

The European Green Deal and its Implementation

European Green Deal - *von der Leyen Commission*

WE4GREEN online European Conference, 17 January 2025

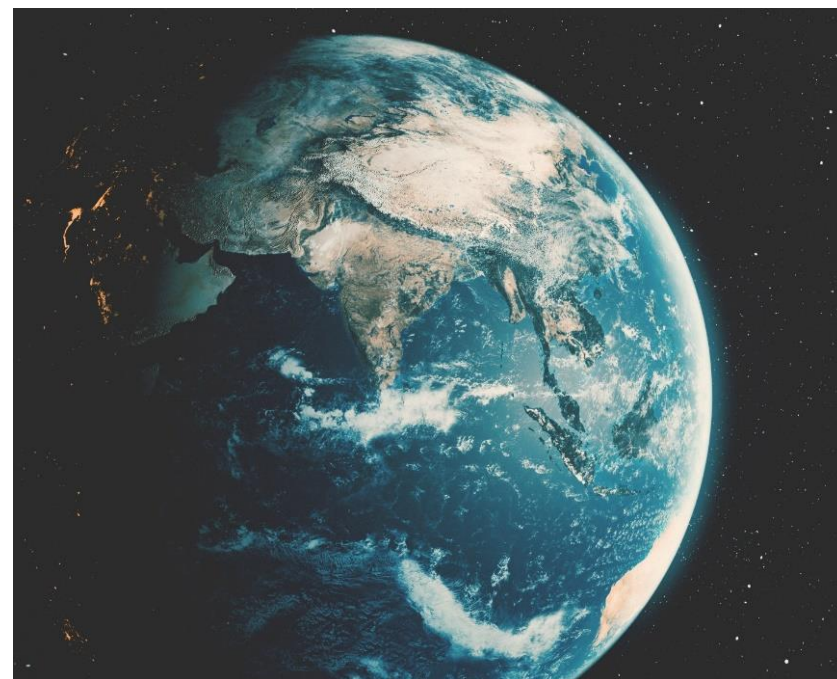
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European Union



The **global** Challenges

- The **world's population** is projected to grow by almost one third to 10 billion by 2050.
- **140 million people are joining the middle class every year**, putting further pressure on natural resources.
- By 2050, almost **70% of the world's population will be living in cities**.
- **Plastics make-up 85% of litter items on European beaches**. Half are single-use plastics used only for a short time, before being discarded.
- A **sixth mass extinction of biodiversity** is under way.
- Without urgent global and national climate action, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America could see **more than 140 million people move within their countries borders by 2050**.



3 major interrelated ecological crises

We are encountering three major interrelated ecological crises...



