

Bálint BALÁZS // ESSRG

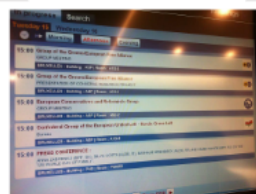
Evaluation of supporting and conflicting national, EU, and global policies and agreements towards Convergence

Gödöllő // June 27 2012 // 13.30 - 15.00

Objectives

CONVERGE

- Assess policy and governance context for convergence:
 - global equity within planetary limits, fair shares in environmental space
- How the governance context supports the global partnership strategic objective of the EU SDG?
 - promoting sustainable development actively worldwide and ensure that the European Union's internal and external policies are consistent with global sustainable development and its international commitments.
- Traps and contradictions on the policy level



Equity and limits

CONVERGE

- Links
 - RE roadmap acknowledging limits to secure jobs and growth - equity concerns not incorporated, exclusive focus on new eco E&A. Self report re-emphasizing on international imbalances
 - Distancing
 - "Equity is not understood, or mentioned in these terms, not even once a week"
 - Equity is not a first objective, and not even the second, which is economy"
 - Value laden, normative concept: political value, not policy
 - global equity is only partially followed or accepted by the EU institutions"
 - helps value based thinking and starting reasonable communication"



Main policy lessons

CONVERGE

- No such thing as „convergence policy“ in the EU, only SD policy, environmental policy, development policy
- Shifting focus of SDG within the UN process (declarations 1972, 1992, 2002) fundamental human rights, economic development, and socioeconomic development increased
- Policy trap: job and growth is first, equity and limits comes next, environmental policy (limits, targets, indicators) first, reducing inequality (in access to resources) next - no added value
- How do we get there - evidence is needed on the process, not on the content

Policy prospects

CONVERGE

- real light shines on reasonable governance context
- center of gravity for individual nations, processes on science to make real difference is expected
- good opportunity to show that it is not fiction and well doing in parallel the parties for managing instead of looking to technical strategies
- Global sector a good idea - the banking crisis in Europe shows it is worth quick. But we need fundamental changes the time we do not want
- acknowledge intransigence by it: how to get there, how to implement social and ethical change, do it now before we get there and willing to do, what is politically feasible for the more marginalized communities
- research needed to delineate access levels

Policy panel

Roundtable discussion on Equity and Limits with participants:

- Dr. Sándor Fülöp, Deputy-Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, responsible for the protection of the interests of future generations
- Dr. Benedek Jávor, MP, Chairman of Parliamentary Committee for Sustainable Development
- Veronika Kiss, Programme Coordinator, Resource Cap Coalition, CEEweb for Biodiversity
- Dr. Tamás Pálvölgyi - Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences, Department of Environmental Economics - apologies
- Dr. László Pintér - Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy, Central European University and Senior Fellow, International Institute for Sustainable Development
- Deborah S. Rogers - PhD, Director, IIE (Initiative for Equality), Affiliated Researcher, IRISS (Stanford University Institute for Research in the Social Sciences)

Policy communities

- Different worldviews in politics and implementation:
 - „development“ and „environment“
 - In NGO world interlinked; in policymaking quite separated
 - Special link: climate finance - environmental policymaking is close to the views of the development community
 - Lapping behind: „environment community does not realise that the ecological catastrophe is undermining what they achieved or pushing for“ instead of looking at who is having the right to consume they should look at the broader ecological context"

Policy narratives

- Positive narrative
 - Small green growth continues with altered focus of food systems
 - low economic impact, resource, synthetic biology
- Decoupling economic activity from resource use and emissions
 - Reduced effect: high level energy based lifestyle continue

Main institutions

CONVERGE

- Power is held by relatively small group of businesses
- WBCSD „Future of planet rests on business“
- European Commission, Parliament, Council
- DG Env
- Member States
- International CSO/NGO actors
- Scientific community academics, intellectuals
- a bunch of desperate solutions from broad coalition of grassroots, trade unions

