

Sustainable development, future generations and the individual

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„Sustainable development“ is a sort of linguistic pollution

(a) Brundtland formula hardly helpful:

- **Nuclear energy** **USA, Germany: 1 million years for waste landfills**
 France: 60.000 years
- **Biodiversity loss**
- **Land use** **Via Appia**
- **Greenhouse gas emissions**

We do no (want to) know what sustainable development is

Three pillar theory – economic-social-environmental – hardly helpful

Biosphere (environment) is the foundation, not one element

Sustainable development objectives

European Council 2006:

- **Climate change and clean technologies**
- **Sustainable transport**
- **Sustainable production and consumption**
- **Public health**
- **Conservation and management of natural resources**
- **Social inclusion, demography and migration**
- **Global poverty and the challenges of sustainable development**

Which future generations are we talking of?

Our children?

Our grandchildren?

People who live in the year 2100?

People who live in the year 2200?

Forecasts are difficult, in particular, when they concern the future

Threats to individuals

- (1) Poverty: food, shelter, electricity, work
- (2) Mass influences: seduction by ideologies, NSA, internet, finance world activities
- (3) Brave New World-scenarios: planned human and natural life
(demography, medicine, pharmaceuticals, GMOs)

Protecting the individual of future generations requires actions now

European Council 2006:

Action on sustainable development should be based on:

- Promotion of human rights
- Inter-generational and intra-generational equity
- Open and democratic society
- Participation of companies and social groups
- Precautionary principle
- Polluter-pays principle

- [Coherence]
- [Integration of policies]
- [Use of best knowledge]

Translated into daily work, this means:

**Make a fair policy which reduces
the differences between rich and poor**

Measures to take today

**Protect minorities against the majority
(the weak against the strong)**

Measures to take today

**Give broad access to (environmental)
information and access to courts to individuals
and to civil society organisations**

Measures to take today

**Eliminate the existing quasi-monopoly of the
administration to protect the environment**

Measures to take today

Treat individuals as adults

**Allow civil society to protect itself
(including the possibility to commit errors)**

Measures to take today

Drastically change development policy

Thank you