

High level message on a sustainable Europe by 2030

Region Västra Götaland welcomes the reflection paper for a Sustainable Europe by 2030, published by the European Commission on 2019-01-31, as an important contribution to setting a new strategy for the European Union by 2030.

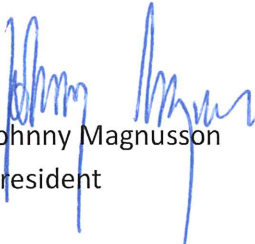
An ambitious EU strategy responding to the Sustainable Development Goals is needed to provide a coherent roadmap for Europe. These challenges unite us globally and we must all contribute to reach the same goals.

Regional authorities have a long tradition and experience of thinking globally while acting locally, close to its citizens. Region Västra Götaland has come a long way in working towards a social, economic and environmentally sustainable development. The challenges are however clear and extensive work is needed to transform into a fully sustainable region.

Tackling climate change is a top priority where biodiversity and sustainable consumption should be addressed. Structures and methods that greatly reduces the CO₂-emissions must be developed. Continuous investments in innovation and skills are needed to attract, develop and keep competence and to compete globally. Further investments in education and integration will be necessary to promote people's possibilities to prosper and foster inclusive growth across the whole region.

Region Västra Götaland is currently developing a new regional development strategy for 2030, which will guide the regional investments and the priorities for the implementation of EU cohesion policy. Aligned strategies can allow regional, national and European investments to steer towards the same objectives. This creates potential for complementarity, effective use of resources and concentrate efforts to achieve real change. A European strategy is therefore key to steer the EU towards the fulfillment of the sustainable development goals, and regions must be on board at the very outset.

Working together is the EU added value. Europe needs to be united and work at all levels of government to achieve these important sustainability goals.



Johnny Magnusson
President