



The European Environmental Bureau's vision for
European Green Deal 2



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On behalf of the wider EEB team
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European Green Deal

“ Our goal is to reconcile the economy with our planet, to reconcile the way we produce, the way we consume, with our planet and to make it work for our people [...]

This is Europe’s man on the moon moment.”

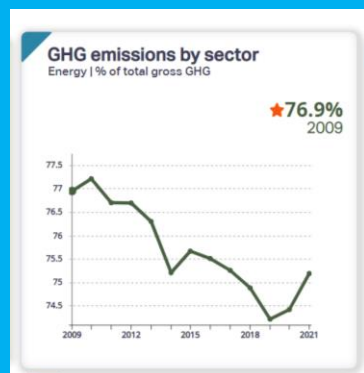
Ursula von der Leyen

Will this EGD be a person on the moon moment?

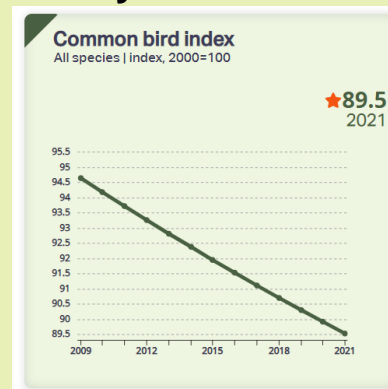


The triple crisis is still far from addressed - and the window of opportunity is shrinking

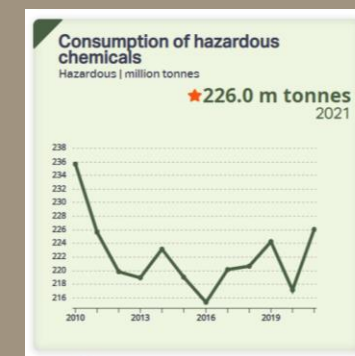
EU GHG emissions by sector



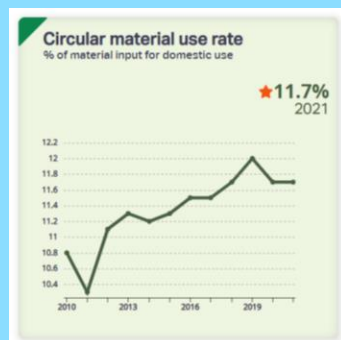
Biodiversity: Common Bird Index



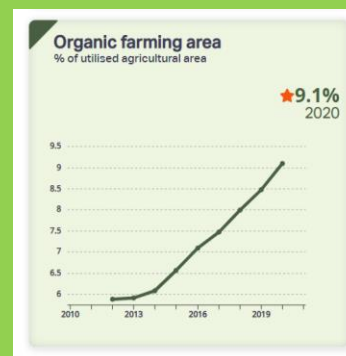
Hazardous chemicals consumption



EU Circular Material use rate



Organic Farming Area



Exposure to PM2.5: years life lost





The future we want: an agenda of hope

Rich and resilient nature
and biodiversity

**Safe Operating
Space**

Healthy rivers
and lakes

Clean air and
water

Resilience and
regeneration

A stable and safe climate
within 1.5 degrees

Healthy soils

Zero Pollution

Trust worthy
green claims

Healthy
nutrition

**The sustainable choice
becomes the easy choice**

Safe, durable and
repairable products

Equity & equality &
nobody left behind

Global
responsibility &
fairness

**Environmental, climate
and social Justice**

Wellbeing
Economy

Polluters
Pay

Implementing
commitments

Responsible
regulation

**Good
Governance**

Science based
policy

Citizens and civil
society
engagement

Active and participatory
democracy

**Institutions we
can trust**

Youth
leadership



We need a Pact for our Common Future - EGD2

We need a commitment to system change & a new social-ecological contract that creates hope by:

- A. **Sharpening and communicating our Vision and Principles for Our Common Future:** Driving transformative system change for a sustainable future
- B. **Keeping our promises:** implementing the EGD objectives of carbon neutrality, zero pollution, toxic-free environment and healthy nature and biodiversity protection
- C. **Promoting a Just Transition as a new social contract for an ecological transition**
- D. **Charting the path to 2040 and 2050 beyond the European Green Deal** – addressing gaps, overcoming barriers, ramping up ambition



The climate crisis

How to close the gaps?

