

For our environment

Umwelt   
Bundesamt

EL GREEN DEAL INTERCANVI D'EXPERIÈNCIES, PROJECTES DE FUTUR I IDEES  
INSPIRADORES PER A LES EMPRESSES

# El green deal i la gestió ambiental empresarial

The EU Green Deal and the role of environmental management

Christoph Töpfer

Section I 1.4 „Economic and social environmental issues, sustainable consumption“

# Umweltbundesamt German Environment Agency

- Germany's main Environmental Protection Agency
- Three „pillars“ of work:
  - I. Science-based policy advice
  - II. Information of the public
  - III. Law Enforcement
- Employees: ~1,600
- Sites: 13
- Founded: 1974

## Christoph Töpfer | Main fields of expertise

- Environmental, energy and sustainability management
- Corporate Sustainability Reporting
- Supply Chain Due Diligence





Source: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>



# Taking stock – why is there a need for ambitious sustainability policy?

Overview of EU-27 progress towards the SDGs over the past 5 years, 2020  
(Data mainly refer to 2013-2018 or 2014-2019)



Source: EUROSTAT (2020) Sustainable development in the European Union, p. 11

## Key Findings from SDG Monitoring Reports:

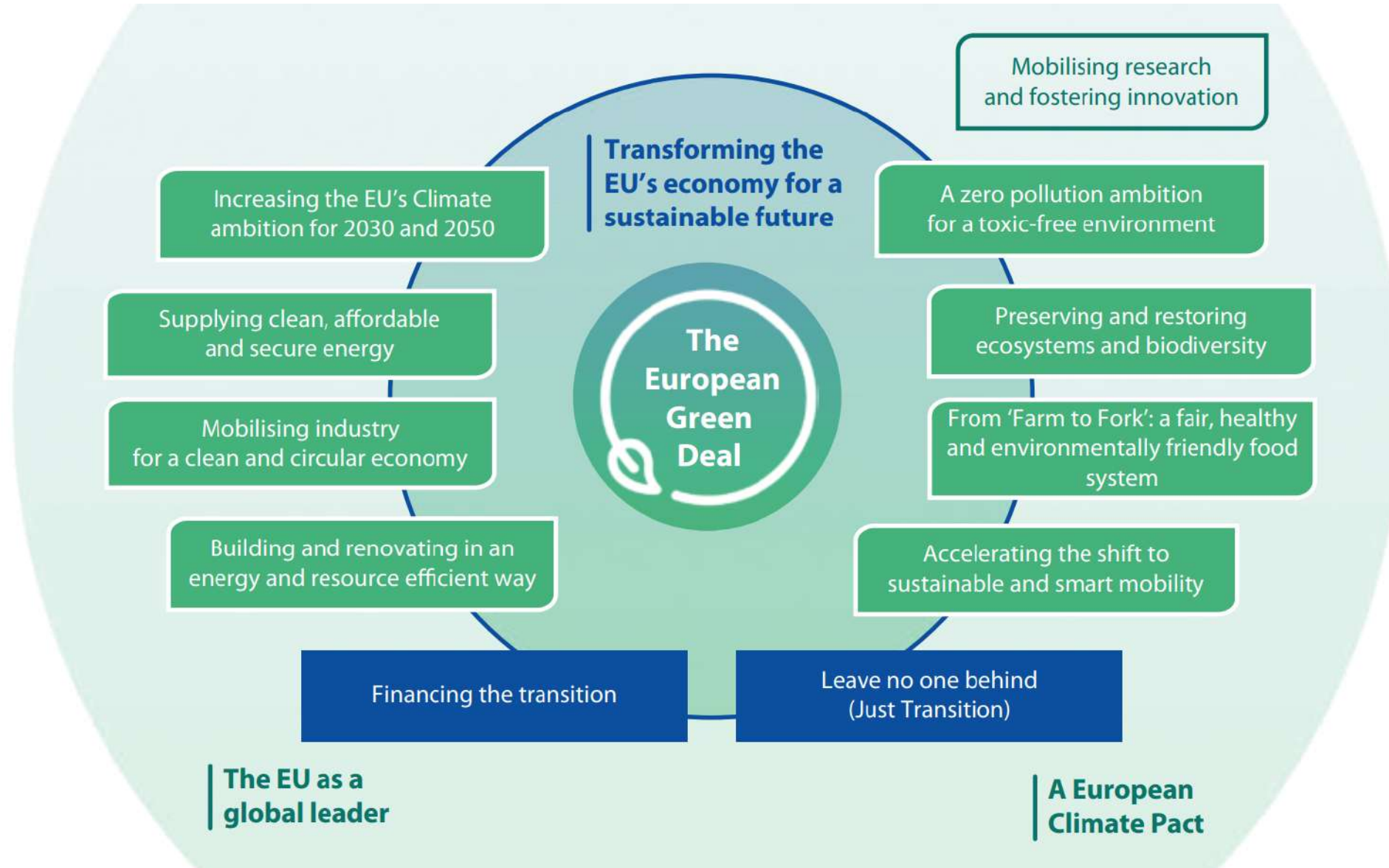
- European countries lead globally on the SDGs, but none are on track to achieve the Goals by 2030
- Greatest challenges on goals related to climate, biodiversity, circular economy and regional convergence in living standards
- EU countries generate large, negative spillovers that impede other countries' ability to achieve the SDGs
- Covid-19 pandemic will have highly negative effects on most social SDGs; effect on environmental SDGs still unclear

