



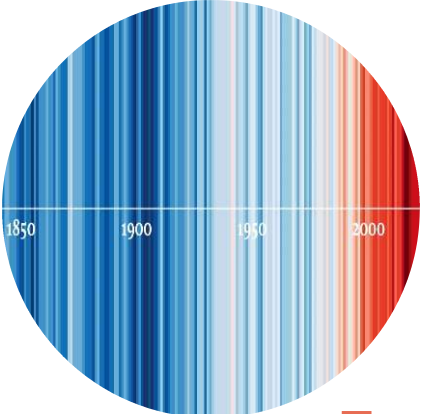
# The European Green Deal, territorial cooperation and Interreg

**BioGov project**  
November 2021

*Nathalie Verschelde*  
**European Commission**  
*DG Regional and Urban Policy*

# CHALLENGES, ALSO ACROSS BORDERS...

## Climate change



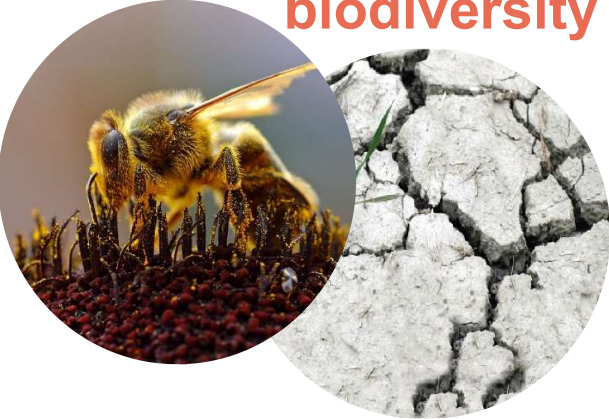
## Drought, heat and wildfires



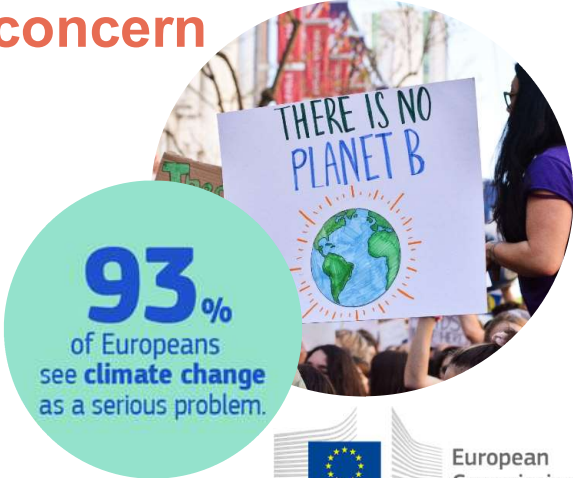
## Pollution



## Environmental degradation & biodiversity loss



## Growing societal concern



## Floods



# THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

## The EU will...



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Become  
climate-neutral  
by 2050



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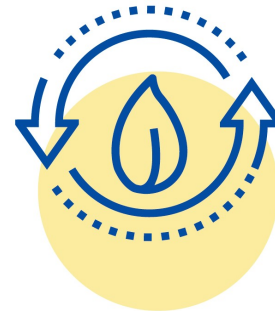
Transform to  
circular and  
resource-efficient  
economy



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Preserve and **restore**  
ecosystems and  
biodiversity

