

Introduction to the debate with views from the EU

In the lecture given by Marikki Stocchetti the focus was mainly in the history of accumulation of knowledge dealing with the limits of economical growth and in the sustainable development. Starting with the topics in the 60's which were concerning biases between environment and multiple counterparts like population growth or technology. It was then at the first time that people started to think the consequences of own behavior and realized the limitations in the nature's capacity. Mainly these arguments at that time were justified by environmentalist reasoning, giving the priority to the nature instead to the people who were suffering due to the acts of poor environmental protection.

In the 70's discussion became a bit more humane, focus was given to the poverty and people tolerating it. But at the same time in the Stockholm's conference the divide between North and South was legitimated. Also the limits of growth were statistically proved so question was who should be responsible for restricting the ongoing behavior. The issues of underdeveloped were drowned eventually in this puck-passing, and 80's were to bring the focus back on the people. Brundtlands commission stated that limitations should be made in order to maintain the ability to meet also the future's needs. Priority should be in the world's poor and inequality should be equalized. Focus was in the social relations, environment and economics, giving the main attraction to humane responsibilities.

1992 was the year of Rio conference and the world was in the beginning of the new order due the collapse of Soviet Union. Hopes were high and multiple resolutions were signed. It seemed that it was possible to achieve both, environmental sustainability and development in the poorest countries. By having these legally binding contracts gave hope and faith to the future. Also the Kyoto protocol confirmed the same confidence towards equitable tomorrow.

The lecture of Marikki's didn't give much about the EU's point of view to this topic, but highlighted the complexity of EU's own legislation which also effects to the management of sustainable development tasks. The focus of good governance is somewhere else than in EU's own doings and unsustainable is also its Achilles heel. No one is perfect but the rules should be the same to everyone, including EU.

Hopes are high cause the Rio + 20 conference, but can any progress been done if the main idea of this meeting "is to capture the spirit of 1992"? Why live in the past when realistically can be noticed

that not much is remained from those debates. And if something is remained, it's not apparently working. As lectured in the Marikki's presentation the history of environmental awareness has been in the hub for almost 50 years and the concept of sustainable development more than two decades in the core of these discussions. But the fact is as the Bass's article (2007, 1) says that "...yet the development remains far from sustainable."

Bass, Steve (2007). *A new era in sustainable development, an IIED briefing*. International institute for environment and development, London.