Parallel session I
Policy actions - conclusions

In their comments and questions, the panellists and participants highlighted the following points:

- The need for consistent policy actions and a consistent approach to the transition to the green economy. Government policies which have an impact on businesses and their decisions should be mutually coherent and should go in the same direction across various policy fields, including finance, taxation, industry, transport, agriculture, etc.

- It is important that policymakers should set trends clearly indicating the direction in which policies will be developed and establish long-term targets as a tool for steering policies towards the green economy.

- Policy actions which are clear and well communicated can be better implemented. This is important for guiding and influencing the behaviour of citizens. Without this approach, businesses might not take action in favour of sustainability or, to put it differently, they would rationalise activities within given frameworks, regulations and circumstances.

- Long-term visions can be best ensured when they are fixed within a legal framework. This could be best ensured if they are anchored in international agreements. hen the EU could implement such policies by developing the EU acquis, which the Member States could transpose into national legislation. International agreements thus provide a good basis for predictable European and national legislation, while ensuring that a similar approach is maintained across different countries and situations.

- Proper implementation and enforcement of legislation is important because legislation can be ‘complex, detailed, fragmented, etc.’. Supervisory agencies and other relevant stakeholders might therefore struggle to interpret and implement such legislation correctly. Making this work at local level is still a challenge.

- The involvement of various stakeholders (producers, consumers, NGOs, regulators, local communities, etc.) in the process of developing policy actions is not only advisable but also indispensable for effective implementation of such actions. The Finance Ministries must play an important role in the development of suitable financial instruments.
- There is also a need to maintain a balance between mandatory legislation and government encouragement for voluntary actions.

- It is necessary to continue regular monitoring and assessment of the efficiency of the tools being implemented and the measures for the efficient implementation of green activities.