## Global environmental context:

- Effects of climate change are increasingly materializing and driving other environmental problems
- Mass extinction of species, including critical ecosystem service providers
- Plastic and microplastic occurs at all levels of marine ecosystems
- Land degradation hotspots cover around 1/3 of land globally

Sources: IEEP/SDSN (2019): Europe Sustainable Development Report; Sachs et al. (2020): Sustainable Development Report; EUROSTAT (2020) Sustainable development in the European Union; UNEP (2019) Global Environment Outlook 6

# The European Green Deal – Overview



# The European Green Deal

## Timeline

14 October 2020

- [Renovation wave](#)
- [Methane Strategy](#)
- [Chemicals strategy for sustainability](#)

17 September 2020

Presentation of the [2030 Climate Target Plan](#)

08 July 2020

Adoption of the [EU strategies for energy system integration and hydrogen](#) to pave the way towards a fully decarbonised, more efficient and interconnected energy sector

20 May 2020

Presentation of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) to protect the fragile natural resources on our planet

20 May 2020

Presentation of the '[Farm to fork strategy](#)' to make food systems more sustainable

11 March 2020

Proposal of a [Circular Economy Action Plan](#) focusing on sustainable resource use

10 March 2020

Adoption of the [European Industrial Strategy](#), a plan for a future-ready economy

4 March 2020

Proposal for a [European climate law](#) to ensure a climate neutral European Union by 2050  
Public consultation (open until 17 June 2020) on the [European Climate Pact](#) bringing together regions, local communities, civil society, businesses and schools

14 January 2020

Presentation of the [European Green Deal Investment Plan](#) and the [Just Transition Mechanism](#)

11 December 2019

Presentation of the [European Green Deal](#)

Source: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en)

Most initiatives have public consultation phases, where everyone can have his/her say!

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say>

# The European Green Deal – Climate Action

## **Policy goals / proposals**

- Climate neutrality until 2050
- Greenhouse gas emission reduction by 55% until 2030
- All sectors concerned, e.g. energy, buildings, agriculture, transport and industry
- Efforts to channel private investments in sustainable / climate-friendly activities

## **Implications for companies**

- How does my business model depend on carbon and fossil fuels?
- How can I become climate neutral and what does this mean for daily business?
- How can I further improve energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment?

## **How EMAS can support**

- Energy efficiency, renewable energy, GHG-emission reduction
- EMAS as a sound foundation for corporate climate management

# EMAS as a basis for climate management

	EMAS	→	Climate management
	Environmental Policy		Organization-wide climate strategy
	Environmental Objectives		Climate objectives and targets with trajectory and actions to achieve them
	Context of the organization		Identification and management of business relevant climate risks
	Significant environmental aspects		GHG-accounting (Scope 1-3)
			Requirements for offsetting GHG-emissions
	Environmental Statement		Climate reporting
	Management System		Integration of climate protection and climate risks in the organizations' processes and structures



