



# The EU's strategic SD frameworks in response to the international SD agenda: What is the impact on SD governance and Greening the European Semester?

ESDN Conference, 06-07.11.2014, Rome  
Louis Meuleman DG ENV – 06.11.2014



- EU2020's triple strategy: Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive growth
- EU2020 -> Flagship Initiatives -> Roadmaps -> Communications -> also legal proposals
- Monitoring & reporting process: European Semester
- EU2020 does not replace completely the 2006 SDS, but opinions differ about what to do



## New policy guidance:

- 7th Environmental Action Programme
- Circular economy Communication
- Waste Package
- Green action for plan SMEs Communication
- Sustainable Buildings Communication
- Stock-taking Communication Europe 2020 review
- Communication on the SDGs

## IT Presidency:

- 1st informal meeting labour & environment Ministers (17.07.2014, Milano)
- ENV Council conclusions on greening Semester and EU2020 review (28.10.2014)

# Commission Juncker: What can be expected?

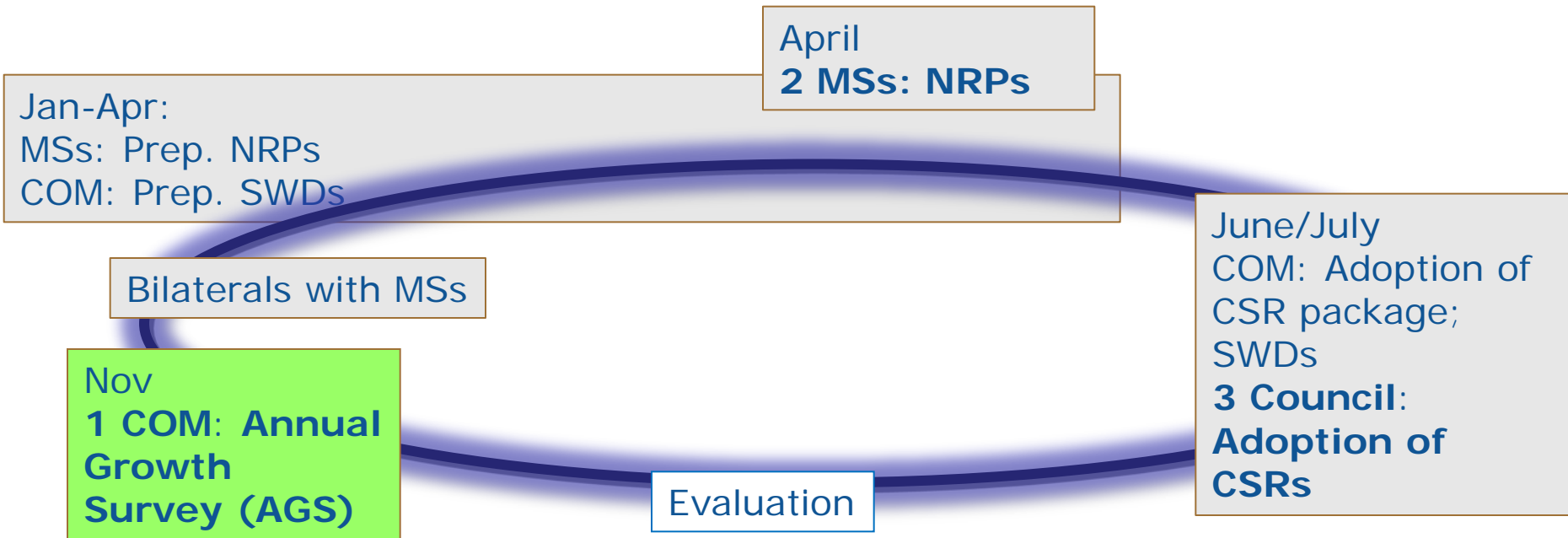


- “I strongly believe in the potential of green growth” (Juncker, 15.07.2014)
- New coordination point for SD (1<sup>st</sup> VP Frans Timmermans)



- Communication Spring 2014
- OWG proposed SDGs
- Joint Council several council formations (Dec)
- New Communication in preparation on Global Partnership: Means of implementation, monitoring, review and accountability
- Elements e.g.: sound regulatory environments, sustainable investments, financial management, policy coherence, capacity building and exchange of knowledge
- At EU level possible to link to the **European Semester?**

# The European Semester; Main steps



AGS= Annual Growth Strategy  
CSR= Country Specific Recommendation  
NRP= National Reform Programme  
SWD= (Comm.) Staff Working Document

# Semester as (part of) monitoring and implementation of SDGs in the EU?



## EU2020 multilevel monitoring, reporting; soft and hard measures



### EUROPEAN SEMESTER: A PARTNERSHIP EU-MEMBER STATES

	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
European Commission	Autumn Economic Forecasts Commission publishes <b>Annual Growth Survey and Alert Mechanism Report</b> (AGS, AMR) Commission opinions on draft budgetary plans (€ Area)			Winter Economic Forecasts Bilateral meeting with Member States		Commission publishes <b>In-Depth Reviews</b> of countries with potential risks (IDR)	Bilateral meeting with Member States	Spring Economic Forecasts Commission proposes <b>country-specific recommendations</b> for budgetary, economic and social policies (CSR)				Bilateral meeting with Member States
European Council / Council	Finance ministers discuss opinions on draft budgetary plans (€ Area)	National ministers <b>adopt conclusions</b> on AGS + AMR and agree main priority areas (AGS, AMR)		EU leaders <b>adopt economic priorities</b> based on AGS (AGS)			National ministers <b>discuss the CSRs</b> (CSR)	EU leaders <b>endorse final CSRs</b> (CSR)				
Member States		Member States <b>adopt budgets</b>		Member States present their <b>Stability or Convergence Programmes</b> (on budgetary policies) and <b>National Reform Programmes</b> (on economic policies)							Member States present draft <b>budgetary plans + Economic Partnership Programmes</b> (EDP countries) (€ Area)	
European Parliament			Debate / resolution on AGS (AGS)								Debate / resolution on the European Semester and the CSRs (CSR)	

