

# The European Green Deal

Summary of the Document «COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS»,

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## 1. INTRODUCTION - TURNING AN URGENT CHALLENGE INTO A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

The European Green Deal is new **growth strategy** that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with **no net emissions of GHG in 2050** and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use.

It also aims to protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital, and protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment-related risks and impacts. At the same time, this transition must be **just and inclusive**.

Active **public participation** and confidence in the transition is paramount.

The EU can build on its strengths as a **global leader** on climate and environmental measures, consumer protection, and workers' rights.

This upfront investment is also an opportunity to put Europe firmly on a new path of **sustainable and inclusive growth**.

Quelle: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf), Seite 4



## 2. TRANSFORMING THE EU'S ECONOMY FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

### 2.1. Designing a set of *deeply transformative* policies

To achieve these aims, it is essential to increase the value given to **protecting and restoring natural ecosystems**, to the **sustainable use of resources** and to **improving human health**. This is where transformational change is most needed and potentially most beneficial for the EU economy, society and natural environment.

The Green Deal will make consistent **use of all policy levers**: regulation and standardisation, investment and innovation, national reforms, dialogue with social partners and international cooperation. The European Pillar of Social Rights will guide action in ensuring that no one is left behind.

New measures on their own will not be enough. In addition to launching new initiatives, the Commission will **work with the Member States**.

#### 2.1.1. Increasing the EU's *climate ambition* for 2030 and 2050

The Commission has **already set out a clear vision** of how to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 [*A Clean Planet for all – A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy* COM (2018) 773]. This vision should form the basis for the long-term strategy. The Commission **will propose the first European ‘Climate Law’ by March 2020**.

Current policies will only reduce GHG emissions by 60% by 2050. **Much remains to be done**.

By summer 2020, the Commission will present an impact assessed plan to **increase the EU's greenhouse gas emission reductions target for 2030** to at least 50% and towards 55% compared with 1990 levels in a responsible way. To deliver these additional greenhouse gas emissions reductions, the Commission will, by June 2021, review and propose to revise where necessary, all relevant climate-related policy instruments. These policy reforms will help to ensure **effective carbon pricing throughout the economy**. Ensuring that **taxation** is aligned with climate objectives is essential.

As long as many international partners do not share the same ambition as the EU, there is a risk of carbon leakage. The Commission will propose a **carbon border adjustment mechanism**, for selected sectors, to reduce the risk of carbon leakage.

The Commission will adopt a new, more ambitious EU **strategy on adaptation to climate change**.

#### 2.1.2. Supplying clean, affordable and secure *energy*

Further **decarbonising the energy system** is critical to reach climate objectives. The production and use of energy across economic sectors account for more than 75% of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. **Energy efficiency** must be prioritised. A power sector must be developed that is based largely on renewable sources, complemented by the **rapid phasing out of coal and decarbonising gas**.

**Member States** will present their revised energy and climate plans by the end of 2019.

The clean energy transition should involve and benefit consumers. Increasing **off-shore wind production** will be essential. The **smart integration of renewables**, energy efficiency and other sustainable solutions across sectors will help to achieve decarbonisation at the lowest possible cost.

The **decarbonisation of the gas sector** will be facilitated, including via enhancing support for the development of decarbonised gases, via a forward-looking design for a competitive decarbonised gas market.

The **risk of energy poverty** must be addressed for households that cannot afford key energy services.

The transition to climate neutrality also requires **smart infrastructure**.

### 2.1.3. *Mobilising industry for a clean and **circular economy***

Achieving a climate neutral and circular economy requires the full mobilisation of industry. It takes 25 years –to transform an industrial sector and all the value chains.

Decisions and actions **need to be taken in the next five years**.

The EU's industry has started the shift but still accounts for 20% of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. It remains too 'linear', and dependent on a throughput of new materials extracted, traded and processed into goods, and finally disposed of as waste or emissions.

The transition is an opportunity to expand sustainable and job-intensive economic activity.

In March 2020, the Commission will adopt an **EU industrial strategy**. Together with the industrial strategy, a new circular economy action plan will help modernise the EU's economy.

Energy-intensive industries, such as steel, chemicals and cement, are indispensable to Europe's economy, as they supply several key value chains. The **circular economy action plan** will include a 'sustainable products' policy to support the circular design of all products. It will foster new business models and set minimum requirements to prevent environmentally harmful products.

The Commission will follow up on the 2018 **plastics strategy** focusing, among other things, on measures to tackle intentionally added micro plastics. The Commission will develop requirements to ensure that all packaging in the EU market is reusable or recyclable in an economically viable manner by 2030, will develop a regulatory framework for biodegradable and bio-based plastics, and will implement measures on single use plastics.

