encore, mais probablement pas pour toujours, l'UE a et aura le poids et la dimension qui lui permettent d'agir à l'échelle mondiale, dans un nombre considérable de domaines. Le rôle qu'elle a joué récemment dans l'adoption des accords de Kyoto en est un exemple très positif. Malgré l'insuffisance d'unité politique dans la formation, l'expression et l'application de ses politiques, elle a cependant des possibilités considérables de présence et d'action, des expériences de coopération. Reste à savoir si elle a la volonté et la capacité d'aboutir à des positions claires et fortes sur les thèmes discutés ici. La réponse est relativement difficile. D'un côté l'Europe est traversée par les mêmes contradictions et quelquefois par les mêmes conflits que les autres en ce qui concerne les problèmes et les enjeux du développement durable. Cependant, d'un autre côté, elle a souvent réussi à donner des réponses, tant dans sa législation intérieure que dans les négociations internationales, qui ouvrent des voies d'avenir dans plusieurs domaines concernés par le développement durable, malgré ses retards patents en matière d'aide au développement, de suppression de la dette des pays les plus pauvres, etc. Sur le plan des conceptions et des idées on constate par ailleurs une évolution intéressante si on veut bien juger à partir des discours et des déclarations venant d'origines politiques très diverses et à propos des thèmes discutés récemment dans des enceintes aussi différentes que celles de Porto Alegre et de Davos (cette fois à New York) : les thèmes de la gouvernance mondiale, de la lutte pour l'éradication de la pauvreté, de la gestion durable des ressources naturelles etc. ont été, à ces occasions, très souvent traités par des responsables européens le long de lignes convergentes. Reste à traduire ces déclarations dans des initiatives et des actions concrètes : dans une inflexion des règles du commerce international au sein de l'OMC (à Doha, récemment, l'UE a donné quelques signes encourageants), notamment en ce qui concerne le rapport de ces règles avec les règles de la biosecurité ; dans une révision, mûre aux yeux mêmes de nombreux experts, des règles de financement et de soutien aux équilibres extérieurs des pays les moins développés, ce qui pourrait au moins éviter des crises comme celle de l'Argentine récemment; dans des propositions de reprise concertée de l'aide au développement, surtout multilatérale; dans des domaines aussi divers que la gestion des ressources en eau, les technologies des ressources énergétiques renouvelables et leur diffusion mondiale, la sécurité maritime et la pollution des mers, la protection des espèces menacées etc. Des avancées dans ces domaines seraient un bon début pour assurer à l'UE une crédibilité et une autorité qui lui permettraient de se poser en acteur principal et incontournable dans les tentatives inévitables de régulation de la globalisation et les difficiles compromis qui seront sans doute nécessaires à des niveaux supérieurs de coordination et de gestion des affaires du monde, comme ceux qui concernent

les graves problèmes de la paix et des guerres qui sont sans aucun doute liés, de manière complexe mais très réelle, aux thèmes qui seront traités dans quelques mois à Johannesburg.