

Mediterranean coast and macro-regional strategies week

THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL AND EU MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES

Izola, 14 - 25 September 2020





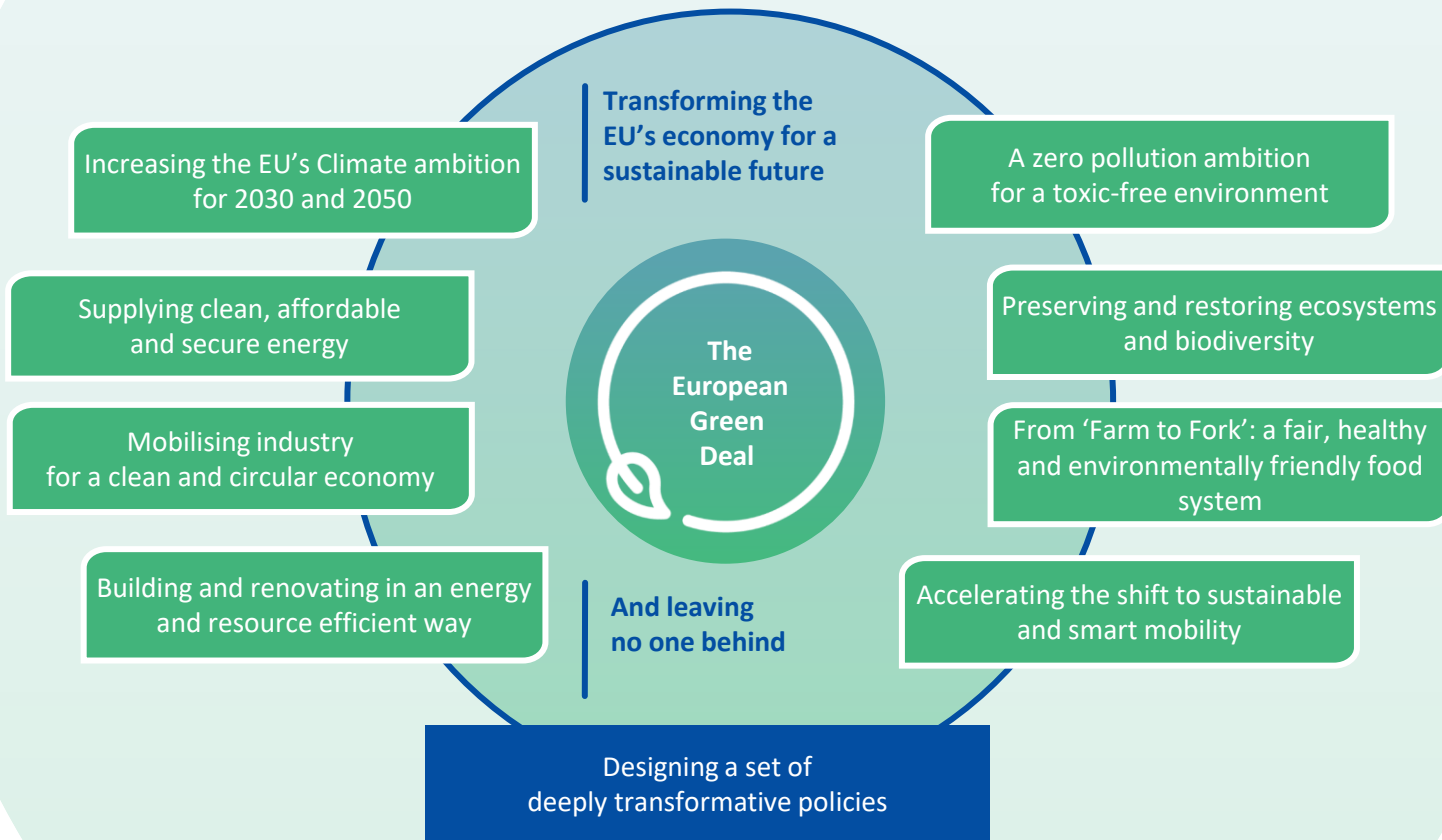
The European Green Deal, cohesion policy 2021-2027 and the Recovery Plan for Europe

