

Climate change 10

Can the European Green Deal effectively combat climate change?

1. Describe in German or a language of your choice the **objectives of the Green Deal** using the text sources M 7, M 8, and M 9.
2. BUND released a detailed **critical statement**. Summarize the central arguments in English.

The European Green Deal (EGD) is the new key project of the EU Commission. It is a comprehensive growth strategy for a climate-neutral and resource-efficient economy. The overarching goal of the EGD is EU-wide greenhouse gas neutrality by 2050, which would make Europe the first climate-neutral industrial region in the world. On December 11, 2019, the Commission presented an announcement outlining its vision for the Green Deal and a comprehensive work program to advance EU policies towards this goal. The European Green Deal shows how a sustainable transformation can succeed. Its measures are multifaceted. They range from climate, environmental and biodiversity protection to mobility and industrial policy, to specifications in energy, agricultural and consumer protection policy.

M 7 – [Martens & Ellmer 2020: 158](#)

The European Green Deal

At the end of 2019, President Ursula von der Leyen's new EU Commission presented the European Green Deal. Its goal is to make the EU climate neutral by 2050. By 2030, the EU is expected to reduce emissions by 50 to 55 percent.

The EU Commission assumes that this will require an annual investment of 260 billion euros from the private and public sectors. This corresponds to around 1.5 percent of European GDP.

In the revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021 - 2027 (MFF) and in the Next Generation EU (NGEU) reconstruction fund, it is envisaged that, in principle, 30 percent of the funds will be used for climate-related expenditure. However, concrete mechanisms for implementation are still pending.

Nevertheless, the European Green Deal by no means implies a departure from the conventional growth orientation and a stronger orientation of policy towards the limits of the global ecosystem (planetary boundaries).

On the contrary: "The Green Deal is Europe's new growth strategy," stated Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans in September 2020. A key element of the Green Deal is the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS), which was adopted back in 2005 to combat climate change. In the past, it was often criticized as ineffective, especially because of the excessively high CO₂ caps and the resulting surplus of CO₂ certificates issued, as well as the free emission allowances for energy-intensive industries. In the course of its revision for the coming phase (2021 - 2030), these weaknesses are to be eliminated.

The concrete design of the Green Deal will still be stretched out over the next few years. In early 2020, it was designed to become the lighthouse project of the new EU Commission. Then the COVID 19 pandemic broke out and shifted the EU's priorities.

M 9 – [European commission 2021](#)



M 10 – [BUND 2020](#)

BUND welcomes the impetus that the European Commission is giving with the Green Deal. In times of resource scarcity, land degradation and species extinction, it is no longer just a matter of reducing CO₂ emissions in the energy sector. It is about implementing a socio-ecological transformation by means of suitable framework conditions.

Some of the measures described in the EU's Green Deal go in the right direction. However, it is already clear in many areas that the Green Deal does not stand up to critical examination.

Subject area III

Threat constellations and solutions

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Task 1

- Target: EU to be climate-neutral by 2050. This will require investments of 260 billion €. Funds are to be reallocated for this purpose.
- Emissions trading is to be better regulated to avoid surpluses of allowances.
- The European Green Deal is also intended to be a growth program. The aim is a climate-neutral and resource-conserving economy.
- Measures should reach all sectors of the economy.

Task 2

While BUND welcomes the intention of the Green Deal, it is skeptical about its implementation.