

SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production

Speaker: Cillian Lohan

Career/Experiment:

Vice President of Communication, European Economic and Social Commission (EESC)

Introduction of the speaker

- Vice-president for Communications of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) since October 2020, and an active member of the institution since 2015.
- He has worked extensively in the corporate and environmental sectors. Cillian has extensive experience as a delegate to the United Nations, working on initiatives such as the COP climate negotiations and the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.
- He is a leader in the field of the Circular Economy and was the inaugural chair of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform, which he helped to establish. As CEO of the Green Economy Foundation, he has overseen ambitious projects including the planting of over one million trees in Ireland and the establishment of a wildlife reserve in Tobago.
- Cillian graduated from University College Cork and the University of Ulster with a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Science.

The European Economic and Social Commission (EESC)

- The voice of organized civil society in Europe.
- Members include employers, trade unionists and representatives of social, occupational, economic and cultural organisations.
- Appointed for renewable 5-year term by the Council on a proposal by Member States.

Lecture overview

- Brief Description: Summary of targets & indicators and links to other SDGs
- Current State of implementation, progresses, and an example of good practice where youth are active
- Key issues & challenges related to the achievement of this Goal
- Suggested action areas for the youth to engage and contribute

Q1A: What is SDG12 and why does it matter?

- Sustainable: something that can be continued and prolonged and it's also used to

describe certain behaviors.

- It is different to sustainable development
- Sustainable development: balancing the environment, which include people.
- SDG12 is about ensuring that we're consuming and producing and living within an economy that is not doing damage or harm to the environment.

Q1B: What are the targets and indicators of SDG12?

- There are 11 targets that are set specifically on this topic and then there are 13 indicators to try and help us and to measure those.
 - Target 12.1: Implement the 10-year sustainable consumption and production framework
 - Target 12.2: Sustainable management and use of natural resources
 - Target 12.3: Halve global per capita food waste
 - Target 12.4: Responsible management of chemicals and waste
 - Target 12.5: Substantially reduce waste generation
 - Target 12.6: Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and sustainability reporting
 - Target 12.7: Promote sustainable public procurement practices
 - ◆ Become more circular in the public institution's practice
 - ◆ European Defense Agency: Historically they have been the defense sector has been excluded from the regulations and they have a pass that they don't have to adhere to. That's now changing and they're looking at becoming more circular in their practices.
 - Target 12.8: Promote universal understanding of sustainable lifestyles
 - Target 12.a: Support developing countries' scientific and technological capacity for sustainable consumption and production
 - Target 12.b: Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable tourism
 - Target 12.c: Remove market distortions that encourage wasteful consumption

Q2: How much progress have we made since 2015?

- Sustainability report has been added into annual report.
- Because of the implementation of the SDG by policies, stakeholders and investors start to notice the importance of sustainability report.
- Due diligence practice is now applied into the sustainability report.

Q3: What are the key challenges?

- Circular economy initiative dating back in the within the EU from 2015 but the

biggest barrier here is some powerful actors who only want to create little circles within the linear economy, they don't want their interest to be affected.

- Individual actions can also play a big role, but we still need systemic changes.
- The concept of GDP has impeded to implement SDG.
- Greenwashing as the same concept of money laundry, some corporates pretending they are green, eco-friendly but not actually. It's crucial to do our due diligence on the environmental sides of things.
- How we measure that in a very practical way using GDP and the limits on GDP are a barrier to implementation of this sustainable development goal and circular economy.

Q4: Any example in implementing SDG12? Any example for youth to contribute to SDG12?

- Youth start putting climate and sustainability issue at the top of the political agenda in many countries.
- European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform can bring together people to change the world.
- Generation Climate Europe is the largest coalition of youth-led networks on climate and environmental issues at the European level.

Q5: What actions can youth take?

- Get involved to the system and find the avenues.
- Participatory democracy creates changes, we should become part of networking and get involved and get into the people who are making decisions and increasingly the level of participation.