GREEN DEAL AND WATER RELATED CHALLENGES

EurAqua Webinar: the water challenges in the European Green Deal, 11/06/2020

Panagiotis Balabanis

European Commission, DG Research & Innovation
The European Green Deal

Transforming the EU’s economy for a sustainable future

- Mobilising research and fostering innovation
- A zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment
- Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity
- From ‘Farm to Fork’: a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system
- Accelerating the shift to sustainable and smart mobility

And leave No one behind

- Financing the transition
- Leave no one behind (Just Transition)

The EU as a global leader

A European Climate Pact

Increasing the EU’s Climate ambition for 2030 and 2050

Supplying clean, affordable and secure energy

Mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy

Building and renovating in an energy and resource efficient way
The European Green Deal - COM(2019) 640 final

Initiatives already adopted

✓ A new Circular Economy Action Plan For a cleaner and more competitive Europe - COM(2020) 98 final
✓ Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives - COM(2020) 380 final
✓ A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system COM(2020) 381 final

Forthcoming initiatives

✓ EU Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change
✓ Zero Pollution Action Plan
A new vision for Europe

Circular Economy Action Plan
For a cleaner and more competitive Europe

35 actions along the entire life cycle of products, to:

- Make **sustainable products** the norm in the EU
- **Empower** consumers and public buyers
- **Focus also on key product value chains:** electronics and ICT; batteries and vehicles; packaging; plastics; textiles; construction and buildings; food; water and nutrients
- Ensure **less waste**
- Make circularity work for **people, regions and cities**
- **Lead global efforts** on circular economy
Key targets related to water

✓ Food, water & nutrients - one of the key product value chains addressed. Foreseen actions:
  ▪ Application of the new Water Reuse Regulation
  ▪ Facilitate water reuse and efficiency, including in industrial processes

✓ Sustainable product policy framework – aim to set principles for product policy and requirements on products placed on the EU market.

✓ One of the foreseen actions: review of the Industrial Emissions Directive, including the integration of circular economy practices in upcoming Best Available Techniques reference documents
Elements of the EU Biodiversity Strategy

1. Protect Nature
2. Restore Nature
3. Enable Transformative Change
4. Tackle Global Challenges
Key targets related to water

✓ 30% of EU land and sea protected, a third of which under ‘strict protection’
  ▪ Freshwater ecosystems are included

✓ Restoration of freshwater ecosystems:
  ▪ Increased efforts to restore freshwater ecosystems and the natural functions of rivers - objectives of Water Framework Directive to be met by 2027
  ▪ Restore at least 25,000km free flowing rivers - removal of primarily obsolete barriers and restoration of floodplains and wetlands
  ▪ Member States review water abstraction and impoundment permits to restore and preserve ecological flows - objectives of the Water Framework Directive to be met by 2027

✓ Focus on implementation and enforcement of EU environmental legislation
Farm to Fork Strategy

✓ BUILDING THE FOOD CHAIN THAT WORKS FOR CONSUMERS, PRODUCERS, CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
  - Ensuring sustainable food production
  - Ensuring food security
  - Stimulating sustainable food processing, wholesale, retail, hospitality and food services
  - Promoting sustainable food consumption and facilitating the shift to healthy, sustainable diets
  - Reducing food loss and waste
  - Combating food fraud along the food supply chain

✓ ENABLING THE TRANSITION
  - Research, innovation, technology and investments
  - Advisory services, data and knowledge-sharing, and skills

✓ PROMOTING THE GLOBAL TRANSITION
Key targets related to water

Reduce the overall use & risk of chemical pesticides by 50% and the use of more hazardous pesticides by 50% by 2030

- Revision of the Sustainable Use of Pesticide Directive & enhance provisions for Integrated Pest Management
- Facilitate the placing on the market of pesticides containing biological active substances
- Propose changes to 2009 Regulation concerning statistics on pesticides

Reduce nutrient losses by at least 50%, while ensuring no deterioration in soil fertility

- Reduce use of fertilizers by 20% by 2050
- Develop with Member State an Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan

Reduce overall EU sales of antimicrobials for farm animals and aquaculture by 50% by 2030

- Objective to have at least 25% of EU land under organic farming
The European Green Deal

- European ‘Climate Law’ enshrining the 2050 climate neutrality objective in legislation by March 2020
- Comprehensive plan to increase the EU’s climate target for 2030 to at least 50% and towards 55% in a responsible way by October 2020
- Review and revise where needed all relevant legislative measures to deliver on this increased ambition by June 2021
- Proposal for a revision of the Energy Taxation Directive by June 2021
- Possible carbon border adjustment mechanism for selected sectors by 2021
- A new EU Strategy on Adaptation in 2020/2021
- Launch of the European Climate Pact in March 2020
- Proposal for an 8th Environmental Action Programme in 2020

Increasing the EU’s Climate ambition for 2030 and 2050

Designing a set of deeply transformative policies

The EU as a global leader

A European Climate Pact
The **European Green Deal**

- Zero pollution action plan for air, water and soil in 2021
- Address **industrial pollution** from large industrial installations in 2021
- **Chemicals strategy for sustainability** in summer 2020

A zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment

Designing a set of deeply transformative policies

The EU as a global leader

A European Climate Pact
The European Green Deal

Transforming the EU’s economy for a sustainable future

Mainstreaming sustainability in all EU policies

Financing the transition

Leave no one behind (Just Transition)

Mobilising research and Fostering innovation

• At least 35% of Horizon Europe funding for climate solution
• Four “Green Deal missions” (related to climate change, oceans, cities and soil)
• Partnerships with industry and Member States
• Role of European Institute of Innovation and Technology
• Role of European Innovation Council
• Data and digital infrastructure in support of ecological transition
• New Green Deal Call under Horizon 2020 worth €1 billion
The European Green Deal

- Currently, DG Research and Innovation is contributing to various ongoing initiatives, with more to come.
- As a **key enabler** of the various transitions called for by the European Green Deal, research and innovation can **drive, navigate and accelerate the enormous Green Deal transformation**.
- Research and innovation is a policy of opportunity.

---

**The EU as a global leader**

- **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism**
- **Circular Economy Action Plan**
- **Biodiversity**
- **Climate Law**
- **European Green Deal Investment Plan**
- **Industrial Strategy**
- **Climate Pact**
- **A European Climate Pact**
- **Farm to Fork**
- **Farm to Fork**

---

**The EU as a global leader**

- **Circular Economy Action Plan**
- **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism**
- **Biodiversity**
- **Climate Law**
- **European Green Deal Investment Plan**
- **Industrial Strategy**
- **Climate Pact**
- **A European Climate Pact**
- **Farm to Fork**
Thank you
QUICKPOLL

• Water is a priority in the new Green Deal Call under Horizon 2020

• I agree
• I don’t agree
• I don’t know