Leida Rijnhout
Director Global Policies and Sustainability
European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

OECD
Green Growth Forum
13-14 Nov 2014

“(Why) Redistribution policies”
Infinite growth on a finite planet is simply not possible. Infinite green growth neither.

We are already using too much “environmental space”, we only have one planet, which is not growing, so need to focus on redistribution of wealth.

Growth: for whom?

- Profits of the economic recovery in USA went to the 10% richest people of the country, the bottom 90% lost
The economist Herman Daly calculated that after a certain point of economic growth it will be unproductive: your growth will cause so much damage that your profit is below zero. (ISEW as indicator)

Inequality also cause unstable societies (Wilkinson, Pikkety)
Growth does not automatically create jobs

Labour is a cost for corporations, and will be saved on as much as possible:

1) Corporates are off shoring labour when it is cheaper in other countries.

2) Off shoring to the consumer, by automatisation. The consumer are more and more their own clerk, travel agent, gas station assistant, as more and more “self-service” online. And without receiving a salary for it, not even reduced prices.

→ Both trend reduce jobs, instead of creating jobs.
Redistribution of wealth

Systemic tax reforms
- Tax labour, not nature-derived values (foot print tax, carbon tax)
- Income taxes and taxes on capital
- Ban tax havens
- Taxes on speculation and financial transactions

Shift in subsidies and investments

Redistribution of labour and income
- 25 hour working week
- Eliminate inequalities in income (maximum wages)
International, national and regional quota and strict prohibition rules

• Fair distribution of use of natural resources (quota and capping schemes)
• Ending soil degradations, biodiversity (stop “payer pollutes principle”) - “leaving the oil under the soil”
• Protecting small farmers (a.o land owners rights), fishers and SMEs
• Maximise inheritance amounts

Several social policies for promoting equality:

• Via education and active public participation in decision making
• Focussed “acess to right” policies
• Public investment in health, education, public transport, housing, water and sanitation, ...
Thanks!

Contact: Leida.rijnhout@eeb.org