Climate change



Biodiversity loss

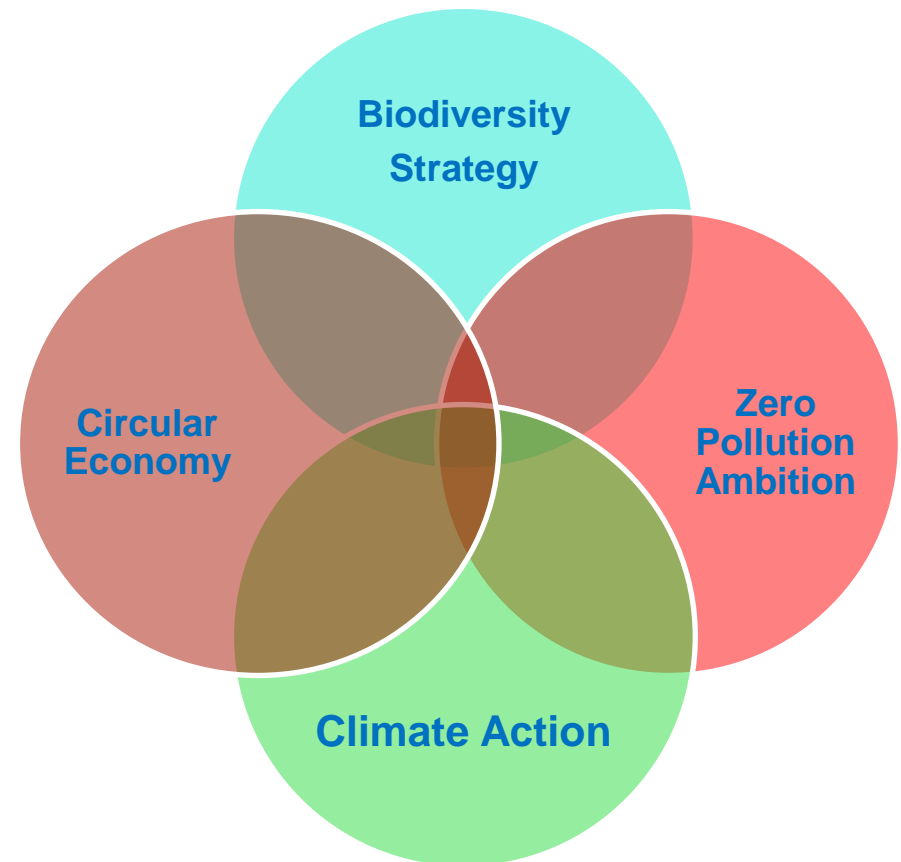


Pollution

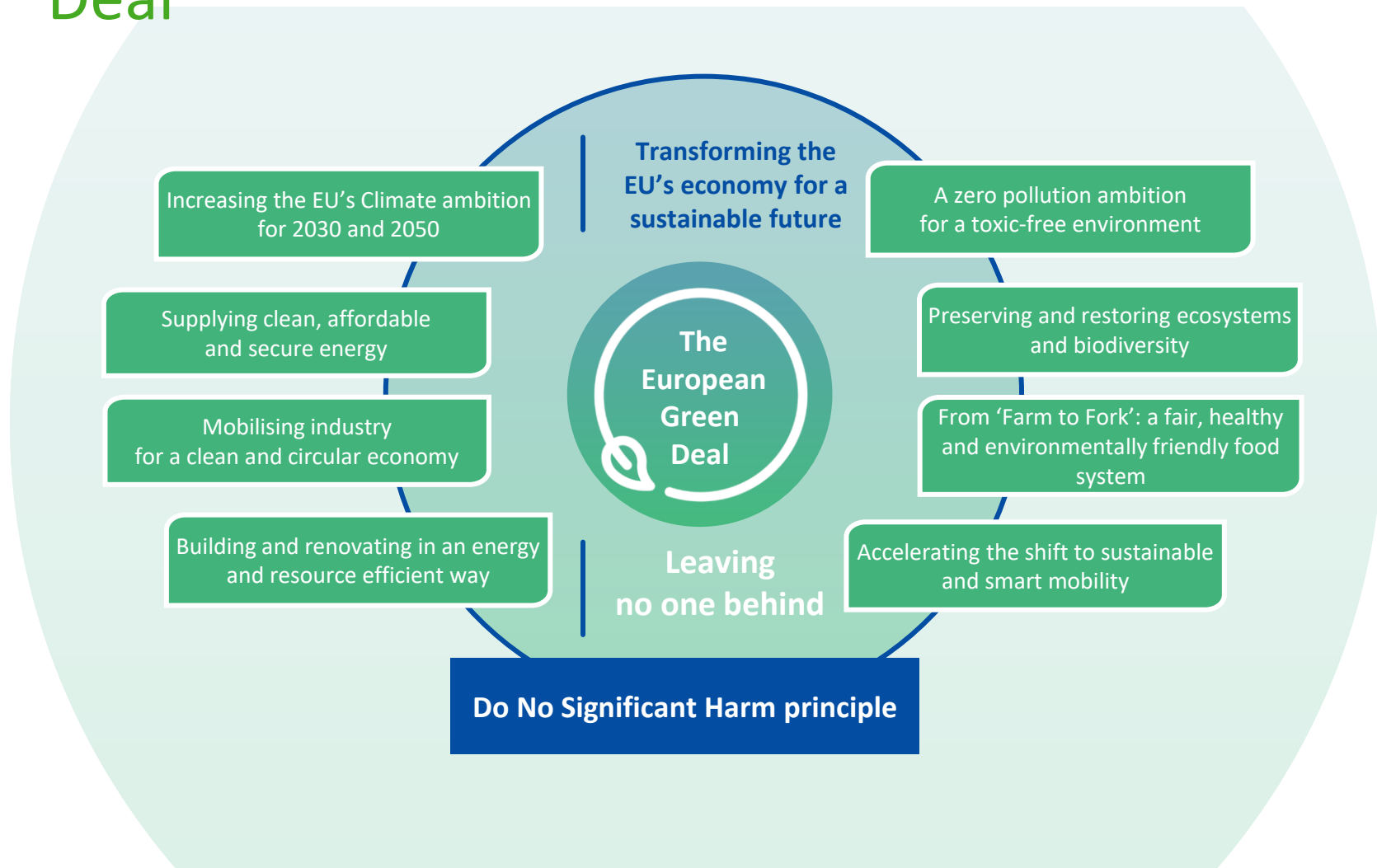


... and our **unsustainable use of resources** is a key driver for all of them.

... and the EU is responding with interrelated solutions!




The EU response: The European Green Deal



17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the European Commission Priorities

The Agenda
applies to all
countries of the
world, developing
countries,
emerging
economies and
industrialized
countries



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1. **Circular economy**
 2. Transition to sustainable agriculture
 3. Water resilience
 4. Nature restoration

A new industrial policy based on Circular Economy

The response



The new Circular Economy Action Plan adopted in March 2020 to help modernising the EU's economy.

- Efforts will focus on resource-intensive sectors such as:



textiles



construction



electronics



plastics

- The new Circular Economy Action Plan includes a **sustainable product policy** that prioritises reducing and reusing materials before recycling them.

