



**European Movement  
Mouvement Européen**

## **Contribution of the European Union to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (“Rio+20”)**

*The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, or “Rio+20”) will be held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in June 2012, 20 years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), known as the “Earth Summit”, also in Rio de Janeiro in 1992).*

*During the past 20 years, the world has changed: major economic and social crises have struck the industrialised countries, new economic blocks have emerged, other regions are still struggling to come out of poverty, peace is being threatened in many areas, democracy is developing in some countries and receding in others. What about the Environment?*

*Rio+20 will be the opportunity to assess progress or regress; but also to finally materialise previous commitments, which are far from being all kept, especially in the context of current crisis.*

*It will also be the time, for the European Union, to show that despite its difficulties it can still remain an example, a guide, a reference for all. In short, at Rio+20, the European Union must regain its leadership in the field of environmental issues and sustainable development.*

In this context, the **European Movement International** makes the following requests:

- the **European Commission** should bring out, without arrogance and in a true spirit of sharing, its experience in the field of sustainable development, as expressed in its June 2011 Communication; more especially regarding the *green economy* and *better governance*, the main themes of the conference. Among the lines of action suggested in the Communication, the EMI supports more particularly the measures aimed at fighting *climate change* and at protecting the *marine environment and oceans*; as well as the upgrading of the UN Environment programme (UNEP) into a *specialized Agency*, the “International Environment Organization”, for example;
- **Heads of States and of government of the E.U. Member States** should reinforce the authority of the Conference by their actual presence while, at the same time, entrusting the coordination of their interventions to the European Commission, so that the European Union should be heard to speak with ONE voice;
- **European political leaders** should combine their efforts to convince all the U.N. member states to accept *quantifiable, measurable and verifiable targets*, which they can adhere to and engage in;
- the **European Parliament** should remind the European delegates at the Conference of its 29 September 2011 Resolution, more particularly regarding the responsible participation of citizens and local authorities in the definition and implementation of sustainable development policies; and to constantly recall the connection between Human Rights and sustainable development, as a powerful means to eradicate poverty.