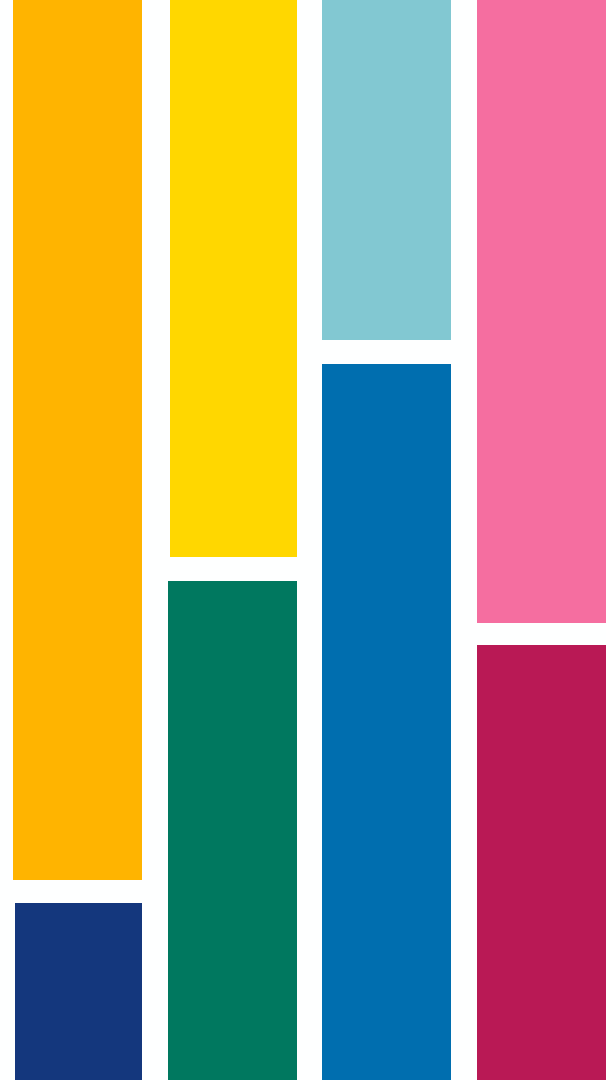


Deep dive into five years of Green Deal

Coffineau Louise
Mansutti Eugenia
Lymes Thomas





A new Circular Economy Action Plan

Transition to a Circular Economy

- Strategy on the sustainable use of chemicals
- Clean Air and Water Action Plans

A zero pollution Europe

Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Preserving Europe's natural capital

- TBD with the commissioner-designate

Sustainable Transport

Farm to Fork

Farm to Fork Strategy

- Revising 2030 Climate targets
- Extending ETS
- Climate Pact
- Climate Law
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Achieving Climate Neutrality

The transformation of agriculture and rural areas

- Vision for Inclusive Rural Areas
- Africa Europe agenda

- Review Energy Legislation
- European Framework for gas
- Review Energy Taxation directive