Acceptance of policy

CONVERGE

- What policy needed?
- Policy that helps engagement for deeper change
 - „just need a lot of science to know that the way we live is unsustainable, but to get other people to accept that is a challenge“
 - flexible and enforceable actions, this is what EU dimension means for the policy DG is
 - „difficulty to getting the message of finite resources and planetary boundaries as something convincing to the broader public“ - „planetary boundaries concept is scaring and 3.5 more planet does not say enough“
 - „globally relevant and not elitist narrative - a way to explain without paternalism“

Links to food policy

CONVERGE

- Distancing and linking
 - EU RE Roadmap - identified food as a main domain to reduce env impact of consumption
 - IRP looking at resources (water, land, food, biodiversity)
 - Food is not included in DG Environment portfolio although strong interest on water and pesticides - joint actions with SANCO
- Bottom up food policy initiatives
 - community-based food systems, civic food networks
 - pushing economic-environmental-social change
 - new and relatively small policies can help

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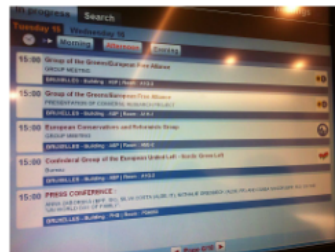
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Equity and limits

CONVERGE

- Link:
 - RE roadmap: acknowledging limits to secure jobs and growth - equity concerns not incorporated, exclusive focus on env-eco
 - EEA: State report refocussing on international imbalances
- Distancing:
 - "Equity is not understood, or mentioned in these rooms, not even once a week"
 - "equity is not a first objective, and not even the second, which is economy"
 - Value-laden, normative concept: political value, not policy
 - "global equity is only partially followed or accepted by the EU institutions"
 - "helps value based thinking and starting reasonable communication"



Policy panel

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In progress

Search

Meetings

Tuesday 15

Wednesday 16



Morning

Afternoon

Evening

15:00 **Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance**
GROUP MEETING

BRUXELLES - Building : ASP | Room : A1G-3



15:00 **Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance**
PRESENTATION OF CONVERSE RESEARCH PROJECT

BRUXELLES - Building : ASP | Room : A1H-1



15:00 **European Conservatives and Reformists Group**
GROUP MEETING

BRUXELLES - Building : ASP | Room : A5E-2



15:00 **Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left**
Bureau

BRUXELLES - Building : ASP | Room : A1G-2



15:00 **PRESS CONFERENCE :**
ANNA ZABORSKA (EPP, SK), SILVA COSTA (ALDE, IT), NATHALIE GRIESBECK (ALDE, FR) AND CSABA SOGOR (EPP, RO) ON THE
'UN WORLD DAY OF FAMILY'.

BRUXELLES - Building : PHS | Room : P0A050



Equity and limits

- Link:

RE roadmap: acknowledging
equity concerns not incorporated

EEA's 2015 report referencing

Equity and limits

- Link:

RE roadmap: acknowledging limits to secure jobs and growth - equity concerns not incorporated, exclusive focus on env-eco
EEA: SotE report refocussing on international imbalances

