



European Pact for the Future

A green and social deal for a one-planet economy

Europe needs a Pact for the Future that fosters hope and courage, opens opportunities, creates wellbeing for all, catalyses competitiveness through sustainability and drives the needed transformative system change for a sustainable future

These are times of both multiple crises, opportunities, and, certainly, challenges. Our choices today will define the course of history. Looking ahead at a new political mandate in the EU, we need a trailblazing agenda—a beacon of hope unleashing the potential for all citizens, communities and sustainable business to drive a just transition towards a future where people prosper within the limits of our one healthy planet.

From Fear...

The interconnected climate, biodiversity and pollution crises are changing our world and deepening the rifts between and within countries globally. Poverty and profound inequalities, augmented by inflation, have spurred a cost-of-living crisis, eroding our societies and sparking unrest. The current economic system has led to wealth for some but at a harsh cost to many, and is, every year, exacerbating the planet's degradation, the triple crisis and the risks for our future. Disinformation campaigns and abuse of position and economic power undermine elections and put democracy at risk. The stark choices facing humanity now underline the need for system change, including reforming our economic system. Yet it is not all gloom, and resignation to the difficulty of corraling support for transformation efforts is not an option.

Europe's strength lies in progressive policy rooted in robust social and environmental norms – we should not undermine this; we should build on it. The European Green Deal was a starting point, catalysing part of the system change we need, strengthening EU's international credibility, and was proving to be a tool for EU competitiveness globally – we should move further.

Were the EU to back off now would only increase the risk of being outpaced by others, and diminish EU's global influence, leaving the path clear for industry in other countries to capture the growing markets for green technologies.

...to Hope

The shift to renewable energies, clean tech and circular product development will create millions of good-quality skilled jobs. Farmers' and fishers' livelihoods can be improved through fair prices, agro- and pesca-ecological practices, and nature protection and restoration efforts.

Disposable household incomes can increase through fair and redistributive taxation, decent working conditions, just wages and salaries, energy-saving building renovation and socially fair housing policies, access to healthy and affordable food, and more affordable public transport.

Committing to better access to infrastructures and services, and repairable and toxic-free products will make the safe and sustainable choice the easy choice.

These measures will also strengthen trust in leadership and decision-making.

We can and must reorient our economies from a focus on generating short term profits to filling human needs and long term viability and sustainability – through regulation and enhanced market signals, secured investments, and targeted financial support, the stimulation of innovation paving the way for a prosperous future economy in harmony with planetary realities.

A Commitment to a European Pact for the Future

We must commit to an agenda of hope and confidence, an actionable and viable programme for our common future, and system change without leaving anyone behind. We need a global Just Transition in which everyone can be part of the solution. Clearly, a European and global partnership of this kind must protect the most vulnerable against negative externalities.

We propose a European Pact for the Future, a new green and social deal for a one-planet economy that reflects the fundamental choice that society now faces. This action plan of hope and courage is for now and tomorrow, for the young and future generations, allowing the older generation to leave a legacy of a world worth living in.

Embrace the vision of Living Well within Planetary Boundaries

1 Have the European Pact for the Future – a green and social deal for a one-planet economy - guide the next 5-year legislative cycle.

Flagship Action: Continue to prioritise a green and just transition towards climate neutrality, zero pollution and thriving nature in the next political cycle from the Strategic Agenda onwards.

Chart an Ecological Transformation

2 Fully address the linked triple planetary climate, biodiversity and pollution crises.

Flagship action: Table an Action Plan for 2030 with commitments for the ecological transformation needed by 2040 and 2050 and address areas of insufficient progress (in accordance with Art. 5 (2) of the 8th EAP). Address the legislative gaps, ramp up ambition, and address barriers to tackling the existential threats to households and humankind.

3 Reduce resource use and seize Circular Economy (CE) opportunities; shift also to a wellbeing economy.

Flagship actions: Fast track the CE by resource use & material footprint reduction targets and resource efficiency measures. Refocus the economy on wellbeing & healthy people: replacing the Stability and Growth Pact with a Wellbeing and Sustainability Pact and adjusting the European Semester to put environmental and social justice goals at the heart of EU economic governance; create the fiscal space for countries to make investments in the transition.