A concrete example: Sustainable and Circular **Textiles** - Key Actions

■ Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation:

Performance requirements

Information requirements

Digital Product Passports



- Disclosure of the no. of **unsold textiles discarded** by large enterprises & measures **to ban the destruction of unsold textiles**

■ Tackling **microplastics pollution**

■ Addressing **waste challenges**

- Mandatory **EPR**
- Promoting the **waste hierarchy for textile waste**
- **Separate collection**
- **Restricting exports** of textile waste

■ **Empowering consumers** & ensuring accurate **green claims**

■ **Labelling** : Ecolabel & Textiles Labelling Regulation

Challenges

High-impact sector: environment & social

- GHG emissions & use of raw materials: 4th highest

Growing consumption & waste challenges

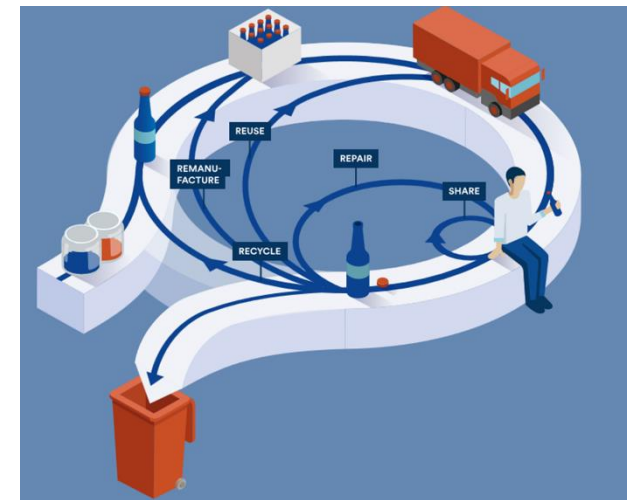
- ▲ consumption (63% expected by 2030)
- ▲ waste generation: lack of recycling, most textiles incinerated or landfilled


Opportunity

A textiles ecosystem fit for a sustainable future

Circular Economy – What's next?

