



# ENRD Thematic Group: The European Green Deal and Rural Areas

## Scoping Paper



1. Purpose of the paper .....	1
2. Introduction to the EGD .....	2
3. Relevance of the EGD to rural areas .....	2
4. Role of the CAP for delivering EGD objectives in rural areas .....	4
5. ENRD Thematic Group's focus .....	5
Annex: Synergy between EGD actions and targets and CAP specific objectives .....	7

### 1. PURPOSE OF THE PAPER

This paper provides a short introduction to the European Green Deal (EGD) and its relevance for rural areas and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). It in particular considers the ways in which rural areas and agriculture, agri-food systems and other land uses (e.g. forestry) might contribute to the aims, objectives and targets of the EGD and its related strategies. This document is intended as a starting point for discussions in the Thematic Group on the specific focus and sub-topics of its activities in the 2020/21 period.

The ENRD Thematic Group on 'European Green Deal and Rural Areas' will explore the EGD elements (e.g. Farm to Fork, the Biodiversity Strategy) that are specifically linked to the delivery of the three climate and environment-specific objectives of the CAP post-2020 (SO4 - Climate change action, SO5 - Environmental care, and SO6 - Preserving landscapes and biodiversity).

## 2. INTRODUCTION TO THE EGD

The Communication on the 'European Green Deal' was published by the European Commission on 11 December 2019<sup>(1)</sup>. It sets out the key political objectives of the European Commission for the next five years with at its core a new growth strategy for the EU centred around sustainability. This includes a flagship ambition for Europe to become 'the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050', as well as establishing a roadmap for actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, whose growth will be decoupled from resource use and to restore biodiversity and cut pollution. It also aims to ensure to leave no one or no place behind by providing a

Just Transition Mechanism providing financial support and technical assistance in this transition.

The unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic, which hit the EU only a few months after the publication of the EGD, has focused minds on the resilience of the EU's economic, social and health systems. The crisis and local and national strategies for recovery give additional impetus to the principles of sustainability and just transition that are at the heart of the EGD. Rural areas play an important role in rethinking food and biomass supply chains that are robust and resilient to shocks.

## 3. RELEVANCE OF THE EGD TO RURAL AREAS

The European Green Deal outlines a range of policy initiatives/actions for achieving its objectives, many of which are relevant to rural areas, both in terms of the sustainable use and management of rural land and resources and the economic resilience and social viability of rural communities.

The agriculture and agri-food sector is of particular interest because the scale of its current impact on rural ecosystem degradation<sup>(2)</sup>, natural resources (soil, water and air)<sup>(3)</sup> and its contribution to climate change<sup>(4)</sup> is of continued concern. The sector currently emits 10% of the EU's GHG.<sup>(5)</sup> Additionally, the European Environmental Agency (EEA) highlights a 37% leakage of the nitrogen input per hectare of agricultural land combined with widespread use of pesticides, both responsible for major biodiversity decline in rural areas.<sup>(6)</sup> Rural communities and their economic activities, such as farming, then have enormous potential to contribute to EGD objectives by reversing these trends. The EGD and its associated strategies and action plans therefore provide an opportunity to rethink the role rural communities, land management and related economic activities can play as part of the transition to a green and sustainable Europe.

Of the EGD strategies already adopted, the most relevant to the management of rural land and agri-food systems are the Farm to Fork Strategy<sup>(7)</sup>, which elaborates a systems approach to the agriculture and food sector's sustainability

and the Biodiversity Strategy to 2030<sup>(8)</sup>, which establishes a vision for the protection and restoration of ecosystems in rural areas.

