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Commission

# What is the European Green Deal?

December 2019  
#EUGreenDeal

The European Green Deal is about **improving the well-being of people**. Making Europe climate-neutral and protecting our natural habitat will be good for people, planet and economy. No one will be left behind.

## The EU will:



Become  
climate-neutral  
by 2050



Protect human life,  
animals and plants,  
by cutting pollution



Help companies  
become world leaders  
in clean products and  
technologies



Help ensure a  
just and inclusive  
transition

*"The European Green Deal is our new growth strategy.  
It will help us cut emissions while creating jobs."*

*Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission*



*"We propose a green and inclusive transition to help  
improve people's well-being and secure a healthy planet  
for generations to come."*

*Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission*



**93%**  
of Europeans see  
climate change as  
a **serious problem**



**93%**  
of Europeans have **taken**  
at least one **action**  
to tackle climate change



**79%**  
agree that taking action  
on climate change will  
**lead to innovation**

# What will we do?

## CLIMATE

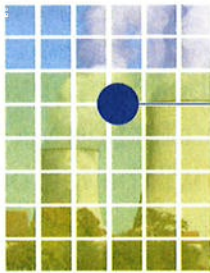
The EU will be **climate neutral in 2050**.

The Commission will propose a European Climate Law turning the political commitment into a legal obligation and a trigger for investment.

**Reaching this target will require action by all sectors of our economy:**

## ENERGY

▶ Decarbonise the energy sector



The production and use of energy account for more than **75%** of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions

## BUILDINGS

▶ Renovate buildings, to help people cut their energy bills and energy use



**40%** of our energy consumption is by buildings

## INDUSTRY

▶ Support industry to innovate and to become global leaders in the green economy



European industry only uses **12%** recycled materials

## MOBILITY

▶ Roll out cleaner, cheaper and healthier forms of private and public transport



Transport represents **25%** of our emissions





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# What if we do not act?

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*“The cost of the transition will be big, but the cost of non-action will be much bigger.”*

*Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission*

Without action on climate change, the EU will see, in the lifetime of our children:



### Pollution

**▲ 400,000**  
**premature deaths**  
per year today due to air pollution.  
This figure is expected to soar

Source: European Environment Agency,  
[Air quality in Europe - 2019 report](#)



### Heat and drought

**▲ 90,000**  
**annual deaths** as a  
result of heatwaves<sup>1</sup>

**▲ 660,000**  
**additional asylum**  
**applications** per year in  
the EU at 5°C temperature  
increase<sup>2</sup>

**▲ 16%**  
**of species at risk**  
**of extinction** at 4.3°C  
temperature increase<sup>3</sup>

Source: (1) European Commission's Joint Research Centre PESETA IV, *in press*; (2) A. Missirian & W. Schlenker, Asylum applications respond to temperature fluctuations, *Science*, Vol. 358, Issue 6370, pp. 1610-1614, 2017; (3) IPBES 2019, [Global Assessment](#)



## Water and flooding

⚠️ **40%** less available water in southern regions of the European Union

⚠️ **2.2 million** people exposed to coastal inundation each year

Source: European Commission's Joint Research Centre, PESETA IV, in press

⚠️ **Half a million** people exposed to river flooding each year



## Economics

⚠️ **€190 billion** annual losses projected for a 3°C increase in global average temperature

Source: Ciscar et al., 2014: Climate impacts in Europe, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre PESETA II project

⚠️ Globally, the number of **people at risk** of being forced from their homes by river flooding could increase to **50 million** a year

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Assessing the impacts of climate change on flood displacement risk, 2019

⚠️ Climate change could lead to a **20% food price rise** in 2050

Source: COACCH, The economic cost of climate change in Europe, 2018

⚠️ **Economic costs of heat-related mortality** could amount to more than **€40 billion** per year



The longer we wait, the harder it becomes to reach low temperature targets and the more expensive the necessary efforts will become.



