BRIEFING **| European Green Deal |** Issue 271 **|** 16 January 2026

General

- The Political Guidelines 2024-2029.
- The Commission has published the work programme for 2026.

Current affairs

- 2025 was the third warmest year on record. (Copernicus, Politico, The Guardian, Euronews, EUobserver, CarbonBrief, WMO, LSE, Copernicus)
- Analysis: The papers on climate change that appeared most frequently in the media in 2025. (CarbonBrief)
- Consequences of the US decision to withdraw from a number of international organisations and agreements. (Climate Home News, Human Rights Watch, CarbonBrief, CIEL, The Guardian)
- US plan to exploit Venezuela's oil could eat up 13% of carbon budget to keep 1.5°C limit. (The Guardian, Politico, Euronews, The Guardian, The Guardian, CarbonBrief)
- Europeans' "psychological bias" towards climate change threatens to slow progress, research warns. (Euronews, Nature)
- How climate disinformation is reshaping geopolitics – and Europe's role in combating it. (New Climate Institute)
- Climate variability poses both a risk and an opportunity for the global energy transition. (IRENA, WMO)
- From renewable to reliable: How to unlock wind power for a secure energy future. (WEF)
- EU rooftops could be a huge source of solar energy, research shows. (EUobserver)
- Renewable energy jobs experience first slowdown despite global growth in deployment. (IRENA)
- Energy transition technologies offer new opportunities for global energy systems. (IRENA)
- Implementation of the Commission's recommendation on energy storage in Member States. (JRC)
- Spatial analysis of the progress of the energy transition in Europe. An article.
- Temporary subsidies: how EU countries are avoiding necessary reforms in the energy sector. (Euractiv)
- New report on how energy markets can work to the benefit of consumers and deliver affordable bills. (BEUC)
- Figures linked to Trump lead negotiations on €200 million European pipeline contract. (The Guardian)

- The changing dynamics of global metal markets: how the energy transition and geo-fragmentation could disrupt commodity prices. (LSE)
- The planet needs us to disrupt the economy. (Ellen MacArthur and Jonquil Hackenberg)
- A complete guide to circular economy policy targeting EU businesses in 2026. (Circle Economy)
- AI and circularity will be crucial to the future of materials in the AI era. (WEF)
- New report calls for Circular Economy Act to toughen chemical policy and avoid future public health crisis. (Zero Waste Europe)
- The EU's investment giant must do more in the area of clean transport. (Lorenzo Manca)
- Improving the use of railway infrastructure capacity. A briefing.
- EU crackdown on 'forever chemicals' in drinking water not 'robust' enough to prevent contamination. (Euronews)
- Forever-chemical firms continue forever EU lobbying. (CEO, Vicky Cann)
- Will the EU proceed with its digital regulation plans? (Alexandra Geese en Josh Branch, Politico)
- Investing in climate adaptation strengthens European competitiveness. (EEA)
- The great collapse of European industry is not a fatality. (Neil Makaroff)
- The EU must work on a new social model. (Marcin Korolec and Sébastien Treyer)
- Huge EU fund for "competitiveness" too vague, auditors warn. (EUobserver, ECA)
- EU-Mercosur: Council gives green light for signing of the comprehensive partnership and trade agreement. (Council, Commission, Politico, Politico, Euractiv, Euractiv, Greenpeace, Politico, Euractiv, EPC, Politico, Irene Mia, Euractiv, Euractiv, Council, Agroecology Europe)
- What next for EU trade policy? (Euractiv, Euractiv)
- The new Global Risks Report 2026. (WEF)
- The economics of a liveable planet: 5 things every policymaker, CEO and development worker needs to know. (World Bank, World Bank, SRC)
- World's richest 1% have already used fair share of emissions for 2026, according to Oxfam. (Euractiv, The Guardian, Oxfam)
- The problem with carbon budgets, offsets and removals in climate lawsuits against states: the KlimaSeniorinnen v. Switzerland case at the ECHR. An article.
- What did COP30 mean for the transition plans and what lies ahead? (E3G)
- EU tech simplification push mirrors big tech's agenda, lobby trackers warn. (Euractiv, CEO)
- The EU's retreat from ESG risk regulation is reigniting financial instability. (Brigita Schmögnerová)
- Climate and nature risks threaten Europe's financial resilience and insurability. (WWF)
- Global warming is accelerating as the "sunshade" of air pollution disappears, according to a report. (Green Central Banking)
- Sustainable finance down-to-earth? Insights from the German regional economy. An article.
- Aligning inclusive finance with the European Union's digital and green transition. An article.
- Application, incidence and welfare effects of interest-free loans: evidence from solar energy. (LSE)
- Improving climate analysis: new insights through data. (ECB)
- The Digital Euro: Let the public interest prevail! (Sustainable Finance Lab, Positive Money)
- Central banks should create a new carbon reward asset to speed transition. (Green Central Banking)
- Von der Leyen's plan to revamp EU's €2 trillion budget is unraveling. (Politico)
- Background information on the MFF after 2027. A briefing.
- Green bonds and green bank loans: a systematic literature review. An article.
- The changing view of climate-related financial risks in the US financial sector. (Kevin Stiroh)