Other EGD actions that are relevant to rural areas are the new [EU climate law](#) and proposals to increase the EU's targets for GHG emission reductions from the current 40% to 50/55% by 2030 (compared to 1990 levels); the [circular economy action plan](#), aiming to make sustainable products the norm in the EU; and the new EU Forest Strategy. The EGD also covers a number of actions that can provide opportunities for an improved quality of life and economic activities in rural areas. They include cleaner, more affordable and better connected rural energy grids via the future [EU strategy on energy system integration](#) and a review of the [Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Directives](#). In the transport sector, a proposed new strategy for sustainable and smart mobility could help further in enhancing connectivity and sustainability for rural populations, whilst offering alternative income sources for farmers via the production of biofuels. Infrastructure renovation such as roads, social housing etc. in rural areas is also within the scope of the European Green Deal with a proposal for a [Just Transition Fund](#) and the [InvestEU Programme](#). In addition to the EGD elements, the [EU Bioeconomy Strategy](#) from 2018, with its objective of decarbonising the economy, promotes new green opportunities and improved resource efficiency in rural areas, as has been highlighted by the previous [ENRD Thematic Group](#) on the topic.

(1) COM (2019) 640 [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf)

(2) EEA (2020) *European environment – State and outlook, 2020* <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/soer-2020>

(3) EEA (2019) *NEC Directive reporting status 2019* <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/air/air-pollution-sources-1/national-emission-ceilings/nec-directive-reporting-status-2019>

(4) EEA (2019) Annual European Union greenhouse gas inventory 1990-2017 and Inventory report 2019

(5) EEA (2019) *ibid*

(6) EEA (2020) *ibid*

(7) COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system, COM/2020/381 final

(8) COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives, COM/2020/380 final

### Box 1: Outline of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies

The **Farm to Fork Strategy** sets out the EU's long term direction of travel for the agri-food sector and is the key means of putting into practice the Green Deal's aspiration to move towards more sustainable food systems. It covers all elements of the food supply chain from production to consumption and sets out the objectives and actions necessary to secure a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system via both regulatory and non-regulatory initiatives (see figure - Source: [https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork_en)).

There are a number of ambitious, but non legally-binding targets set out in the document, all by 2030. Amongst these are:

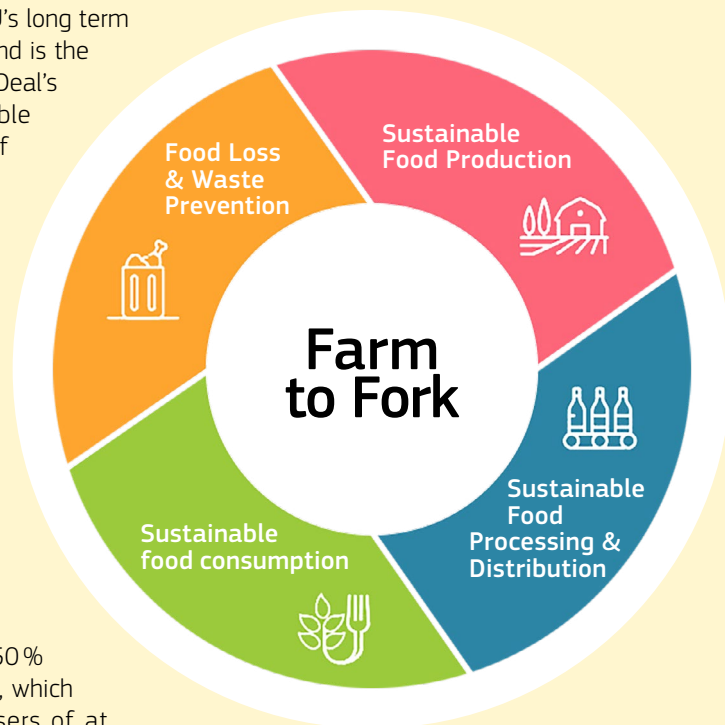
- a 50 % reduction in the overall use and risk of chemical pesticides and a 50 % reduction in the use of more hazardous pesticides;
- a reduction in nutrient losses of at least 50 % while ensuring no decrease in soil fertility, which means a reduction in the use of fertilisers of at least 20%;
- a 50 % reduction in EU sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals (and aquaculture);
- an increase in the area under organic farming to at least 25 % of the EU agricultural land area (DG AGRI is due to launch a public consultation on an EU Organic Action Plan for the next 5 years, with the aim to have it finalised by November 2020).

