



More than 600 European partners and stakeholders gathered in Brussels today for a High-Level Policy Summit on Europe's Response to Sustainability Challenges.

There was a great deal of interest and optimism among speakers. Erik Solheim, Head of United Nations Environment stressed that “In the SDGs, together is the key word. Together, the EU and the UN can bring a new shared vision. Together one can solve anything; divided one will solve almost nothing.”

For Frans Timmermans, European Commission Vice-President, education is key to the success of this agenda. Mr Timmermans would like to see Europe providing education in critical thinking in order to teach people to look at the world through the eyes of another. Indeed humanity is in need of more solidarity and equality. Only through education can we create a new generation able to see opportunities and wake up to the sustainability challenges that we face today.

Educating young people to have a positive view of society and see opportunities in the 17 goals will foster more inclusive and prosperous societies.

Speakers stressed the importance of young people and the prospects that they have.

In particular, HM Queen Mathilde of the Belgians made a call to support every positive narrative and initiative that can bring hope and restore the trust of young people in their future.

Echoing this, a member of the audience thanked the Queen and the EU for supporting the SDGs and what she called “an umbrella of hope in these hard times”.



Copyright © 2016 by the European Union. All rights reserved. This document is intended to provide a general overview of the EU's role in the SDGs. It is not intended to be a legal document. For more information, please visit the website of the European Commission.