- A new **Clean Industrial Deal** for competitive industries and quality jobs
- A new **Circular Economy Act** helping to create market demand for secondary materials and a single market for waste, notably in relation to critical raw materials.
- A new **chemicals industry package**, aiming to simplify REACH and provide clarity on “forever chemicals”, or PFAS



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1. Circular economy
 - 2. Transition to sustainable agriculture**
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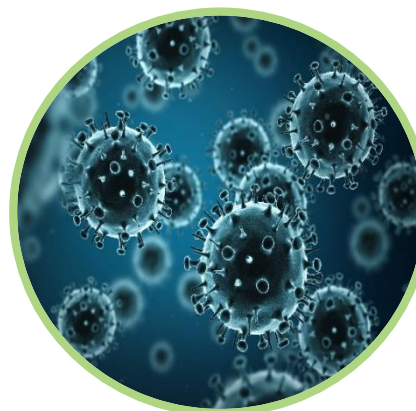
2030 targets for sustainable food production



Reduce by 50% the overall use and risk of chemical pesticides and reduce use by 50% of more hazardous **pesticides**



Reduce **nutrient losses** by at least 50 % while ensuring that no deterioration in soil fertility; this will reduce use of **fertilisers** by at least 20%



Reduce sales of **antimicrobials** for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 50%



Achieve at least 25% of the EU's agricultural land under **organic farming** and bring back at least 10% of agricultural area under **high-diversity** landscape features


Soil strategy for 2030

- **The EU soil strategy**, adopted in November 2021, aims to support soil protection, sustainable soil management and the restoration of degraded soils to achieve the Green Deal objectives as well as land degradation neutrality by 2030.
- Proposed **Directive on soil monitoring and resilience aims** to introduce the first comprehensive legislation on the protection of all soils in the EU. COM(2023)416 of 5.7.2023.



[Soil strategy - European Commission](#)

Vision for Agriculture and Food



Strategic Dialogue on the future of EU
agriculture

1. Circular economy
2. Transition to sustainable agriculture
3. **Water resilience**
4. Nature restoration




Water Resilience

- The recently published report by the Global Commission on the Economics of Water reiterated the alarm bell already raised by the World Meteorological Organisation's that **the hydrological cycles are "spinning out of balance," that the water cycle is broken.**
- In the European Union, too, there is an increasing understanding across the political spectrum, across sectors and across stakeholders that strengthening water security is an imperative that transcends environmental concerns; **it's a matter of competitiveness, food and energy security, human health and strategic autonomy** for Europe.

European Water Resilience Strategy

Objective - to preserve water quality and quantity, enhance the competitive innovative edge of our water industry, and address the root causes of water challenges, including pollution, scarcity, and the impacts of climate change.

- Complementary with:
 - ✓ A water-smart and resilient agriculture at the heart of the announced **Vision for Agriculture and Food**.
 - ✓ Fuelling the twin green and digital transition with sufficient clean water will secure the foundation for **the Clean Industrial Deal**.
 - ✓ By reducing the impacts of ever more frequent droughts and floods, the Strategy will act in synergy with the new **European Climate Adaptation Plan**.

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1. Circular economy
 2. Transition to sustainable agriculture
 3. Water resilience
 4. **Nature restoration**

Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity

The challenge

WHY DO WE NEED TO ACT?



EU nature is in alarming decline, with **more than 80% of habitats in bad or poor conservation status**. **Peatlands, grasslands and dunes are worst affected**. Wetlands have shrunk by 50% in Western, Central and Eastern Europe since 1970



Up to 70% of EU soils are in an unhealthy condition. Severely eroded croplands are estimated to contribute to a loss in agricultural productivity of **EUR 1.25 billion** per year in the EU



In the past decade, **71% of fish and 60% of amphibian populations have suffered a decline**



One in three bee and butterfly species in the EU are in decline, and one in ten such species on the verge of extinction

