



## COVID-19 EXIT AND RECOVERY FROM AN R&I PERSPECTIVE

**More than ever, COVID-19 exit and recovery requires R&I as a compass for the future we want. Exit from the crisis must not be missed as a historic opportunity to get humanity on a path of transformation towards sustainability, ensuring shared prosperity and ultimately humanity's survival.**

### *12 key points to make COVID-19 exit a pathway towards a finer future*

1. The **pandemic emergency and the social fall-out the COVID-19 crisis** deserve priority.
2. Post-COVID needs to be designed and prepared now as the biggest investment plan since WWII, with unequivocal **directionality towards responding to the planetary emergency and its multiple interconnected crises**: climate, environment and ecosystems, resource use, social, health. The common root causes behind all these crises need to be recognized.
3. Repairing the old economy with a **return to business as usual**, instead of transforming our unsustainable systems of consumption, production, energy and mobility, would be toxic for people and planet. It would lock in new debt in old pathways for many years, and delay their phase out. Efforts by interest groups pushing into that direction have to be resisted strongly.
4. Moving to more **resilient societies** is necessary now. We have been overemphasizing efficiency at the expense of diversity and redundancy. However, resilience must be framed as “bouncing forward” towards transformation, and not as “bouncing back” to BAU.
5. **Public interest and the commons**, solidarity and cooperation need to be at the centre of policies. We are learning now with pain that those which are most important to our societies are also among the most undervalued and underpaid. This often includes women.
6. Global value chains have proven their limits for timely delivery of essential goods. A more localised economy is necessary to **overcome system failures of globalisation**.
7. **Labour-intensive processes** (e.g. repair, permaculture, social enterprises) need to be given priority over resource-intensive processes. This may require redesigning tax systems.
8. A **new social contract** is necessary. An ever-increasing precariat with millions of working poor is not compatible with strong climate policies. New models of shared prosperity are needed.
9. The **European Green Deal objectives and the UN 2030 Agenda** are a clear roadmap and must be implemented without compromises, with ambitious 2030 GHG targets, climate neutrality, protection of biodiversity and ecosystems, nature-based solutions, etc.
10. Furthermore, the COVID-19 exit needs to be taken as an opportunity for a **profound transformation of our societies and economic model**, moving towards new visions of a good life, new social values and a regenerative and distributive economy. Policies and indicators need to move away from GDP growth to wellbeing, from ever more to better.
11. **Collaborative democracy** needs to be boosted at all levels. Discussing deep societal changes with citizens must move to the centre of the Conference on the future of Europe. We are now learning in the crisis what is really important to us, and what is less so. We discover we are ready to make changes in our lives.
12. The EU needs to harness its leadership to engage a **global conversation on sustainable futures**. All countries are now on a development path towards a good life within a safe and just operating space for humanity. Rich countries and populations may need to learn and appreciate sufficiency.

**Transformative R&I policy and R&I agendas cannot be the same tomorrow as they were yesterday.** The time of confinement is critical to both reflect with a long-term perspective and act fast.

Among recent contributions on COVID-19 exit, the [Club of Rome letter to global leaders](#) stands out: “*It is time to harness our fears, build hope and drive action to respond to the human health, economic, climate and biodiversity crisis with solutions that build resilient societies on the longer term.*” Rather than simply reacting to disasters, science is crucial to [redesign economies](#) and invest into long-term foundations.