## ...all the while...



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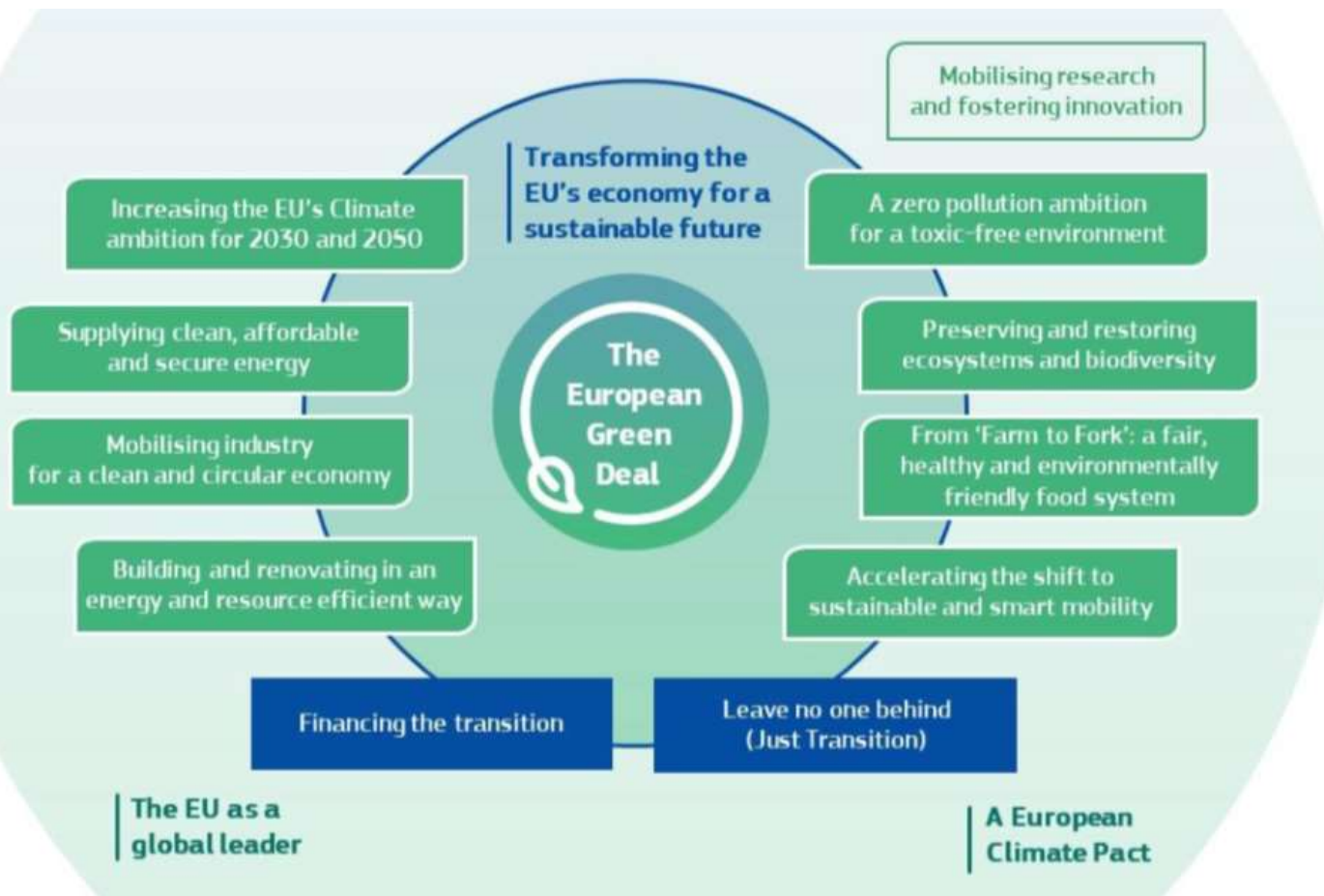
Ensuring a just  
and inclusive  
transition



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Remaining  
competitive and helping  
companies become  
world leaders in clean  
products and  
technologies

# European Green Deal



## Designing a set of deeply transformative policies

- The **European Climate Law** of June 2021 sets a legally binding climate-neutrality objective for 2050 and an intermediate target of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 (compared to 1990 levels)
- **Earmarking** 30% of the EU budget for climate
- Greening the **European Semester**
- Comprehensive programme of **legislation**



# Interreg programmes 2021-2027

## Basic requirements, higher ambitions



- What we expect

- Making full use of results of ‘Do no significant harm’ (DNSH) principle assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), sustainable project selection criteria across all policy objectives, etc.
- Contributing to ERDF target of 30 % support for climate objectives
- Reflecting on where cooperation can bring most added value (“nature knows no borders” – joint resources: water, mountains, plains, coastal areas, air, etc)
- Reflecting on the link between innovation and deployment

