… in the Context of Sustainable Development

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“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts:

1. The concept of "needs", in particular the essential needs of the world’s poor, to which overriding priority should be given, and

2. The idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organisation on the environment’s ability to meet present and future needs.”
Policy Mixes

• Minimum income, either based on transfers (tax based) or on mandatory minimum wages above the poverty line.
• Improved primary income distribution plus financially secured participatory welfare state.
• Resource use capping e.g. by taxation, tradable permits, thresholds, extraction volume limitations.
Support Measures

• As usual in structural change: education, qualification, training.

• With resource use limitation: anti-corruption, anti-monopoly, anti-trust (none “too big to die”)
Engaging Business

- Corporate Accountability Convention (WSSD 2002)
- Stop subsidising dinosaurs
- Effective policy mix: regulation, financial incentives (fees rather than subsidies), “agree and control”
Good Experiences

- Precedents: Shale gas ban France, nuclear phase out and renewable feed-in tariffs Germany.
- Social security in times of socio-economic crisis Scandinavia, Job maintenance in crisis Germany.
- Public participation, Aarhus convention, works councils.
Conclusions

A Green Economy is 30 years overdue, but less than sustainable development. What is missing is
1. The primacy for meeting human needs, regardless of their purchasing power, instead of maximising shareholder value,
2. The acceptance of limits in absolute figures: efficiency is not enough.
3. (social) justice, in Europe a participatory welfare state.
4. Better respect for non-economic value in political decision making
Thank you for your attention

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