Glossary: AGS: Annual Growth Survey - AMR: Alert Mechanism Report - CSR: Country-Specific Recommendations - EDP: Excessive Deficit Procedure - IDR: In-Depth Review

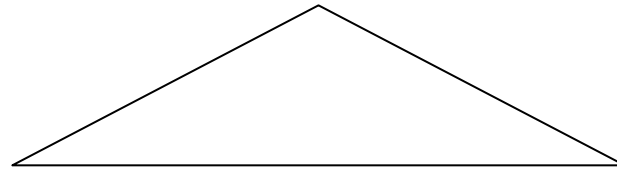


- **Objective:** Support transition to green economy: Tackling resource challenges and dependency of imports, creating green and other jobs, while creating a healthier and cleaner environment.
- **Why?**
- *Economic rationale:* The opportunity costs of not starting this process of greening may be huge, and there are substantial short and longer term benefits.
- *Political rationale:* 7<sup>th</sup> EAP: integrate the relevant elements of 7<sup>th</sup> EAP (incl. circular economy and resource efficiency) in the Semester
- **How?** (1) better data, (2) better alliances, (3) policy coherence
- **Who?** All actors involved in SD & env/econ/social governance



Three priorities (from environment perspective):

**Env Tax Reform/phase out EHS**  
**Tax shift labour-> resources**



**Circ.ec / Res.Eff**  
**waste etc**

**Skills and jobs**

# Results of the 2014 Semester in terms of SWD & CSR environmental references



European  
Commission



## SWDs 2014: country-specific analysis

Environment in the 2014 SWDs per topic					
Number of references	2013 SWD	2014 SWD	Δ	Δ%	Did we have better data?
Environmental taxation	18	<b>22</b>	4	22%	new study EFR 12 MSs
Waste	17	<b>20</b>	3	18%	updates existing data
Air pollution	5	<b>17</b>	12	240%	air quality review IA data
Env. harmful subsidies	8	<b>13</b>	5	63%	new study EFR 12 MSs
Traffic congestion & transport	4	<b>12</b>	8	200%	link with air pollution
Circular economy/Res. efficiency	6	<b>12</b>	6	100%	
Floods	0	<b>11</b>	11	new	new study floods
Water	7	<b>11</b>	4	57%	new study water/economy
Impact assessments	2	<b>6</b>	4	200%	Indirect relevance for env
SME resource efficiency	2	<b>4</b>	2	new	new study SMEs
Other topics	7	<b>10</b>	3		
Total nr of references:	<b>76</b>	<b>138</b>	62		
<b>Increase ENV ref. 2013-&gt;2014:</b>				<b>82%</b>	

# Results of the 2014 Semester in terms of SWD and CSR environmental references.



CSRs 2014:

Country-specific political assessment

CSRs with environmental topics (one CSR may have more than 1 ENV topic)				
	Adopted 2013		Adopted 2014	
Waste management	BG, EE, PL	3	PL	1
Water management	BG, PL	2		0
Flood protection		0		0
Environment taxation	BE, CZ, ES, FR, HU, IT, LT, LU, LV, RO	10	BE, CZ, ES, IE, FR, HU, IT, LT, LU, LV	10
Environmentally harmful subsidies		0	BE, FR, IT	3
Transport/congestion incl./or air pollution	MT	1	BE, EE	2
		16		16

## CSRs on the Climate & Energy headline targets, related to environment:

	Adopted 2013		Adopted 2014	
Non-ETS GHG reductions	BE, LU	2	BE, LU	2
Energy efficiency	BG, CZ, EE, FI, LT, LV, MT, PL, SK	9	BG, CZ, EE, ES, FR, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, LU	11
Renewable energy	DE, MT, UK	3	DE, MT, UK	3
Energy infrastructures	BG, DE, EE, IT, LT, LV, MT, PL, RO, SK	10	BG, DE, EE, IT, LT, LV, PL, PT, RO, SK	10
		24		26

Warning: Decision making is not completely rational/linear or even circular

## Beyond the Garbage Can theory: Cloud governance





## Questions for discussion:

- **What are the pros and cons of integrating SDG implementation for EU MSs with the European Semester process of governance?**

### Pro:

- Not invent the wheel,
- Efficient,
- Integrated with the macro-economic agenda,
- Policy coherence between SGDs and EU2020
- Boost transformational agenda towards green economy

Contra: Risk of watering down? How to keep focus?  
Additional structures needed?

- **What can be used at global SDG implementation level from EU experiences with Semester as multi-level/actor/sector/scalar governance process?**



# Thank you for your attention!

Website Greening the European Semester with studies and information on the meetings of the Expert Group Greening the Semester:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/green\\_semester/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/green_semester/index_en.htm)