



<b>What is it</b>	<b>Secretariat Information Memo (internal EEAC document)</b>
<b>About</b>	<b>Update on the European Green Deal</b>
<b>What is asked</b>	<b>For your information</b>

## Introduction

While the Covid-19 crisis still sweeps EU Member States, developments in ‘Brussels’ continue to evolve. In this secretariat information memo some mainline developments with regard to the European Green Deal and adjacent policy domains. In the context of the consequences of the pandemic on sustainable development and environmental agendas, I would like to highlight two opinions. The first is drafted by [EEAC Chairman Arnau Queralt](#), and the second is a piece by [Think Sustainable Europe](#).

## The Council of the European Union

On 23 April 2020 EU leaders discussed progress on the various dimensions of the European response to the COVID-19 outbreak. It was the fourth video meeting of this kind. EU leaders welcomed the [Joint Roadmap for Recovery](#), which defines four key areas for action: single market, massive investment efforts, EU global action and better governance. It also sets out important principles, such as solidarity, cohesion and convergence. Agreements upon the economic recovery fund were not yet reached. The European Commission has been mandated to prepare [a Recovery Plan](#). A new proposal for [the Multi-Annual Budget](#) is expected by May 6th. More information on the European Council Meeting of April 23<sup>rd</sup> can be found [here](#)

In prelude to the European Council Meeting, seventeen climate and environment ministers from EU Member States argued in [an open letter](#) that we must not lose sight of the persisting climate and ecological crisis when working out how to spur the economy after the Covid-19 pandemic. Initially, thirteen ministers signed up, but rapidly more followed, including the big Member States such as Germany that will have the next EU Presidency.

## The European Parliament

The European Green Deal and its initiatives have been center staged in the Parliament’s work in April. In the run up to the plenary sessions of Parliament, [an overview](#) of the investment plans foreseen in the Green Deal and the impact of Covid-19 on those plans was presented to Parliament. During the Plenary (16 -17 April 2020) Commission President Ursula von der Leyen underlined the importance of the European Green Deal in [her speech](#). Moreover, [a resolution](#) was adopted by Parliament, in which the importance of the Green Deal for the EU’s recovery after Covid19 was also underlined.

In the Parliament’s Environment and Health Committee, EVP Frans [Timmermans underlined the importance of the European Green Deal](#) once again. In light of the changed EU Commission Working Plan 2020 (see European Commission in the next section) Timmermans pledged that the postponed farm2fork- and biodiversity strategy will only be delayed by weeks, not months. [Read More](#).



An informal alliance has been launched in the European Parliament on the back of calls from seventeen EU environment ministers (see above). The “[green recovery alliance](#)” was launched at the initiative of Pascal Canfin, who chairs the European Parliament’s committee on environment and public health. In addition to the 79 MEPs from across the political spectrum, the alliance also brings together civil society groups, including 37 CEOs, 28 business associations, the European trade union confederation, 7 NGOs and 6 think tanks.

### **The European Commission**

Following the Covid19 crisis, the Commission is in the process of fine-tuning its updated work programme 2020. Although climate policies remain broadly on track, other initiatives under the European Green Deal are being delayed because they are considered “less essential”. These ‘less essential’ initiatives will be most likely postponed until later in 2020 or 2021. The Farm to Fork Strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy are likely to shift to autumn, according to [Euractiv](#) sources. However, this is not in line with what EVP Timmermans underlined in the European Parliament’s Environment and Public Health Committee. To be continued.

### **The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)**

The EESC is preparing an exploratory opinion on the European Climate Pact which aims to make recommendations about how to encourage information sharing and public understanding of climate action, create real and virtual spaces for exchange on climate, and build capacity to facilitate grassroots initiatives. Due to Covid19, it is not yet known when the EESC Plenary will vote on the opinion.

### **Other interesting publications**

Over the past weeks, analyses and proposals have once again appeared on the Green Deal. See among others: [EBRD](#), [Peter Bakker \(WBCSD\)](#), [FIPRA](#), [CERRE](#), [Triodos](#), [EIT Raw Materials](#), [Andrew Howard](#), [Friends of Europe](#), [Think Sustainable Europe](#), [Clémence Hutin](#), [Jennifer Morgan](#), [Allianz](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Reuters](#), [Euractiv](#), [Fazlun Khalid](#), [Simon Mair](#), [PV Magazine](#), [EP Briefing](#), [GRI](#), [WWF](#), [EEB](#), [Climate-KIC](#), [Christian Felber](#), [Frans Timmermans and Bertrand Piccard](#), as well as [New Statesman](#). This overview is kindly provided by the colleagues of the FRDO-CFDD.

**The latest:** Following the postponed Farm to Fork Strategy, a cross party coalition of European Parliamentarians sent a letter to EVP Timmermans today in which they underline that The Farm to Fork strategy should be part of a Green recovery plan for Europe. [Read More](#)