The circular economy action plan will also include measures to encourage businesses to offer, and to allow consumers to choose, reusable, durable and repairable products.

**Reliable, comparable and verifiable information** also plays an important part in enabling buyers to make more sustainable decisions.

The Commission will consider legal requirements to **boost the market of secondary raw materials** with mandatory recycled content (for instance for packaging, vehicles, construction materials and batteries). The Commission is of the view that **the EU should stop exporting its waste** outside of the EU.

The Commission will support clean steel breakthrough technologies leading to a **zero-carbon steel making process by 2030**.

Promoting **new forms of collaboration** with industry and investments in strategic value chains are essential.

**Digital technologies** are a critical enabler for attaining the sustainability goals of the Green deal in many different sectors. The Commission will explore measures to ensure that digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, 5G, cloud and edge

computing and the internet of things can accelerate and maximise the impact of policies to deal with climate change and protect the environment.

#### 2.1.4. **Building and renovating** in an energy and resource efficient way

The EU and the Member States should engage in a **'renovation wave'** of public and private buildings.

The Commission will rigorously enforce the legislation related to the **energy performance of buildings**.

#### 2.1.5. *Accelerating the shift to sustainable and smart mobility*

To achieve climate neutrality, a **90% reduction in transport emissions** is needed by 2050. Achieving sustainable transport means putting users first and providing them with more affordable, accessible, healthier and cleaner **alternatives to their current mobility habits**.

**Multimodal transport** needs a strong boost. A substantial part of the 75% of inland freight carried today by road should **shift onto rail and inland waterways**.

In **aviation**, work on adopting the Commission's proposal on a truly Single European Sky will need to restart, as this will help achieve significant reductions in aviation emissions.

Automated and connected multimodal mobility will play an increasing role, together with **smart traffic management systems** enabled by digitalisation.

**The price of transport must reflect the impact** it has on the environment and on health. Fossil-fuel subsidies should end. The Commission will propose to extend European emissions trading to the maritime sector, and to reduce the EU Emissions Trading System allowances allocated for free to airlines.

The EU should ramp-up the production and deployment of **sustainable alternative transport fuels**. The Commission will support the deployment of public recharging and refuelling points.

**Transport should become drastically less polluting, especially in cities.**

The Commission will also propose to revise by June 2021 the legislation on CO<sub>2</sub> emission performance standards for cars and vans, to ensure a clear pathway from 2025 onwards towards zero-emission mobility and consider applying European emissions trading to road transport, and it will **regulate access of the most polluting ships to EU ports**.

#### 2.1.6. *From 'Farm to Fork': designing a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system*

The Commission will **present the 'Farm to Fork' Strategy in spring 2020** and launch a broad stakeholder debate covering all the stages of the food chain.

The **common agricultural and common fisheries policies** will remain key tools to support these efforts. The Commission's proposals for the common agricultural policy for 2021 to 2027 stipulate that at least 40% of the common agricultural policy's overall budget and at least 30% of the Maritime Fisheries Fund would contribute to climate action. Measures such as eco-schemes should reward farmers for improved environmental and climate performance, **including managing and storing carbon in the soil**.

The strategic plans will need to reflect an increased level of ambition to **reduce significantly the use and risk of chemical pesticides, as well as the use of fertilisers and antibiotics**.

The EU needs to develop innovative ways to protect harvests from pests and diseases and to consider the potential role of **new innovative techniques** to improve the sustainability of the food system, while ensuring that they are safe.

**Imported food that does not comply with relevant EU environmental standards is not allowed on EU markets.**

The Farm to Fork strategy will also contain proposals to **improve the position of farmers** in the value chain.

#### 2.1.7. *Preserving and restoring **ecosystems and biodiversity***

**The EU is not meeting some of its most important environmental objectives** for 2020.

The Commission will present a **Biodiversity Strategy** by March 2020, to be followed up by specific action in 2021.

Measures **could include quantified objectives**, such as increasing the coverage of protected biodiversity-rich land and sea areas.

The new EU **forest strategy** will have as its key objectives effective afforestation, and forest preservation and restoration in Europe.

A sustainable '**blue economy**' will have to play a central role. The sector can contribute by improving the use of aquatic and marine resources. More generally, lasting solutions to climate change require greater attention to **nature-based solutions** including healthy and resilient seas and oceans.