- Africa's climate finance rules are growing, but they're weakly enforced – new research. (Paola D'Orazio)
- Climate targets and transition planning for banks in the food and agriculture sector. (UNEPFI)
- Mapped: how the world is losing its forests to wildfires. (The Guardian)
- The UK and EU's tree-planting pledges are being put to the test as scientists warn that the climate window is closing. (Euronews)
- Groundbreaking international treaty on marine protection enters into force. (UN News)
- Research shows that pesticides can drastically shorten the lifespan of fish. (The Guardian)
- Impact of shifts to healthy diets on greenhouse gas emissions from soil across Europe. An article.
- Farm ministers struggle to 'take back control' of EU agriculture. (Euractiv)
- Occupational hazards: the hidden human costs of agriculture. A briefing.

(Highlight means: NEW or CHANGED)

Activities

- 2026-01-26 | Online | A comprehensive strategy for nature-based biodegradable materials
- 2026-01-29 | Online | ISDS vs. The Climate – How a colonial-era investment mechanism jeopardises a just transition
- 2026-02-03 | Hybrid | Unlocking housing affordability - How can capital markets and real estate deliver Europe's housing transition?
- 2026-02-03 | Hybrid | Europe's path to a cleaner automotive sector – What are the opportunities and challenges?
- 2026-02-05 | Europe's industry at a crossroads - Can deindustrialisation still be resisted?
- 2026-02-06 | Adaptation makes cents – Adaptation makes cents
- 2026-02-10 – 2026-02-11 | Future of Work: exploring how digitalisation reshapes work organisation and possible regulatory responses
- 2026-02-24 | Just transitions at a crossroad: work, welfare and climate policies in Europe
- 2026-04-28 | Online | EIOPA Sustainable Finance Conference 2026

(Highlight means: NEW or CHANGED)

Commission documents

- 2026-01-20 | Digital Networks Act | Cybersecurity Act
- 2026-01-29 | Competitiveness package - 2026 Annual single market and competitiveness report - A Competitiveness Coordination Tool for Europe | Industrial Accelerator Act
- 2026-02-18 | EU industrial maritime strategy | EU ports strategy
- 2026-03-04 | Gender equality strategy | Intergenerational fairness strategy
- 2026-03-10 | Energy package - Clean energy investment strategy - Citizens energy package - Future development and deployment of small modular reactors in Europe
- 2026-03-18 | 28th Regime - European Innovation Act - Communication on Integrated Wildfire Risk Management
- 2026-03-26 | Tech Sovereignty Package - Strategic Roadmap for Digitalisation and AI in Energy - Cloud and AI Development Act - Chips Act 2 - Open Source strategy

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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