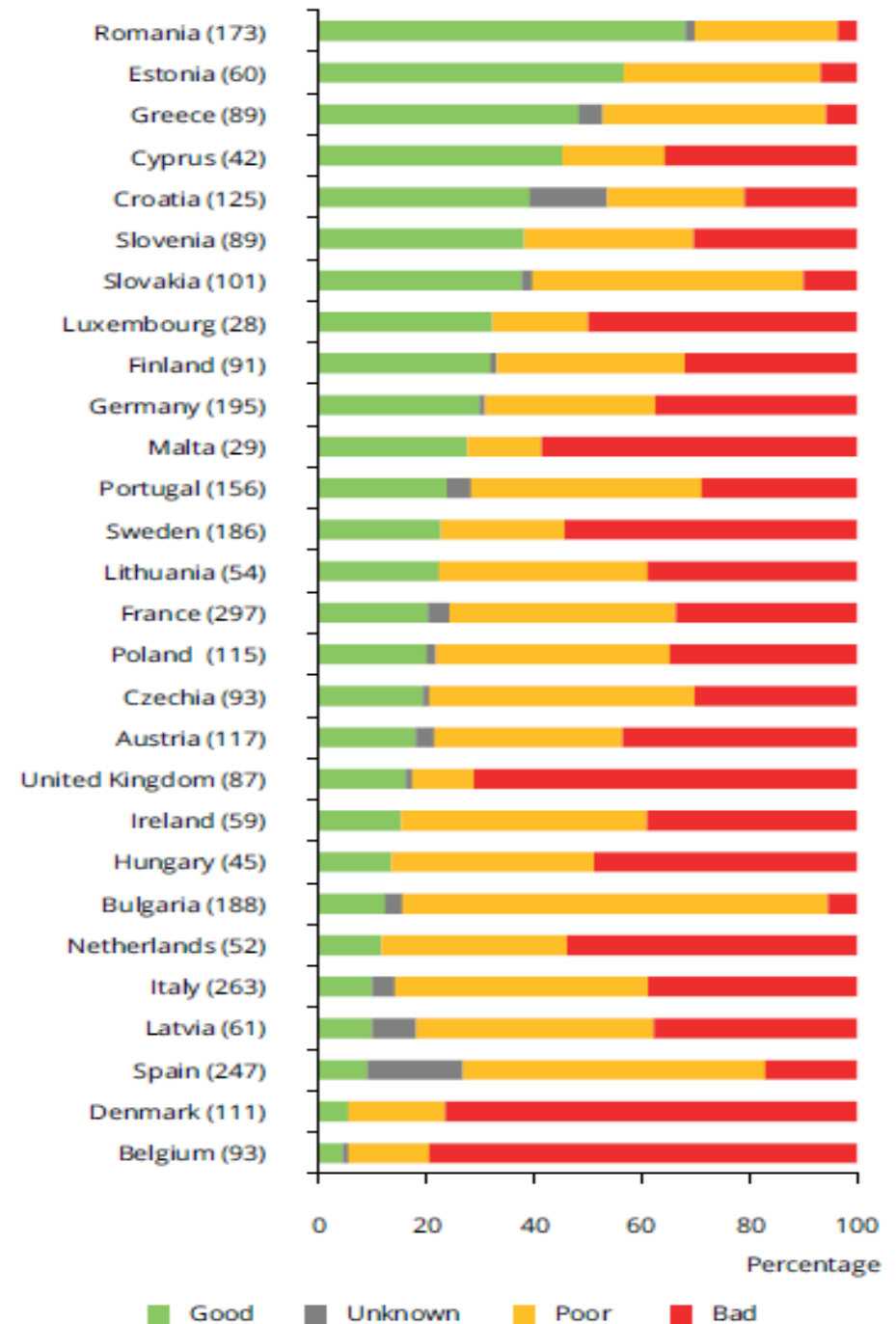
Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity

The challenge

Conservation status of natural habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive at Member State level

(State of Nature report, EEA)

At EU level, only 15% of habitats in the EU have good conservation status, with 81% having poor or bad conservation status.



