SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES FOR THE FUTURE EU BUDGET

...so that the EU becomes a driver towards sustainability in Europe and beyond

SDG Watch Europe is putting forward eight sustainability principles to ensure coherence in the future internal and external EU spending and to put sustainability at the heart of the European project. We call on the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Council to integrate these principles from the very beginning of the financial policy planning, and thus prioritise the interest of the citizens and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. SDG Watch Europe will also propose sustainability proofing methods for the future EU budget to help make it happen.

1. The EU budget should work for the people and with the people, with greater transparency and accountability, respectful of diversity and meaningful participation of the citizens.

2. The EU budget should strengthen the common European values, in Europe and globally.

3. The EU budget should increase wellbeing and contribute to decreasing inequality and social exclusion at all scales.

4. The EU budget needs to take holistic approach, support systems change and promote innovation, which is required for the transition to sustainability and building a circular economy.
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5

The EU budget has to serve the development of a diversified and resilient economy and society, where the full potential and participation of all communities, organisations and businesses of any size is fully achieved.

6

The EU budget should serve the public good.

7

The EU budget should contribute to decreasing the total environmental pressures (use of natural resources, use of land and emissions of waste, toxic substances, greenhouse gases and alien genotypes), and should not contribute to shifting of environmental pressures in time and space.

8

The EU budget should contribute to improving the state of environment and maintaining and restoring ecosystem services, which is the very foundation of our society and economy.

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SDG Watch Europe is an EU level, cross-sectoral alliance of NGOs from development, environment, social, human rights and other sectors

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