

5 MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM ON THE SDGs

The European Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) on the implementation of the SDGs was set up by the European Commission in [May 2017](#) to give expert support and advise the Commission (and other stakeholders) in the implementation of the SDGs at EU level.

Additionally, It aims to help prepare a selection process for an annual sustainability award and provides a forum for exchange of experience and best practice of SDG implementation.

The Political Platform of the MSP is composed of [30 members](#) and is chaired by the First Vice President Timmermans. A Management Committee, chaired by Deputy Secretary General Paquet, was set up as a subgroup of the Platform to assist its work. The Management Committee meets more frequently and has established multiple subgroups. Information on meetings and related documents can be obtained through [the MSP's website](#).

After a call for applications, members of the Platform were appointed by the Secretary-General of the Commission in either personal capacity or to represent an organisation. The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions each hold one seat in the Platform. The composition of the Management Committee mirrors that of the Platform with organisations usually represented by a different person. Multiple observers such as representatives from the World Bank, the UN and the OECD also have a seat on the Platform and Management Committee. The [recommendations of civil society](#)

[organisations](#) to organise the Platform according to the self-organising principle, where stakeholder constituencies freely nominate and put forward their own representative as opposed to being identified by the Commission, were disregarded.

In 2018, the main task of the MSP was to write an opinion on the implementation of the SDGs to be added to the Commission's [reflection paper](#) published in January 2019. The Management Committee has taken the lead on this task and a drafting group was established at the Management Committee meeting on the 14th March 2018. The group consolidated the input stakeholders gave to a [consultation questionnaire](#) which provided a consensus document expressing the views of all 30 stakeholders.

As the adoption of the MSP's opinion occurred shortly before the publication of the Commission's Reflection paper, serious doubt existed whether the platform can have a meaningful impact. In addition, with the new Commission coming in 2019, the current Commission is reluctant to tie the new Commission's hands through an ambitious implementation plan. Yet, the opinion of the MSP could find its value in providing the new Commission with a ready-made plan waiting for its implementation.

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The outcome document *Europe moving towards a sustainable future, Contributions of the Multi-Stakeholder Platform on the implementation of the Sustainable Goals in the EU Reflection Paper* was adopted on October 11, 2018.

The subgroup on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) has already written an opinion that was presented to VP Timmermans, the subgroup on the sustainability award is working on its proposal and a subgroup on monitoring and reporting convened for its first meeting in March 2018. A group on governance, policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) and the rule of law, and one on delivering the SDGs at local and regional level have also been established. Other subgroups planned are on: equality, justice, inclusion and decent work; global dimensions of SDGs, including trade and migration; corporate and social responsibility; and environment and natural resources including agriculture.

Civil society organisations represented on the MSP are: Birdlife, COFACE Families Europe, CONCORD, EEB (European Environmental Bureau), European Youth Forum, EPHA (European Public Health Alliance), ETUCE (European Trade Union Committee for Education), ETUC (European Trade Union Confederation), EUA (European University Association), Social Platform, SDG Watch Europe, Transparency International, WWF and Fair Trade Advocacy Office.

[SDG Watch Europe](#) as cross-sectorial coalition on the implementation of the SDGs is represented by Leida Rijnhout on the Platform and Ingeborg Niestroy on the Management Committee. They can be contacted through the SDG Watch Secretariat at sdgwatcheurope@gmail.com.

RESOURCES

[The MSP website](#)

[SDG Watch letter on proposed MSP](#)

[Response letter by EC](#)

[SDG Watch position paper on establishing MSP](#)

[Outcome document: Europe moving towards a sustainable future, Contributions of the Multi-Stakeholder Platform on the implementation of the Sustainable Goals in the EU Reflection Paper' October 11, 2018.](#)

[European Commission Reflection paper: Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030.](#)

