

Generation Green: Promoting Sustainable Lifestyles for Youth, by Youth

*An Interactive Session between Youth and H.E. Mr. Virginijus Sinkevičius
(Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, European Union)*

Tentative Agenda

TERI, India Habitat Centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi
Date: 26 July 2023 | Time: 18:00-20:30

Time	Session Details
6:00-7:00 PM	Briefing with Youth, Registration and High Tea
7:00 PM	Welcome Address <i>Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)</i>
7:02 PM	Announcements and Launches (all TBC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release of 'Ten-point Action Agenda for LiFE and Youth' by TERI • Release of 'Impact Report: Agents of Change Youth Empowerment on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency' by EU-REI and IYCN • Release of 'Campaigns for Mission LiFE', by the Centre for Responsible Business
7:08 PM	Keynote Address <i>HE Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, European Commission</i>
7:16 PM	Special Youth Session: Q&A <i>Moderator- Ambassador Manjeev Puri, Distinguished Fellow, TERI</i> <i>Youth Facilitators and Innovators from the TERI biodiversity & EU-REI circular economy networks. (Youth representatives will seek response to their questions about Environment, Oceans and Fisheries issues, notably as regards their role and priorities in fostering the green transition, and lessons learned from Europe)</i>
7:56 PM	Vote of Thanks <i>TERI</i>
7:58 PM	Group Photograph <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ One Group Photo with Youth Representatives ➤ One Group Photo with Organizers
8:00 PM	Event Ends

An Introduction: Time for a Doughnut (Indian Economy¹)?

Half of India's population is less than 30 years old, and approximately 25% under 15. Young people will no doubt face more frequent and aggravated consequences of environment degradation and climate change, they will also be key drivers of change to hopefully improve the situation for their own children, and the rest of the world. They have a critical role to play in the global journey towards carbon neutrality, halting and reverting nature's loss, pollution and biodiversity collapse, while fully transitioning to a true circular economy. Meanwhile, since its Independence in 1947, the Indian economy took 58 years to generate its first trillion USD of GDP, 12 years to get to the next trillion, and just five for the third. Some estimate it will reach USD 30 trillion by 2050, then representing about 20% of the global economy in purchasing power parity. Yet its median age would remain around 38 years old (compared to e.g. EU's 44 y.o. today). The choices, behaviour and consumption patterns of young Indian citizens will shape a significant share of the world economy and its impact on planetary boundaries. They will be key to address the "triple planetary crisis²", while also undergoing a massive socio-economic transition: The India "middle class" is anticipated to grow from about 435 million individuals today (30%) to 715 million (or 47% of the population) in 2030 and then >1 billion of India's projected population of 1.6 billion in 2047, i.e. similar in proportion to EU today.

India introduced the concept of "Lifestyles for Environment (LiFE)", during UNFCCC COP26, in Glasgow, 2021. It remains a major cross-cutting focus in India's G20 Presidency, as well as a dedicated [National Mission](#), among those devoted to promoting clean water, clean air, circular economy, land restoration or natural farming. Considered together these missions could be regarded as the Indian equivalent to the EU Green Deal Strategy, both in terms of their climate and environmental ambitions, and as a socio-economic vision of more sustainable growth and development.

The event will notably allow a live interaction with one of the most senior EU Officials and possibly discuss recent publications meant to help reflexion, dialogue and action for and by Indian Youth on above topics. The session will seek to facilitate a live exchange around roles, responsibilities, competencies, means and rights of youth in promoting an agenda for sustainable lifestyles, which considers how demand, supply and policies can best contribute to biodiversity protection, circular economy, resource and energy efficiency leading to better and more efficient climate and environmental stewardship.

About Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries - European Commission



Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius is the present Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, at the European Commission. Mr Sinkevičius was from 2017 to 2019 Minister of Economy, and before he was leading the Committee of Economy at the Parliament of Lithuania. Mr. Sinkevičius was elected to the Parliament in October 2016. Prior, he was a Team Lead for Regulatory Affairs at Invest Lithuania. Mr. Sinkevičius holds BA in International Relations and Affairs from Aberystwyth University and Master's degree in European International Affairs from Maastricht University.

Source: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/virginijus-sinkevicius_en

¹[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doughnut_\(economic_model\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doughnut_(economic_model))

²<https://unfccc.int/blog/what-is-the-triple-planetary-crisis>