



INTER-INSTITUTIONAL GROUP “SDGs FOR WELL-BEING AND CONSUMERS’ PROTECTION”

Civil society organizations together with the EU Institutions to support the SDGs in the European framework

Manifesto of the Inter–Institutional Group “SDGs for well-being and consumers’ protection” (2019-2024 term)

The Inter–Institutional Group “SDGs for well-being and consumers’ protection” is promoted by citizen organizations and is the first group dedicated to the SDGs within the European Institutions.

Determined to take SDGs as a priority, members of the EU Parliament, of the EU Commission and of the European Economic and Social Committee supporting the Inter–Institutional Group - from across the political spectrum - accept to work together with the civil society to ensure that Europe will be a global leader in the development and implementation of the SDGs.

Its members are committed to:

- Ensuring that the SDGs are high in the EU policy agenda and that the civil society plays a key role in boosting SDGs action across Europe.
- Ensuring that the EU and its Member States deliver on their commitments and implement effective actions at EU, national and regional level.
- Stressing the need for urgent action through a multi-sectoral approach, with a closed cooperation among public & private sector, research & scientific actors, citizen organizations & media.

Objectives

The informal Inter–Institutional Group aims to foster citizens’ participation, awareness and empowerment as well as sustainable production & consumption, undertaking activities focused on the following objectives:

- 1. Contribute to strengthen the European citizenship, disseminating information on how new models of responsible production and consumption will overcome financial constraints and move towards a European Sustainable Economy.**

In order to overcome the economic and political crisis, it is necessary that all parties involved endeavour to reach a balance between two elements. The first one is a European Union which has to ensure the sustainability of public finances by promoting also policies apparently more attentive to the financial concerns than to the real needs of the economy at large. The second one is a society requiring that adequate levels of protection of rights are guaranteed, together with social justice, development and promotion of an active citizenship. To reach these objectives, we will support the European institutions providing them the civic perspective and participation. This perspective has to be taken into consideration for the successful implementation of new models of consumption and production. Listening to the civil society, the new European Institutions would send a clear signal to European citizens and consumers showing that they are close to the citizens’ needs and ready to protect their rights.

2. Contribute to safeguard at global level sustainability as a common good as well as a common challenge for different actors: Institutions at European and national levels, professionals, companies, providers and citizens.

Public and private bodies as well as organisations have to work together in order to inform and educate consumers to undertake a more responsible and sustainable consumption. Empowered consumers, through their virtuous behaviour, would implement the circular economy and drive the change towards a more sustainable society. For this reason, it is crucial to enhance consumers’ trust on the quality of those products that are produced through a responsible supply chain, are easier to recycle, have a longer life and are easily repairable. In this regard, it is necessary a close cooperation between industry and Institutions to reduce consumers’ affordability problems, creating incentives and facilitations for the purchase of these products. In this context, the Inter-institutional Group “SDGs for well-being and consumers’ protection” could represent an effective message of the European Institutions’ commitment to put citizens and their rights as users and consumers at the forefront in any sustainability-driven action.

3. Contribute to the recognition and reinforcement of consumers’ rights across the European Union, thanks to the cooperation and commitment of all the stakeholders in each EU country.

The New Deal for Consumers is an encouraging framework promoted by the EU Commission to strengthen EU consumer rights and enforcement, but it is still far from being defined and implemented. To do so, it is essential to increase awareness regarding the importance of consumers’ rights and everyone’s responsibilities in guaranteeing their respect. Moreover, increasing the cooperation among EU Institutions, citizens’ and consumers’ organisations, this Inter-Institutional Group could provide a civic perspective placing citizens at the centre of consumer’s policies. In this way, citizens would be recognised not only as “users or consumers” of services or “vulnerable target groups” with specific unmet needs, but rather as active citizens participating in consumer policymaking as essential stakeholders concerned with the sustainability, safety and quality of products and public services.

4. Raise awareness on SDGs.

- **Promoting** a better public and professional understanding of SDGs, by encouraging community-centred awareness campaigns and behavioural change.
- **Supporting** the creation of a European-wide best practices exchange platform on SDGs and encouraging the uptake of best practices examples at national, regional and local level.
- **Highlighting** the synergies between the New Deal for Consumers and the European Green New Deal in the common framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- **Organising** and participating in the annual European Consumer Day promoted by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).
- **Encouraging** a better dissemination of the main output and outcome achieved thank the support of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme and Horizon Europe, the next research and innovation framework programme.

About the Inter–Institutional Group “SDGs for Well-being and Consumer protection”

The birth of the Inter–Institutional Group “SDGs for well-being and consumers’ protection” was announced on March 2019 during the event, held at the European Parliament, titled “Towards EU election: strengthening the European Union to a more effective consumers protection”. This Inter-Institutional Group will be officially launched in February 2021. Its secretariat is co-provided by Active Citizenship Network (ACN,) the European branch of the NGO Cittadinanzattiva, the European Consumer Union (ECU) and the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS), with the endorsement of the SDGs Multi-Stakeholder Network, the civil society-led network of SDGs stakeholders.

Contacts

Cittadinanzattiva / Active Citizenship Network (ACN)	European Consumer Union (ECU)	Alleanza Italiana per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile (ASviS) / Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development
Bianca Ferraiolo Head of the Representative Office to the EU at Active Citizenship Network	Giuseppe Perretti Liaison Officer with EU institutions at ECU	Andrea Bonicatti Secretariat at ASviS
b.ferraiolo@cittadinanzattiva.it +32 489 705047	perretti@europeanconsumersunion.eu +32 497286079	andrea.bonicatti@asvis.net +39 3349502881

#SDGsCitizenAlliance