#### 2.1.8. *A zero pollution ambition for a **toxic-free environment***

Creating a toxic-free environment requires more action to prevent pollution from being generated as well as measures to clean and remedy it. The Commission will adopt in 2021 a **zero pollution action plan** for air, water and soil.

The natural functions of **ground and surface water** must be restored.

The Commission will propose to strengthen provisions on monitoring, modelling and **air quality**.

The Commission will review EU measures to **address pollution from large industrial installations**.

### 2.2. **Mainstreaming** sustainability in all EU policies

#### 2.2.1. *Pursuing green **finance and investment** and ensuring a just transition*

To achieve the ambition set by the European Green Deal, there are significant **investment needs**. The current 2030 climate and energy targets will require €260 billion of additional annual investment, about 1.5% of 2018 GDP. The Commission will present a **Sustainable Europe Investment Plan**.

The Commission has proposed a **25% target for climate mainstreaming across all EU programmes**.

The Commission will propose a **Just Transition Mechanism**, including a Just Transition Fund, to leave no one behind. The Just Transition Mechanism will focus on the regions and sectors that are most affected by the transition.

The private sector will be key to financing the green transition. **Long-term signals** are needed to direct financial and capital flows to green investment and to avoid stranded assets.

**Sustainability should be further embedded into the corporate governance framework**, as many companies still focus too much on short-term financial performance compared to their long-term development and sustainability aspects.

**Increased opportunities** will be provided for investors and companies by making it easier for them to identify sustainable investments and ensuring that they are credible.

**Climate and environmental risks** will be managed and integrated into the financial system.

#### 2.2.2. *Greening national budgets and sending the right price signals*

The Commission will work with the Member States to screen and **benchmark green budgeting practices**.

Well-designed **tax reforms** can boost economic growth and resilience to climate shocks and help contribute to a fairer society and to a just transition. At national level, the European Green Deal will create the context for broad-based tax reforms, removing subsidies for fossil fuels, shifting the tax burden from labour to pollution, and taking into account social considerations.

#### 2.2.3. *Mobilising research and fostering innovation*

The EU needs to increase significantly the large-scale deployment and demonstration of **new technologies**. At least 35% of the budget of **Horizon Europe** will fund new solutions for climate, which are relevant for implementing the Green Deal.

Emphasising experimentation, and working across sectors and disciplines, the EU's research and innovation agenda will take the systemic approach needed to achieve the aims of the Green Deal.

#### 2.2.4. *Activating education and training*

The Commission will prepare a European competence framework to **help develop and assess knowledge, skills and attitudes** on climate change and sustainable development.

#### 2.2.5. *A green oath: 'do no harm'*

**All EU actions** and policies should pull together to help the EU achieve a successful and just transition towards a sustainable future.

All Green Deal initiatives shall achieve their objectives in the most effective and least burdensome way and all other EU initiatives **live up to a green oath to 'do no harm'**.

### 3. THE EU AS A GLOBAL LEADER

By setting a credible example, the EU can be an effective advocate. The Commission and the High Representative will work closely with Member States to **mobilise all diplomatic channels** – including the United Nations, the G7, G20, the WTO and other relevant international fora.

The EU will continue to ensure that the **Paris Agreement** remains the indispensable multilateral framework for tackling climate change.

The EU is also working with global partners to develop **international carbon markets**.

The EU will use its diplomatic and financial tools to ensure that green alliances are part of its relations with Africa and other partner countries and regions.

Climate policy implications should become an integral part of the EU's thinking and action on external issues, including in the context of the Common Security and Defence Policy.

Commitments to sustainability have been continuously strengthened in EU **trade agreements**.

The Commission proposal for a Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument proposes to allocate **a target of 25% of its budget to climate-related objectives**.

The EU will remain at the forefront of efforts to set up a financial system that supports **global sustainable growth**.

#### 4. **TIME TO ACT** – TOGETHER: A EUROPEAN CLIMATE PACT

The **involvement and commitment of the public and of all stakeholders** is crucial. The Commission will launch a European Climate Pact by March 2020 to focus on three ways to engage with the public on climate action. The Commission will work on building capacity to **facilitate grassroots initiatives** on climate change and environmental protection.

The Commission will consider revising the Aarhus Regulation to improve access to administrative and judicial review at EU level for citizens and NGOs who have concerns about the legality of decisions with effects on the environment. The Commission will also take action to **improve their access to justice** before national courts in all Member States.

The European Green Deal launches **a new growth strategy** for the EU.

#### **For a roadmap see**

[ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication-annex-roadmap\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication-annex-roadmap_en.pdf) (english)

or [ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication-annex-roadmap\\_de.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication-annex-roadmap_de.pdf) (german)