Clean, Reliable and Affordable energy

Towards a modernised and simplified CAP

CAP reform proposal

Financing the transition

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EU Climate Law

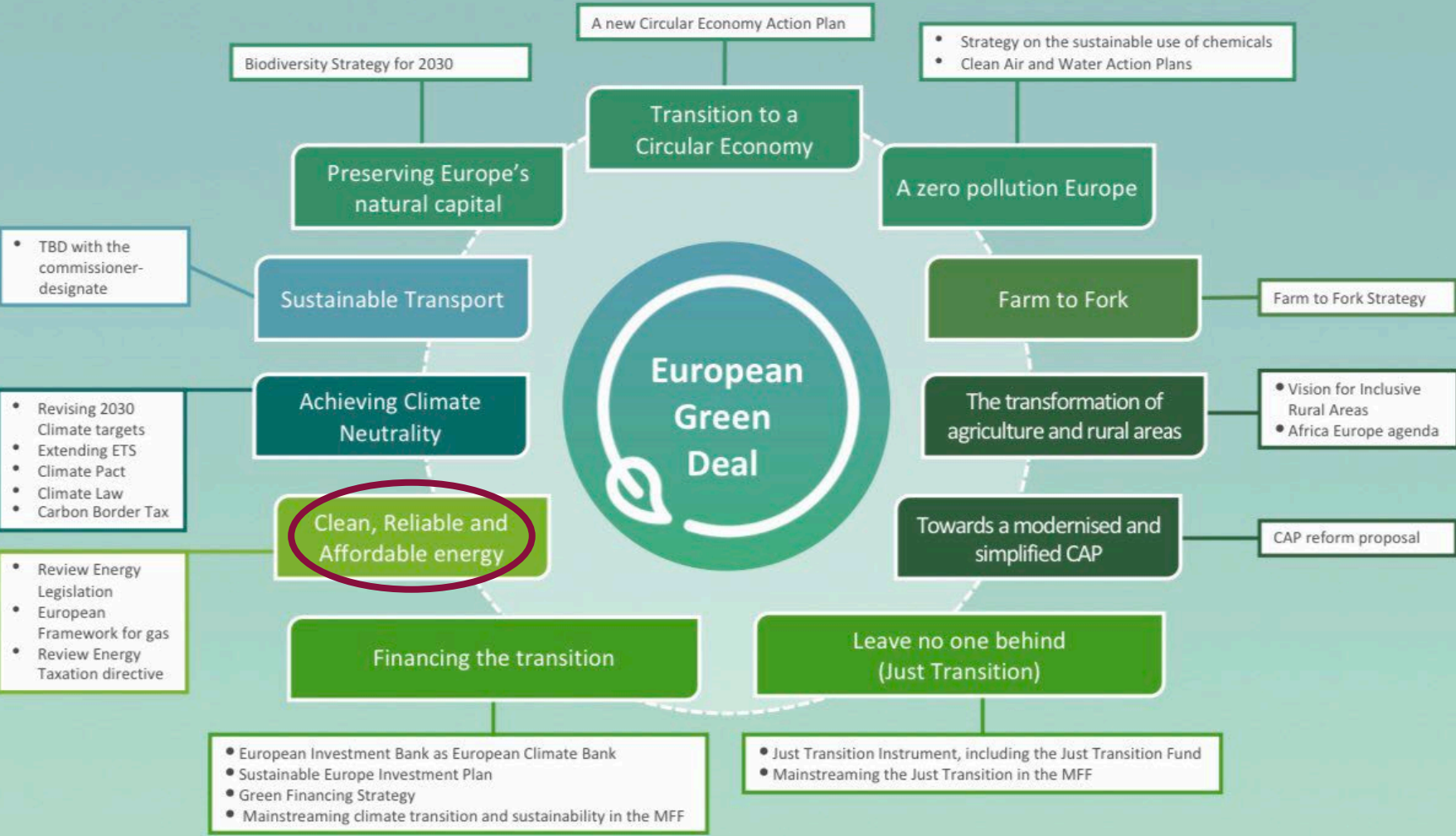


- **Flagship initiative** of the European Green Deal (2019)
- Objective: become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.
- The results were good overall:
 - **Positive**:
 - 2050: **climate neutrality** and negative emissions after 2050
 - 2040: intermediate target (*to be defined later*)
 - Independent Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change
 - GHG budget for 2030-2050 to inform the 2040 target.
 - **Could have been better**:
 - 2030: net GHG emission reduction target of **at least 55%**
 - 2050: EU binding target, and **no target at Member States level**
 - **Negative**: no mention of support to cities.

EU Climate Law

[Click
here for
more
info](#)

- What did it mean for cities?
 - A clear EU landscape for the next three decades.
 - The EU Climate Law should help to drive investments in decarbonised services and goods.
 - Science-based recommendations for the 2040 target.
 - The 100 Climate-Neutral and Cities Mission, and more EU funding allocated to green projects in general.



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Buildings

- Energy Efficiency Directive
- Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

Energy Efficiency Directive

- **New rules** that apply to all public authorities including cities, and that will contribute to achieving higher energy savings and improve energy efficiency in the EU.
 - Reducing the final energy consumption of the EU to 11.7% by 2030 compared to the projections established in 2020.
 - Setting increasing target percentages for final energy savings: 1.3% in 2024-2025, 1.5% in 2026-2027 and 1.9% in 2028-2030 (eq = 1,49% for the period 2024-2030, almost double the current level of ambition (0,8%)).

Energy Efficiency Directive

[Click here for more info](#)

- What does it mean for cities?
- **ART 5** “public sector leading on energy efficiency” = specific obligation for the public sector to achieve an annual energy consumption reduction of 1,9%*.
- **ART 6** “exemplary role of public bodies’ buildings” = MSs will be required to renovate annually at least 3% of the total floor area owned by public bodies.** → **when not owned: negotiate improvements** .
Social Housing: exemptions (cost neutrality or balance)
- **ART 21** “information and awareness raising” = MSs will take appropriate measures to promote and facilitate an efficient use of energy by final customers and final user (ex: one-stop-shops + dialogue between relevant actors).

Energy Efficiency Directive

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- What does it mean for cities?
- **ART 22** “energy poverty” = Member States will take appropriate measures to empower and protect people affected by energy poverty, vulnerable customers, low-income households and, where applicable, people living in social housing.*
- **ART 25.6** “heating and cooling planning” = Member States shall ensure that regional and local authorities prepare local heating and cooling plans.** It should be prepared with local and regional stakeholders – munic. Above 45,000

Energy Performance of Buildings

Objective: a **zero-emission** and **fully decarbonised building stock** by 2050.

