



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK – TOPICAL DIGEST

March 2020

Cities play a key role in the transition to a sustainable economy and in achieving the targets of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. They are important actors in climate change mitigation and adaptation and in the move towards clean energy and low-emission mobility. On the occasion of the European Covenant of Mayors' Ceremony on 4 March 2020, this Topical Digest brings together some of the European Parliament's main think tank publications on climate change and energy.

Just Transition Fund

'EU Legislation in Progress' briefing by Pernilla Jourde and Agnieszka Widuto, EPRS, February 2020

The EU aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 % by 2030 and achieve climate neutrality by 2050. This will require a socio-economic transformation in regions relying on fossil fuels and carbon-intensive industries. As part of the European Green Deal, on 14 January 2020, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation to create the Just Transition Fund, aimed at supporting EU regions most affected by the transition to a low carbon economy. Funding will be available to all Member States, while focusing on regions with the biggest transition challenges.

EU support for coal regions

Briefing by Agnieszka Widuto, EPRS, October 2019

The EU, as a signatory to the 2015 Paris Agreement, has committed to a 40 % cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. In 2018, the European Commission also presented its vision for a climate-neutral Europe by 2050. This will require a transition from relying on fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, and in particular a reduction in power generation from coal, with an estimated direct loss of 160 000 jobs. In order to alleviate the socio-economic consequences for the regions, the EU provides a number of funding sources and is currently negotiating the post-2020 budgetary framework with measures offering support for coal regions.

Mainstreaming of climate action in the EU budget: Impact of a political objective

In-Depth Analysis by Alessandro D'Alfonso, EPRS, October 2019

Facilitating the transition to a climate-friendly and resilient economy requires huge investments. The EU has committed to spending 20 % of its 2014-2020 financial resources on climate-related measures. Tracking and reporting climate-related expenditure poses several challenges. The analysis describes how climate action has been mainstreamed in the EU budget so far, as well as possible developments for 2021-2027.

Living in the EU: Climate change and energy

Infographic by Caterina Francesca Guidi, GlobalStat, EUI, May 2019

The European Union (EU) has been protecting the environment since the early 1970s, considering economic prosperity and environmental protection interdependent. As energy policies are a competence shared between the EU and its Member States (MS), joint strategic planning is strongly developed. Human activities can have adverse impacts on the environment, and subsequently on our wellbeing.

EU Environment and Climate Change Policies: State of play, current and future challenges

Study by Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies, September 2019

The study reviews the state of play of ongoing EU environmental and climate legislation and pinpoints key challenges for the next five years. Challenges arise from the plans released by the president-elect, such as a new European Green Deal, the completion of work started in the previous by reviews of legislation foreseen for the next term and the need for action where indicators show that current EU environment targets may not be achieved.

Further reading

[The blue economy: Overview and EU policy framework](#)

In-Depth Analysis by Frederik Scholaert, Vasileios Margaras, Marketa Pape, Alex Benjamin Wilson, EPRS, January 2020

[Natural resources and environment: Heading 3 of the 2021-2027 MFF](#)

Briefing by Karoline Kowald; Graphics: Giulio Sabbati, Nadejda Kresnichka-Nikolchova, EPRS, January 2020

[Preparing the post-2020 biodiversity framework](#)

'At a glance' note by Vivienne Halleux, EPRS, January 2020

[European Green Deal](#)

'At a glance' note by Gregor Erbach, EPRS, January 2020

[Comprendre la fiscalité environnementale](#)

Briefing by Cécile Remeur, EPRS, January 2020

[Sustainable finance – EU taxonomy: A framework to facilitate sustainable investment](#)

'EU Legislation in Progress' briefing, by Stefano Spinaci, EPRS, April 2019

[Implementing the Urban Agenda for the EU](#)

Briefing by Christiaan van Lierop, EPRS, October 2019

[Metropolitan regions in EU cohesion policy](#)

Briefing by Vasileios Margaras, EPRS, October 2019

[Cities: Front line of climate action](#)

Briefing by Vivienne Halleux, EPRS, February 2018

[EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Environmental protection](#)

Briefing by Didier Bourguignon and Vivienne Halleux, EPRS, June 2019

[EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Energy supply and security](#)

Briefing by Alex Benjamin Wilson, EPRS, June 2019

[EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Regional policy](#)

Briefing by Briefing by Vasileios Margaras and Christiaan Van Lierop, EPRS, June 2019

[Environment action programme: Living well, within the limits of our planet](#)

Briefing by Didier Bourguignon, EPRS, December 2018

['From farm to fork' strategy on sustainable food](#)

'At a glance' note by Rachele Rossi, EPRS, January 2020

[Using trade policy to tackle climate change](#)

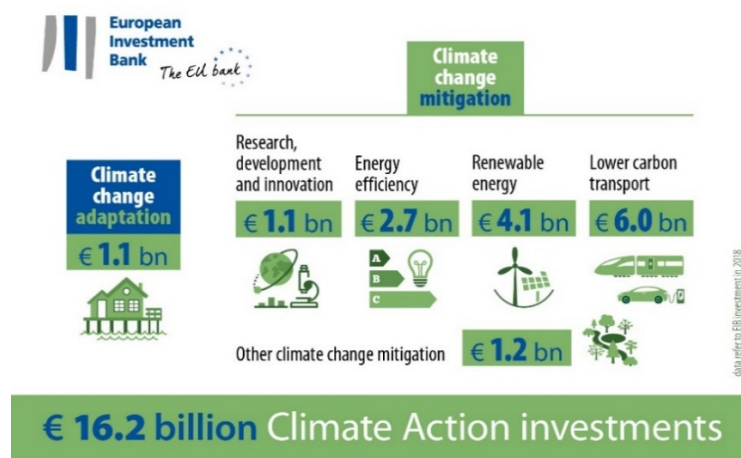
'At a glance' note by Jana Titievskaia, EPRS, October 2019

[A just energy transition, opportunity for EU industries, the role of hydrogen in the future and the example of energy transition in Germany.](#)

In-Depth Analysis by Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies, June 2019

More in the EPRS [Graphics Warehouse](#)

EIB investments in climate action in 2018



Source: [EIB website](#).

You can access this Topical Digest at http://www.europarl.europa.eu/EPRS/TD_Covenant_of_Mayors_2020_FINAL.pdf

or by scanning the QR code.

More information on the website:

<https://www.covenantofmayors.eu/news-and-events/events/upcoming-events/2278-european-covenant-of-mayors-ceremony.html>

