

Terms of Reference for the European Parliament's SDG Alliance

The purpose of the informal SDG Alliance is to bring together like-minded MEPs from different political groups and different committees to promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the European Parliament. The Alliance as part of the wider [Parliamentarians for the Global Goals network](#).

Members of the SDG Alliance believe that the SDGs should be at the centre of policy making in the Parliament and the EU more broadly. We hope that through our actions we can contribute to mainstreaming the SDGs across the work of the European Parliament. Although this alliance is informal, we hope to position the group to achieve formal intergroup status under the next mandate.

We recognise that the SDGs are transversal in nature and that this requires action from all committees and all groups. During our first year, we will endeavour to secure broad based membership for the SDG Alliance to ensure the widest influence possible.

The formation of this group is particularly timely given the context of the pandemic, which has reversed a decade of progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in some countries. Time is of the essence if we are to make meaningful progress towards the SDGs by 2030. As MEPs, we have an important role to play in adding our parliamentary voice to efforts to put the SDGs at the top of the EU's agenda.

The desired outputs of the SDG Alliance are the following:

1. Securing an annual own initiative report on the implementation and delivery of the SDGs in the EU. This could be prepared jointly by DEVE-ENVI and/or ECON. This would build on the [report](#) from the last parliamentary term. This report would conduct a thorough review of the EU's efforts to implement the SDGs. It would also make proposals for future action and gather input from the widest possible range of committees to reflect the cross cutting nature of the SDGs. The intention is that this annual own initiative report would be drawn up under the Rule 55 procedure and benefit from preferential treatment in plenary in the form of a key debate with a representative from the Commission. It should be subject to automatic authorisation and be off quota. This flagship report would keep the SDGs high on the political agenda and raise the Parliament's profile in efforts to promote the SDGs.
2. The Commission has started to integrate the SDGs into the European Semester as part of its strategy to put sustainable development at the heart of economic policy. Our alliance should be active in holding the Commission to this promise and ensuring that the SDGs are integrated consistently and comprehensively into the European Semester, in recognition of the fact that the success of our economies and societies goes far beyond GDP. This could form part of the key debate with the Commission set out above.
3. Monitoring key legislative files (eg Common Agricultural Policy, Pact on Migration and Asylum) and identifying opportunities to integrate the sustainable development perspective therein. This would involve holding meetings with rapporteurs and shadow rapporteurs on important legislative files to identify opportunities to incorporate the SDGs.
4. Raising awareness about the importance of the SDGs in our respective political groups and committees including through the hosting of webinars and events. We will aim to hold quarterly

meetings with external speakers (summer, autumn, winter, spring). These could include high profile speakers to sustain interest in the SDGs. We hope that the first of these meetings will take place in July 2021 with Professor Jeffrey Sachs, to attract new members and to help identify how the European Parliament can add value to efforts to integrate the SDGs. We also aim to host a public event in the context of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

5. We will investigate obtaining secretarial support to help us to undertake our work more effectively. We will also engage regularly with SDG Watch, who will act as our standing advisory committee, to learn from the expertise and experience of CSOs active in this area. This engagement will be particularly useful for the preparation of the own initiative report on SDG implementation.

These terms of reference will serve as our guide for efforts to promote the SDGs in the European Parliament.