



## Rio+20: Spring Alliance calls for political engagement and concrete actions

1. Bringing together the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), European Environmental Bureau (EEB), the European Social Platform and Concord Europe, the Spring Alliance calls for European leaders to step up to the challenge in providing leadership to ensure a successful result at Rio+20.
2. Twenty years on from the Earth Summit in 1992, poverty is on the rise, half of the world's workers work in insecure conditions, unemployment is at record levels, and harmful greenhouse gas emissions are continuing to rise together with our unsustainable use of energy and resources, threatening biodiversity and increasing the risk of global calamity if action is not taken urgently.
3. This reality makes success at the Rio+20 summit of key importance to revitalise the sustainable development agenda internationally and in Europe, in the face of the current economic crisis.
4. However, the current level of political engagement from national governments is jeopardising the prospects of a strong and globally applicable outcome of the Rio+20 UN Conference.
5. At the Rio+20 UN Conference, world leaders must commit to a concrete action plan leading to sustainable development and poverty eradication within the limitations of the planet.
6. In line with this, European countries and other developed countries have to commit in Rio to substantially reducing their consumption of the Earth's limited natural resources, in so doing stimulating innovation and jobs through energy and resource efficiency. European leaders have to implement agreed EU targets and prepare themselves for more ambitious action. Developing countries should use natural resources more efficiently.
7. On the eve of the last negotiations before the conference, we call on governments to make ambitious commitments in Rio, and particularly:
  - a) To guarantee the right to food, clean water and sustainable energy for all
  - b) To plan socially and ecologically just transition strategies for societies based on Decent Work and a social protection floor (including access to essential health, education and social services, and the right to a minimum income).
  - c) To provide an enabling financial framework (notably through a global financial transaction tax, and addressing harmful subsidies)
  - d) To recognize the essential role of trade unions and civil society in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public policies at all levels.
8. Promoting a green economy must be part of an overarching sustainable development strategy, striking a balance between social, ecological and economic aspects while achieving distributional and intergenerational equity. This requires active public policy engagement and cannot be delegated to the private sector alone.

9. We demand the strengthening of UNEP through its transformation into a new UN environmental organisation, based on multi-stakeholder involvement, and the creation of a high-level Sustainable Development Council reporting directly to the UN General Assembly, on the basis of an international system for measuring progress, including the development of adequate indicators to measure sustainable development.
10. The current over-arching development framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) expires in 2015. Any Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) resulting from Rio+20 must be holistic, inclusive, equitable and universally applicable, and fully integrated into an overarching global post-2015 development framework.
11. Rio+20 is an opportunity to spur fundamental changes, not only at global level but also locally, in regions worldwide. This opportunity must not be missed.

Brussels, 12 June 2012