



# **EU BE Presidency** **Priority 'Just Transition'**

**Bernard Mazijn, Chair AHWG**

**CCPIE Stakeholders Dialogue of 4/07/2023**

# The four visions of “just transition”

Vision 1: “Holistic”	Vision 2: “Workers-centered”	Vision3: “Social-ecological state”	Vision 4: “Pragmatic business-centered”
<p>The just transition should <b>simultaneously reduce environmental degradations and reduce existing inequalities, while guaranteeing access to fundamental rights for all</b></p>	<p>The just transition <b>should first focus on workers-related issues and should aim at guaranteeing the perspectives of workers and their access to decent and quality jobs as part of the ecological transition.</b></p>	<p>The <b>action of the state (taxation, investment and social security) is key in ensuring a just transition.</b> The ecological crises and environmental degradation should be seen as social risks to be mutualized</p>	<p>The just transition <b>should ensure as a “level-playing field” for companies and should aim at guaranteeing the security of supply of energy and materials.</b></p>
			

*Table – Summary of the four visions of a just transition identified in the study : “Just transition visions : An analysis of the perceptions of the Belgian Actors*

# Content

- 1) Conceptual origins
- 2) FYI: Estates General for a Just Transition
- 3) FYI: Conference for a Just Transition in Belgium
- 4) EU BE Presidency : priority 'Just Transition'

# Content

- 1) **Conceptual origins**
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- 3) FYI: Conference for a Just Transition in Belgium
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# 1) Conceptual origins

- ❖ The concept of a just transition originated from the U.S. labor movement. In the early 1990s, Tony Mazzocchi, leader of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Union, proposed the idea of a 'Superfund for Workers', referencing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's recently-established Superfund program for toxic cleanups.
- ❖ ILO (2015) : « *Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all*»
- ❖ Preamble to the Paris Agreement (2015) : « *Taking into account the imperatives of a just transition for the workforce and the creation of decent and quality jobs in accordance with nationally determined development priorities*»
- ❖ EU Green Deal (2018) : *Leave no one behind*

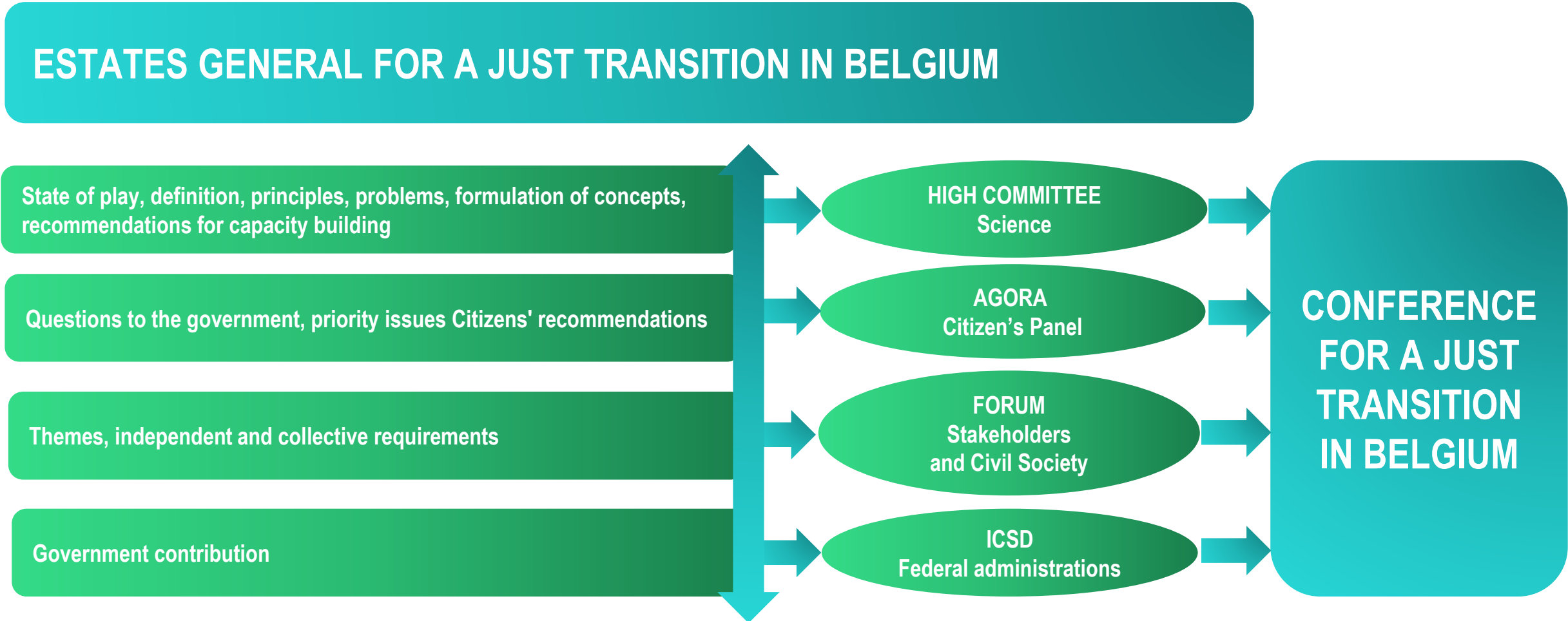
# JUST TRANSITION 2022 – 2024 – ...