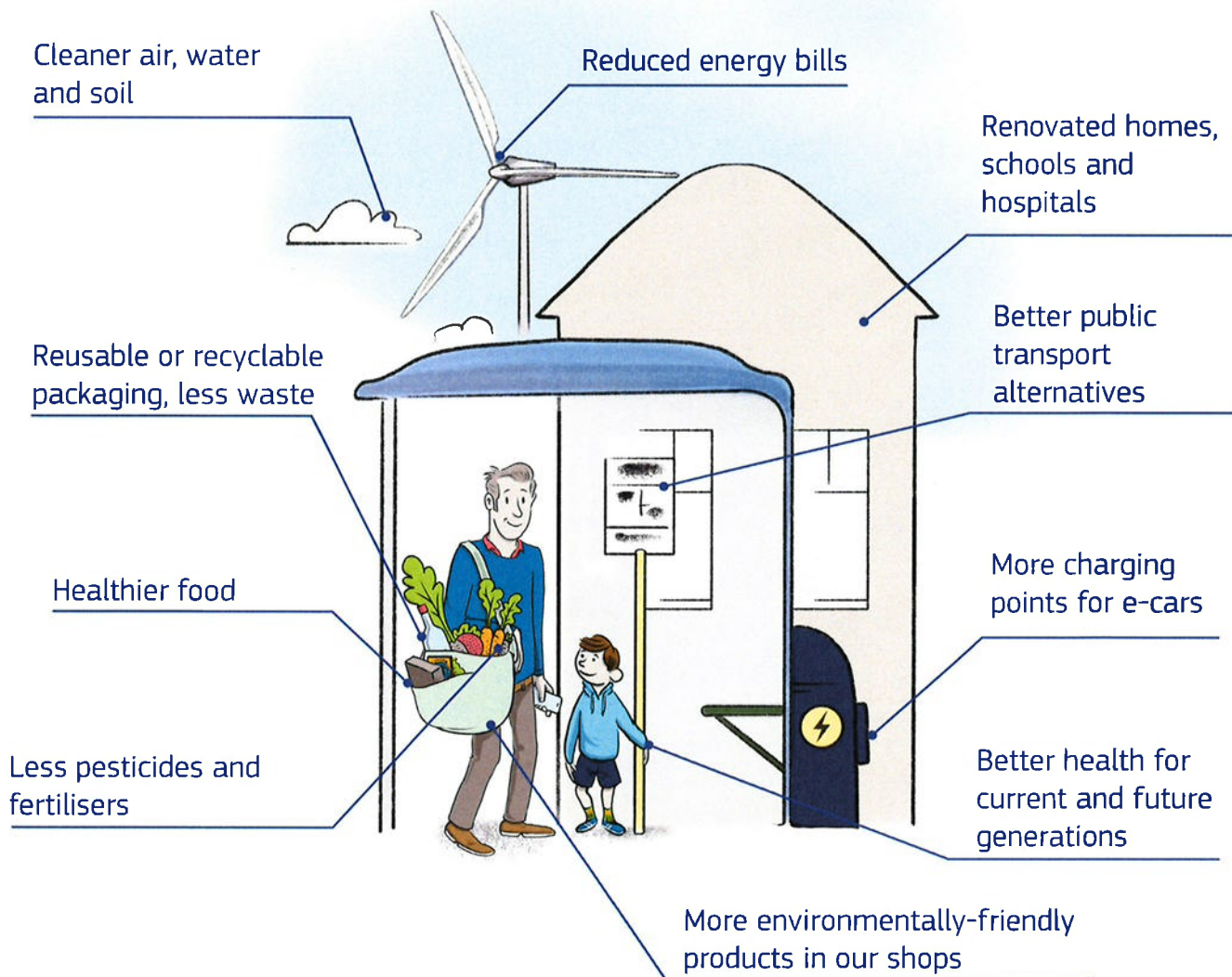
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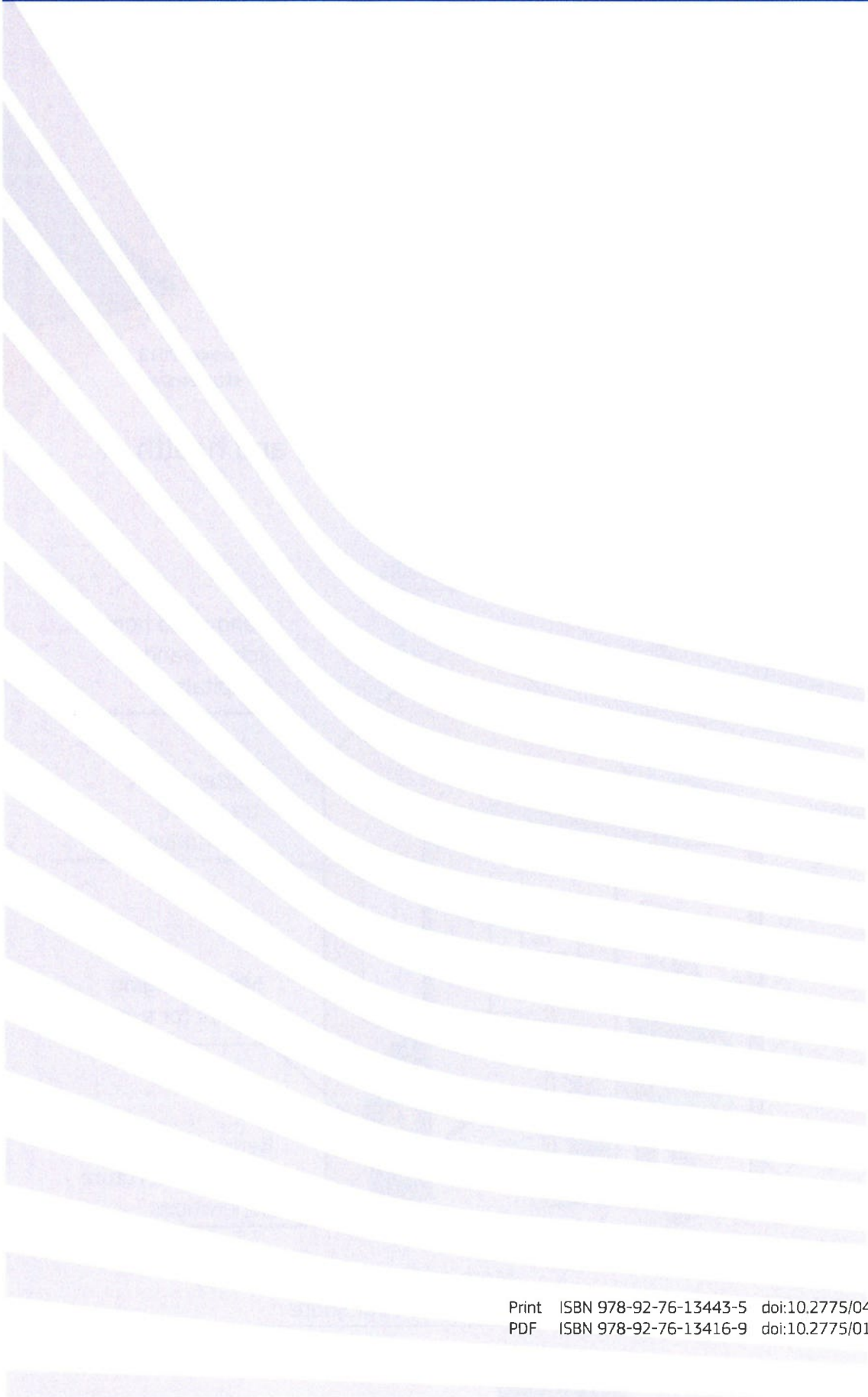
# What's in it for me?