The Strategy also commits to bringing forward legally binding targets to reduce food waste, given its commitment under SDG Target 12.3 to halve per capita food waste at retail and consumer levels by 2030.

The **EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030** sets out an ambitious set of objectives for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (to be adopted at the Convention on Biological Diversity COP15 in 2021) as well as a series of actions for the EU to take to demonstrate that it is leading by example. In relation to agro-ecosystems, it presents the same targets for reductions in pesticide use and increase in organic area as those in the Farm to Fork Strategy. In addition to these, it also identifies targets to:

- bring back at least 10 % of agricultural area under high-diversity landscape features (including buffer strips, rotational or non-rotational fallow land, hedges, non-productive trees; terrace walls and ponds);
- increase the uptake of agro-forestry measures under the CAP;
- reverse the decline of genetic diversity;
- step up efforts to protect soil fertility, reduce soil erosion and increase soil organic matter.

The Biodiversity Strategy also commits to increasing the quantity, quality and resilience of EU forests, with a roadmap for planting at least 3 billion additional trees by 2030 to be set out in a Forest Strategy scheduled for publication in 2021.



## 4. ROLE OF THE CAP FOR DELIVERING EGD OBJECTIVES IN RURAL AREAS

The CAP will play an important role in helping deliver the EGD's objectives in rural areas and is an essential policy lever to steer the transformation of the EU's rural areas towards a more sustainable pathway. The Farm to Fork Strategy commits to mainstreaming the relevant Green Deal targets within the CAP and will require Member States to set explicit values for these targets and identify appropriate interventions within their CAP Strategic Plans (CSPs).

In principle, the proposals for the next CAP have the potential to deliver better targeted, more coherent, creative and innovative approaches to enhance the sustainability of rural areas. However, in practice, achieving this will depend on the

decisions taken by Member States and the way that they embed green growth and sustainability into their CSPs.


In a Staff Working Document<sup>(9)</sup> on the link between the CAP reform and the Green Deal, accompanying the publication of the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Commission confirmed that it thought the CAP proposals currently under negotiation would enable the CAP to meet the aspirations of the Green Deal.

Annex 1 of the present scoping paper sets out the main EGD strategies with potential application to rural areas and identifies their relevance for each of the nine proposed CAP specific objectives. This shows that **many of the EGD actions have synergy with multiple CAP objectives.**


### Box 2: Examples of EAFRD-funded initiatives delivering on EGD targets

The [Medved farm](#) in Slovenia has gradually switched from conventional agriculture to agri-environmentally friendly practices increasing soil organic matter on the farm. Supported by the agri-environment-climate measure in the Slovenian RDP, the farm sows green manure crop, no longer carries out tillage and applies liquid organic fertilisers directly into the soil before sowing, leading to its immediate incorporation into the soil. The owners expect that by improving the condition of the soil, its productivity will increase year on year.


*Related EGD targets: Reduce nutrient losses by at least 50%, while ensuring that there is no deterioration in soil fertility – F2F; Step up efforts to protect soil fertility, reduce soil erosion and increase soil organic matter – Biodiversity Strategy 2030.*

 A Lithuanian EIP-Agri Operational Group (OG) developed an [Integrated Pest Identification and Control System](#) allowing the detection of pests in fields, gardens and kitchen gardens to determine the optimal time for protective measures. It uses drones and spectral cameras to identify the degree of damage to the plants (diseases, pests) and to plan spraying areas of potential risk when it is necessary. In this way, the farmer will not need to apply preventive spraying and also save in labor and fuel costs.