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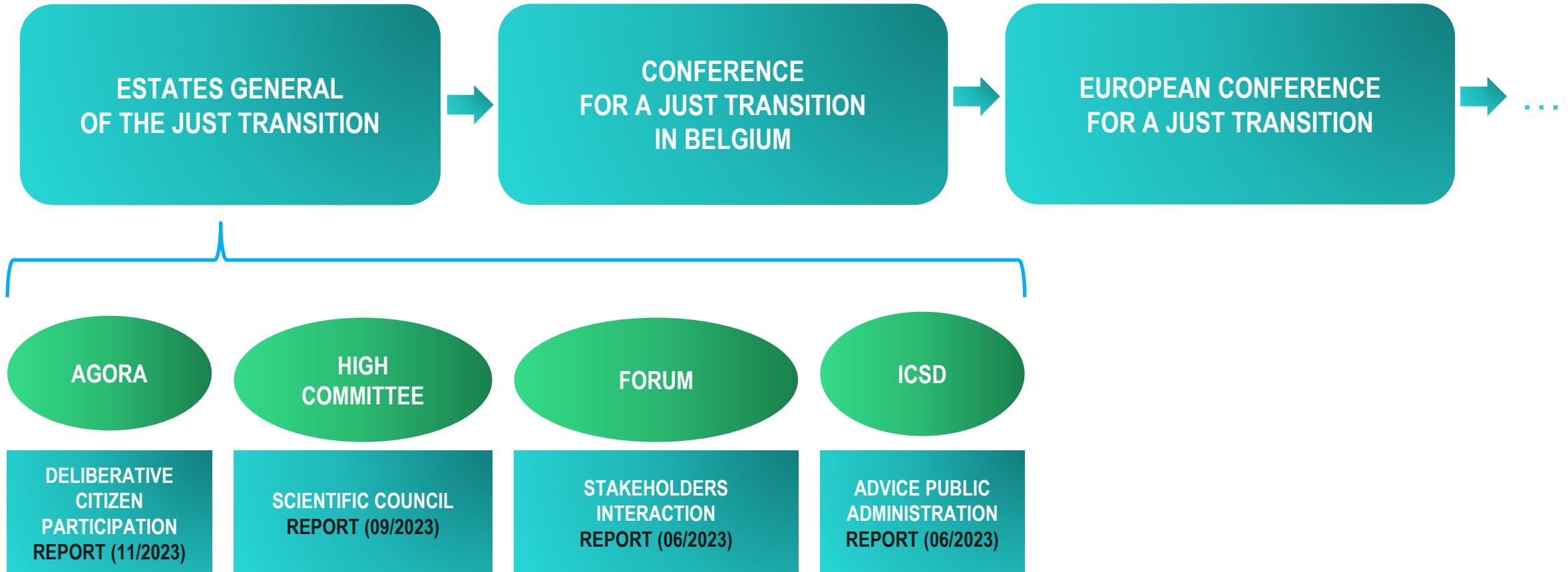
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## 2) FYI: Estates General for a Just Transition (1/2)





