



European  
Commission

# EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

**DELIVERING  
ON OUR TARGETS**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS



Making the EU **climate neutral** by 2050



A plan to transform our **economy and societies**



Making **transport** sustainable for all



Leading the **third industrial revolution**



Cleaning our **energy system**



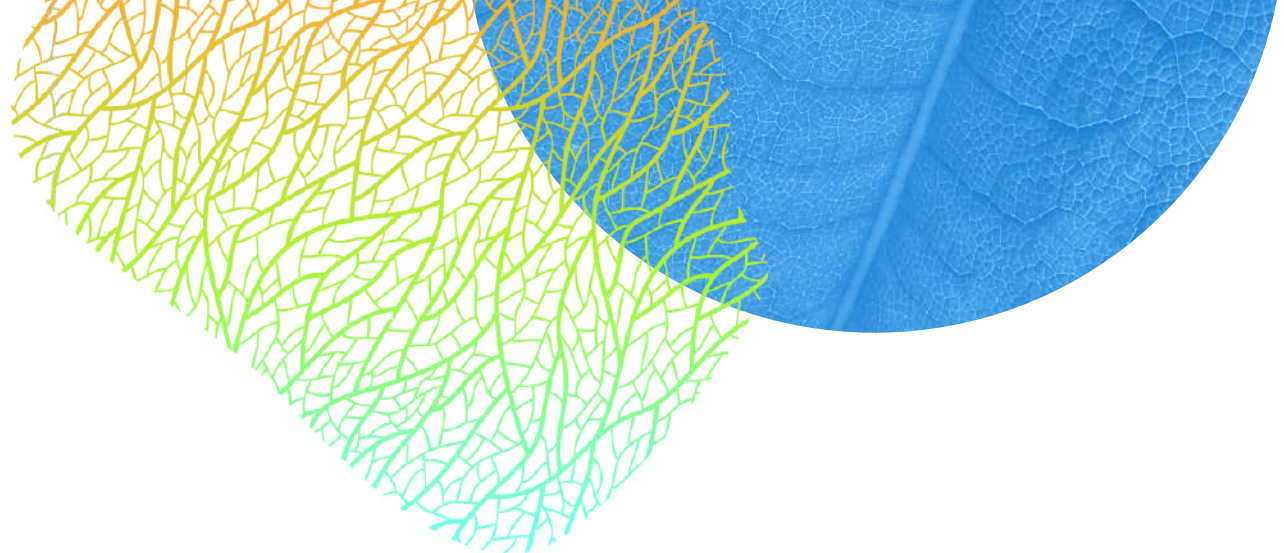
Renovating **buildings** for greener lifestyles



