



2nd International Sustainable Living Congress – *Sustainability in time of COVID-19*

19-20 March 2021

Sustainable Civil Society Dialogue for Sustainable Development

19 March 2021

Sergio Andreis, Director – *Kyoto Club*



Good morning, from Rome !

My warm thanks to:

➤ **The**



Colleagues for the invitation to speak during the Congress.



for their support to Turkey-EU civil society dialogue.

➤ **All of you participating today.**

Kyoto Club

Kyoto Club is an Italian **non-profit organisation** founded in February 1999. Its current 135 members are business companies, associations and local municipalities and governments engaged for the greenhouse gas reduction targets set by the *Kyoto Protocol*, by the EU ones for 2030 and by the December 2015 *Paris Agreement*.

To reach its goals and to support bio, green and circular economy patterns, *Kyoto Club* promotes **awareness-raising initiatives, information and training** to foster **energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, waste reduction and recycling** and **sustainable agriculture and mobility**.

Our activities are based on the following key strategies:

- The **increase of the environmental dimension in business culture** and the **dissemination of best practices**.
- The promotion of **eco-efficiency policies** and of the use of **renewable energy sources**.
- The **reduction of greenhouse gases emissions** in Italian urban areas.
- The development of **new eco-compatible productions** and the **investments in technological innovation**.
- The **mainstreaming of environmental management systems**, eco and energy labeling.
- The **dialogue and networking among institutions and companies**.

Towards Italian, EU and UNFCCC public decision-makers, *Kyoto Club* puts forward **policy proposals** to make institutional decisions more and more environment and climate friendly.

At the international level *Kyoto Club* is part of



The non-profit **European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE)**, based in Brussels (Belgium) and whose Members and Partners include some of Europe's leading multinational companies, a prominent cross-party group of European politicians and energy efficiency campaigners from across Europe. *EUASE's* vision is of a future where energy efficiency and end-users empowerment are central to the EU energy system and are fundamental drivers for job creation, sustainable growth, competitiveness, energy productivity, innovation, energy security and decarbonisation. *Kyoto Club* is represented in the *EUASE* Board of Managers.



The **European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (eceee)**, based in Stockholm (Sweden) is a membership-based non-profit association and Europe's largest and oldest NGO dedicated to energy efficiency. It generates and provides evidence-based knowledge and analysis of policies, facilitating co-operation and networking. *eceee* Members are found among private and public organisations, universities and research institutions, as well as among all those professionals from all sectors who share *eceee's* energy efficiency priority goals. *Kyoto Club* is represented in the *eceee* Board of Managers.



Transport & Environment's (T&E) is Europe's leading clean transport campaign group, whose vision is a zero-emission mobility system that is affordable and has minimal impacts on our health, climate and environment. Since its creation 30 years ago, *T&E* has shaped some of Europe's most important environmental laws. It is a Brussels-based non-profit organisation and politically independent, combining the power of robust, science-based evidence and a deep understanding of transport with memorable communications and impactful advocacy.

Kyoto Club has observatory status with



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

Sustainability in time of COVID-19 and selected current Kyoto Club projects and initiatives

The coronavirus crisis has shown how vulnerable we all are, and how important it is to restore the balance between human activity and nature. At the heart of the Green Deal the Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies point to a new and better balance of nature, food systems and biodiversity; to protect our people's health and well-being, and at the same time to increase the EU's competitiveness and resilience. These strategies are a crucial part of the great transition we are embarking upon.

Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission

The EU will:



Become climate-neutral by 2050



Protect human life, animals and plants, by cutting pollution



Help companies become world leaders in clean products and technologies



Help ensure a just and inclusive transition

2030 Targets for sustainable food production

PESTICIDES



Reduce the overall use and risk of chemical and hazardous pesticides

NUTRIENT LOSSES



Reduce nutrient losses by 50% whilst retaining soil fertility, resulting in 20% less fertilisers

ANTIMICROBIALS



Reduce sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals and aquaculture

ORGANIC FARMING



Increase the percentage of organically farmed land in the EU

#EUFarm2Fork #EUGreenDeal



Kyoto Club contributes with proposals and, together with the civil society partner NGO networks, advocates / campaigns for a credible, i.e. with no gaps between policy announcements and implementation, *European Green Deal* and, notably, of the EU *Biodiversity 2030* and *Farm-to-Fork* strategies.

➤ carries out action-research, publishes the **Kyoto Books** series newsletter, social media and the **QualEnergia** (WhichEnergy)



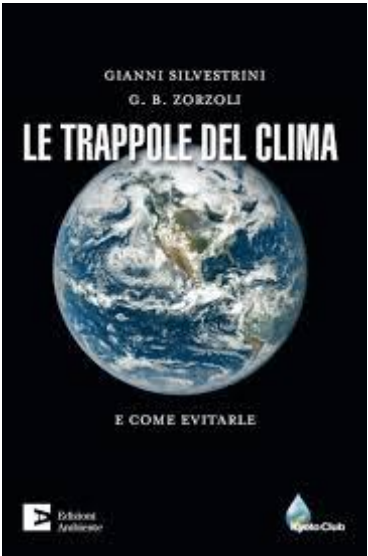
➤ works for **circular economy**



➤ runs training and capacity building programs through **Scuole per Kyoto** (Schools for Kyoto) with junior / high schools and Local Authorities.



➤ cooperates with agricultural students, universities and farmers' organizations to inform and train for a climate neutral 2021-2027 EU **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** and for the substantial expansion of Italian and EU **organic farming**.



and informs through its website, Internet portal and magazine.