## 2) FYI: Estates General for a Just Transition (2/2)



# FYI - Forum of stakeholders : priorities

	<i>Basic needs</i>	Food	Shelter	Care	Getting around
	<i>System</i>	Agriculture and food system	Building stock	Healthcare system	Mobility and transportation system
<i>Transversal policies</i>	Employment				
	Education and formation				
	Finance and investments				
	Ressources and energy				
	Gender				
	Fight against poverty				
	International solidarity				

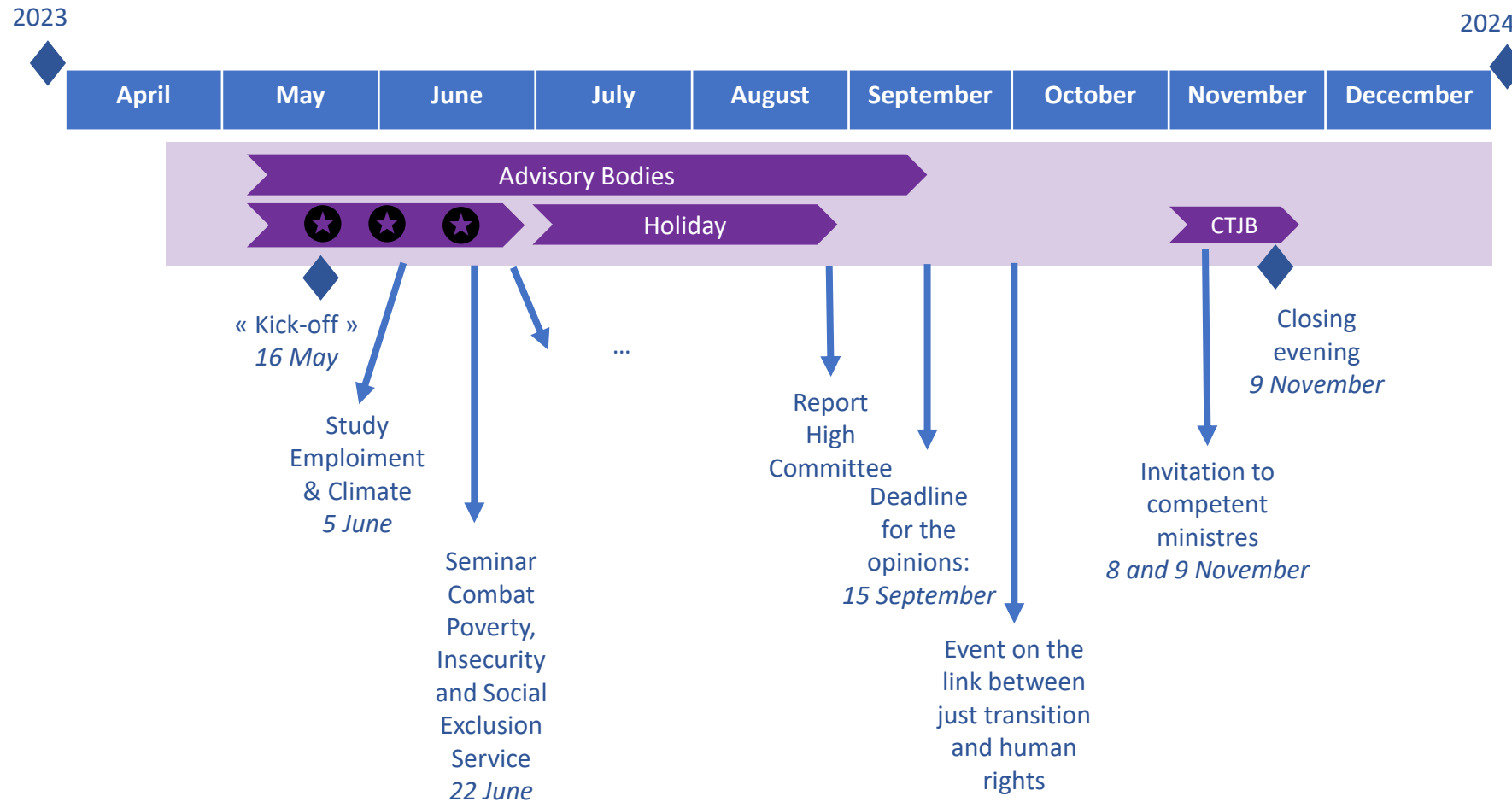
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### 3) FYI: Conference for a Just Transition in Belgium (1/4)