Working with **nature** to protect our planet and health



Boosting Global **climate action**



MAKING  
THE EU  
**CLIMATE  
NEUTRAL**  
BY 2050

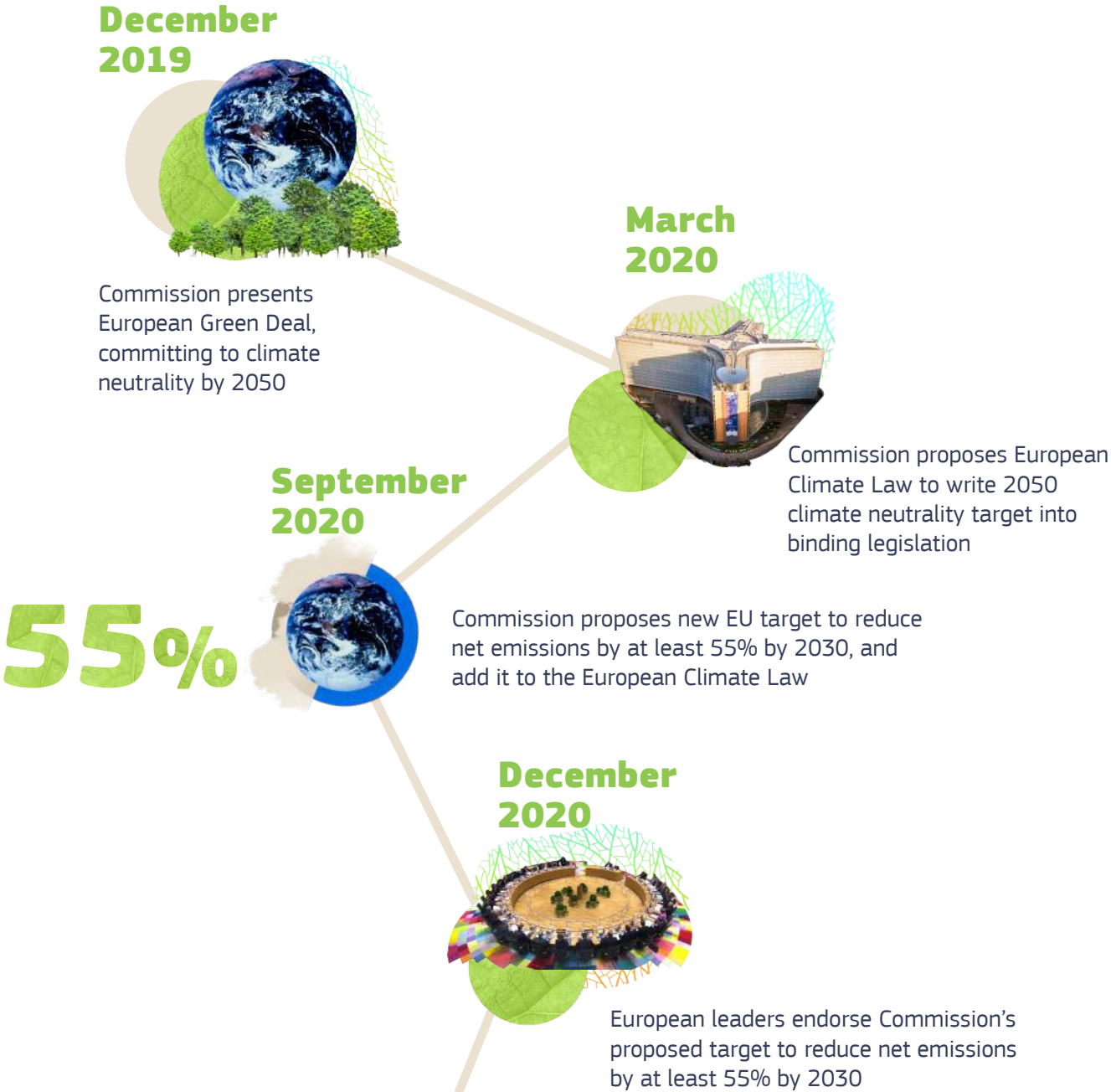


# The make-or-break decade has already started.

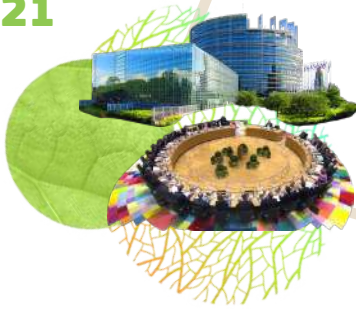
**Making Europe the first climate neutral continent in the world:** this is the goal that we are set to accomplish.

Our first major milestone down this ambitious path will be a **55% reduction of emissions by 2030**. The decade we have entered will be decisive.

And here is how we will make the most of the years ahead:



**April  
2021**



Political agreement reached on European Climate Law by European Parliament and Member States

**June  
2021**

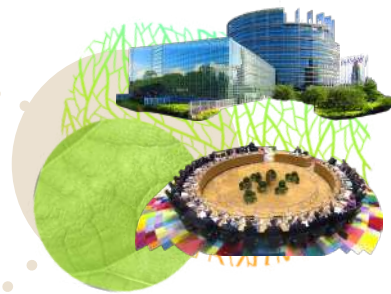


European Climate Law enters into force

**July  
2021**



Commission presents package of proposals to transform our economy, to reach our 2030 climate targets



European Parliament and Member States to negotiate and adopt package of legislation on reaching our 2030 climate targets

**2030**

EU to deliver a reduction of emissions of at least 55% compared to 1990 levels

**2050**

EU to become climate neutral



A PLAN TO  
TRANSFORM  
OUR  
**ECONOMY  
AND  
SOCIETIES**



# Climate change is the biggest challenge of our time. And it is an opportunity to build a new economic model.

We are at a **turning point in the fight against climate change**. We are the last generation that can still act in time. It is in our hands to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees, save our livelihoods, limit the extinction of species and protect the planet for future generations.