- We need **investment certainty for a 100% renewable economy**
- Reducing **over-consumption & production of animal products**
- **Dynamically adjust carbon emissions caps** in ETS & ETS2 following science
- Commit to a **fossil fuel non-proliferation** treaty globally

What are the barriers to the transition?

- **Fear of a social backlash** is holding back necessary climate policy
- Focus on focus on the **false solutions** rather than address the difficult need for **systemic change**
- **Fossil fuel subsidies** & fiscal systems are not aligned with climate goals

Where do we need to increase ambition?

- **Launch robust social measures**
- Raise ambition to **cut GHG emissions by 65% by 2030** & achieve **climate neutrality by 2040** based on a **100% renewable energy system** with strong reduction of bioenergy.
- **No subsidies** for investments in nuclear, gas infrastructure & CCS



Transformation opportunity: circular economy

How to close the gaps?

- **More durable, repairable, reused and fully recyclable products** and waste generation prevention
- **Respect planetary boundaries** through ambitious **targets on resource use reduction**
- **Leveraging demand-side policies** through promoting resource saving business models

What are the barriers to the transition?

- **Unfair advantages** for traditional linear economy versus **circular solutions**
- **The (false) impression** that saving resources contradicts business development and consumer freedom

Where do we need to increase ambition?

- **Make sustainable products the norm**
- Commit to a target to tackle and reduce **raw material overconsumption** and set **ambitious waste prevention targets**
- Prioritize **reduce, reuse, repair** as well as **secondary raw material sources**



The nature crisis: protecting and restoring nature

How to close the gaps?

- **Completing** the Soil / Forest Laws, Ocean Law, new Climate Adaptation Law
- **Completing European Green Deal 1 legislation** (Nature Restoration Law)
- Putting biodiversity on a path of recovery by prioritising the **implementation and funding of the EU Biodiversity Strategy**

What are the barriers to the transition?

- **Lack of funding** for administrative capacity and specific measures for the management of protected areas
- Overreliance on **voluntary approaches** that have failed to drive science-based action
- **Lack of policy coherence** between EU nature policies and other sectoral policies (e.g., CAP)
- **Low awareness and cooperation** of key stakeholders
- **Insufficient implementation and enforcement capacity and political will**

Where do we need to increase ambition?

- **Overhaul the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and ensure policy coherence**
- **Dedicated nature fund / ocean fund** in the next EU budget
- **Enforcement and implementation support**



Transformation opportunity: sustainable food systems

How to close the gaps?

- **Reshaping food environments to make healthy and sustainable food the easy choice**
- **End untargeted & harmful subsidies** and repurpose them to transition away from industrial agriculture

What are the barriers to the transition?

- **Siloed policy-making** with "agricultural policy-makers" defending vested interests
- **Export-oriented model** of agricultural production
- **Concentration of power** in the agri-food sector

Where do we need to increase ambition?

- Setting a clear direction of travel in the **Sustainable Food Systems Law towards a fair, healthy and sustainable food system**
- Adopting a holistic policy package to shape healthy and sustainable food environments
- **Overhauling the Common Agricultural Policy** to drive a transition to agroecology
- **Phasing out industrial animal farming** and supporting a just transition to less and better animal farming



The pollution crisis: chemicals

How to close the gaps?

- Applying the **'no data, no market' rule**: no chemicals allowed if no proven safety
- Accelerating and lowering the barrier to regulate chemicals
- **Promoting safe and sustainable solutions**

What are the barriers to the transition?

- **General lack of information and transparency** on marketed hazardous chemicals
- **Slow and ineffective chemicals control**
- Chemicals industry lobby to block, delay and water down regulation

Where do we need to increase ambition?

- Promotion of **innovations that serve people and the planet** in regulation and research
- **Protective, preventive and precautionary approaches**
- **Polluters pay** principle for industry and **access to justice** for people



The pollution crisis: air

How to close the gaps?

- **Commit to A Zero Pollution Europe by 2035**
- Reduce air pollution impact on ecosystems, to a level that is no more considered critical

What are the barriers to the transition?

