



## General

- The European Commission presented the [European Green Deal](#) proposal ([communication + roadmap](#)) on 11 December 2019.
- The European Council of [12 December 2019](#) confirmed the principle of climate neutrality.
- The European Parliament on 15 January 2020 adopted [a resolution](#) supporting the Green Deal by a large majority.
- The roadmap accompanying the Commission's communication gives an indicative timing of the expected initiatives.
- The Commission has published the [work programme for 2021](#).

## Current affairs

- Environment ministers defend 55% target for new climate law, despite European Parliament demand to raise ambition. ([Euractiv](#))
- Normally, the [European Council of 25-26 March](#) should have devoted much attention to climate, but that topic had to [make way](#) for Covid-19. ([Euractiv](#))
- Commission President von der Leyen hopes that the 20s will bring a breakthrough in climate policy and green transformation. ([Euractiv](#))
- During a discussion in the Council of Ministers, some member states questioned the level of ambition of the proposed new scheme for batteries. ([Euractiv](#))
- Waste sector companies call for a higher level of ambition in the proposed new scheme for batteries. ([Euractiv](#))
- [Eric Sievers](#) and [Donagh Cagney](#) on the review of the Renewable Energy Directive.
- Will the revision of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) go far enough? ([Euractiv](#))
- [E3G](#) on the Trans-European Networks for Energy (TEN-E) Regulation.
- [CAN Europe](#) and [Digital Europe](#) on the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.
- A new study shows that the major manufacturers of heating systems are still too reluctant to opt for climate neutrality. ([META](#))
- Europe must lead the transition out of coal, says [Maria Mendiluce](#).
- Europe is now halfway in closing all coal plants by 2030. ([Euractiv](#), [CAN Europe](#))

- A [study](#) by ClientEarth on the review of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) and the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).
- The carbon market reacted differently now than it did after the 2008 financial crisis. ([Climate Home News](#))
- The Commission plans to extend the ETS to buildings and road transport. ([Euractiv](#))
- Industries that will be caught by the future carbon border tax (CBAM) will no longer receive free allowances in the ETS system. ([Euractiv](#))
- Some African countries question the proposal for a CBAM. ([Euractiv](#))
- Soils may not be able to store as much carbon as previously thought. A new study shows that. ([The Guardian](#))
- The EU needs an independent scientific advisory council on climate change. ([EnergyPost](#))
- NGOs disappointed by European Court of Justice ruling in climate case. ([CAN Europe](#))
- How can you use a kit, as if it came from IKEA, to [renovate houses energetically](#)?
- An article about the role of ['smart buildings'](#).
- Circle Economy launches a ['circular toolbox'](#) for clothing brands that want to switch to a circular business model.
- The Ellen MacArthur Foundation on [design and circular economy](#).
- An article about the criteria for [selection of building materials](#) in a circular economy.
- An [article](#) about future scenarios for urban mobility.
- [FIPRA](#) on the 'Sustainable and smart mobility' strategy and digitalisation.
- An [article](#) about MaaS and public transport.
- A report on transport innovations, seen from a [gender perspective](#).
- 2020 was a good year for electric cars in Europe. But there are still some hurdles to overcome to make real progress. ([Euractiv](#))
- A new report on [air pollution and mobility policy](#) in cities.
- A group of cities, together with Transport & Environment and POLIS, is calling on the Commission to take more action to make [vans in cities](#) climate-neutral.
- Travelling by train is more environmentally friendly than by plane or car. This has been confirmed again in [studies](#) by the EEA. ([Euractiv](#))
- A [report](#) on the importance of European heritage for the ambitions of the Green Deal. ([EIB](#))
- The post-Covid-19 recovery policy must link climate, biodiversity and health. A [briefing paper](#) by IISD.
- A report by DIW on an improved framework for a [European industrial policy](#) that supports the Green Deal.
- Sandrine Dixon-Declève and Janez Potočnik argue for a forward-looking EU [industrial policy](#).
- Spain and the Netherlands call for more strategic autonomy for Europe. ([Euractiv](#))
- A new draft of the amended proposals for a taxonomy for sustainable financial policy [has been leaked](#). ([Greenpeace](#), [Euractiv](#), [Reuters](#), [WWF](#), [Reuters](#), [Earth.Org](#), [ECOS](#), [Transport & Environment](#), [Greenpeace](#))
- Czech Republic questions how the 'do no significant harm' principle would be applied in the taxonomy. ([Euractiv](#))
- [Nathan Fabian](#) on the taxonomy.
- [Allianz](#) is in favour of a CBAM and a sustainable EU financial policy.
- Major banks have continued to finance oil and gas companies since 2015. ([The Guardian](#), [Oil Change International](#))
- An article on [5 trends](#) in sustainable investing.
- An [opinion piece](#) by Ursula von der Leyen and Werner Hoyer on a global Green Deal.
- UNESCO organised a special [conference on biodiversity](#).
- [Emilio Tenuta](#) on the importance of a sustainable water policy for biodiversity.
- It is important to measure public spending on biodiversity correctly. ([Phys](#))

- Only 1% of large companies try to stop deforestation with an active policy. This is shown in a recent study. ([Euractiv](#))
- Restoring forests should not be an alibi for not working on reducing emissions. That is what [some NGOs](#) are saying on the occasion of the International Day of Forests.
- On 25 March, the Commission presented the action plan for organic farming. Preliminary reactions: [Euractiv](#). [The action plan](#). Reactions afterwards: [Euractiv](#), [Euronews](#), [IFOAM](#), [Feed Navigator](#), [EU Reporter](#).
- The Farm to fork strategy offers opportunities to reduce [food loss and waste](#).
- Agriculture ministers call for impact assessment on Farm to Fork strategy ([Climate Home News](#))
- Sufficient resources must be provided for the transition to agro-ecological farming practices. ([Euractiv](#))
- A [briefing](#) from IEEP on the negotiations for a new common agricultural policy.
- A group of investors is asking the Commission for a higher climate ambition in the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. ([Euractiv](#))
- Some NGOs published an open letter on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. ([Bee Life](#), [EEB](#), [Greenpeace](#))
- Imposing animal welfare standards on imports of meat products to the EU could be WTO-compatible. ([Euractiv](#))
- José Antonio Sanahuja on the [Green Deal and Latin America](#).
- Conflicts, Covid-19 and the climate crisis are pushing millions of people into malnutrition. This is according to a [new report](#) by the FAO. ([The Guardian](#))
- The [Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2021](#) has been published.