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- « The European Green Deal and the MRS », 21 September 2020

European Green Deal



LEADING THE TRANSITION TO A HEALTHY PLANET

- A **Climate Law** to lock in commitments and raise ambition
- **Earmarking** 25% of the EU budget for climate
- Greening the **European Semester**
- Comprehensive programme of legislation
- **Green investment needs** of around €470 billion per year

EU budget powering recovery

Investing in a green, digital and resilient Europe

Supporting Member States to recover



- Recovery and Resilience Facility
- Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe - REACT-EU
- Reinforced rural development programmes
- Reinforced Just Transition Mechanism

Within European Semester framework

- Supporting investments and reforms
- Supporting a just transition

Kick-starting the economy and helping private investment



- Solvency Support Instrument
- Strategic Investment Facility
- Strengthened InvestEU programme

- Supporting key sectors and technologies
- Investing in key value chains
- Solvency support for viable companies

Learning the lessons from the crisis



- New Health programme
- Reinforced rescEU
- Reinforced programmes for research, innovation and external action





- Supporting key programmes for future crises
- Supporting global partners

Cohesion policy in the European Green Deal

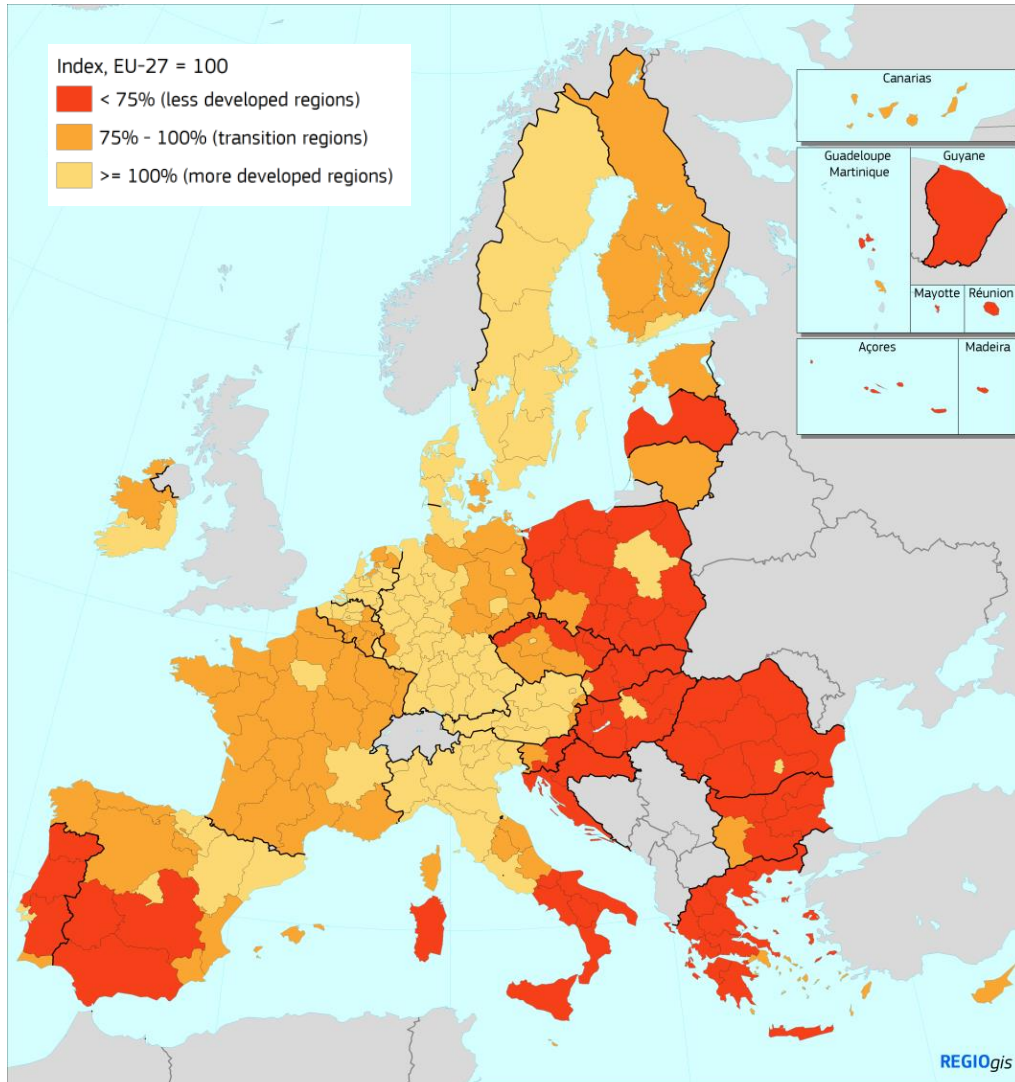


“Cohesion Funds play a crucial role in supporting our regions and rural areas from East to West, from South to North to keep up with the transformations of our world.

In this transition, we must recognise and respect that we do not all start from the same point. We all share the same ambition but some may need more tailored support than others to get there.”

-  Investing in place-based innovation and smart economic transformation
-  Deploying technological and social innovation on a large scale
-  Facilitating phase-out of unsustainable practices
-  Ensuring a just transition for all regions

Cohesion policy 2021-2027



GDP/head (PPS) by NUTS2 region, average 2014-2015-2016

- 1/3 of the EU budget (European Regional Development Fund, Cohesion Fund, European Social Fund +, *proposed* Just Transition Fund) to:
 - Reduce disparities between Europe's regions, strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion
 - Contribute to EU priorities
