

**Informal meeting on Intergenerational Fairness
hosted by MEP Maria da Graça Carvalho
European Parliament, 3 May 2010, 15h-17h - Room: A 5 F 385**

Some preliminary ideas on an initiative on intergenerational sustainability by Maria da Graça Carvalho

- I have the pleasure to chair this event on an issue that to me, and to us in general, is important more than ever. The intergenerational sustainability of our policies. Probably for, the first time we really realize that time matter....economic and social policies are increasingly a matter of time (when to allocate resources) and not just about where (to whom).
- It is increasingly evident that most of the grand challenges we face are long term: that is, they heavily constraint the future and their impact goes beyond those generations that are currently living in this world.
- Our thinking and policy-making is not adequate for a responsible management of these challenges, but keeps with the same thinking that has caused many of these developments. Future thinking requires policies and actions that orientate themselves at the fundamental rights of all

humans living on one finite planet. And this thinking has to go beyond present generations.

- I will not take much time because today's discussion is to me the core of this event. I just underline few points.
- First, your personal commitment, starting from Maja Göpel (Director Future Justice-World Future Council Foundation) and Matteo Bonifacio (BEPA), who did a great effort in trying to involve such an outstanding group of people.
- Second, let me clarify what is, to me, the goal of this initiative. The purpose is to involve those who are here to set-up a restricted informal working group on the issue of intergenerational sustainability whose main aim is to promote some concrete actions on this topic at the institutional, policy, programme and project level.
- The group should be small enough to allow for an intense discussion, while representing people that, due to their institutional role, have a capacity to act. Last but not least, that do so primarily on the base of their personal capacity, a personal interest and commitment (thus such an initiative does not bind their respective institutions). This event to me is intended as “food for thought”, as I hope that some

preliminary ideas will stem out of our discussion to make the issue at stake a concrete a policy action.

- From my side, I can ensure that the EP will play its fundamental role in bringing this topic to the fore, giving it visibility but also promoting debate, reflection and concrete action. Action towards both institutions and other stakeholders. My dream would be to see materializing what we discuss here today in 4/5 concrete ideas to make this vision real.