In their comments and questions panellists and participants have underlined the following:

- Transition to the green economy requires considerable investments in structural and technological changes in key sectors. Financial resources are crucial from the global to the local level. Investing today will pay off in the future for the next generations.

- Securing adequate public finance and mobilising private investors is the main challenge for governments. Governments should support companies by creating the appropriate policy framework.

- Funding is "lifeblood" to the green economy. However, it is not only about demanding and providing money, it is also about the design and creation of new tools and ways of financing. New green financial instruments and green subsidies need to be developed to attract private funds. In the light of the green economy state subsidy systems should be reviewed. In order to create the right environment for business, the existing taxation systems need to shift the burden from taxing labour to taxing consumption.

- Financial risks must be assessed to attract private financing. Risk is much greater if companies are stuck in an old economy and if risk assessment is carried out according to linear principles.

- Companies clearly recognise that the green economy has not only environmental, but also economic benefits. Green business has the potential for green job creation. Respon-
sible investors already take green economy aspects into consideration and some of them already systematically integrate social and environmental factors into their activities. But they need to get more information, they should be aware of green investment possibilities and they need to understand that doing nothing is the most expensive solution. Governments should support businesses by creating a viable policy framework. The frontrunners take advantage of the green economy in their businesses”.

- Financial institutions cooperate with investors and governments on green projects via green bonds, loans, etc. Some of them are, together with investors and initiators, developing their own voluntary best practices guidelines for green bonds. They co-operate with local banks and help with capacity building in order to increase efficiency of green financing.

- There must be a greening of transport systems and proper instruments designed and applied. This involves the reform of the current tax system where incorrect incentives are in place.

- Fear on the part of traditional sectors and businesses is understandable and therefore governments must have credible plans in place in order to take care of the industries and the citizens affected. Plans have to ensure that changes are socially acceptable. The economic, social and environmental aspects need to be analysed.

- An economy based on big data analysis and action to move towards a digital economy brings benefits in all sectors because data help optimise processes.

- Europe must take action. Talking is not enough. However, instruments need to be flexible enough and more integrated.

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