

3rd European Resources Forum, Berlin – 9/10 November 2016

Minutes from the European Resources Forum 2016

Minutes by:

Martin Hirschnitz-Garbers

Ecologic Institut gemeinnützige GmbH

Pfalzburger Str. 43/44 | 10717 Berlin | Germany

martin.hirschnitz-garbers@ecologic.eu

DAY 2 – Thursday, 10 November 2016

Summary and closing

- **Dr. Harry Lehmann** General Director, Division I “Environmental Planning and Sustainability Strategies”, German Environment Agency

With material extraction being on the rise globally, while global resource efficiency is decreasing we need to step up our efforts to achieve decoupling. In order to achieve this, we will need political targets, such as we have for Germany with reducing GHG emissions by 80-95% by 2050 and per capita GHG emissions to 1 ton.

We should focus on using a suitable policy mix, acknowledging that there is no silver bullet or the one optimal policy mix. As part of the policy mix we will need economic instruments such as a value material added tax or other means of internalizing external costs.

Furthermore, our policy making should foster nexus-thinking as regards the climate-energy-resource nexus, because the “Energiewende” cannot be achieved without a “Ressourcenwende” (resource transition), nor without a “Mobilitätswende” (mobility transition), an “Ernährungswende” (food transition), etc.

This will require that we challenge and change our mindsets to achieve a truly circular economy with circular products and supply chains – a product is only circular if you decide it to be circular, starting from the design to all other stages of the value chain.

In addition, we cannot do this without involving local stakeholders in the development and implementation of resource policy in order to reduce resistance. At the same time, we should also stop being too friendly to unsustainable actors, for example towards the lignite industry.

Also, we should maintain momentum on resource efficiency and a circular economy on G7 level – and as much as possible also try to put such issues on the agenda of the G20. We need actors at all levels who take care of pushing resource efficiency and a circular economy through the 3Rs (reduce – reuse – recycle) and other instruments. This will also need further action, engagement and involvement of all of us travelling home from this conference to further action in our contexts and environments back home. And when doing so, I plead that all of you keep selling the idea of Europe, which stands for community and solidarity and which only for these reasons allows having the governance mechanisms to tackle climate change and resource efficiency!