- ❖ Federal Council for Sustainable Development: opinion on the organisation of a National Conference for a Just Transition in Belgium
- ❖ Federal Governmental Agreement (1/1/2020)
- ❖ Negotiations with federated entities in the Concertation Committee: no result
- ❖ Desire to make the process national, supported by stakeholders: Conference for a Just Transition in Belgium
- ❖ State of Play, and next steps: 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2023

### 3) FYI: Conference for a Just Transition in Belgium (2/4)



# 3) FYI: Conference for a Just Transition in Belgium (3/4)

## Adviesvragen / Demandes d'avis (mai – septembre 2023)

Adviesraad / Conseil d'avis	Thema
Centrale Raad voor het Bedrijfsleven Conseil central de l'économie	Emploi
Conseil National du Travail Nationale Arbeidsraad	Enseignement et formation
Federale Raad voor Duurzame Ontwikkeling Conseil fédéral du développement durable	Financement et investissements
	Ressources et énergies
	<i>Solidarité internationale (d'abord le CCPD-ABCO)</i>
Instituut voor gelijkheid van vrouwen en mannen Institut pour l'égalité des femmes et des hommes	Genre
Steunpunt tot bestrijding van armoede, bestaansonzekerheid en sociale uitsluiting Service de lutte contre la pauvreté, la précarité et l'exclusion sociale	Pauvreté

### 3) FYI: Conference for a Just Transition in Belgium (4/4)

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**Dates: 8 and 9 November 2023; venue: Square (Brussels).**

- The preparatory work carried out by the Estates-general as well as the opinions that we will have received from the advisory councils will serve as input during this conference.
- Seminars on each of the opinions issued, to which the competent federal ministers and ministers from the federal entities will also be invited to share their vision of the opinions and other inputs and to answer questions from stakeholders.
- ...

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# European Union - Just Transition Mechanism

→ **Linked to DG REGIO and FEDER Funds**

## **Just Transition Fund**

- of €19.2 billion in current prices, is expected to mobilise around EUR €25.4 billion in investments.
- Territorial plans, social dialogue, local needs.
- Aims to support the phasing out of fossil fuels in regions heavily dependent on them (mainly in Eastern Europe)

## **InvestEU "Just Transition" scheme**

- Provide a budgetary guarantee under the InvestEU programme across the four policy windows and an InvestEU Advisory Hub that act as a central entry point for advisory support requests. It is expected to mobilise €10-15 billion in mostly private sector investments.

## **Public Sector Loan Facility**

- Combine €1.5 billion of grants financed from the EU budget with €10 billion of loans from the European Investment Bank, to mobilise €18.5 billion of public investment.

