

# F. O. Wolf, Sustainability Strategy Networking

FOWOLF

# Introduction

- The Thematic Network on ‚Sustainability Strategy‘ has started working in May 2003. On its first yearly conference in May 2004 which has taken place in Berlin it has synthesized its first results.
- As the co-ordinator of the network I shall present a philosopher’s view on the state of our debate.

# Main Dimensions

- There are two main dimensions of the debates on sustainability strategy:
- The dimension of sustainability knowledge and its (re-) production; ,sustainability science‘
- The dimension of sustainability politics and its efficacy: ,sustainability governance‘
- Together, they constitute the decisive background for the passage of sustainability strategies from virtuality to reality

# First Dimension

- ‚Sustainability science‘ presents a global arena for the analysis of global, macro-regional and local problems. The debates within the EU are part and parcel of this global debate.
- Three types of integration problems have to be addressed in order to advance sustainability science:
  - between scientific disciplines
  - between implicit and explicit knowledge
  - between competing approaches to knowledge integration

# Second Dimension

- Sustainability governance is a global challenge which presents its own characteristics within the EU (policy, politics, polity).
- It is an emerging keystone to the new methods of governance developed by the EU since the early 1980s, constituting a special challenge for the larger EU.
- Sustainability governance has to address specific integration problems in order to become real.

# The Challenge of Reality

- The overcoming of the present segmentation of sustainability science will be crucial for achieving a relevant knowledge base for translating sustainability strategies into reality.
- Emerging solutions for the integration problems of sustainability governance will contribute to possible passages from lip-service to actual political practice.
- There will be a strong link between ‚integration from above‘ and ‚integration from below‘.

# Perspectives

- The review process of the EU sustainability strategy will have to re-focus it by reinforcing and deepening the thematic approach.
- This will make it possible for us (and for you all) to address it as a more tangible issue which can be meaningfully debated beyond a small circle of careful observers.

# Summing up

- The Sustainability Strategy of the EU is more than virtual, and still less than real: It is in a sensitive phase of emergence.
- Scientific and political debate still face a special challenge: To shape it – to emerge as comprehensive and as deep as possible in the present situation of Europe, and open for future developments.

# Next steps

- Sustainability strategy science will have to be constituted as a field of global debates.
- European sustainability governance will have to be addressed as an arena of democratic political debates in each member state.