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The European Green Deal will improve the well-being and health of citizens and future generations.







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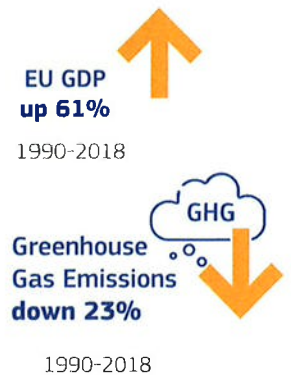
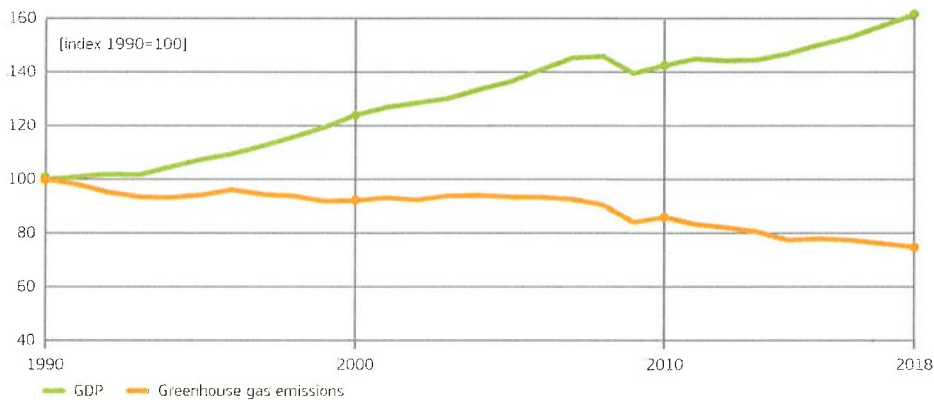
# The EU's track record on climate action

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The EU is already making progress on tackling climate change. It has started to modernise the economy while reducing emissions. But much remains to be done.