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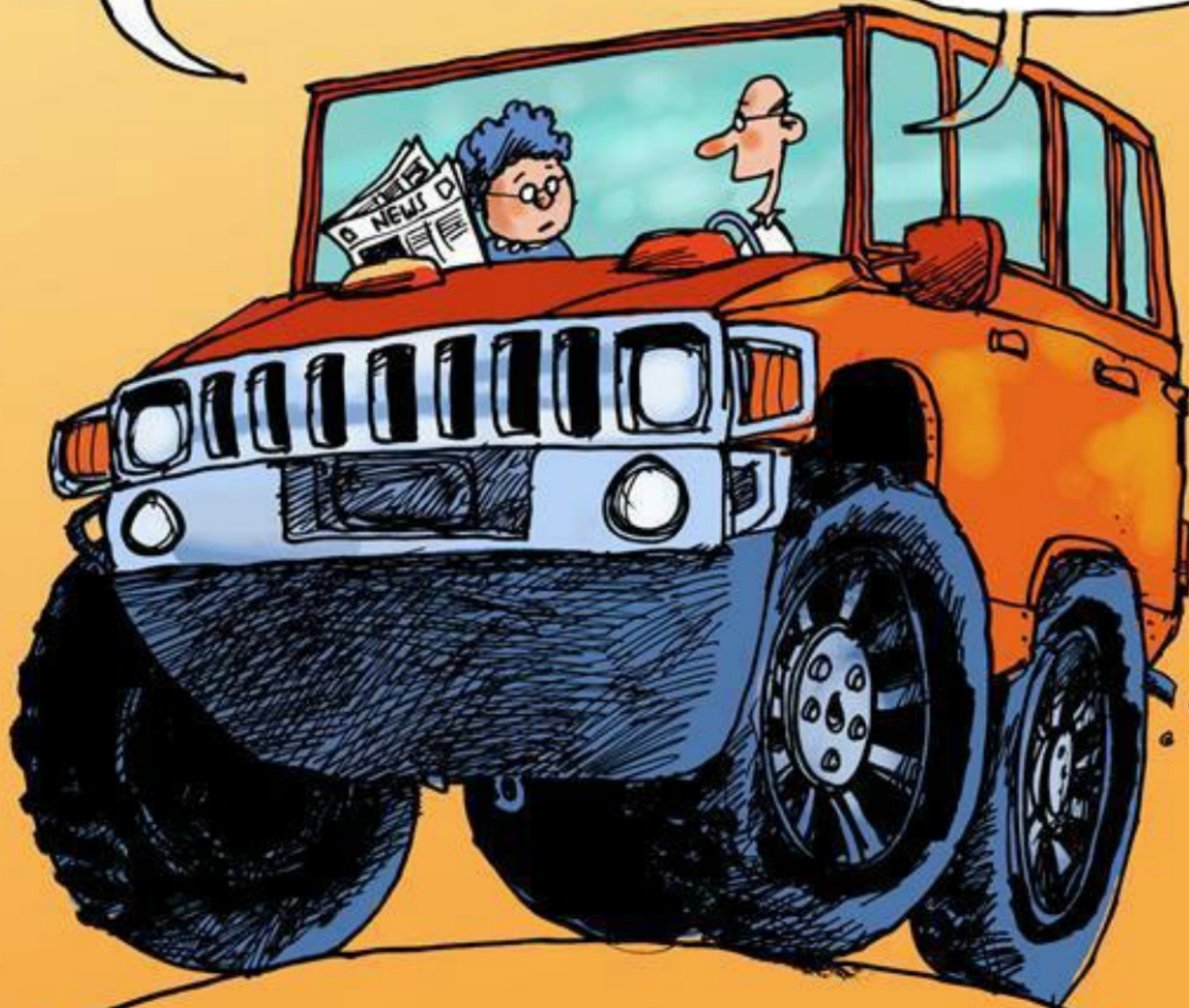
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SAYS HERE THAT
EARTH'S TEMPERATURE
IS AT A 400-YEAR
HIGH..

..THAT'S OKAY..
WE'VE GOT A/C.





Policy communities

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„development” and „environment”

- In NGO world interlinked; in politics

Policy communities



Different worldviews in politics and implementation:
„development” and „environment”

- In NGO world interlinked; in policymaking quite separated
- Special link: climate finance -- environmental policymaking is close to the views of the development committee.
- Lagging behind: „Environment community fears that the development community does not realise that the ecological catastrophe is undermining what they achieved or pushing for. Instead of looking at who is having the right to consume they should look at the broader ecological context.”



Policy narratives

Positive rhetoric

- Smart green growth: continu
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Policy narratives



Positive rhetoric

- Smart green growth: continue with altered focus of businesses
 - bio-economies: biotech, nanotech, synthetic biology
- Decoupling: economic activity from resource use and emissions
 - Rebound effect: high level energy based lifestyle continue



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Policy prospects

multiple crises as favourable govern

- sense of urgency for realworld so

real difference in communities

Policy prospects

multiple crises as favourable governance context

- sense of urgency for realworld solutions, pressure on science to make real difference in communities
- a good opportunity to show that life satisfaction and well-being are part of the positive life strategies instead of sticking to survival strategies.
 - Do not waste a good crisis – the banking crisis in Europe shows that with quick fixes we avoid fundamental changes

the future we (do not) want

- we know what sustainability is - how to get there, how to implement social and cultural change. We do not know what people want and willing to do, what is politically feasible for the most marginalised communities
- research needs to defragment across levels



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