*Related to EGD targets: Reduce by 50% the overall use and risk of synthetic chemical pesticides & the use of more hazardous pesticides by 50% by 2030 – F2F and Biodiversity Strategy 2030.*

 A Hungarian forester used RDP forest investment (measure 08) support to introduce a [new type of forest management](#) and to acquire forest-friendly machinery. The new method leaves gaps where direct sunshine can reach the forest floor. This new type of management favours a diverse, habitat-rich forest structure and natural reforestation. Expenditure on planting young forests has decreased by 90% compared to traditional forestry. The use of task-specific machinery has reduced the environmental impact.

*Related to EGD targets: Increasing the quantity of forests and improving their health and resilience – Biodiversity Strategy 2030; Effective afforestation, forest preservation and restoration in the EU - New EU Forest Strategy.*

 A [Czech eco-farm](#) is restoring soil fertility, soil organic matter and biodiversity in an organic farming system. The applied practices, supported by the RDP's agri-environment-climate measure, consist of a) establishing grass buffer zones on the land most at risk of water erosion; b) setting up a network of feed bio-belts to support farmland birds and wildlife; c) implementing measures on arable land with the aim to protect northern lapwing and wetland ecosystem habitats bordering the fields; d) planting grassy areas with typical regional varieties of fruit trees. The farm also operates as a demonstration farm for training and exchange of knowledge and good practices.

*Related to EGD targets: at least 25% of the EU's agricultural land under organic farming by 2030 – F2F; Support and incentivise the transition to fully sustainable agricultural practices – Biodiversity Strategy 2030.*

(9) [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/sustainability\\_and\\_natural\\_resources/documents/analysis-of-links-between-cap-and-green-deal\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/sustainability_and_natural_resources/documents/analysis-of-links-between-cap-and-green-deal_en.pdf)

A number of Member States already use CAP interventions – especially those funded by the EAFRD – to deliver the types of actions that will be required to achieve the EGD’s objectives in rural areas. Examples of what Member States are already doing are included in Box 2. However, the ambition, scale and intensity of delivery will have to increase across the board to achieve the ambitious targets identified in the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies.

Appropriate design, tailoring and targeting of the interventions chosen will be essential to ensure the Member States’ CSPs effectively deliver on these targets as well as the multiple CAP objectives of sustainability, competitiveness and rural development. The future CSPs will provide Member States with considerable flexibility to choose a range of CAP interventions to help achieve the actions and targets identified and deliver environmental/climate, social and economic outcomes.

## 5. ENRD THEMATIC GROUP’S FOCUS

The objective of the ENRD Thematic Group on the European Green Deal and Rural Areas is to support the CAP Strategic Plan preparations, in particular the programming of CAP funded interventions that effectively contribute to EGD objectives and the three climate and environment specific objectives of the CAP post-2020 (SO4: Climate change action, SO5: Environmental care and SO6: Preserving landscapes and biodiversity).

Annex 1 aims to map out the synergy of selected EGD elements and their target areas with each of the post-2020 CAP Specific Objectives. It reveals that a number of EGD targets have strong synergy with the CAP’s three environmental and climate specific objectives. In many cases, the EGD targets also have synergy with other CAP objectives, reflecting their relevance for broader rural development.

The TG could select its subtopics in a way that supports the CSP process of all Member States, providing useful and practicable examples and insights especially on EGD areas in which the MS are obliged to set explicit values and targets within the CSP. At the same time the TG can have added value by identifying CAP-related approaches’ and initiatives’ broader impact on the viability and resilience of rural communities and economies.

The EGD elements involving quantified targets to be delivered through the CAP are the following (put forward by both the Farm to Fork Strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy):

- Reduce by 50 % the overall use and risk of synthetic chemical pesticides & the use of more hazardous pesticides by 50 % by 2030
- Reduce nutrient losses by at least 50 %, while reducing the use of fertilisers by at least 20 % by 2030
- At least 25 % of the EU’s agricultural land under organic farming by 2030.