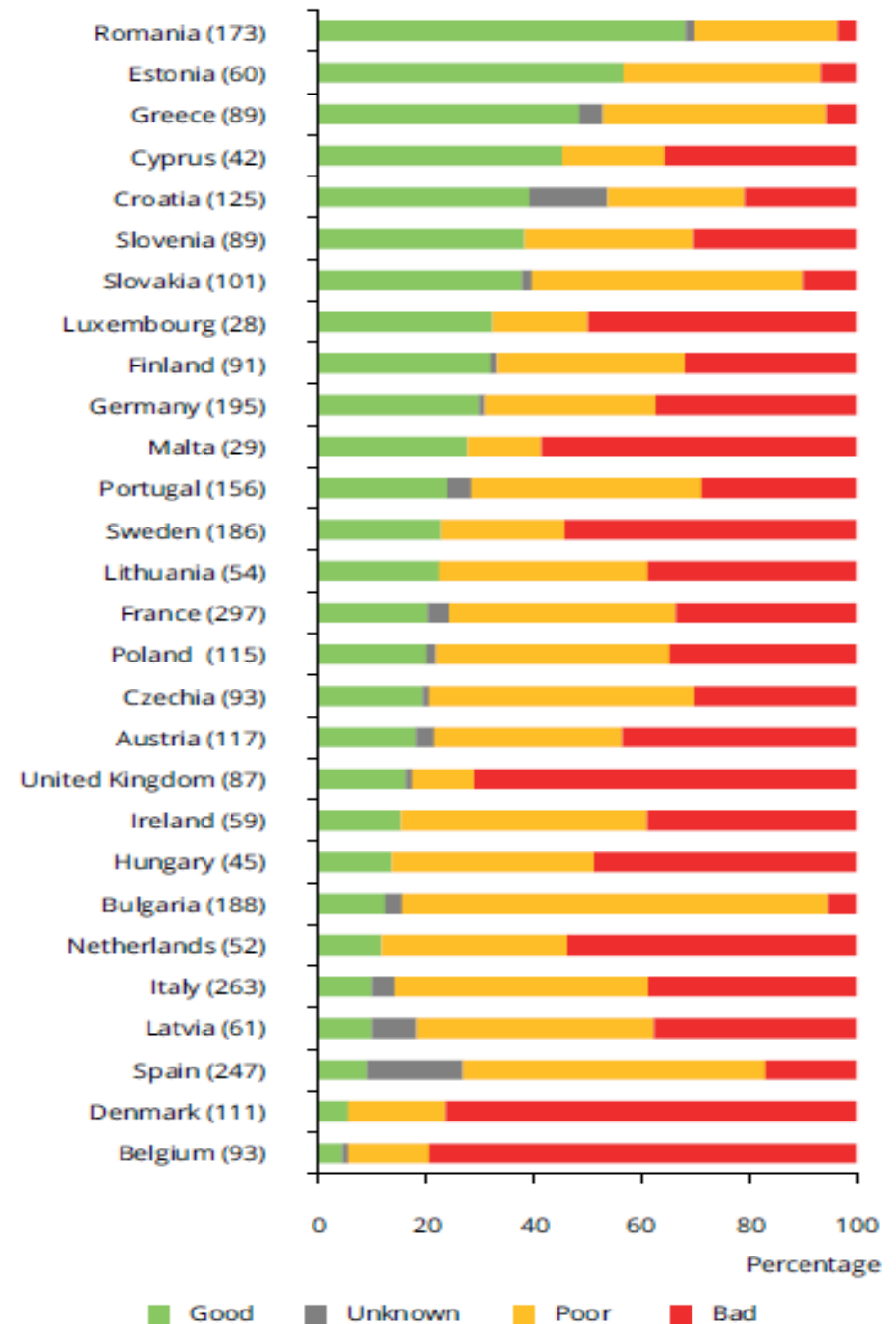
Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity

The challenge

Conservation status of species under the Habitats Directive at Member State level

(State of Nature report, EEA)

At EU level, only 27% of species have a good conservation status, with 63% having poor or bad conservation status.



2030

Ensure that by 2030, Europe's biodiversity will be on a path to recovery for the benefit of people, the planet, the climate and our economy



Protect Nature



Enable Transformative Change



Restore Nature



EU For An Ambitious Global Agenda



Nature Restoration Regulation

Overarching objectives

Restoration targets and obligations

Implementation framework

Financing

20% of EU land
and sea by 2030

All ecosystems in
need of restoration
by 2050

Recovery of
ecosystems

Climate action and
land degradation
neutrality

Enhancing food
security

EU international
commitments

Article 3(3): ‘restoration’ means the **process of actively or passively assisting the recovery** of an ecosystem in order to improve its structure and functions with the aim of conserving or enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem resilience [...]

