

The Bundesrat welcomes the commitment made by the Commission to labour on an extensive implementation of the United Nations Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals in internal and external European policies and to raise sustainable development as one of the main objective of European politics. Commission hereby complies with the obligations made by Article 3 para. 3 2nd sentence TEU. Moreover, the Bundesrat welcomes as well the clear avowal to the importance of the subsidiarity principle and the separation of competences between European Union and member states in the context of sustainable development, and the announced regular reporting on progress in implementing the Agenda 2030 as from this year.

However, the Bundesrat disagrees that the already existing governance system will be sufficient to assure the implementation of sustainable development as a main objective. No appropriate provisions in the decision making process of the Commission or the European Union are existing.

In order to achieve necessary progress, a consequent alignment of all European politics towards sustainable development are needed - which requires in the Bundesrat's view also ambitious sustainable development goals of the European Union, contributing in a substantial manner to the global goals. As European Union plays an important role in lots of relevant policy areas - such as CAP or environmental policy -, the implementation of global development goals needs effective European contributions. This would complement existing national efforts from the member states. The Bundesrat is of the view that therefore a European agreement and a system of indicators is promptly needed. The Bundesrat supports the idea expressed by the Committee of the Regions to develop a European Agenda of Sustainable Development or a Europe-2030-Strategy, built on the Europe-2020-Strategy. The current Commission's work for a European consensus on development policy, as based on its Communication of 22 November 2016 in COM(2016) 740 - Proposal for a new European Consensus on Development Our World, our Dignity, our Future - shows, that the discussion on consequences to be drawn out of the Agenda 2030 is limited to policy-specific areas in Europe and that clear strategic aims and indicators are missing.

The Bundesrat encourages the Commission to conduct an inter-institutional consultation, including member states and their regions, to define the necessary strategic framework, as the Economic and Social Committee has already done. This process should be linked to the reflections on the future of Europe, launched by the results of the referendum in the United Kingdom last June, as a new strategic vision 2030 is also important for confidence of European citizens in Europe and its future. The celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome should be a good opportunity for elaborating an new vision for the European Union.