# EU BE Presidency : priority 'Just Transition' (1/6)

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## Objectives (as they appear in the five-pager):

*Organize exchanges and knowledge building on just transition at European level in cooperation with European civil society organisations, administrations, citizens and political representatives.*

*Use the momentum that exists regarding just transition in Belgium and Europe to formulate a number of **important signals and concrete proposals to the next European Commission**, the new European Parliament and national governments about possible policy initiatives or reforms that should contribute to the ecological transition of the European economy and society leaves no one behind.*

*The insights gained during the States General and during the Conference in Belgium, which are relevant for the European level, can also be raised at this level.*

*Following the example of the Sibiu Declaration, we want to obtain a mention of the importance of a just transition in a **'joint statement' by government leaders**.*

# EU BE Presidency : priority 'Just Transition' (2/6)

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## What has been done?

- **Creation of the Ad-Hoc Working Group CCIM-CCPIE**
  - 5-pager approved by CCIM-CCPIE
  - Invitation to recruit experts via template: federal, regions and communities
  - Working group (+/- 60 members):  
Thursday, June 15, 2023; Thursday, July 6, 2023; Thursday, September 7, 2023; ...
- **Contact with European partners**
  - European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
  - Observatory Social Europe (OSE)
  - Spanish Presidency : Just Transition Institute & Cabinet of Minister Teresa Ribera
  - European Commission Representation to Belgium
  - ...

# EU BE Presidency : priority 'Just Transition' (3/6)

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- Request for an opinion from the EESC (approved by the CCIM)
- European Economic and Social Committee
  - A European advisory council composed of Employers, trade unionists and representatives of social, occupational, economic and cultural organizations
- **“Which steps should the EU undertake to realize a more comprehensive just transition policy framework which can deliver on the objective of organizing *a carbon neutral, environmentally sustainable, toxic-free and fully circular society and economy by 2050?*”**

# EU BE Presidency : priority 'Just Transition' (4/6)

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## Program preparation:

- **July 11: Just Transition conference in Valladolid (after informal ENVI council)**
  - => organized by Solidar (European and worldwide network of Civil Society Organisations working to advance social justice through a just transition in Europe and worldwide)
  - => Hosted by Minister Teresa Ribera
  - => Minister Zakia Khattabi has been formally invited
- **September 20: presentation at the European Alliance for a Just Transition members meeting**
  - => The alliance is a group of civil society, social and environmental movements, and political parties to unite behind a call for immediate, bold, and transformative action at all levels of society to build a sustainable and safe future for all
  - => They approached us and asked for a presentation of the priority Just Transition during our presidency

# EU BE Presidency : priority 'Just Transition' (5/6)

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## Program preparation:

- **October 5-6:** Declaration of Granada  
=> ...
- **October 26-27:** Spanish Presidency's Just Transition Conference
  1. Financing for a Just Transition on EU level
  2. Just Transition in the America's
  3. Local just transition approach in coal regions
- **December:** reception of the EESC Opinion on Just Transition

# EU BE Presidency : priority 'Just Transition' (6/6)

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In 2024 during :

- **Rond table at the EU Informal Council for the Environment (15-16 January 2024)**  
timeslot 'Just Transition':  
Debriefing about activities 'Just Transition' by the EU ES Presidency; presentation of EESC Opinion;  
ministerial 'Tour de table';
- **European Conference for a Just Transition (4-5 March 2024)**  
Venue: Palais d'Egmont; Programme: to be determined by the AHWG
- **Point AOB at the EU Council for the Environment (25 March 2024)**  
Debriefing on the European Conference for a Just Transition
- **Objective: reference in the 'Joint Statement' of HoS/in the EC Strategic Agenda**  
(Informal Summit op 13-14 Juni 2024; European Council op 27-28 Juni 2024)



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“Many European citizens still do not feel that the ecological transition in the EU is being organized in a fair way. A 2022 Eurobarometer survey on perceptions of the green transition shows that only 50% of respondents think the EU is doing enough for a just transition and only 46% of respondents are confident that sustainable energy, products and services will be affordable for everyone, including poorer people, by 2050.”

Source: *EU BE Presidency – priority ‘Just Transition’ – 5 pager approved by the CCIM-CCPIE.*





**Zakia Khattabi**

Ministre du Climat, de l'Environnement,  
du Développement durable et du Green Deal

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Thank you