Fast-track towards a one-planet Economy

4 Support sectors in becoming resilient & competitive on sustainability.

Flagship actions: Ramp up support for skills development, training, job creation and research in key sectors of the green and climate neutral economy. Invest in smart electricity grids and wider infrastructure to help vanguard sustainable companies prosper. Design and launch a policy package for sustainable food systems. Strengthen chemicals legislation and implementation to support human health, catalyse innovation, and avoid toxic supply chains.

5 Drive system change through investments, fair taxation and distribution.

Flagship action: Commit to a Social and Green Investment Plan for the Green Deal transition, so all are on board – people and businesses. Reform taxation and pricing to ensure fairness and distribution, putting in practice the polluter pays principle.

6 Make the safe and sustainable choice the easy choice for people and business.

Flagship action: Use both supply and demand policies, and increase policy coherence and

cooperation across all levels of government to create the right “service and product environment” – the physical, economic, political and socio-cultural context within which citizens operate to make their choices. Citizens should be able to choose the sustainable options by default, whether for mobility, housing, energy, food or other necessary consumables. Revise sustainable public and corporate procurement policy to champion the market transformation.

Promote a Just Transition

7 Develop a new social contract to leave no-one behind.

Flagship action: Commit to an EU-wide strategy and results-orientated social protection plan with monitoring via the European Semester to address inequalities and end poverty, ensure minimum income for all, systematically social proof policies to take account of gender, economic and other inequalities.

8 Strengthen environmental democracy & give a voice to youth and others too often forgotten.

Flagship actions: Support and promote the adoption of an additional Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights recognising the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; Implement a European Civil Society Strategy and civic dialogue, with a focus on younger generations and marginalised groups, and innovations in participatory democracy.

Show Solidarity & Embrace Responsibilities

9 Support and manifest solidarity across an enlarging EU.

Flagship action: Roll out the green and just transition in candidate countries to support fossil-fuel independence, decent work, health and security with due legal, administrative and financial support. Reform EU governance to ensure decision-making is not undermined by EU enlargement.

Commit to global justice and drive partnerships to face common challenges.

10 **Flagship action:** Take responsibility for and scale back Europe's negative externalities and resource exploitation, lead on global diplomacy for multilateral solutions and green-deal type partnerships and systematically push for the respect for the international rule of law.

Implement our Commitments

11 Implement & enforce EU legislation to protect the rule of law and our health.

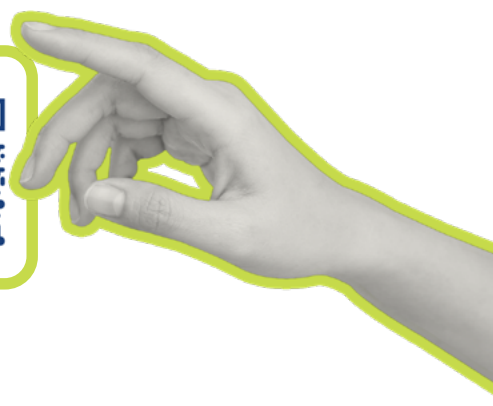
Flagship action: Set up an Implementation and Enforcement Action plan, with strong focus on an unerring commitment to upholding the rule of law across the EU.

12 Strengthen EU governance and trust in the European Project.

Flagship actions: EU strategy to combat disinformation, weed out inappropriate influence by vested interests, and strengthen public accountability. Appoint a Commission Vice president for the European Green Deal & Social Investments, a VP for Just Transition & a Commissioner for Youth and Future Generations.

sign now

If you – as an organisation or individual – wish to support **The European Pact for the Future** and call for a green and social deal for a one planet economy, please read the extended version of the Dozen Demands and sign up [here](#):





EEB

European
Environmental
Bureau



European Environmental Bureau
Rue des Deux Eglises 14-16, B-1000 Brussels



Tel: +32 2 289 10 90



eeb.org



@eeb.org



@eeb_europe



@Green_Europe



European Environmental Bureau



European Environmental Bureau - EEB