Between 1990 and 2018, greenhouse gas emissions **decreased by 23%**, while the economy **grew by 61%**.



### The progress made brings concrete benefits to people, for example:



➤ **Energy labels** help consumers choose products which are more energy efficient;

European households save on average

**150 EUR / YEAR**

through a more eco-friendly design of products

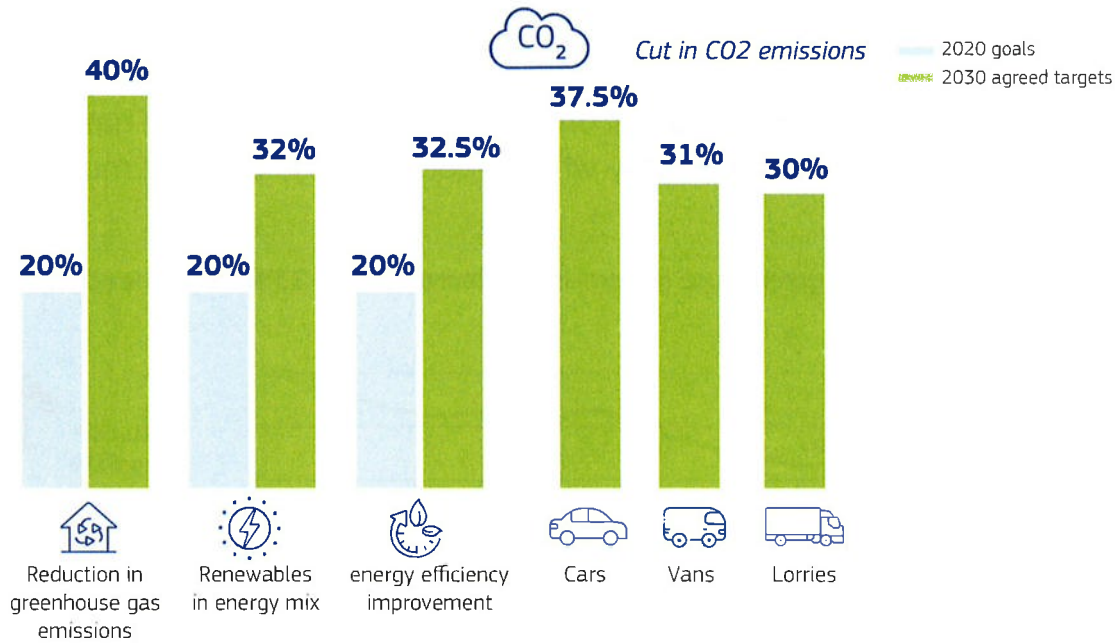




➤ Newly adopted EU rules will reduce the use of single use plastics which make up **70%** of litter found on European beaches.

## The EU is a global leader in the fight against climate change.

Targets to fulfill EU's commitments under the Paris Agreement



The EU is the only major economy of the world to have put in place legislation covering all sectors of the economy to cut greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the Paris Agreement.







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# EU as a global leader

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Climate change and the environmental degradation affect every human being. This needs a global solution.

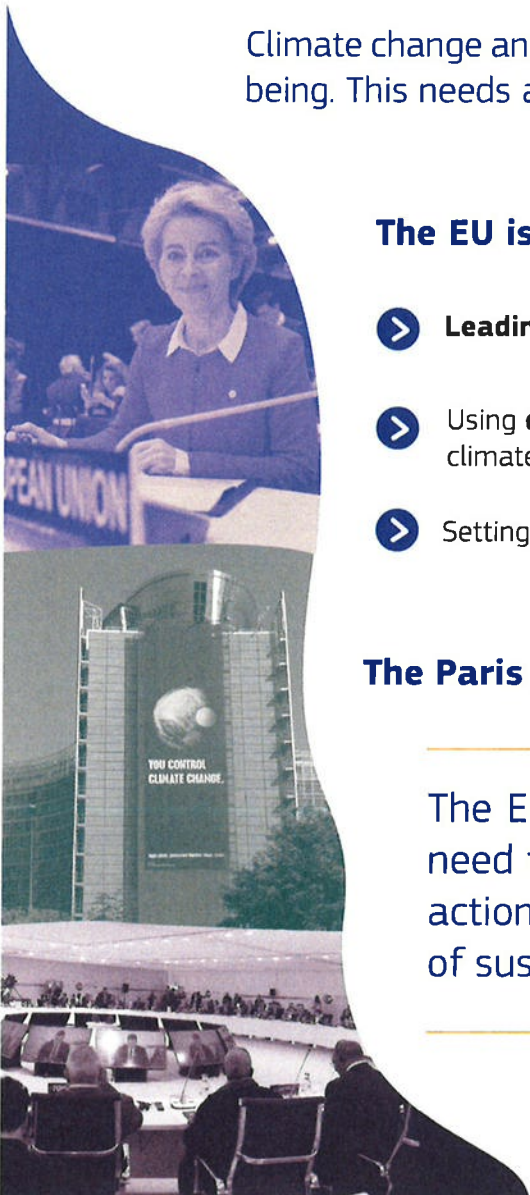
### The EU is committed to:

- **Leading by example**, through the European Green Deal.
- Using **diplomacy, trade and development cooperation** to advance climate action.
- Setting **standards for sustainable growth** across global value chains.



### The Paris Agreement is key for tackling climate change



The EU's share in global emissions is declining, we need to make sure now that our partners also take action. The Commission will enhance enforcement of sustainability commitments in trade agreements.



## The EU will:

- **Engage with G20** countries who are responsible for 80% of global greenhouse gas emissions. 
- Following the Poznan Summit, set up a Green Agenda for the **Western Balkans**, mirroring the Green Deal. 
- Establish environment, energy and climate partnerships with the **Eastern Partnership** and **Southern Neighbourhood**. 
- Build Green Alliances with partner countries and regions in **Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific**. 

## Financing:

- **25%** of the EU's **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument** to support climate objectives. 
- **40%** of the world's public climate finance comes from the EU. 

Source: European Commission  
Communication on the 2019 Climate Action  
Summit hosted by the United Nations  
Secretary General in New York, 11.9.2019



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# Just Transition Mechanism

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The transition towards a climate-neutral economy will affect everyone.



*“This transition should leave no one behind.”*

*Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission*

*“We need a just transition for all.  
Or it won’t work at all.”*

*Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission*



To address the specific challenges encountered by certain regions, which will be most affected by the transformation, the Commission will propose a **Just Transition Mechanism**.