## THE EUROPEAN UNION AS GLOBAL LEADER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

**The European Union is leading by example.** The European Green Deal, adopted in December 2019, set the blueprint for this transformational change.

All 27 EU Member States committed to **turning the EU into the first climate neutral continent by 2050**. And to get there, they committed to reducing emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels.

These are legal obligations laid down in the first European Climate Law. **This creates new opportunities for innovation, investment and jobs.**



### This transformation will:



# ADAPTING ALL SECTORS OF OUR ECONOMY TO DELIVER THE 2030 CLIMATE TARGET

This package of proposals aims to **make all sectors of the EU's economy fit to meet this challenge**. It sets the EU on a path to reach its climate targets by 2030 in a **fair, cost-effective and competitive** way.

## FAIR, COMPETITIVE AND GREEN TRANSITION

The objective is to ensure that **the transition creates opportunities for all**. This package proposes ways to **support vulnerable citizens, by tackling inequality and energy poverty**.

And it helps **ensure a level playing field for our companies**, to strengthen their competitiveness.

The aim is to **bring benefits to people as quickly and as fairly as possible**, while **creating the jobs of tomorrow**, protecting those in need and making our companies competitive.

### These proposals foresee:



greater renewable energy use



the sale of clean new cars and cleaner fuels for cars, planes and ships already on the market



an extension of European carbon pricing to more sectors



targets to save energy



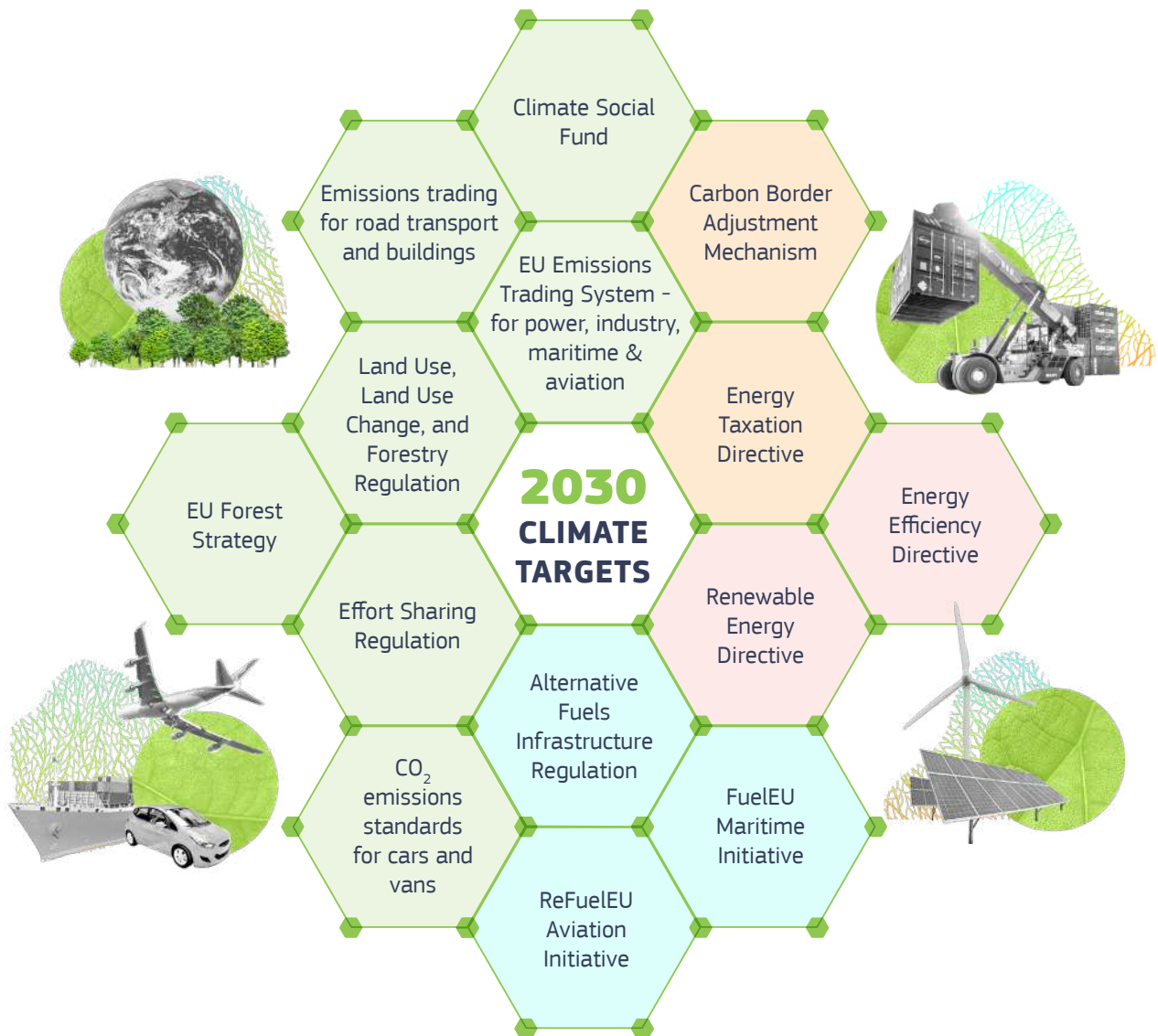
taxation energy sources in line with climate goals



