



Ida Auken's tale ved konferencen "Greens in government: Influence, impact and challenges"

Taler

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Sted

Arkitektskolens festsal

Omstændigheder

European Green Party conference

1 Introduction

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Denmark has the greenest government platform ever.

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We face the economic crisis with an aim to transform Denmark into a green economy where growth is sustainable.

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And the green approach isn't just something you'll find in the Ministry of Environment- It is something that was planted in each ministry with the green government platform in October, and has been growing slowly ever since.

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Some places more slowly than others.

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30 We have to fertilize the small seeds and make them grow faster – also in
economic ministries – it is important to argue for the environmental policy in
economic and financial terms.

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I would like to be honest: being green in government – in particular in times of
crisis – is not always easy. And it requires a fundamental shift in the way we
argue about the environment.

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For many years, we have argued to protect and conserve the environment out of
45 moral concerns. Because it was the *right* thing to do.

50 In government we have to begin arguing that we should protect and conserve
our natural resources and the environment because it is the *smart* thing to do.
Because it makes sense economically.

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We need to speak the language of finance ministries. And we need to argue for
every initiative in terms of growth and jobs.

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If we don't, we will never achieve a green transition of the economy.

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70 Therefore, we need to keep telling the story of how resources are the basis of production:

75 For example if we want to remove phosphorous from the groundwater – we should also argue that we want gain a valuable resource that will support agricultural production.

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And we want to recycle rare earths and other materials, because without them, our companies cannot produce phones or wind turbines.

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Including stakeholders in policymaking

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This requires a new way of thinking in ministries. And it also requires a new way of working.

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To make the necessary transition to a green economy we need to introduce

intelligent regulation that makes it easy and attractive to choose the green way.

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And to make the most intelligent and effective regulation we need a good and constructive dialogue with the companies, investors and consumers we want to address.

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That is why I have opened up the Ministry of Environment and invited all kinds of stakeholders to contribute with recommendations, views and new ideas in the policymaking.

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125 For example I have appointed a commission to explore the opportunities of ensuring a more profitable agriculture in Denmark – and at the same time creating more nature.

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I have also appointed a national dialogue forum on climate adaption, and an industry panel that looks for new ways of producing more with fewer resources.

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Battling calculators

But getting the stakeholders on board doesn't take us all the way. I also need to
150 get the full support from my minister

155 colleagues – and especially in the economic ministries.

160 I need to get the small green seeds to take root. I need to speak the language and
know the numbers.

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Sometimes it is a battle of calculators. And sometimes I feel like the green team
runs out of ammunition.

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To rearm we must figure out how to put a price on nature and environment.

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How much extra tourist income does it generate that you can dive and swim in
the Copenhagen harbour?

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How much are clean oceans worth?

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And what is it exactly worth that we can tap clean drinking water directly from the groundwater?

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As greens in government, we have to collect and systematize this knowledge to show that thinking green makes sense for the economy.

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Towards Rio +20

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It is some of this thinking that we are bringing to the table in Rio in about a month. It is essential in preparing for some concrete goals and targets towards an overall sustainable development.

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I hope that we can progress towards agreement on the green economy and what it can contribute. Hopefully also on how to measure progress more broadly than GDP.

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On water I hope that we can agree on specific targets on increasing water efficiency, access to clean drinking water and improved wastewater treatment throughout the world.

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Sustainable procurement will also be a main topic in Rio as a cross cutting in relation to sustainable consumption and production.

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If all authorities begin buying green solutions we can seriously drive the market
240 in a more sustainable direction and create green innovation throughout the supply chain. Not only in Denmark or Europe. But globally.

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Conclusion

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We can't change everything over night.

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But we can work steady and persistent on getting the value of natural resources and natural services to be a mandatory element in the way we make important choices in our societies.

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Kilde

Manuskript tilsendt fra taler

Kildetype

Digitalt manuskript

Tags

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