- **Positive:**

- whole-life carbon calculation for all new buildings after 2030*
- provisions for one-stop shops (with dedicated services for energy-poor): 1/80,000 inh
- financial incentives for renovations targeting vulnerable households
- ban subsidies for stand-alone fossil fuel boilers from 2025**
- National building renovation plans with 2030-40-50 targets that MUST be elaborated w/cities
- Use of public roofs – making it easier to set up partnerships for RES production (w/RED)

- **Challenging:**

- **minimum Energy Performance Standards will be designed at national level**, not harmonised at EU level through common EPC system. Lot will depend on transposition !
- no EU-level harmonisation of EPC classes
- **“zero energy building” definition will be defined at national level**
- deleted references to the benefits of NBS in buildings.

Exceptions
(historical,
holiday
homes,
etc)

Energy Performance of Buildings

[Click here for more info](#)

What does it mean for cities?

- **Positive:**
 - the requirements on WLC will help calculate the overall emissions of new buildings and guide while designing criteria for construction tenders;
 - some cities have already implemented one-stop shops for renovation, the EPBD will support their deployment;
 - provisions on vulnerable households and renovations will put pressure on Member States (MSs) to address it.
- **Challenging:**
 - lots of flexibility is given to MS. It means that legislation will be heterogeneous among EU countries, some will have more progressive legislative frameworks to renovate their buildings stocks than others.
 - Risk of fragmentation of the EU market.

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Environment

- Urban Waste Water Treatment
- Ambient Air Quality Directive
- EU Nature Restoration Law

Urban Waste Water Treatment

- In 2022, the old EU's Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive was more than 30 years old. Since its adoption, the quality of European rivers, lakes and seas has improved.
- However, existing pollution still needed to be addressed and was not covered by the old regulation.
- So, the European Commission tabled a proposal to:
 - **reduce GHG emissions** and help achieve climate neutrality by 2050;
 - Strengthen the **treatment standards** to tackle 'new' types of pollution;
 - And introduce a new **polluter-pays** scheme.

Urban Waste Water Treatment

[Click here for more info](#)

- **Very positive:**
 - Producers of pharmaceuticals and cosmetics will contribute to 80% of the costs of additional treatment via an **extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme**.
- **Positive:**
 - Extended the obligation to apply secondary treatment*
 - Tertiary treatment will be compulsory by 2039**
 - New quarterly treatment in larger plants of 150,000 p.e. and above by 2045***
 - By 2045, urban wastewater treatment plants will be required to produce energy from renewable sources (climate-neutrality target).
- **Challenging:**
 - Tertiary and quaternary treatment by 2045 will also apply to smaller agglomerations of 10,000 p.e. that discharge in areas meeting certain criteria.

Ambient Air Quality Directive

- Zero Pollution Action Plan: halve the number of premature deaths linked to air pollution by 2030
- 2021 WHO new guidelines defined the horizons in terms of air quality
- Current EU Air quality framework outdated with many cities already reaching the targets

Ambient Air Quality Directive

- **Positive:**
 - **New binding air quality targets for 2030 & 2035** in line with Eurocities recommendations.
 - Focus on “**pollutants of emerging concerns**” : black carbon, ultra-fine particles,...
 - **Low energy and GDP** dropped of the list of grounds for postponement of AQ targets
 - Comprehensive catalogue of **indicative measures to tackle air pollution**
 - **Air quality plans** are expected to deliver when the targets kick in
- **Alright:**
 - A regional approach to address the population’s exposure to certain pollutants (fine particles, nitrogen oxides,...)
 - A commitment to regularly review air quality standards but only in 2030 (2028 originally)
 - A review of sources legislations e.g Euro standards for vehicles if we don’t stay a track
- **Very challenging:**
 - **No real requirements for Member States to support regional exposure targets**
 - **Derogations allowing to postpone air quality targets by 10 years in total**

EU Nature Restoration Law

- Commission's proposal in June 2022
- Cities welcome legally binding **targets**, but **flexibility** is key.
- What does it include?
 - Overarching European target to **restore 20% land and sea by 2030 and all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050**
 - Specific targets for different ecosystems (rivers, forests, marine, pollinators, urban etc)
 - Urban ecosystem targets: **not net loss of urban green space and tree canopy cover by 2030.***

EU Nature Restoration Law

[Click here for more info](#)

Results are good BUT:

- **Positive:**
 - Legally binding target for **no net loss** of urban green space/tree canopy cover by 2030.
 - Member states are required to develop National Restoration Plans with the involvement of local authorities, including in the selection of restoration measures and MSs must determine how measures will be financed.
- **Alright:**
 - Member states can exclude ecosystem areas in which the share of urban green space in the urban centres and urban clusters exceeds 45 % and the share of urban tree canopy cover therein exceeds 10 %.
- **Very challenging:**
 - We do not know if the law will be finally adopted by the Council!!