# The European Green Deal – Circular Economy

## Contents

1. INTRODUCTION .....	4
2. A SUSTAINABLE PRODUCT POLICY FRAMEWORK .....	6
2.1. Designing sustainable products .....	6
2.2. Empowering consumers and public buyers .....	7
2.3. Circularity in production processes .....	8
3. KEY PRODUCT VALUE CHAINS .....	10
3.1. Electronics and ICT .....	10
3.2. Batteries and vehicles .....	11
3.3. Packaging .....	11
3.4. Plastics .....	12
3.5. Textiles .....	13
3.6. Construction and buildings .....	13
3.7. Food, water and nutrients .....	14
4. LESS WASTE, MORE VALUE .....	16
4.1. Enhanced waste policy in support of waste prevention and circularity .....	16
4.2. Enhancing circularity in a toxic-free environment .....	16
4.3. Creating a well-functioning EU market for secondary raw materials .....	17
4.4. Addressing waste exports from the EU .....	17
5. MAKING CIRCULARITY WORK FOR PEOPLE, REGIONS AND CITIES .....	19
6. CROSSCUTTING ACTIONS .....	20
6.1. Circularity as a prerequisite for climate neutrality .....	20
6.2. Getting the economics right .....	20
6.3. Driving the transition through research, innovation and digitalisation .....	21
7. LEADING EFFORTS AT GLOBAL LEVEL .....	22
8. MONITORING PROGRESS .....	23
9. CONCLUSION .....	24
ANNEX .....	26

- Widen Ecodesign Directive beyond energy-related products (2021)
- Minimum Green Public Procurement criteria (2021)
- Substantiation of company's green claims (2020)
- Promote circularity via Best Available Techniques reference documents (2021)
- Industrial symbiosis reporting and certification system (2022)
- Using digital technologies for tracking, tracing and mapping of resources
- Review of non-financial reporting directive (2020)
- Sustainable Corporate Governance and supply chain due diligence (2021)
- Business-led initiative to develop environmental accounting principles (2020)

# The European Green Deal – Sustainability Reporting

## Policy goal and planned actions

- Improve relevance, reliability and comparability of reported information
- Revision of Non-financial Reporting Directive (NFRD – Directive 2014/95/EU); Commission proposal expected in January 2021
- Likely to be revised:
  - Scope (who needs to report?)
  - Reporting format and location
  - Use of a common reporting standard
  - Supply chain information
  - External assurance requirements

## Implications for companies

- New reporting requirements? Change of current reporting practice necessary?

## How EMAS can support

- Environmental Management System as foundation for reliable environmental information /reporting
- Use of Environmental Statement and its validated information

# The European Green Deal – Sustainable Corporate Governance

## **Policy goals and planned actions** (expected for 2021)

- Change business decision making from short-term gains to long-term consideration of environmental, social and human impacts
- Adapt company's and directors duties to:
  - Conduct supply chain due diligence with regards to human rights and the environment
  - Take into account all stakeholder interests in decision making
  - Embed environmental and social interests into business strategies

