

# Green Deal Newsletter #1

April 2021



## What's new?

- Commission adopted on 21 April, the sustainable finance package, including a [Communication](#), the [Climate Delegated act](#), the [Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive](#), as well as [six amending delegated acts](#) on fiduciary duties, investment and insurance advice. This will help to enhance the reliability and comparability of sustainability information and improve the flow of money towards sustainable activities.
- The [Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency](#) was jointly launched on 22 February by the European Commission on behalf of the EU and by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in coordination with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).  
Bringing together governments and relevant networks and organisations, it aims to provide a global impetus for initiatives related to the circular economy transition, resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production, building on efforts being deployed internationally.

## Policy developments

- **ONGOING:** Open consultation on the [renewed sustainable finance strategy](#) (until 15 July).
- **TO COME:** upcoming policy developments include: 1- the Communication 'A Green Recovery for the Blue Economy - Transforming the EU's Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future' 18/05), 3- Renewed Sustainable Finance strategy, 4- The [Carbon Border Adjustment mechanism](#), 5- EU '[Zero pollution action plan for water, air and soil](#)' (Q2 2021).
- **PAST:** You may have missed!
  - The public consultation on the **New EU Forest Strategy** (closed on 19 April). Although it concerns mostly EU forests, there are some cross-cutting issues such as biodiversity, and several references to international EU commitments ([online questionnaire](#)).
  - The [new EU strategy on adaptation to climate change](#) adopted on 24 February. It sets out how the EU can adapt to climate change and become climate resilient by 2050, with 4 objectives: 1) to

make adaptation smarter, 2) faster and 3) more systemic, and 4) to step up international action on adaptation to climate change. The EU will provide targeted support to partner countries to help unlock financial resources.

- The EU Communication on '[Trade Policy Review - An Open, Sustainable and Assertive Trade Policy](#)' published in February with an increased attention to the sustainability dimension of trade agreements and announcement of a new sustainable investment initiative (Africa and the Southern Neighbourhood).

## INTPA Green Deal policy team

The Green Deal policy team met on 25 March and on 27 April to discuss policy developments and programming process. Interesting discussions took place on the impact of the Green Deal on partner countries. Minutes are available <C:\Users\godefae\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Policy Team\GREEN DEAL Policy Team 25 March minutes.docx> on the P Drive/ Green Deal.

## Reports and training opportunities



### New reports

- [Study on circular economy in Africa- EU cooperating](#), published by the Commission in February, describes ongoing trends, challenges and opportunities relating to the circular economy transition at the continental and country level.
- **First UNEP synthesis report:** "[Making Peace With Nature: A scientific blueprint to tackle the climate, biodiversity and pollution emergencies](#)", co-funded by the EU and based on evidence from global environmental assessments. Worth noting:
  - The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is threatened by environmental risks<sup>1</sup>: Environmental decline impedes progress on economic development and ending poverty, undermines health and accentuates inequalities.
  - It is critical to scale up and accelerate the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of **biodiversity**; improve **land management** and transform **economic and financial systems**, energy, **food and water systems** to become sustainable and inclusive and making **cities and communities more** sustainable.
- **New UNEP report** '[Catalysing science-based policy action on Sustainable Consumption and Production: The value-chain approach & its application to food, construction and textiles](#)'
  - Provides an overview of the value-chain approach and presents its benefits and challenges and provides recommendations.
- **Chatham House research paper** on '[Food system impacts on biodiversity loss – Three levers for food system transformation in support of nature](#)' ( February):
  - Shows how the global food system has been the primary driver of biodiversity loss over the past 50 years and proposes food system redesign: 1- Dietary patterns based more on plants, 2- land protected and set aside for nature; 3- more nature-friendly farming.

- These issues need to be addressed as interdependent including by upcoming UN Food Systems Summit.
- The [Final Report of the Independent Review on the Economics of Biodiversity](#), led by Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta (February).
  - Explores 'Nature as an asset', and how it can be valued, studies Biospheric Disruptions and the human impact, looks at how to make trade more sustainable, improve food, land and water uses, increase nature conservation and restoration.



