

The European Green Deal

On 11 December 2019, EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen presented the European green deal, a €1 trillion 10-year plan to achieve a climate neutral economy by 2050. On 15 January 2020 the Members of the European Parliament voted to support it.

The Green Deal is an integral part of this Commission's strategy (2019 – 2024) to implement the United Nation's 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals and covers all sectors of the economy, notably transport, energy, agriculture, buildings, and industries such as steel, cement, ICT, textiles and chemicals.

In addition to launching new initiatives, the Commission will work with the Member States to step up the EU's efforts to ensure that current legislation and policies relevant to the Green Deal are enforced and effectively implemented.

The European Green Deal Investment Plan has three main objectives:

1. First, it will increase funding for the transition, and mobilise at least €1 trillion to support sustainable investments over the next decade through the EU budget and associated instruments, in particular InvestEU;
2. Second, it will create an enabling framework for private investors and the public sector to facilitate sustainable investments;
3. Third, it will provide support to public administrations and project promoters in identifying, structuring and executing sustainable projects.

Increasing the EU's climate ambition for 2030 and 2050

The Commission will propose the first European 'Climate Law' by March 2020 in order to set out clearly the conditions for an effective and fair transition, to provide predictability for investors, and to ensure that the transition is irreversible.

The EU has already started to modernise and transform the economy with the aim of climate neutrality. Between 1990 and 2018, the EU reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 23%, while the economy grew by 61%.

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.

Accelerating the shift to sustainable and smart mobility

To achieve climate neutrality, a 90% reduction in transport emissions is intended by 2050. With this aim, the Commission will consider withdrawing and presenting a new proposal to revise the Combined Transport Directive to turn it into an effective tool to support multimodal freight operations involving rail and waterborne transport, including short-sea shipping.

The Commission will propose to extend European emissions trading to the maritime sector. This will be coordinated with action with action at global level, notably at the International Maritime Organization.

The EU should in parallel ramp-up the production and deployment of sustainable alternative transport fuels. To this end The Commission will consider legislative options to boost the production and uptake of sustainable alternative fuels for the different transport modes. The Commission will also review the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive and the TEN-T Regulation to accelerate the deployment of zero- and low-emission vehicles and vessels.

Transport should become drastically less polluting, especially in cities. The Commission will take action in relation to maritime transport, including to regulate access of the most polluting ships to EU ports and to oblige docked ships to use shore-side electricity.