[The EU #NatureRestoration Law \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-communications/2024/04/pdf12222401.pdf)



Specific restoration targets

**Protected
Habitat Types**



**Habitats of
protected
species**



**Marine
Habitats**



**Urban
ecosystems**



**River
connectivity**



Pollinators



**Agro-
ecosystems**



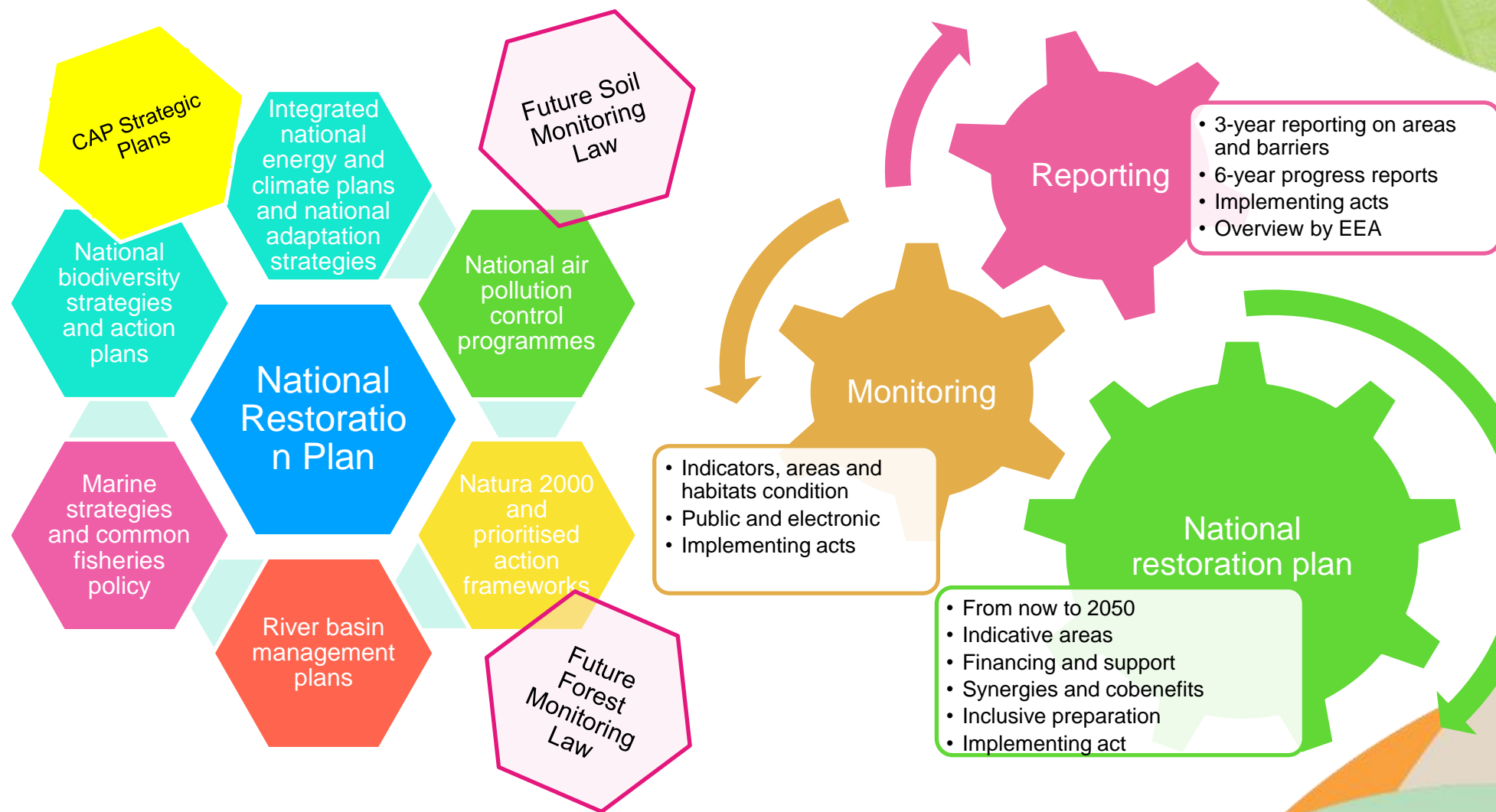
**Forest
ecosystems**



**3 billion
additional
trees by 2030**



An integrated implementation framework



Immediate implementation implications

Timeline for national restoration plans	
January 2025	Draft implementing act to establish a uniform format
August 2026	Draft national restoration plan, strategic overview beyond 2032
January 2027	Assessment by the Commission of the draft national restoration plans
August 2027	Final national restoration plan to be finalised by Member States
July 2032	Revised national restoration plans, strategic overview beyond 2042

The implementation of restoration measures must start now and not wait until the national restoration plans have been finalised !



How will restoration be financed?

Investments rather than costs

- **Benefits by far outweigh the costs**
- Every €1 spent on restoration → return on investment of at least €8
