

# Europe's Path Towards the Socio-Ecological Transition

Beset by an unprecedented combination of challenges including globalisation, demographic shifts, high unemployment and climate change, Europe is in dire need of a new kind of growth and development strategy. The authors of this Forum make compelling arguments for a socio-ecological transition, in which traditional measures of progress like GDP growth are downplayed in favour of factors such as social inclusion, environmental welfare, high levels of employment and the well-being of European citizens. This Forum explores some of the issues that must be resolved in order to fully achieve the socio-ecological transition, including the necessary decoupling of non-renewable energy use from GDP growth, the reduction of income and wealth inequalities, and the encouragement of innovation that is not based on fossil fuel technology. The Forum presents an optimistic path forward for the continent, with practical policy solutions that do not ignore the many obstacles facing a successful transition.

## A New Strategy for Europe

**Karl Aiginger**, Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO), Vienna, Austria.

**Margit Schratzenstaller**, Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO), Vienna, Austria.

## Social Investment As a Perspective on Welfare State Transformation in Europe

**Thomas Leoni**, Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO), Vienna, Austria.

## More Productive, Less Sustainable? On the Need to Consider Material Resource Flows

**Anke Schaffartzik**, Institute of Social Ecology, Vienna, Austria.

**Dominik Wiedenhofer**, Institute of Social Ecology, Vienna, Austria.

**Marina Fischer-Kowalski**, Institute of Social Ecology, Vienna, Austria.

## Empowering the Green Innovation Machine

**Reinhilde Veugelers**, University of Leuven, Belgium; and Bruegel, Brussels, Belgium.

## The Climate Change Impact of Material Use

**Arno Behrens**, Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels, Belgium.