## Activities

- 29/03 | Webinar | [Advocating for Green Taxation: Stakeholder workshop](#)
- 29/03 | Webinar | [Tackling the COVID-19 Pandemic of Inequality to Build a Green, Inclusive, & Resilient Recovery](#)
- 30/03 | Webinar | [Sector integration: How can the EU best create and leverage an integrated energy system?](#)
- 30/03 | Webinar | [The role of the European Union's vehicle CO2 standards in achieving the European Green Deal](#)
- 30/03 | Webinar | [Building Energy Performance Certificates for the people](#)
- 31/03 | Webinar | [Building a sustainable future – Transitioning towards a circular and low-carbon construction sector](#)
- 31/03 | Webinar | [Setting a vision for buildings and a decarbonised buildings stock](#)
- 31/03 | Webinar | [Industry 4.0 and the Circular Economy](#)
- 01/04 | Webinar | [The Circular Toolbox for Apparel Brands Launch Event](#)
- 06/04 | Webinar | [Economic Recovery: Toward a Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Future](#)
- 07/04 | Webinar | [Green Deal: what opportunities for social services?](#)
- 08/04 | Webinar | [How can technology support the transition towards more sustainable finance?](#)
- 08-19/04 | Online | [EU-Africa Green Talks \(EIB\)](#)
- 12/04 | Webinar | [Waste-to-Energy: an essential element for circularity](#)
- 13/04 | Webinar | [Forum for Mobility & Society – Smart and Sustainable Mobility Strategy](#)
- 14/04 | Webinar | [Public transport meets smart mobility](#)
- 14-16/04 | Online | [SBE21 Heritage Conference, Renovating historic buildings for a low-carbon built heritage](#)
- 15/04 | Webinar | [Minimum energy performance standards for existing buildings](#)

- 20/04 | Webinar | [Active building Energy Performance Contracting \(AEPC\)](#)
- 20/04 | Webinar | [Connecting European Sustainable Finance to standardization](#)
- 20/04 | Webinar | [Conference on Energy poverty at the crossroads of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the European Green Deal](#)
- 22/04 | Webinar | [Clean Aviation for a Competitive Green Recovery in Europe: Innovative Ideas Take Flight](#)
- 22/04 | Webinar | [Creating a mobility system of the future](#)
- 22/04 | Online | [Brainstorming seminar on Circular Economy: launch of bounCE4ward](#)
- 28/04 | Webinar | [The New Industrial Strategy for \(Post-Pandemic\) Europe](#)
- 29/04 | Webinar | [Achieving the 2030 climate goals – One-stop-shops for the residential sector](#)
- 29/04 | Webinar | [Blue economy: the potential of our oceans to contribute to a green recovery](#)
- 04/05 | Webinar | [Circular economy and bioeconomy](#)
- 04-05/05 | Online | [Euroheat & Power Congress](#)
- 05/05 | Webinar | [Climate Compliance and the European Green Deal](#)
- 06/05 | Webinar | [The Role of Modal Shift in Achieving Transport Decarbonisation Objectives](#)
- 06/05 | Webinar | [Digital solutions in support of the Green Deal](#)
- 11/05 | Webinar | [Are we getting closer to a circular economy in Europe?](#)
- 11/05 | Webinar | [Faculty Research Day: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#)
- 12/05 | Webinar | [Human Rights Compliance in the Financial Sector](#)
- 25-27/05 | Online | [Innovate4Climate](#)
- 27/05 | Webinar | [Enabling a Circular Economy: How to encourage a viable agricultural market for nutrients recovered from biowaste](#)
- 31/05-04/06 | Online | [EU Green Week](#)
- 15-16/06 | Online | [Covenant of Mayors Investment Forum: Energy efficiency finance market place](#)
- 21-23/06 | Online | [Healthy Buildings Europe 2021](#)
- 21-25/06 | [Transport and Climate Change Week](#)
- 23-25/06 | Online | [European Energy Efficiency Conference 2021](#)
- 24/06 | [International workshop 'Urban climate resilience: the role of law'](#)
- 19-20/07 | Online | [International Conference on Ecology, Biodiversity and Environment](#)
- 30/08-03/09 | Online | [Environmental litigation and compliance beyond the nation-state](#)
- 08-09/09 | [International Conference on Sustainable Development](#)
- 11-14/10 | [The European SDG Summit 2021](#)
- 24-26/11 | [2nd International Conference on Circularity in the Built Environment](#)

### Commission documents

- 21/04 | Communication on a climate change mitigation and adaptation taxonomy | Review of the Non-Financial Reporting Directive | Communication on the global approach to research, innovation, education and youth
- 27/04 | Communication on business taxation for the 21st century | Updating the new industrial strategy for Europe | Communication on better regulation
- 18/05 | Communication on zero-pollution for water, air and soil | Communication on a new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU

*This briefing has been compiled by the FRDO-CFDD secretariat. The selection does not bind the members of the FRDO-CFDD in any way.*

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