- Restoration financing needs: **€ 6-8 billion per year**

€112 billion for biodiversity in the current MFF

- More than **€20 billion** to be ‘unlocked’ for biodiversity **every year**, as from the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030
- MFF 2021-2027 has a biodiversity target:
 - **7.5%** of EU budget dedicated to biodiversity for 2024
 - **10%** for 2026 and 2027.

Towards a renewed support to restoration

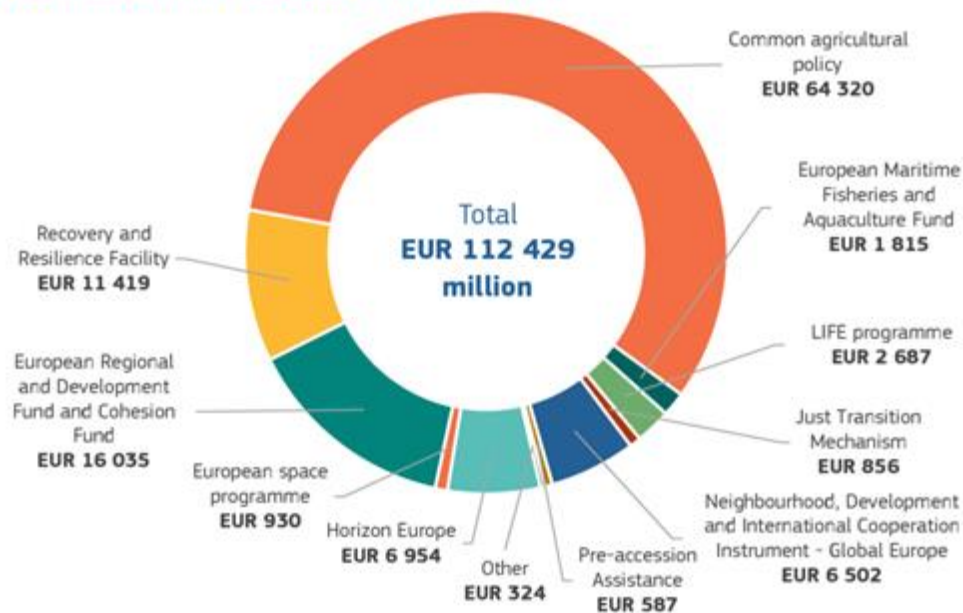
- Article 14(12): deployment of **private or public support schemes** to the benefit of stakeholders
- Article 21(7): by August 2025, **financial report** on resources, needs, gaps, proposals for adequate measures



Biodiversity Mainstreaming in the EU budget

- Expenditures for 2024 in line with the ambition set in the IIA
- However, the 10% target for 2026 and 2027 is at risk (forecast to achieve, respectively, **7.8% and 7.9%**)
- Common Agricultural Policy and Regional Policy are still the main drivers behind the biodiversity effort

Biodiversity contribution in the 2021-2027 period (million EUR)



Source: European Commission.



Thank you!



https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en