

Western European MEP VI: Lier

ENVI FACT SHEET: ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

INTRODUCTION

Climate change is a prominent issue, with activists urging the European Union to adopt significant measures to combat it. Advocates argue that achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 aligns with the goal of improving our daily environment and "saving the planet." It seems logical to support such measures.

However, the path to net-zero and addressing climate change comes with a considerable cost. A well-thought-out plan is essential to ensure a favorable return on investments and prevent economic hardship. Crafting such a plan is challenging due to numerous unknown variables, such as the impact of transitioning to a circular economy on our economic landscape.

A critical concern arises if the rest of the world, including China, (South)-America, Asia, and Africa, does not share this vision. Could our economy face stiff competition from foreign products produced inexpensively due to a lack of "green investments"? And more importantly, will our individual efforts even make a noticeable difference?

While the need to protect our planet is evident, we must also safeguard our economy and competitiveness to avoid becoming a peripheral player in global trade once again, just like before the 19th century. Striking a balance between environmental preservation and economic interests is crucial. The question remains: How can we harmonize the best of both worlds?

TOPIC

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The question of which measures the EU should take to decrease the number of negative influences the EU faces due to climate change.

SUBQUESTIONS

1. Which measures should the EU take to combat climate change?
2. To which extends and how can the EU make sure that the rest of the world is also putting in efforts to combat climate change.
3. How can the EU balance economical consideration with environmental goals when implementing measures to combat climate change, and thus minimizing the impact on the industry and its workers?
4. How can we ensure the competitiveness of our economy whilst transitioning to a sustainably economy?

INFORMATION

EXISTING GOVERNMENTAL BODIES

1. **Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)**
The EU employs a cap-and-trade system to reduce industrial carbon emissions, with a 62% reduction target by 2030.
2. **Fit for 55 Package**
A comprehensive set of proposals aligning various policies with a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.
3. **Social Climate Fund**
Funded by ETS revenues, it supports vulnerable groups and ensures a fair transition to sustainability.
4. **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)**
Imposes a carbon levy on imports from countries with lax emission standards, gradually implemented from 2026 to 2034.

