

Building TRUST

Some remarks regarding Institutional Arrangements

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Where are we?

Environmental crisis enhanced by climate change:

- Planetary dimension
- Irreversibility and entropy (massive extinction)
- Cumulative acceleration
- Growing political and social unrest (decline of classical State's power)

The Principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

- Countries that historically first took advantage from global commons had to acknowledge that there isn't a fair relationship with newcomers (typically the North-South divide).
- This Principle is of universal reach (see the burden sharing inside the EU).
- Implicit in the principle is the concept of finite “ecological space”.

The Principle of physical constraint and time scarcity

- The Earth system works according to natural laws we may know, but not persuade or “buy” to act according to our wishes and desires.
- We need to design our institutional arrangements and our funding mechanisms taking into consideration the “despotic character” of factual truth.

The Principle of Justice between Generations

- Climate Change is a truly « **ontological debt** » that must be paid until the last cent, not by those who made it, but by coming generations...
- There is a double question of fairness: affecting the “ecological space” (1st principle) and the “ecological time” (the way global future depends from our decisions today).

How to tackle the challenge at the institutional level?

To reach agreement around “*The Principle of Compulsory Cooperation Towards Sustainability*”: Each country has power to undermine or protect the atmosphere as a global common, therefore we need to shift the focus from competition (“race to the bottom”) to a global strategy of TRUST (*Towards Rapid and Responsible Universal Sustainability Transition*).

Basic Requirements of TRUST evolutionary process (1)

- a) The follow-up of the UNFCCC after 2012
With common semantics, accurate monitoring mechanisms, and binding reduction goals for developed countries.
- b) Setting minimal common standards regarding other key areas: adaptation, technology, financing, marketplace mechanisms...

Basic Requirements of TRUST evolutionary process (2)

- c) Creating «Spill Over» dynamics through large regional «functional» communities with developed and developing countries, adding shared convergence sustainability targets to previous binding ones.
- d) Giving room for multi-layer and multi-actor climate partnerships (universities, industry sectors, cities...), increasing efficacy in GHG reduction.

Conclusions

- The *necessitas* of Climate Change *should be* today the core of public policies in the world.
- The international system is no longer a place for *zero-sum* games. We need a goal-oriented compact approach.
- An expanding TRUST strategy could facilitate, fertilize and overcome any new given targets within the UNFCCC.

Discussion: The European experience of necessity

- “Je n’ai pas l’habitude de discuter la nécessité” (117) «(...) il est vrai que les hommes ne prennent de grandes décisions que lorsque la crise est à leur porte. » (494). «Le fédérateur ne porterait pas le nom d’un homme, c’était toujours la même puissance abstraite, multiforme, qui s’impose à tous les hommes: la nécessité. » (495).
- Jean MONNET [1888-1979], *Mémoires* [1976], Paris, Fayard, 2002, 642 pp.

Discussion: enlarging communities

- Le terme de fédération est la formule juridique d'une pensée plus profonde et humaine, riche en perspectives nouvelles (...) Nous voyons ainsi le cheminement rapide, mais logique, d'une idée qui, en partant de la Communauté de 1950, s'épanouit dans une fraternité qui s'étend au-delà des frontières.
- Robert SCHUMAN [1886-1963], *Pour L'Europe*, Préface de Jacques Delors, Genève, Les Éditions Nagel, SA, 2000, 153 pp.

Discussion: Sharing power equals increasing power

- “(...) toute organisation supranationale qui dépasse la nation, non pour la diminuer et l’absorber, mais pour lui conférer un champ d’action plus large et plus élevé. » (30).« On ne fortifie plus les frontières, il n’y a plus de ligne Maginot, cette merveilleuse illusion derrière laquelle nous nous abritons imprudemment.»
- Robert SCHUMAN [1886-1963], *Pour L’Europe*, Préface de Jacques Delors, Genève, Les Éditions Nagel, SA, 2000, 153 pp.

Discussion: What if Copenhagen fails?

- As a process TRUST will allow countries and peoples to avoid paralysis.
- A strategy for every season.