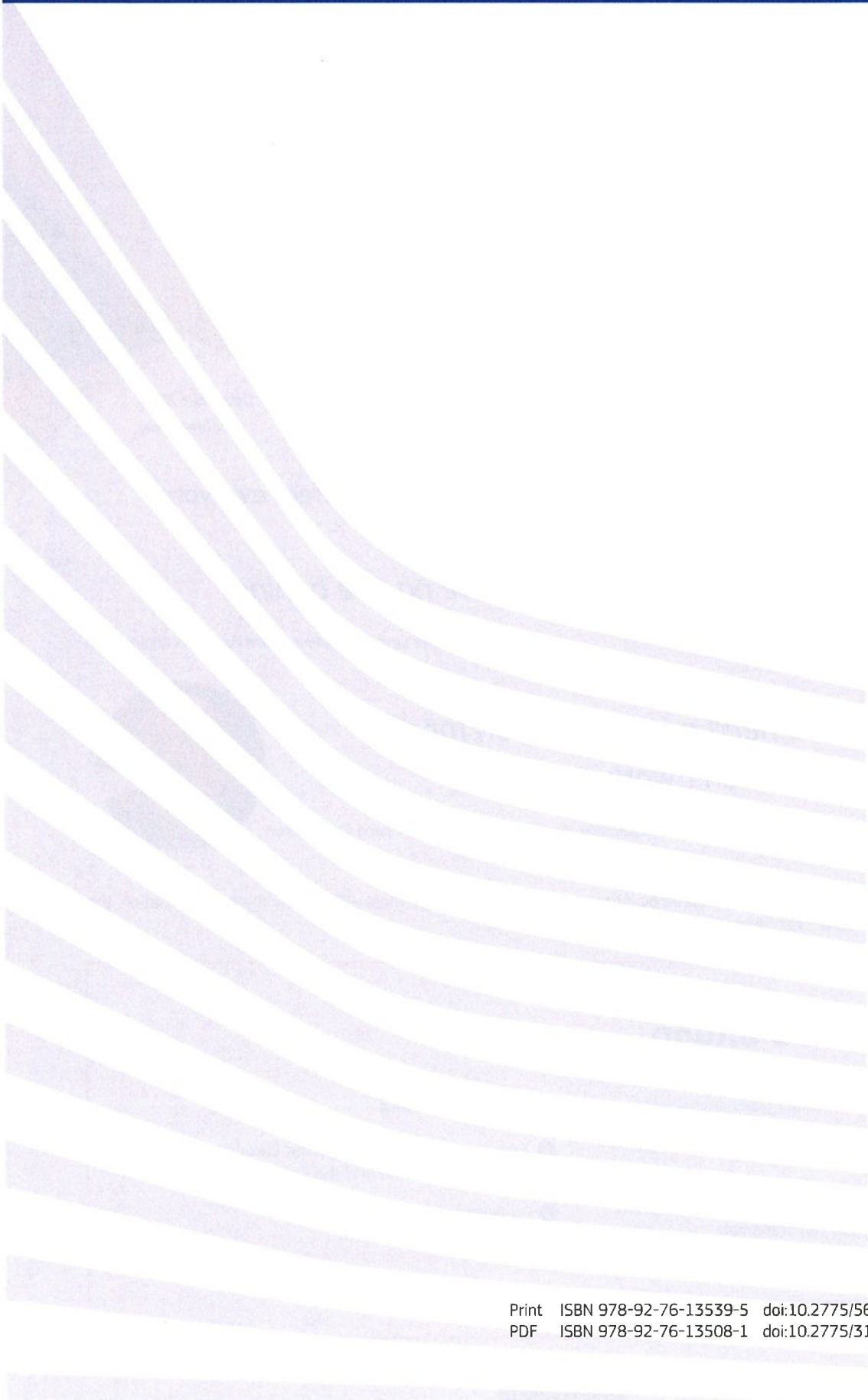


**€100 billion**

- State aid rules to boost green investment.
- Funding for just transition from the InvestEU programme.
- European Investment Bank lending targeted towards just and fair transition.
- Transition plan and strong governance.
- Technical assistance.

#### **Just Transition Fund**

- Leveraging resources from the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund+.
- Co-financing by Member States.





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# Clean energy

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Decarbonising the EU's energy system is critical to reach our climate objectives.

### Key Principles:



Prioritise energy efficiency and develop a power sector based largely on renewable sources

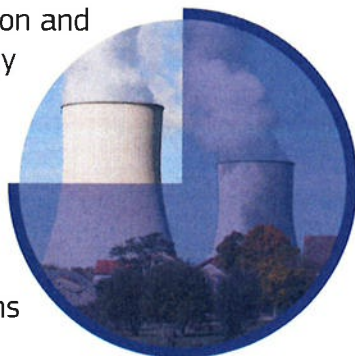


Secure and affordable EU energy supply



Fully integrated, interconnected and digitalised EU energy market

> The production and use of energy account for more than **75%** of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions



> **18%** of the EU's gross final energy consumption came from renewable sources in 2017



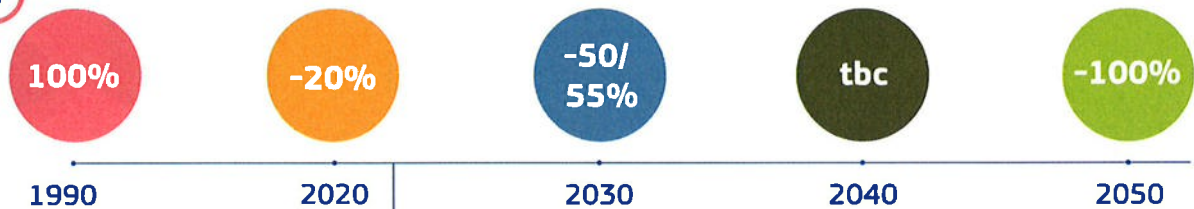
Source: European Commission, [A clean planet for all](#), November 2018

Source: European Commission, [Renewable energy progress report](#), April 2019

## The European Commission will make proposals to increase the EU's climate ambition for 2030.

Relevant energy legislation will be proposed by June 2021. EU Member States will then update their national energy and climate plans in 2023, to reflect the new climate ambition.

GHG emissions



**2023:** EU Member States update their national energy and climate plans to reflect the new climate ambition.

- **Interconnect energy systems** and better link/integrate renewable energy sources to the grid
- Promote innovative technologies and **modern** infrastructure
- **Boost energy efficiency** and **eco-design** of products
- **Decarbonise the gas sector** and promote **smart integration** across sectors
- **Empower consumers** and help Member States tackle energy poverty
- **Increase cross-border and regional cooperation** to better share clean energy sources.
- Promote EU energy standards and technologies at **global level**