support for vulnerable citizens, to protect them against additional costs during the transition



**THESE PROPOSALS WILL PROVIDE THE NECESSARY TOOLS FOR THE DEEP AND JUST TRANSFORMATION OF THE EU'S ECONOMY ENVISAGED BY THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL**





MAKING  
**TRANSPORT**  
SUSTAINABLE  
FOR ALL

# Our transition to greener mobility aims at offering clean, accessible and affordable transport even in the most remote areas.

To achieve our climate targets, **we need to put transport on the path to zero emissions.** We need to cut 90% of emissions from transport by 2050 to reach climate neutrality.

## CLEANER CARS, CLEANER AIR

The European Commission proposes **more ambitious targets for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of new cars and vans.**

**Emissions from cars should be reduced by 55% until 2030 and new cars should have zero emissions by 2035. For vans, it proposes an emission reduction target of 50% by 2030 and zero emissions by 2035.**

The Commission also promotes the growth of the market for zero and low emissions vehicles. In particular, it seeks to ensure that citizens have the infrastructure they need to charge these vehicles, for short and long journeys.

It proposes **targets for alternative fuels infrastructure** - for electricity recharging, and for hydrogen refuelling, for instance.

These are key for the take up of cleaner vehicles.

In addition, **from 2026, road transport will be covered by emissions trading, putting a price on pollution,** stimulating cleaner fuel use, and re-investing in clean technologies.

By 2035, our new cars should emit

# ZERO CO<sub>2</sub>

A man is connecting his electric car to a public Vehicle-to-grid charging point in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.



## BOOSTING SUSTAINABLE AVIATION AND MAKING AVIATION COMPENSATE FOR ITS CLIMATE FOOTPRINT

The Commission is proposing **carbon pricing also for the aviation sector, which benefited from an exception until now.**

It is also proposing to **promote sustainable aviation fuels** – with an obligation for planes to take on sustainable blended fuels for all departures from EU airports.

The Commission will require, as well, major **airports to provide an electricity supply to planes at all gates.**




## NEW RULES TO TACKLE EMISSIONS FROM SHIPS

The Commission proposes extending **carbon pricing to the maritime sector.** This will **foster the use of sustainable fuels for all ships** departing or arriving at an EU port. Ships not meeting those limits would pay a deterrent financial penalty.

The Commission will also set **targets for major ports to serve vessels with onshore power, reducing the use of polluting fuels that also harm local air quality.**



Hydroville is the first certified passenger vessel that uses hydrogen to power a diesel engine, Antwerp, Belgium.



LEADING  
THE **THIRD**  
**INDUSTRIAL**  
**REVOLUTION**

# The green transition presents a major opportunity for European industry by creating markets for clean technologies and products.

The proposals ensure that our **industry can lead the transition** and give it the certainty it needs to **boost investment and innovation**.

We will **strengthen the carbon pricing system in industry**. The additional revenues generated by carbon pricing will feed innovation, including through a revamped Innovation Fund.

These proposals will have an impact across the entire value chains in sectors such as energy and transport, and construction and renovation, helping **create sustainable, local and well-paid jobs across Europe**.

**Investments in a low carbon economy will boost the green recovery** following the COVID-19 crisis.

By 2030

**35**

**MILLION**  
buildings could be  
**RENOVATED**

**160,000**

**ADDITIONAL GREEN JOBS**  
could be  
created in the  
construction  
sector



The electrification of the economy and the greater use of renewable energy are expected to generate **higher employment in these sectors**.

