The new report to the Club of Rome

Come on!
Capitalism, Short-termism, population and the destruction of the planet

Thursday 12 April 2018
10.30-12.30 (registration from 10.10)
EPC Conference Centre (3rd Floor), 14-16 Rue du Trône, 1000 Brussels

Herman Van Rompuy, Honorary President, and Mark Dubrulle, President & Executive Director of The Club of Rome EU-Chapter are pleased to invite you to a discussion hosted by the European Policy Centre on the occasion of the launch of the new report to the Club of Rome. Authors Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker and Anders Wijkman, Co-presidents of the Club of Rome, will present and comment their report.

In their book, the authors argue that the human footprint is increasing fast and, if not reversed, will eventually lead to a collapse of the global economy. In their view we are living in the Full World, with nearly eight billion people. But our thinking, our religions and our economic doctrines stem from the Empty World, when the population was between one and two billion people. Profit maximization - under the principle of shareholder value first - and saving the planet are inherently in conflict and there needs to be a vastly improved balance between humans and nature, markets and the law, private consumption and public goods, short-term and long-term thinking, and between social justice and incentives for excellence. They propose an overhaul in the way that governments, businesses, financial systems, innovators and families interact with our planet.

The book comprises many practical examples, success stories and opportunities. Many areas of action concern policies at EU level and are of direct relevance to the current policy debate. For example, a move towards a circular economy can help overcome mineral scarcity, significantly lower carbon emissions and increase the number of jobs or regenerative agriculture can stop soil erosion, enhance yields and build carbon in the soil.

Herman Van Rompuy, EPC President, will make the opening address after which the authors will outline the main messages in the book and take part in a question and answer session moderated by EPC Senior Policy Analyst Annika Hedberg.

To register please send an e-mail to Ivanina Valeva: n.news@epc.eu