- **Insufficient consideration of health and environmental protection priorities and objectives, coupled with a lack of long-term view (e.g. agricultural air pollution)**
- Weak implementation of the **polluter pays principle**
- **Little commitment by Member States**, both in agreeing on ambitious policies/legislation and in securing effective implementation

Where do we need to increase ambition?

- Co-legislators shall **adopt policies and legislation that reflect science (WHO)**
- **National governments** must timely deliver on pollution reduction by both agreeing on ambitious horizontal and source legislation, touching on all relevant sectors



Transformation opportunity: governance & environmental law

How to close the gaps?

- **Protecting environmental defenders** through recognition of their status
- **Upholding the environmental rule of law** through enforcement and empowering citizens and NGOs through access to justice
- **Harmonizing environmental liability** through an ambitious revision of the EU liability and compensation framework

What are the barriers to the transition?

- **Unhelpfully framed "better" regulation agenda – “burdens” are actually “responsibilities”**
- **Disinformation and lack of transparency**
- **Weak EU law enforcement and poor climate governance**
- **Disingenuous public participation and “citizen-washing”**

Where do we need to increase ambition?

- **Creating a Commissioner for future generations and inclusivity**
- **Recognizing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment**
- **Empowering the European Public Prosecutors office** to tackle environmental crimes
- **Strengthening ethics** in environmental decision-making



The nature crisis: water

How to close the gaps?

- **Make Water Framework Directive the key tool to tackle pressures** affecting our rivers, lakes and groundwater
- **Complete EGD legislative reviews** of priority water pollutants and rules to treat urban wastewater

What are the barriers to the transition?

- **Lack of funding** / missed opportunity to use economic tools
- **Lack of policy coherence**
- **Implementation and enforcement gap**
- **Resistance to change from key stakeholders** / pushback against EGD

Where do we need to increase ambition?

- **Give higher political priority** to achieving ecological and climate resilient water management
- **Close legislation gaps** (Soil Health Law, Climate Adaptation Law)
- **Overhaul CAP / policy coherence**
- **Focus on enforcement and implementation support**



Transformation opportunity: economic transition

How to close the gaps?

- **Active democracy: civil society should be represented**
- **A Beyond Growth Green Deal: institutional reform to make coherent beyond growth policies**
- **A war-time resilience measure to protect and strengthen the European single market**
- **Resource use reduction targets at least as strong and binding as emission reduction targets**

What are the barriers to the transition?

- **A weak politically captured Taxonomy: inclusion of gas, nuclear, forestry**
- **Governance structures** that favour and silo economic goals
- Structural but changeable **dependency on GDP growth for social security**
- **Lack of anticolonial & feminist perspectives**
- Concentration and abuse of power leading to lock-in's such as the **Energy Charter Treaty**

Where do we need to increase ambition?

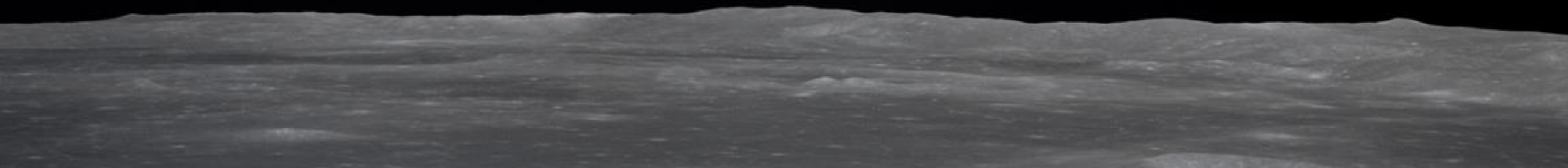
- **Depart from a failing green growth approach**
- Focus on environmental and social justice dimensions instead of profit maximisation
- Break with present and historical injustices



The approaching European election: a vote for hope?

The election is about convincing the public that you can offer them a better future.

- What is the legacy you wish to leave behind?
- Are you committing to closing the gaps the EGD is leaving?
- What practical advances will you commit to in what areas?
- Did you rebel against the ongoing extinction, and if so: how?
- What will your party offer to address the growing climate and environmental anxiety and give us hope?



Thank you for joining us!

Tell us what you think!

Please send comments on your vision for the EGD2 to

EGD2@EEB.ORG



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