**Increasing the energy efficiency of buildings will create jobs in construction, with local labour in higher demand.**

The proposals facilitate growing sales of clean new vehicles and cleaner transport fuels, providing **major opportunities for the European car industry**.

In 2020,

**1**

**MILLION**

new electric vehicles were registered in Europe, triple the number in 2019.



By 2030,

**30**

**MILLION**

**zero emission vehicles** are expected to be on Europe's roads.

**We want to preserve our climate ambition by avoiding that efforts by our industry to cut emissions are undermined by unfair competition from abroad.**

The Commission proposes a mechanism to ensure that, even when they are from countries with less strict climate rules, **companies importing into the EU have to pay a carbon price** as well.

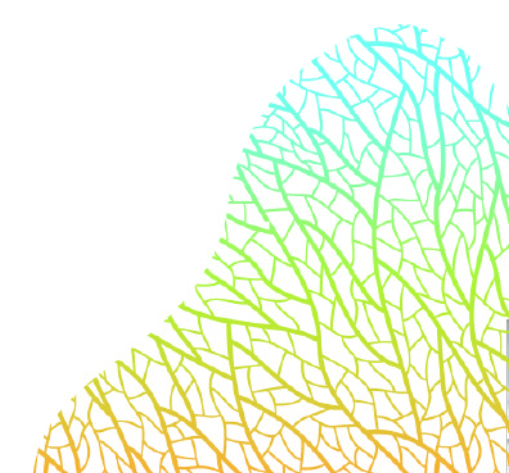
This is **essential to the success of our climate effort**, as it will prevent greenhouse gas emissions from being simply diverted elsewhere, rendering the EU's efforts futile.

Container ship in the port of Hamburg, Germany.





# CLEANING OUR ENERGY SYSTEM





# Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 requires higher shares of renewable energy and greater energy efficiency.

The Commission proposes to **increase the binding target of renewable in the EU's energy mix to 40%**. In addition, indicative national contributions will show how each Member State should contribute to reach this target. The proposals promote the uptake of renewable fuels, such as hydrogen in industry and transport, with additional targets.

In addition, **reducing energy consumption is essential** to bring down both emissions and energy costs for consumers and industry. The Commission proposes to **increase energy savings targets** at EU level and make them binding, to achieve an overall reduction of 36% by 2030. National indicative targets will guide Member State action.

New **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

target for 2030

**40%**



New **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

target for 2030

**36%**



**The tax system for energy products must also support the green transition** by giving the right incentives.

The Commission proposes to align the minimum tax rates for heating and transport with our climate objectives, while **mitigating the social impact and supporting vulnerable citizens**.

It also **proposes eliminating exemptions and reduced rates that encourage the use of fossil fuels**, for example in aviation and in the maritime sector.

Waves break on a jetty holding wind turbines in the Channel port of Boulogne-sur-mer, France.





# RENOVATING **BUILDINGS** FOR GREENER LIFESTYLES

**Buildings account for:**



**40%**  
of the EU's  
energy  
consumption



**36%**  
of energy-related  
greenhouse gas  
emissions

**Renovating our homes and buildings will save energy, protect against extremes of heat or cold and tackle energy poverty.**

**Renovation is key for reducing the energy consumption of buildings**, for bringing down emissions, by using renewable energy sources, and for reducing energy bills. In addition, **renovation generates employment and economic growth.**

## **SOCIAL CLIMATE FUND**

**The new Social Climate Fund will support EU citizens most affected or at risk of energy or mobility poverty.** It will help mitigate the costs for those most exposed to changes, to ensure that **the transition is fair and leaves no one behind.**

**It will provide € 72.2 billion over 7 years in funding for renovation of buildings, access to zero and low emission mobility, or even income support.**

In addition to the homes that we rent or own, the public buildings which we use – from schools and hospitals to town halls and sports centres – must also be renovated to use more renewable energy, and to be more energy efficient.



Solar panels on a new construction in Beersel, Belgium.

