

Contribution of ECC Greece  
to the Commission Consultation on the future “EU2020” strategy

We fully support European Commission’s initiative. In these adverse times it is crucial to make sustainability a reality. Green economy in a knowledge and innovation society is only an aspect of the new era. Therefore EU-Strategy 2020 is both timely and important and should cover all the various regions of the EU according to their needs and specificities.

**1. Creating value by basing growth on knowledge:**

Knowledge is power and key to sustainable social and economic development. Innovation, IT and research should all contribute to this goal. Thus, it is extremely important to enhance distance and life-long learning, which should become part of the everyday practice, as new professions appear requiring new skills.

**2. Empowering people in inclusive societies:**

“The transformation of the EU towards a greener, knowledge-based economy will boost new job creation and help reduce high levels of unemployment”. This is true, as unemployment has risen steeply, due to the international economic crisis.

**3. Creating a competitive, connected and greener economy:**

Sustainability means efficient use of natural resources. New greener technologies will help in the direction of sustainable development, which will in turn promote a competitive greener economy and the creation of new categories of jobs. Sustainability, therefore, is the key to a healthy and prosperous society, one which reaches both environmental and economic goals.