Many further EGD targets – such as supporting the transition to fully sustainable agricultural practices or stepping up efforts for soil health – are intrinsically linked to the above three. The TG could then provide a valuable support to the CSP process by focusing its further work on some of the following topics:

### **a) Approaches to reduce the use of synthetic and/or hazardous pesticides while supporting sustainable and resilient rural economies**

The discussion in the meeting could build on diverse stakeholders’ (farmers, MAs, researchers, businesses, advisers, NGOs etc) experiences of EAFRD-supported as well as other public or private initiatives that contribute to reduced pesticide use. Whereas these experiences can relate to different methods ranging from precision farming to bio-pesticides to Integrated Pest Management, the focus of the TG discussion could be on the effective delivery and support measures (such as agri-environment-climate measures, investment support, networking, supply chain cooperation, information and knowledge exchange, advice etc) and what is needed to make pesticide-reducing methods accessible for farmers. MAs will be engaged in the discussion to consider the role and opportunities of the CAP to upscale good practices. The TG discussion could be resumed in a fact sheet presenting the linkages with CAP interventions.

### **b) Approaches to reduce nutrient losses and the use of fertilisers while supporting sustainable and resilient rural economies**

The discussion in the meeting could build on diverse stakeholders’ experiences of EAFRD-supported as well as other public or private, local, regional or national initiatives that contribute to reduced nutrient losses from agriculture. These experiences can range from nutrient-retaining landscape management practices such as agroforestry to the circular use of agricultural wastes for soil improvement to precision farming, etc. The focus of the TG discussion will however be on the effective delivery and enablers of such practices (such as investments, local development strategies, agri-environment-climate measures, knowledge exchange, or networking and cooperation). MAs will be engaged in the discussion to consider the role and opportunities of the CAP to upscale good practices. The TG discussion could be resumed in a fact sheet presenting the linkages with CAP interventions.



### **c) Approaches to promote organic farming as part of sustainable and resilient rural economies**

The discussion in the meeting could build on diverse stakeholders' experiences of EAFRD-supported as well as other public or private initiatives that contribute to upscaling organic farming. The discussion can cover different enablers ranging from farm-level support measures to local or collective initiatives to build organic food supply chains (such as agri-environment-climate interventions, local development strategies, support to supply chain cooperation, appropriate risk management tools, knowledge exchange and information, etc). MAs will be engaged in the discussion to consider the role and opportunities of the CAP to upscale good practices. The TG discussion could be resumed in a fact sheet presenting the linkages with CAP interventions.

### **d) Effective support to the transition to sustainable agricultural and forestry practices that preserve biodiversity and benefit rural economies**

The discussion in the meeting could build on diverse stakeholders' experiences of EAFRD-supported as well as other public or private initiatives that contribute to economically, socially and environmentally sustainable rural land management practices with specific value for biodiversity. The discussion can refer to different types of land-based economic activity with positive biodiversity impact such as high-nature-value farming, agroforestry, high-diversity landscape features, low-input and organic farming methods and conservation agriculture, sustainable forestry, sustainable rural tourism, innovative ecosystem services, etc. The focus will be on the effective delivery and enablers of such practices (such as investments, local development strategies and cooperation, agri-environment-climate measures, networking, information and knowledge exchange, etc). MAs will be engaged in the discussion to consider the role and opportunities of the CAP to upscale good practices. The TG discussion could be resumed in a fact sheet presenting the linkages with CAP interventions.

### **e) Promoting rural areas' contribution to the Clean Energy Package**

The discussion in the meeting could build on diverse stakeholders' experiences of EAFRD-supported as well as other public or private initiatives addressing the clean energy shift in rural activities and areas, both in terms of energy production and consumption. Such aspects can relate to increased energy efficiency in agriculture, community-led renewable energy projects, bioenergy production as an agricultural byproduct, combining renewable energy production with climate smart agriculture, etc. The focus will be on effective delivery and upscaling of such practices in rural areas (such as investments, local development strategies, networking, cooperation, information and knowledge exchange, etc). MAs will be engaged in the discussion to consider the role and opportunities of the CAP to upscale good practices. The TG discussion could be resumed in a fact sheet presenting the linkages with CAP interventions.

