

Beyond GDP



Measuring progress, true wealth, and the well-being of nations

International Conference, 19 & 20 November 2007, Brussels

Dear participants,

On behalf of the conference partners, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Beyond GDP conference.

The maxim that we need to “measure what matters” has grown increasingly important over the years. Never before has so much information been available on such a wide array of topics. And as new challenges emerge so do new measures. Who could have predicted decades ago that today’s society would be talking of CO₂ concentrations in our planet’s atmosphere?

The conference partners—the European Commission, European Parliament, Club of Rome, WWF and OECD—are each committed to improving how we measure, evaluate, communicate and respond to the challenges of our times. Our hope is that this conference will be an important catalyst for the work to come in improving our measures of progress, true wealth, and the well-being of nations so that we can manage our new challenges.

I would like to thank all the organisers and staff for their hard work putting on this conference, and especially the European Parliament for their hospitality in offering to host the event in the Hemicycle. We have gathered an impressive array of speakers and chairs for both the conference and expert workshop, and I am grateful to each of them for sharing their experience and insights with us.

Lastly, and most importantly, I thank each of the participants for your contributions at the conference and in the future work to come.

Sincerely,

Stavros Dimas
Commissioner for the Environment
European Commission