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PRESS RELEASE

NGOs demand a future EU budget that works for the people and is good for the planet

***We want to build a stronger Europe with a positive vision, where the EU spending prioritises people's needs and sustainability.** The EU budget plays a key role in shaping the future of Europe. It should show Europe's willingness to achieve sustainability and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which the EU is committed to.*

SDG Watch Europe is proposing concrete steps to make that happen – **8 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 should stop wasting money for EU spending that goes to contradictory funding objectives. For instance fighting climate change and exacerbating climate change with fossil fuel investments at the same time from the same budget is not an effective way of using tax payers' money. We need more coherence and better implementation.”- says Klara Hajdu, Senior Policy officer at CEEweb for Biodiversity.

“Huge amounts of money go to the Common Agricultural Policy, while the small scale and organic farmers are not receiving a lot from this. Most of the subsidies benefit the agroindustry and provokes overproduction, which is dumped in the Africa, destroying local farming systems there. This is also a problem that needs to be tackled in the future EU budget.” - adds Leida Rijnhout, Programme Coordinator Resource Justice & Sustainability, Friends of the Earth Europe.

The alliance calls 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 SDGs.

NGOs and European policy makers will meet tomorrow in Brussels to further discuss the role of the next EU budget in making a sustainable Europe. In addition to the eight

sustainability principles, the outcomes of the European stakeholder survey on the future EU budget will be also presented.

For more information, please contact: Klara Hajdu, Co-facilitator of the work on the EU budget within SDG Watch Europe, hajdu@ceeweb.org, +36 20 3889 437

Notes for editors:

[1] 8 sustainability principles for the next EU budget: <http://bit.ly/8SustainabilityPrinciples>

[2] Highlights from the stakeholder survey on the future EU budget: http://bit.ly/MFF_SurveyResults

[3] SDG Watch Europe is a new, EU-level, cross-sectoral CSO alliance of NGOs from development, environment, social, human rights and other sectors. Its goal is to hold governments to account for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). <https://www.sdwatcheurope.org/>



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