The uptake of more sustainable practices called for by the EGD will, to a great extent, depend on the interest that rural actors, such as primary producers, see in adopting them. Hence the TG should try to highlight how the discussed approaches deliver not only on the EGD targets, but also on broader social and economic interests of rural areas / on other CAP strategic objectives, such as increased competitiveness or vibrant rural areas.

The Thematic Group should also ensure that its work builds on (and does not repeat) the thematic efforts of previous years ([Transition to Green Economy](#), [Resource efficiency](#), [Water and soil management](#), and [Bioeconomy and Climate Action in Rural Areas](#)).



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## ANNEX: SYNERGY BETWEEN EGD ACTIONS AND TARGETS AND CAP SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

### Legend

- Some synergy
- Medium synergy
- Significant synergy

based on the authors' assessment<sup>(10)</sup>

Strategies and main headings	Headline targets / objectives	CAP objectives								
		Ensure a fair income to farmers	Increase competitiveness	Rebalance the power in the food chain	Climate change action	Environmental care	Preserve landscapes and biodiversity	Support generational renewal	Vibrant rural areas	Protect food and health quality
<b>Farm to Fork</b>										
<b>Ensuring sustainable food production</b>	Reduce by 50 % the overall use and risk of synthetic chemical pesticides & the use of more hazardous pesticides by 50 % by 2030		●		●●●	●●●	●●●			●●●
	Reduce nutrient losses by at least 50 %, while ensuring that there is no deterioration in soil fertility. This will reduce the use of fertilisers by at least 20 % by 2030.		●		●●●	●●●	●●●			●●
	Reduce by 50 % sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 2030									●●●
	at least 25 % of the EU's agricultural land under organic farming by 2030	●	●		●●●	●●●	●●●	●	●●●	●●●
	Promote sustainable agricultural practices including through improved sustainability accounting				●●●	●●●	●●●			●●
	Promote diversity in seed varieties		●		●●		●●●			●
	Improved animal welfare				●		●			●●●
	Addressing emerging plant health issues	●	●		●●●		●●●			●●●

(10) This table is an indicative overview of possible synergies between European Green Deal targets and actions and the specific objectives included in the Commission's proposal for the CAP 2021-2027. It was drawn up by ENRD Contact Point and does not reflect an official position of the European Commission.

<b>Ensuring food security</b>	Increase the sustainability of food producers to increase their resilience	••	••		••	••	••	••	••	
<b>Stimulate sustainable food processing, wholesale, retail, hospitality and food services practices</b>	Improve the marketing of sustainable food and drink products		••	•	••	••	••		••	••
	Promote sustainable and socially responsible production methods and circular business models in food processing		••	•••	••	••	••		••	
<b>Promote sustainable food consumption, facilitating the shift towards healthy, sustainable diets</b>	Reverse the rise in overweight and obesity rates across the EU by 2030									
	Improve nutritional and sustainability labelling				••	••	••		••	•••
	Improve the role for sustainable public food procurement, including catering		•	•••	••	••	••		••	•••
<b>Reducing food loss and waste</b>	Halving per capita food waste at retail and consumer levels by 2030 (SDG Target 12.3).		•	•	••	••				
<b>Enabling the transition</b>	Research, innovation, technology and investments		•		•	•	•	•	•	•
	Advisory services, data and knowledge-sharing, and skills		••	•	••	••	••	••	••	••
<b>Promoting the global transition</b>		•	••	••	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Biodiversity Strategy 2030</b>										
<b>A coherent network of protected areas</b>	Strictly protect at least a third of the EU's protected areas, including all remaining EU primary and old-growth forests.				•••	•••	•••		••	
	Legally protect a minimum of 30% of the EU's land area and integrate ecological corridors, as part of a true Trans-European Nature Network				•••	•••	•••		••	
	Effectively manage all protected areas, defining clear conservation objectives and measures, and monitoring them appropriately.				•••	•••	•••		••	
<b>Strengthening the EU legal framework for nature restoration</b>	Legally binding EU nature restoration targets to be By 2030, significant areas of degraded and carbon-rich ecosystems are restored; habitats and species show no deterioration in conservation trends and status; and at least 30% reach favourable conservation status or at least show a positive trend.				•••	•••	•••		••	