# Interreg programmes 2021-2027

## Basic requirements, higher ambitions



- We aim to integrate elements of the European Green Deal into all programmes
  - For instance, nature-based solutions to avoid negative impact of grey infrastructure
  - Using programming as an opportunity to formulate pathways for long-term transitions
  - Targeting transformational change instead of marginal efficiency gains – Toolkit on sustainability transitions
  - Thinking beyond 2027 to avoid lock-ins (e.g. energy sources, waste management)



## How ? Notably via Cohesion Policy Objective 2

A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation and risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility

= compulsory for Interreg cross-border, transnational and outermost cooperation programmes

**Excluded:** Investment related to fossil fuels (with some exceptions), investment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from activities under EU Emissions Trading System, investment in disposal of waste in landfill, facilities for the treatment of residual waste (with some exceptions), decommissioning or construction of nuclear power stations

# How ? Notably via Cohesion Policy Objective 2

- Specific Objectives:
  - i. Promoting energy efficiency measures and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
  - ii. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with the Renewable Energy Directive (EU 2018/2001), including the sustainability criteria set out therein
  - iii. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage outside the Trans-European Energy Network (TEN-E)
  - iv. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches
  - v. Promoting access to water and sustainable water management
  - vi. Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy
  - vii. Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution**
  - viii. Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy



## SO 2.vii - Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

- **Added value of cross-border cooperation can include:**
  - Joint knowledge development and planning
  - Protection of cross-border ecosystems
  - Joint management of natural sites
  - EU-level green infrastructure, for instance ecological corridors across borders
  - Addressing cross-border pollution sources, including air, soil, water
- **Contributes to:**
  - EU Biodiversity Strategy, Zero Pollution Action Plan, Soil Strategy, EU Forest Strategy...

*“... in order to have a truly coherent and resilient Trans-European Nature Network ... investments in green and blue infrastructure and cooperation across borders among Member States should be promoted and supported, including through the European Territorial Cooperation.” (EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, May 2020)*

## SO 2.iv - Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches

- **Added value of cross-border cooperation can include:**
  - Joint knowledge development and planning, including joint monitoring, forecasts, alignment of climate change adaptation strategies
  - Prevention, including joint management of cross-border forests, rivers, coastal zones, joint awareness-raising campaigns
  - Preparedness, including cross-border early warning systems, interoperability of civil protection units, facilitation of sharing of assets
  - Disaster risk management planning: Member States need to report on “*priority prevention and preparedness measures*” for “*key risks having cross-border impacts*” (Union Civil Protection Mechanism Decision, Art. 6)
  
- **Contributes to:**
  - RescEU, EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, European Climate Pact...

*“The Commission and the participating countries and regions will also stimulate cooperation across borders through the EU macro-regional strategies cooperation frameworks and sea-basin and other maritime strategies, Interreg funding programmes, ...”*

(EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, February 2021)

And beyond funding too...



## EU Border Regions: Living labs of European integration

COM(2021) 393 of 14.7.2021

**Border regions for the European Green Deal**

# Border regions for the European Green Deal



## Actions

- **The Commission will**
  - provide support for **prevention and preparedness to address risks with in cross-border regions** under the framework of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism;
  - stimulate **cooperation regionally and across borders** and enhance the **guidelines on national adaptation strategies** in cooperation with the Member States;
  - draw and disseminate lessons learnt from the **pilot project “Luxembourg in transition: a vision for a zero-carbon cross-border functional region”** in the framework of the **Territorial Agenda 2030**;
  - support and improve **cross-border coordination and implementation of the Natura 2000 network** and help achieve the goals of the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030;
  - explore and develop the promising initiatives under the recast Renewable Energy Directive to achieve a higher share of **cross-border projects, incl. projects combining renewable energy with storage**.
- **Implementation of the EP’s Pilot Project:** “Cross-Border Crisis Response Integrated Initiative (CB-CRII)”
- **b-solutions initiative** – resolving border legal obstacles (including in environmental matters such as electronic waste management, water supply, EMS, etc...).

# Thank you!



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<https://futurium.ec.europa.eu/en/border-focal-point-network>  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en)



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