EXISTING REGULATIONS

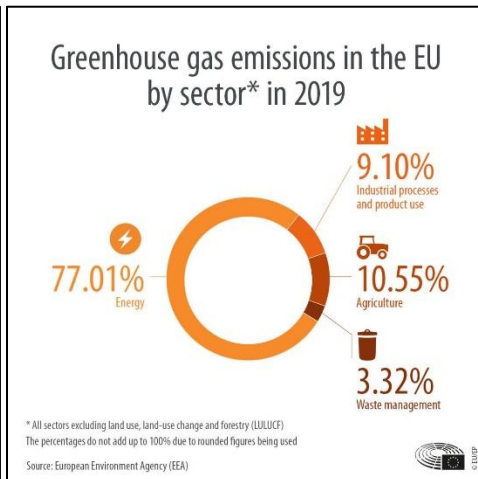
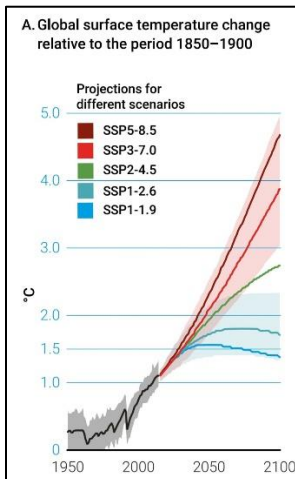
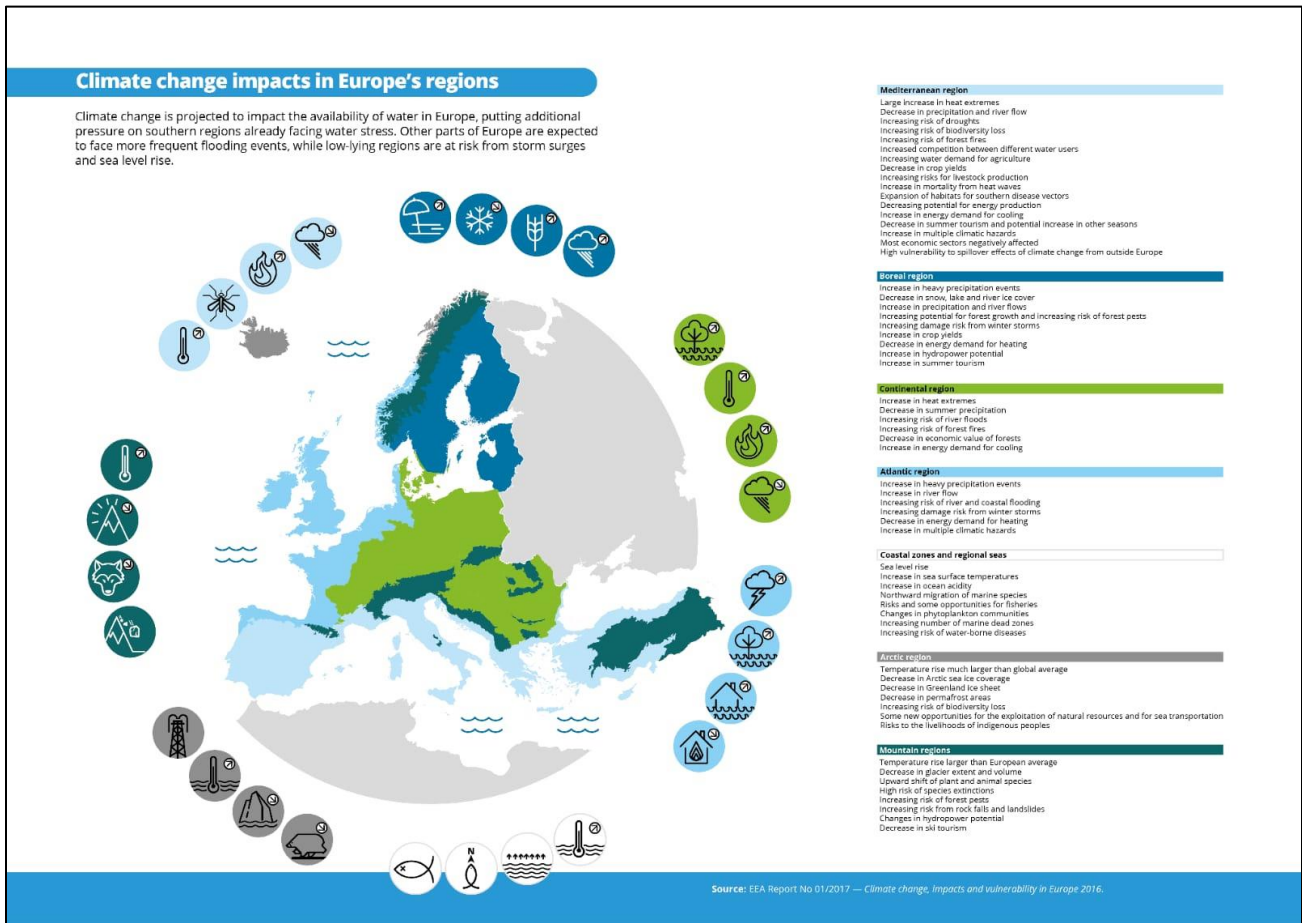
1. **Renewable Energy**
The EU promotes renewable energy projects, expediting permitting processes and engaging the public in site selection.
2. **Packaging Waste**
New regulations target reusable options, reduced packaging, and clear recycling labels to decrease waste by 15% per capita by 2040.
3. **Transportation**
Focus on electric charging infrastructure, hydrogen refuelling stations, and alternative fuel vehicles to reduce emissions.
4. **Energy Efficiency Laws**
Revisions aim to reduce collective energy consumption by at least 11.7% by 2030, emphasizing zero-emission requirements for new buildings.
5. **Battery Industry**
Comprehensive regulations cover battery life cycles, carbon footprint labels, due diligence for manufacturers, and recycling targets.
6. **Biodiversity Conservation**
The EU's 2030 Biodiversity Strategy sets targets for protecting and restoring biodiversity, with goals for nature restoration and reduced pesticide use.
7. **Alternative Fuels**
The EU explores various alternatives, including electricity, ammonia, and hydrogen, recognizing the need for diverse solutions.
8. **Energy Efficiency Laws (II)**
Currently revising laws to align with the European Green Deal, setting targets for energy consumption reduction and zero-emission requirements for new buildings.
9. **Climate Action Strategy**
The EU is a global leader in combating climate change, aiming for climate neutrality by 2050.

Want to learn more about all existing governmental bodies and regulations? Check out [the annexe](#) which includes way more detail.

STATISTICS

1. The average temperature in the EU has increased by 1.6°C over the past century, which is higher than the global average.
2. Climate-related events in the EU caused economic losses of €453 billion and insured losses of €170 billion between 1980 and 2019.
3. Climate change is expected to decrease crop yields in Southern Europe by up to 50% by 2050.
4. Climate change is impacting biodiversity in the EU, with a 42% decline in common birds and a 70% decline in grassland butterflies since the 1990s.
5. Increased cooling needs due to rising temperatures could lead to a 10% increase in electricity demand in the EU by 2100.
6. The EU's cereals, maize, and sunflower sectors could face annual production losses of up to €19 billion by 2050 due to climate change.
7. According to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, climate-related disasters caused an estimated \$2.97 trillion in economic losses worldwide from 2000 to 2019.
8. A study published in the journal Nature Climate Change estimated that global sea-level rise could put \$14 trillion of infrastructure at risk by 2100, including homes, roads, and industrial sites.
9. A report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicates that global crop yields are projected to decline by up to 25% by 2050 due to climate change, potentially leading to increased food prices.
10. Rising temperatures can reduce labour productivity in various industries. A study published in the journal Nature Climate Change estimated that by 2100, the global economy could lose up to 20% of its productivity due to heat stress in some regions.

GRAPHS ACCOMPANYING THE STATISTICS



SOME ARTICLES

- [Reducing carbon emissions: EU targets and measures](#)
- [The net-zero transitions: Its cost and benefits](#)
- [Circular economy: definition, importance, and benefits](#)
- [Europe's green transition impossible without China, says Dutch minister](#)
- [Energy & Climate Intelligence Unit | Net zero: economy and jobs](#)

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