<b>Bringing nature back to agricultural land</b>	Support and incentivise the transition to fully sustainable agricultural practices	●	●	●	●●●	●●●	●●●		●●		
	Reduce by 50 % the overall use of – and risk from – chemical pesticides by 2030 and reduce by 50 % the use of more hazardous pesticides by 2030	<i>as under the F2F strategy</i>									
	At least 25 % of EU's agricultural land must be organically farmed by 2030.	<i>as under the F2F strategy</i>									
	Consider an increased uptake of agroforestry practices	●	●	●	●●●	●●●	●●●		●●		
	Reverse the decline of genetic diversity	●	●		●●●	●●●	●●●		●●		
	Reverse the decline in pollinators	●	●		●	●●●	●●●		●●	●	
	At least 10 % of agricultural area is under high-diversity landscape features.	●	●		●●●	●●●	●●●		●●	●●	
<b>Increasing the quantity of forests and improving their health and resilience</b>	Three billion new trees are planted in the EU, in full respect of ecological principles				●●●	●●●	●●●		●●		
<b>Addressing land take and restoring soil ecosystems</b>	Step up efforts to protect soil fertility, reduce soil erosion and increase soil organic matter		●		●●●	●●●	●●●		●●		
<b>Addressing invasive alien species</b>	There is a 50 % reduction in the number of Red List species threatened by invasive alien species.					●●●	●●●		●●	●●●	
<b>Win-win solutions for energy generation</b>	Ensure forest biomass is sustainably used for energy generation				●●●	●●●	●●●		●●		
<b>Restoring freshwater ecosystems</b>	Restore at least 25,000 km of rivers into free-flowing rivers by 2030				●●●	●●●	●●●		●●		
<b>Reducing pollution</b>	Reduce nutrient losses by at least 50 %, while ensuring that there is no deterioration in soil fertility. This will reduce the use of fertilisers by at least 20 % by 2030.	<i>as under the F2F strategy</i>									
<b>Measuring and integrating the value of nature</b>	Robust measurement of essential features of biodiversity, its services, values, and sustainable use				●●●	●●●	●●●				
<b>Improving knowledge, education and skills</b>		●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	

Long-term vision for rural areas		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•
European Climate Law	legally binding target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 (2030 reduction target tbd by September, at least 50% compared to 1990 levels)				•••					
Circular Economy Action Plan		•	•		••	••	••		••	
LULUCF Regulation	No debit rule: Member States to ensure that accounted emissions from land use are entirely compensated by an equivalent removal of CO <sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere through action in the sector.				•••					
Effort Sharing Regulation	30% emissions cut in non-ETS sectors by 2030				•••					
Zero pollution action plan for water, air and soil					•••	•••	•••			
Chemicals strategy for sustainability			•		•••	•••	•••			•••
New EU Forest Strategy	effective afforestation, forest preservation and restoration in the EU				•••	•••	•••		••	
EU strategy on adaptation to climate change			•		•••				•••	
Industrial Strategy for a clean and circular economy		•	•		••	••	••		••	
8 <sup>th</sup> environmental action plan					••	••	••		••	
Legislative waste reforms	Reduction of food waste		•	•	••	••				
2020 Clean Energy Package	20% cut in <b>greenhouse gas</b> emissions (from 1990 levels) 20% of EU energy from <b>renewables</b> 20% improvement in <b>energy efficiency</b>		•		•••	•••			••	
Strategy for Sustainable and Smart Mobility			•						••	