An EU Budget to address the Climate Emergency: How to fund the European Green New Deal

15 October 2019

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https://eeb.org/eu-budget-climate-emergency/
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 -</td>
<td>Welcome and aim of the day</td>
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<td>9:00 -</td>
<td>Welcome remarks: Radostina Primova (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Brussels, European Union) and EUKI (tbc)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15</td>
<td>Session 1: The Climate Emergency: The world has woken up - The Political Response</td>
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<td>9:15</td>
<td>• How do we turn EU funds into climate action as part of a Green New Deal for Europe? Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>9:50</td>
<td>Session 2: What lessons can we learn from the previous MFF and how do we move forward?</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45</td>
<td>• Vision: MFF and the Green New Deal - Patrick ten Brink (EEB)</td>
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<td>10:45</td>
<td>• Climate action through EU Funding – Phil Wynn Owen (European Court of Auditors)</td>
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<td>10:45</td>
<td>• Sound and consistent Climate Proofing of the MFF 2021–2027 – Moritz Schaefer / Yannick Monschauer (NAVIGANT)</td>
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<td>10:45</td>
<td>• An EU Budget to address the Climate Emergency: Lessons from the Past and Ways Forward - Andras Lukacs (Clean Air Action Group HU) / Matthias Runkel (Green Budget Germany DE)</td>
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<td>10:45</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>11:15</td>
<td>Session 3: Stakeholder Panel Debate</td>
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<td>11:15</td>
<td>• What climate actions need to be launched and what are the windows of opportunity? How can the European Parliament, the Commission, Member States and Civil Society work together to ensure a Paris Compatible Budget? Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>13:00</td>
<td>Lunch (provided)</td>
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Chair: Patrick ten Brink, EU Policy Director, EEB
Can EU funds catalyse a European Green Deal in Europe?

Patrick ten Brink  EU Policy Director
Europe faces a climate emergency. Our governments are required to put forward financial and technical proposals aimed at keeping the world’s temperature to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels as agreed in the Paris Agreement.

A growing number of countries and cities are tightening their targets, promising to become carbon neutral by 2050 or even earlier.

Globally, 77 countries and 100 cities have committed to carbon neutrality and numbers are steadily increasing. Many of these are European. The Finnish government, while the presidency of the EU, committed to Finland becoming carbon neutral by 2035. Other countries include Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden. Climate was also a key feature in the 2019 European elections, and the European Parliament overwhelmingly supports increasing emission reduction targets for 2030. For countries in the Carbon Neutrality Coalition, see https://www.carbon-neutrality.global/members/
The European Commission has also vowed to boost climate action, with new officials announcing a **European New Deal**.

*I want Europe to strive for more by being the first climate-neutral continent.*

**Becoming the world’s first climate-neutral continent** is the greatest challenge and opportunity of our times. It involves taking decisive action now. We will need to invest in innovation and research, redesign our economy and update our industrial policy.

*Source: A Union that strives for more My agenda for Europe; UvdL Political Declaration*

Scientists and policy experts agree that we urgently need to decarbonise all sectors of our economy if we want to avert the worst consequences of climate breakdown.

**The carbon budget left is around 416GtCO2, or 10 more years of emissions at our current rate**

Scientists and policy experts agree that our leaders must boost climate action before it’s too late. According to scientific evidence (by the IPPC), we must take drastic measures today, otherwise we reach the point of no return within eleven years. To stay within 1.5 degrees warming, the carbon budget left is around 416GtCO₂, or 10 more years of emissions at our current rate [https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/](https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/) and [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/SR15_SPM_version_report_LR.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/SR15_SPM_version_report_LR.pdf)
NEW MFF – NEW OPPORTUNITIES
An important fund, catalyst and lever, but national funding, private sector funding and citizen choices essential

The European Green Deal: 
Finance & Economics at the Heart of this Vision

Finance

- The EU Budget: Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF)
- Just Transition Fund
- Sustainable Europe Investment Plan
- Green Financing Strategy
- European Investment Bank (EIB)
- InvestEU

Economic instruments

- Energy Tax Directive
- Carbon Border Tax
- EU-ETS

The MFF

- Cohesion and Value
  - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
  - Cohesion Fund (CF)
- Single Market, Innovation and Digital
  - Horizon Europe
  - InvestEU Fund
  - Connecting Europe Facility
- Natural Resources and Environment
  - European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)
  - European Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
  - European Maritime & Fisheries Fund (EMFF)
  - Programme for Environment & Climate Action (LIFE)

Negotiations ongoing: EU institutions are planning to increase the share of the EU budget allocated to climate action for the coming years from the current level of 20% to at least 25%.... we think 40% is needed to rise to the challenge
‘Paris compatibility’: At least 65% less GHG by 2030 + net-zero by 2040

- Common Agricultural Policy
- Connecting Europe Facility
- Cohesion Policy
- InvestEU
- Horizon Europe (Research & Innovation)

2015 EU greenhouse gas emissions by sector

WHAT WE INVEST IN TODAY HAS IMPLICATIONS TOMORROW

40 years

80 years
However, EU funding has a mixed record on climate action - that can be classified as ‘the good, the bad, and the ugly’) – to be presented by András Lukács (CAAG)

It is strategically important to improve spending targets and strategies to ensure they are in line with Europe’s climate commitments, i.e. by “climate-proofing” – to be presented by Moritz Schaefer / Yannick Monschauer (NAVIGANT)

Civil society can play a key role in pushing for climate-proof EU spending – in partnership with key stakeholders - see presentation by Matthias Runkel (GBG) + CSO Capacity Building workshop this afternoon
What is financed today will be the energy system of the future: we have to prepare the current investment for Net-Zero.

We need to ensure that what we spend actually delivers on long-term GHG reduction.

If not, green-spending risks becoming green-washing and a major missed opportunity for the use of EU funds.

If designed and implemented well, the EU budget can substantially contribute to addressing the climate emergency and funding a European Green New Deal.

It can be an important lever and complement Member State and private sector funding that also need to flow towards securing the future of this planet.
THANK YOU!

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EEB’s META News: https://meta.eeb.org/

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