

The SDGs are being approached within the EU as follows:

- ✓ Firstly, we need to check that the current EU policies and actions are appropriate for achieving the SDGs. Secondly, even if the policies are in place, we need to ensure that they are also effectively implemented and that they will take us where we have committed to be in 2030.
- ✓ That is why the European Commission is already mapping where EU current commitments and policies stand compared to the SDGs. The aim is to identify the areas where additional effort will be required.
- ✓ Looking at the recent reports on Sustainable Development Indicators and the State of the European environment, it is clear we have more work to do in the EU on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. And many of the tools are in the hands of EU Member States.
- ✓ The 2030 Agenda presents a unique opportunity to make a real change in how we aim to achieve sustainable development. We need integrated policy making with strong policy coherence – both between the different policy areas and between the internal and external aspects of our policies. This goes beyond just coherence. EU environmental policies and objectives play an increasing role in delivering on development goals, and development policies and objectives play an essential role in delivering on environmental objectives. This is not just coherence – it is mutual dependence.
- ✓ The 2030 Agenda comes at a time when the EU is engaged in reflections on the future of the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. This process is intrinsically linked to the SDG implementation as sustainable development has been mainstreamed into Europe 2020. The global SDGs will help shape our reflection on the future of Europe 2020.
- ✓ Policy coherence is necessary but is complex and difficult to achieve. We have a positive experience of integrating the Resource Efficiency Flagship into the Europe 2020 Strategy and implementing it via a Roadmap. The Flagship established a coherent policy framework building on long-term strategies addressing climate, energy, transport, and broader resource challenges. It encompassed the reforms in agricultural, fisheries and regional development policies. And it included initiatives in the field of biodiversity, water and air policy, as well as raw materials, bio-economy, construction, taxation, research and innovation.
- ✓ The President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, has emphasised that breaking out of silo mentalities is a priority for the Commission. In order to achieve policy coherence we can no longer work in isolation. We have to team up with our colleagues from other policy areas, in our own national capitals, and at European level, and we have to reach out to the business community, civil society and citizens.