EU Nature Restoration Law

What it means for cities?

- **Positive:**
 - Provides **support for cities** in safeguarding existing green space from competing land use priorities,
 - Provides a **flexible and tailored-made approach** that is not detrimental for cities with large amounts of green space
- **Challenging:**
 - It may be challenging to **define suitable levels** of urban greening or tree canopy cover as each member state can define their urban ecosystem areas, but the European Commission will develop guidance.

What's next?

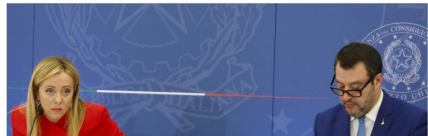


- **EU elections:** 6-9 June
- New balance of power in the Parliament and European Commission, new EUCO President
- Some elements of context:
 - **Farmer protests** (EGD backlash: CAP, NRL, etc.)
 - **Far-right** surge mounting, driven by cost-of-living crisis
 - **Geopolitically volatile** year: conflicts, climate impacts, etc.
 - **VdL** in the running, holding the fort on the EGD

A more challenging environment for the Green Deal

Italian politics threatens to torpedo EU buildings directive

By Nikolaus J. Kormayer and Valentina Romano | Euractiv.com | Est. 4min
18 Jan 2023 (updated: 13 Oct 2023)



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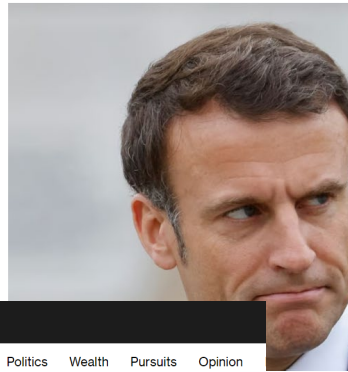
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By Kira Taylor | Euractiv.com | Est. 5min
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Dave Keating | August 23, 2023

NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT | EUROPE

Farmers revolt against EU's historic nature restoration law

Tim Schauenberg

07/12/2023

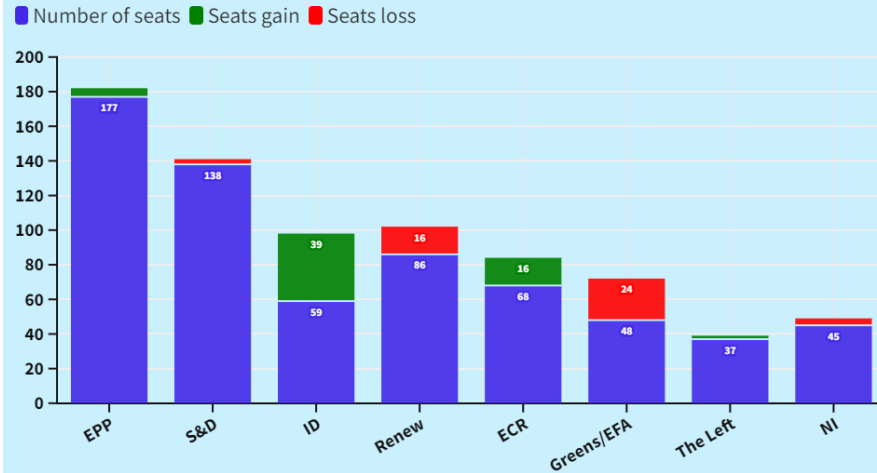
The EU has accepted a historic bill to reduce agricultural emissions and promote biodiversity and sustainable land and soil use. But farmers fear that they will lose out.



EU Election Projection 2024

Projection of changes of power among political groups after EP 2024 elections

Including potential recruitment of new parties



Note: Data elaborated in March 2024



Sharp fall: Greens, Renew.

Sharp rise: far right (ID, ECR).

Stable: EPP, S&D.

Centrist coalition (EPP, S&D, Renew) would resist and is the most likely scenario.

EPP = kingmaker, able to block anything with far right.

Current policy landscape

- **EU 2040 target** communication setting relatively ambitious trajectory for decarbonisation (but no distributional costs and *nothing new* to accelerate the transition, ex: investments)
- **NRL law**: no majority secured => vote in Council postponed
- Some **relatively-positive results** obtained (EPBD, AAQD)
- **Implementation** will be key!

- **New narrative** towards industry & “strategic autonomy”
 - Strategic agenda 2024-29: security and competitiveness
 - Climate & social dimensions put aside

What does it mean for cities?

- Try to **keep cities' priorities high** on the agenda
 - As much as progressive topics, such as climate, housing, etc.
- **Adapt cities' narrative** to a more conservative audience (keep the ambition high but take a specific angle, ex: socio-economic benefits of the climate transition)
- **Work with the industry sector** and beyond the usual suspects.
- Prepare cities to fight!