**THE COMMISSION PROPOSES TO:**

Require Member States to  
**RENOVATE AT LEAST**

**3%**



of the total floor area of **ALL PUBLIC BUILDINGS ANNUALLY**

Set a benchmark of

**40-45%**



**OF RENEWABLES**  
in buildings by 2030

Require Member States to  
increase the use of renewable  
energy in heating and cooling by



**+1.1**

**PERCENTAGE POINTS**  
each year, until 2030



WORKING  
WITH  
**NATURE**  
TO PROTECT  
OUR PLANET  
AND HEALTH

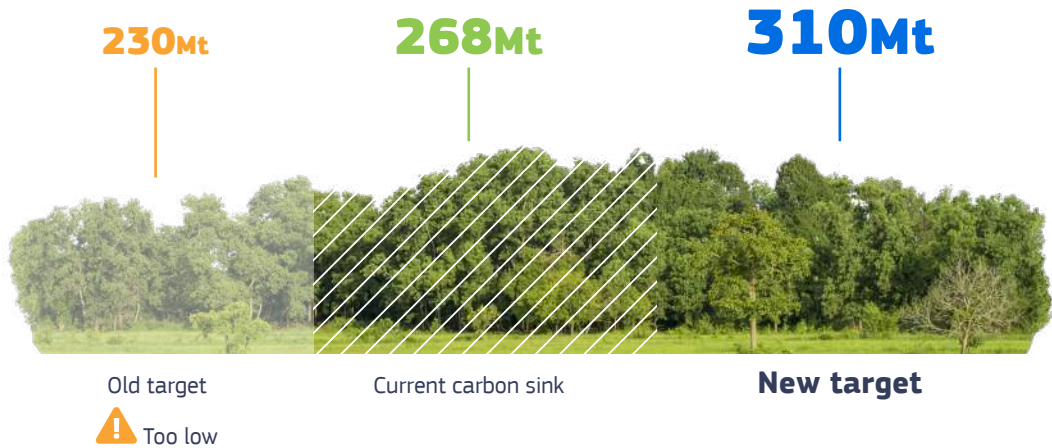
# Nature is an important ally in our fight against climate change.

Nature regulates the climate, absorbs and stores carbon, and provides valuable renewable resources for the bio-economy. **Restoring nature and enabling biodiversity to thrive again offers a quick and cheap solution to absorb and store carbon.**

The Commission proposes therefore to **restore Europe’s forests, soils, wetlands and peatlands**. This will increase absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> and will make our environment more resilient to climate change.

A circular and sustainable management of **these resources will improve our living conditions**, maintain a healthy environment, create quality jobs, and provide sustainable energy resources.

## NEW TARGETS TO INCREASE OUR NATURAL CARBON SINK



# The Commission has adopted a roadmap to plant 3 billion trees by 2030.

**More trees make for a larger capacity to absorb CO<sub>2</sub> pollution and for a richer biodiversity.** But our forests are under increasing pressure due to climate change, biodiversity loss and the increase of the bio-economy. The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 recognised forests as hugely important, and it will help increase substantially the quantity and quality of EU’s forest area.

## Sustainable bioenergy is a key part of the EU energy mix.

Alongside other renewable sources, bioenergy (energy produced from biomass such as agricultural by-products, waste or algae) contributes to the **phase-out of fossil fuels** and the decarbonisation of the EU economy. But it must be used sustainably. The Commission is proposing strict new criteria to avoid unsustainable forest harvesting and **protect areas of high-biodiversity value**.

### THE BIOMASS CASCADE



A man restoring wetland in Malý Bor mires, Czechia.



# BOOSTING GLOBAL **CLIMATE ACTION**



# We can only solve the global threat of climate change by working with our international partners.

The European Green Deal has already set a positive example and led major international partners to set their own target dates for climate neutrality. Now we are **ready to lead show the way again**, with our detailed plan to meet these targets.

Leading the global climate action provides advantages for our companies. With our investment in renewable energy technologies, we are developing expertise and products which the rest of the world also needs. With our green transport shift, we will create world leading companies which can serve a growing global market.

In addition, we are helping raise global ambition to tackle climate change. By working with our international partners, we will **reduce emissions together** in maritime transport and aviation around the world.

The EU will share these proposals and ideas with its international partners at the next meeting of the United Nations' Climate Change Convention (COP26), which takes place in Glasgow in November. Through our policy experience, industrial leadership, climate diplomacy and climate finance, the European Union is **boosting significantly the global fight against climate change**.



**30%**

of the EU's Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument will support climate objectives.



**Over a third**

of the world's public climate finance comes from the EU and its Member States.

Heads of State and Government Summit of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) 2019 in Madrid, Spain.



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