

Europe in Transition: A strategic shift towards greater sustainability is needed – but how can it be achieved?**4th international Growth in Transition Conference, November 2018 in Vienna**

Vienna, June 2018: “Europe’s Transformation: Where People Matter”, the 4th international Growth in Transition Conference, takes place on 14 and 15 November 2018 in the context of Austria’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Speakers from the social and environment sectors are joining others from economics and politics to meet with about 700 conference participants at the Austria Center in Vienna. The theme of this year’s Conference is the implementation of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement. The conference will be opened by Ban Ki-moon, the former General Secretary of the United Nations and current President and Chair of the Council of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI).

Federal Minister Elisabeth Köstinger: “This conference is our contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals during Austria’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union. We are providing a platform to enable discussion of the transformation and innovation needed to achieve greater sustainability in social, ecological and economic spheres. There are numerous good practice examples in Austria and I particularly welcome this opportunity for international exchange and debate.” The circular economy concept, increasing global resource use, the impacts of climate change and digital society are all topics for discussion, alongside the question of the responsibilities of companies and institutions in effecting sustainable social change.

The Vice President of the European Commission, Frans Timmermans, the Dutch State Secretary for Infrastructure and Water Management, Stientje van Veldhoven, and Austria’s Minister for Sustainability and Tourism, Elisabeth Köstinger, will be setting out their positions and goals at the conference. Kate Raworth, the economist and sustainability expert who teaches at both Oxford and Cambridge universities, will present her concept of ‘Doughnut Economics’ – an economic model that respects the ecological limits of the planet while ensuring quality of life for its human inhabitants. Tim Jackson, Professor of Sustainable Development at the University of Surrey and author of “Prosperity Without Growth”, will address questions concerning the environment and societal transformation.

There will be insightful contributions too from the former President of the Sustainable Development Observatory, Brenda King, innovation researcher Emma Dewberry, the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency, Hans Bruyninckx, and the social scientist and expert on poverty, Michaela Moser. The Head of the Austrian Institute for Economic Research, Christoph Badelt, and Willibald Cernko, from the ERSTE Bank, will share fascinating reflections on aspects of growth and economic development.

“We need good, workable and above all shared solutions for the challenges now facing Europe and the world as a whole. It is clear that we must act now if we wish to protect our planet for future generations. I am convinced that we can work together to find a way forward”, says Elisabeth Köstinger.

About the Conference

The 4th Growth in Transition Conference, “Europe’s Transformation: Where People Matter”, on 14 and 15 November 2018 in Vienna offers a platform for discussion around sustainability and growth. Showcasing a broad spectrum of perspectives from politics, economics and civil

4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

14–15 November 2018 Austria Center Vienna

EUROPE'S TRANSFORMATION
WHERE PEOPLE MATTER

society, it encourages active participation in the transformation of society. The conference is organised by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism and the Austrian Environment Agency in the context of Austria's Presidency of the Council of the European Union. It is supported by Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration and a further 30 partner organisations. The conference is funded by Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

Information about the **Conference Programme** can be found at:
<https://wachstumimwandel.at/conference2018/>.

Participant Registration for the conference can be made here:
<https://wachstumimwandel.at/conference2018/registration/>

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 811144.