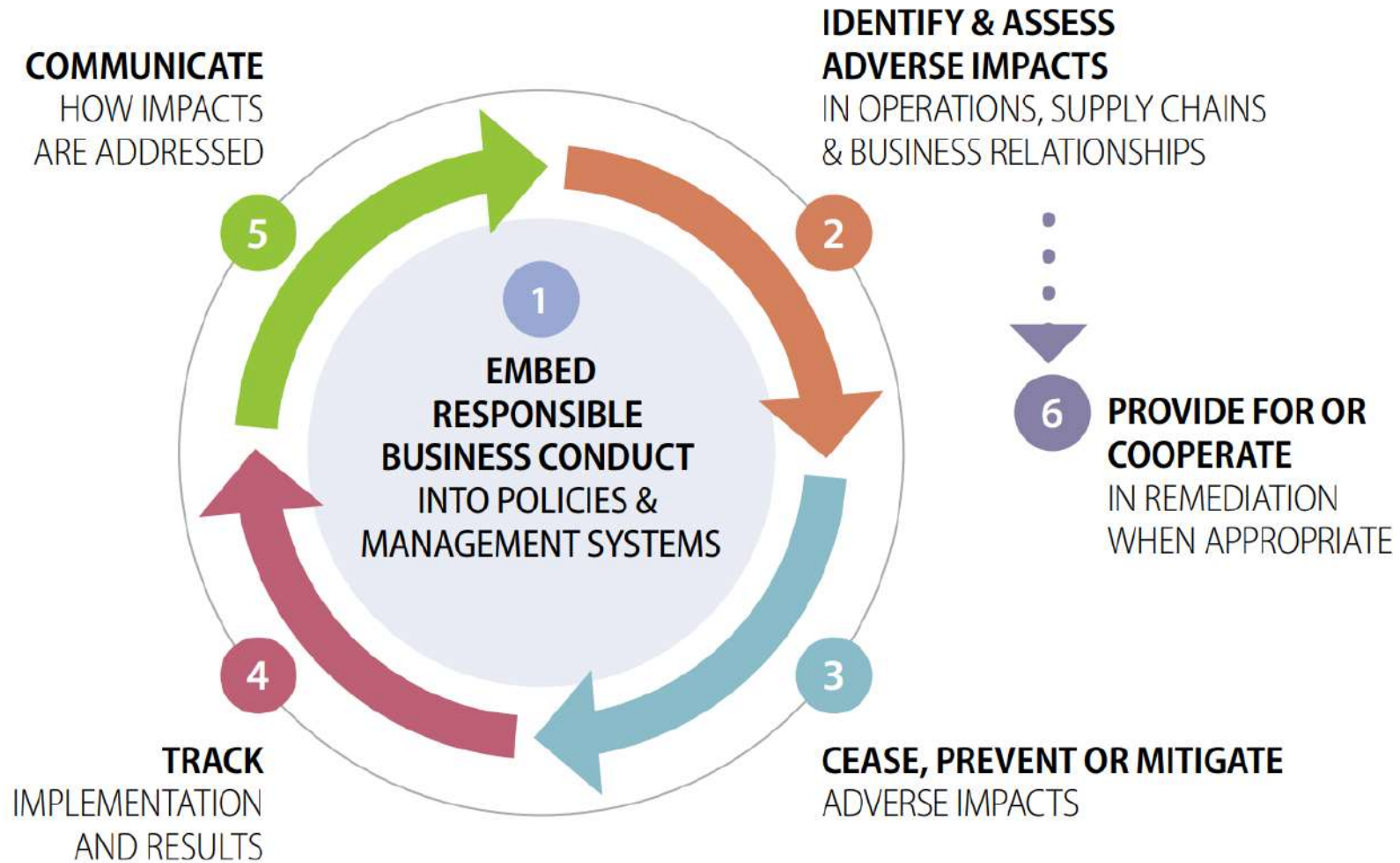
## **Implications for companies**

- Are we aware of severe environmental and human rights impacts in our supply chains? How are we connected to these impacts?
- Is the company's governance system directed towards stakeholder interests?
- Do internal incentive schemes support long-term over short-term decision making?

## **How EMAS can support**

- Human rights and environmental due diligence process is closely related to PDCA approach
- Identification and evaluation of interested parties and indirect environmental aspects

# The European Green Deal – Supply Chain Due Diligence



Source: [OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct](#) (2018), p. 21



# The European Green Deal and EMAS – Conclusions

1. EMAS is not explicitly mentioned in the Green Deal.
2. A variety of policy proposal and planned actions in the Green Deal are directed towards the sustainability performance of businesses.
3. Data on environmental, social and human rights impacts, setting meaningful targets and consideration of sustainability risks for the company gain more and more importance
4. An environmental management system, especially EMAS, is a good foundation for the upcoming policy initiatives under the Green Deal.
5. The business case for ambitious environmental management will be better in the future.
6. However, EMAS-organizations should critically question, if:
  - the strategic/board-level is sufficiently aware of the risks and opportunities the transformation induced by the Green Deal will have for the business model
  - the EMS is truly integrated in the core business processes at all levels
  - objectives and targets are sufficient
  - supply and value chains receive enough awareness

# Thank you!

Christoph Töpfer

Section I 1.4 „Economic and social environmental issues, sustainable consumption“

# Icon sources

## Slide 8:

Icons from from [www.flaticon.com](http://www.flaticon.com), by:

- Freepik
- Good Wave
- Freepik
- Flat Icon
- Good Wave
- Catkuro
- Eucalyp