➤ with the **Parchi per Kyoto** (Parks for Kyoto) initiative **Kyoto Club** supports forestation, in both, protected areas and urban parks, all over Italy.



Kyoto Club and Turkey

Thanks to the *EU –Turkey Civil Society Dialogue Programme* and the European Commission's *EuropeAid Support to Civil Society Networks and Platforms in Turkey*, *Kyoto Club* has been developing cooperation on energy, climate-friendly and sustainable development and environmental education and networking projects with Turkish civil society organisations in Ankara, Istanbul, Karşıyaka and İzmir.



The 15-month *Sustainable Civil Society Dialogue for Sustainable Development* project, in cooperation with the Karşıyaka/İzmir *Environmental Energy Association*, Bologna and Karşıyaka Municipalities, has been completed last November 26.

The on-going *Environmental Literacy Networking (ELN)* has a three-year duration, until the end of 2022.

The Lead Partner is the Istanbul-based Yuva Association



The objective is to establish a new quasi-informal network of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from Turkey (İstanbul, Çanakkale, Balıkesir, Ankara, İzmir, Mersin, Hatay and Antep) and the EU (mainly including, but, thanks to the Kyoto Club contacts, not limited to Italy and Brussels) in the area of environment and climate change.

The expected overall contribution is to strengthen the cooperation on sustainable development through a sustainable civil society dialogue through the emphasis of cross-cutting environmental and climate change issues.



The *Sustainable Civil Society Dialogue for Sustainable Development (SCSD-SD)*: 10 advocacy and policy proposals



According to the *United Nations* sustainable development has been defined as **development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.**

➤ Sustainable development calls for concerted efforts towards building an **inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and planet.**

➤ For sustainable development to be achieved, **it is crucial to harmonize three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection.** These elements are **interconnected** and all are crucial for the well-being of individuals and societies.

➤ **Eradicating poverty** in all its forms and dimensions is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

With just under ten years left to achieve the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, world leaders at the SDG Summit in September 2019 called for a ***Decade of Action*** and delivery for sustainable development, and pledged to mobilize financing, enhance national implementation and strengthen institutions **to achieve the Goals by the target date of 2030**, leaving no one behind.

Agreed priorities for the **2020-2030 *Decade of Action*** include **to tackle growing poverty, empower women and girls and address the climate emergency.**

Our ***SCSD-SD*** project has contributed to the implementation of the environment and climate-related SDGs in our part of the world and on the basis of the lessons learned through the project activities, we share the following recommendations with decision-makers in Turkey and in the EU.

1. Both Turkey and the EU should take an active role in the **2020-2030 Sustainable Development Decade of Action**, by tackling existing poverty in their own territories creating of new jobs through **training and green and bio circular economy investments**, targeting, as priorities, the specific empowerment **of women and girls** and addressing **the climate emergency** we all are facing.
2. Accession negotiations for Turkey to become a EU Member State appear to be at a deadlock but this situation should not affect the cooperation between Turkey and EU against climate change: **new impetus should be given to close all pre-accession negotiation chapters so that Turkey may join the EU at the soonest.**
3. Civil society organisations have been proving to be the most effective channel to foster intercultural learning, develop long-term partnerships, cooperation and mutual understanding between Turkey and the EU: **funding for EU-Turkey civil society dialogue and joint programmes in the 2021-2027 EU Multiannual Financial Framework should be substantially increased.**
4. As it involves the learning processes' immaterial sphere and as such it is a powerful dialogue and cooperation leverage to increase mutual knowledge and respect, **cultural cooperation** should be given specific attention: the opportunities for joint Turkey – EU bilateral and multilateral initiatives in the art and cultural fields should be significantly enlarged and **the EU Member States should be encouraged to include Turkish language and culture courses in their high school curricula.**



5. The December 2015 *Paris Agreement*:

Turkey signed the *Agreement* on 22 April 2016, but – one of the six remaining countries to do so - still did not ratify it.

The EU: in spite of significant progresses at the policy level, the EU and its Member States are behind schedule in achieving the *Paris Agreement* goals.

We respectfully call:

A. On the Turkish Authorities **to proceed** without further ado **with the Paris Agreement ratification**.

B. On the EU officials **to show more ambition**, as also the scientific community, notably the *United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, keeps asking and **finally act**, so that the EU – ideally together with Turkey - may indeed become the world's first climate-neutral continent.

C. In Turkey, there is a study on the legislation of *Emission Trade System*. There needs to be an agreement between EU and Turkey on improving the *Emission Trade System*. This agreement needs to involve public authorities and private sector and should be transparent.



6. In order to bring further the international cooperation and upgrade the global hope on climate changes, we appeal to the Turkish and EU leaders to actively **engage for the full success** of the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* conference **(COP26) scheduled to take place in Glasgow in November 2021.**
7. The Municipalities of Karşıyaka and Bologna – both Associated Partners in the *SCSD-SD* project – have decided new future-oriented climate-related actions and the involvement of their civil society organisations: the first one by setting up **an ad hoc climate change department within the city administration** and the second by **declaring the state of climate emergency**. Best practices at the local level should be given visibility and be replicated on a large scale, both in Turkey and within the EU.
8. The green trade between Italy and Turkey needs to be improved and amendments needed on the legislations of both countries. The transportation between Italy and Turkey should involve vehicles which make less carbon emission.



Comune di Bologna

Dikkatiniz için çok teşekkürler!



Sergio Andreis

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