### Trainings, webinars

- FAO [Miniseries on Sustainability](#) available on 1 - Agriculture and the SDGs; 2 - Social Protection and the fight to end rural poverty; 3 - Voices of the Zero Hunger Generation; 4: Agriculture & the global climate debate
- UN [Miniseries on Digitalizing Environmental Sustainability](#) (podcast): 18 leaders share their thoughts on how digital technologies can support environmental sustainability.
- INTPA 'Digitalisation for the Green Deal' training now available as an [e-learning course on INTPA Academy](#), with the following modules: 1: Introduction and overview; 2: Introduction to Digitalisation; 3: Digitalisation in Development and Cooperation; 4: The value of data; 5: The economy of Digitalisation; 6: Digital & cities, transport, infrastructure, agriculture; 7: Digitalisation and the Green Deal; 8: Conclusion and review.

## EVENTS

### Upcoming Events, conferences, meetings

- **20 April** : "[Why the UN Sustainable Development Goals matter more than ever](#)" organised by the European Policy Centre, with Commissioner Urpilainen.
- **20 April** : [Taking stock of global sustainability reporting](#), on standards for the measurement and disclosure of climate-related exposures
- **23 April**: [High-Level EU-Africa Green Investment Forum](#), organised by the Portuguese Presidency
- **20 May**: [UN High Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought](#), back to back with the UN Forum on Forests
- **31 May-4 June**: [EU Green Week](#)
- **5 June**: [UN Decade on Restoration](#) will be launched officially on Earth Day
- **15-16 June**: EDDs
- **6-15 July**: [High Level Political Forum](#) for SDG follow-up and review
- **19-21 July**: Food systems pre Summit (Italy)
- **3-4 September**: [IUCN World Conservation Congress](#)
- **13 September**: [UN Food System Summit](#)
- **11 - 24 October** : [UN Biodiversity Conference](#) (COP 15), Kunming, China
- **1-12 November**: Climate [COP26](#), Glasgow.

### Past events, conferences, meetings

- **EU- UNEP LAC dialogue**: was closed on 22 March and confirmed priorities for the cooperation on biodiversity, climate change and circular economy, pollution and waste.

- **'Water and beyond'** (January, INTPA), aimed to lay the groundwork for engaging in the water sector through our main priorities be it the Green Deal, jobs and Growth, human development, etc. [Key take-away points](#) are available on Capacity4Dev.
- **EU Green Deal webinar**, 16 March, organised by [Sweden](#) with the participation of Commissioner Urpilainen who confirmed her ambitions to implement the Green Deal.
- An EP **public hearing** was held on 4 February about the **Farm to Fork Strategy** for a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system (AGRI and ENVI Committees). Worth noting, a presentation by Pr. Johan Rockström (Earth System Science) on '[A Paradigm Shift for the Global Food System](#)'.
- 18 March 2021: High Level Meeting on water around [SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework](#), a document produced by UN Water, integrating the expertise of the entire UN system.
- UNECE [Regional Forum on sustainable development](#)- partnership for sustainable recovery, 16 March: to share policy solutions, best practices and challenges in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Addressing the Biodiversity Crisis: The Role of the Africa-EU Partnership**, 17th March 2021: Dr. C. Zacharopoulou, European Parliament Rapporteur for the new EU-Africa Strategy, in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society organised this virtual high-level [conference](#) on addressing the various challenges related to biodiversity conservation.
- [Building back greener: sustainable finance and the Green Deal](#) (February): on could additional regulation incentivise investment while upholding the integrity of sustainable finance.
- [Africa-EU Green Talks - Women's Leadership for Climate Action: Unlocking the Power of Cross-Continental Collaboration](#) on 14 April.
- [World Circular Economy forum](#), hosted by the Netherlands and SITRA to discuss the role of a circular economy in achieving climate neutrality (15-16 April).

## Where to find more info?

- You can also find a lot of GD documents here P:\Green Deal or [online](#). Find [here](#) the Infographics of Green Deal TA facilities
- Check out the newly established [Research Centre for Biodiversity](#) (JRC)

## Green (Deal) tip#1 - Make your (tele)work greener

- 😊 Instead of using e-mails which have a heavy carbon footprint, call your colleagues or chat via Skype for Business when you don't need a formal e-mail, as the Skype chat is not saved on servers and is therefore much lighter!
- 😊 Change to a more ecological search engine like Ecosia (for every search you make, you contribute to plan trees): you can easily set it as your 'search bar' by default under internet: 'Settings'/Advanced/Address bar search/Change search provider.