- 5 Policy Objectives
 1. A more competitive and smarter Europe
 2. A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe
 3. A more connected Europe
 4. A more social and inclusive Europe
 5. A Europe closer to citizens



Example: green infrastructure in the Ruhr region

- 3 decades of cohesion policy support helped turning industrial region into green metropolis
- Several ERDF projects in the framework of long-term transition:
 - restoration of the river system
 - construction of a bicycle network
 - creation of landscape parks
 - conversion of former steel sites and railroads into lakes and green neighbourhoods
 - ...

Just Transition Fund



Stronger focus in scope of intervention than other cohesion policy programmes

- Economic diversification and reconversion
- Re-skilling and job seeking assistance for workers
- Support to climate transition and environmental sustainability incl. circular economy

Eligibility scope - consistent with ERDF and Cohesion Fund proposal

- Production, processing, distribution, storage or combustion of fossil fuels excluded from support

Limited additional eligibility – to be justified in territorial just transition plans

- Productive investments in large enterprises: if needed to offset job losses
- Investments reducing GHG emissions from ETS activities: if needed to preserve jobs

! Each operation must contribute to the implementation of the territorial just transition plans

Basic requirements, higher ambitions



- What we expect
 - Programming according to priorities expressed in Annexes D
 - Reflecting on the link between innovation and deployment
 - Enabling conditions: not a paper exercise, but a strategic framework for achieving long-term ambitions
 - ‘Do no harm’: taking SEA and EIA seriously, sustainable project selection criteria across all POs, etc.
- What we aim for
 - Using programming as opportunity to formulate pathways for long-term transitions
 - Transformational change instead of marginal efficiency gains
 - Thinking beyond 2027 to avoid lock-ins (e.g. energy sources, waste management)
 - Integrating elements of the European Green Deal into programmes
 - Nature-based solutions to avoid negative impact of grey infrastructure and to achieve co-benefits
 - Exploiting full potential of cohesion policy to ensure a just transition

Contact



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