



E3G

# The EU Climate Law

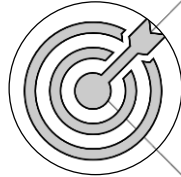
Elisa Giannelli

25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

# What is E3G?



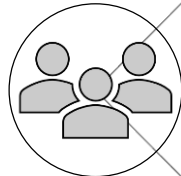
**What:** E3G is an independent climate change think tank.



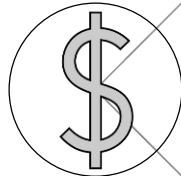
**Mission:** To accelerate the transition to a climate safe world.



**Where:** London, Brussels, Berlin, Dublin and Washington D.C. and staff in seven other countries worldwide.



**How:** We deliver outcomes through coalitions with partners in government, politics, NGOs, science & media.



**Funding:** Primarily from philanthropic foundations.

# What is the EU Climate Law about?

- The Commission's proposal for the first European Climate Law aims to write into law the goal set out in the European Green Deal – for Europe's economy and society to become climate-neutral by 2050.
- Commission's [objectives](#) required a well defined governance framework behind the updated climate goals

## Objectives

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- Set the long-term direction of travel for meeting the 2050 climate-neutrality objective through all policies, in a socially-fair and cost-efficient manner
- Create a system for monitoring progress and take further action if needed
- Provide predictability for investors and other economic actors
- Ensure that the transition to climate neutrality is irreversible

# What happened?

- 04/03/2020 -> Legislative proposal published by EU COM ([here](#))
- 08/10/2020 -> EU Plenary adopted its position ([here](#))
  - 60% target by 2030
  - Climate neutrality extended to national level
  - Establishment of a European Climate Change Council (ECCC)
- 17/12/2020 -> ENVI Council adopted its general approach ([here](#))
  - At least 55% net by 2030, following the guidance of the European Council given on 10-11 December
  - Climate neutrality only EU-wide goal
  - No ECCC
- 21/04/2021 -> EU institutions reached provisional agreement ([here](#))
  - Approved by COREPER on 05/05/2021
  - Adopted by ENVI Committee on 10/05/2021
  - To be voted by EU Plenary in June

# What is in the final text?

## Climate targets

- 2050: Union-wide target + aspirational goal to achieve negative emissions thereafter
- 2030: at least 55% target net + 225 MtCO<sub>2</sub>Eq cap on removals
- 2040: to be proposed by EU COM at the latest within 6 months after the 1<sup>st</sup> global stocktake

## GHG budget

- Separate report with projected indicative Union's greenhouse gas budget for the period 2030-2050
- Based on the best available science, advised by ESABCC, using public methodology + other criteria (see Art 3.3)

## Governance

- European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change (ESABCC) – see following slides
- Provisions to improve climate mainstreaming & financial flows alignment

# The 2030 numbers

- **At least 55% (net)** -> what is in the final text
- **52,8%** -> According to the Commission's impact assessment, the 55% net would translate into 52.8% effective emissions reduction from the emitting sectors (e.g. energy, industry, transport, building, agriculture), the remaining 2.2% points being considered as "removed" from the atmosphere by forests and other natural sinks (amounting to 225 Mt removals).
- **57%** -> In the final discussions, there was a non-binding statement referring to the intention of increasing the net EU sink to 300 Mt by 2030. This would translate into a net 57% target – but still only 52.8% effective emissions reductions.

# European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change



- Established under Art 10 of [EEA Regulation](#)
- Main tasks to **provide 'scientific' advice and issuing reports on existing and proposed Union measures, climate targets and indicative GHG budgets**, and their coherence with the Union's commitments under the Paris Agreement.
- It will be composed of **15 senior scientific experts** (no more than 2 of the same EU MS) nominated for a mandate of 4 years and designated by the Management Board of the European Environment Agency following a **transparent selection procedure**
- Members will be selected on merit and scientific excellence, aiming for gender and geographical balance.

# Where does it bring us?

- **Updated climate commitments** for 2030 and 2050 – but insufficient to meet the Paris 1.5 goal according to NGOs.
- **GHG budget**, involving also ESABCC, to set 2040 target – but leaves unclear the GHG budget for the next decade (until 2030), which is the most important decade to remain below 1.5°C.
- **Climate mainstreaming & financial flows:** The Council agreed to reinforce wording on ensuring that all future legislative proposals, including budgetary proposals, should be consistent with the 2030 target and the climate-neutrality objective.
- **Provisions related to access to justice and Energy Charter treaty** have been left out from the final text



# Remarks for discussion on Advisory Board

- Membership:
  - As for any new body, the importance it may take in the future will depend on who will be seating on this Board.
- Independency and EEA:
  - “The Advisory Board **shall complement** the work of the EEA **while acting independently in discharging its tasks**”
  - Annual work programme to be defined independently
  - The EEA’s budget shall also include the expenditure relating to the Advisory Board
- Relationship with national advisory bodies:
  - Member States are invited to establish a national climate advisory body

## About E3G

E3G is an independent climate change think tank accelerating the transition to a climate safe world.

E3G builds cross-sectoral coalitions to achieve carefully defined outcomes, chosen for their capacity to leverage change. E3G works closely with like-minded partners in government, politics, business, civil society, science, the media, public interest foundations and elsewhere. In 2018, for the third year running, E3G was ranked the fifth most globally influential environmental think tank.

More information is available at [www.e3g.org](http://www.e3g.org)