

EUROPEAN GREENS' PARTY (EGP) MANIFESTO ANALYSIS

IEEP is carrying out an analysis of the European parties' manifestos ahead of the European elections, to assess their commitments on environmental, climate and sustainability issues, against Think 2030 recommendations. The third analysis looks at EGP's manifesto. The last publication will be an overall analysis.



I. Highlights

The documents setting top priorities for EGP (alongside the full manifesto) opens with a reference to climate change and sets 1.5 degree as the ambition for Europe as a “global leader in a just-transition to a carbon neutral circular economy”. It also proposes a green new deal, backed by proposals for green taxation, industrial policy, public procurement, and smart regulation and funding, including for a just transition. It also includes proposals on a number of issues beyond climate change including biodiversity, food production, and health and pollution.

Though the manifesto favors the WTO system over bilateral trade deals, it includes number of proposals for trade policy reform which are quite defensive and possibly at odds with current WTO principles and policies of major trading partners. While focusing on conflict prevention, the section on peace and security is not identifying the potential for environmental policies to play the role of peace building initiatives. Nor it is fully taking into account the implications of environmental degradation on Europe’s diplomacy and defense policies.

Sustainable consumption is mentioned but without a target or concrete policy proposals. Nor are there concrete targets proposed for the circular economy.

II. How prominent is the environment within the manifesto?

The manifesto is strong on environmental commitments from the beginning, with a highly detailed focus. The topic is central in the manifesto, and is the main thread from the first paragraph. The manifesto covers a wide range of environmental and sustainability issues, including a mention of more sustainable diets. Also, more than climate change, the Greens talk of a climate crisis throughout the document.

However, the word cloud shows that a wide range of issues are covered, particularly social topics (human, workers, labour, jobs, culture, social, gender, health). Public and justice issues are also highlighted (rights, justice, democracy, public, policies, rules, needs, just, law, fair) as well as economy (tax, funding). Finally, there are also words related to climate and environment but they are not as highlighted as expected (green, food, energy, change).

III. Problem analysis, objectives and proposals pertaining to the environment

Issues	Problem analysis	Objectives, principles and targets	Proposals, policies and instruments
Climate change	Climate change as a defining problem of our times	<p>Cut emissions fast enough to reach 1.5 degree</p> <p>Pull public and private funds from fossil investments</p> <p>100% renewables energy</p> <p>Phase out fossil energy and nuclear power while creating sustainable jobs</p> <p>Promote energy efficiency</p>	<p>Call for a European Climate Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Binding EU carbon budget reducing emissions by at least 55% by 2030 - Building a net-zero emissions economy - Restoring carbon sinks in forests and soils <p>Phasing out of coal by 2030 and other fossil fuels short thereafter</p> <p>Strong carbon-floor price in ETS</p> <p>End to fossil and nuclear subsidies, refusing fracking</p>
Green and circular economy	<p>Overcoming the austerity paradigm</p> <p>Ensuring economic development that benefits all</p> <p>Environmental damage hitting disproportionately hard low-income communities and poor countries</p>	<p>Sizable green new deal to finance and leverage investments, particularly in poorer Member States</p> <p>Tax/ban on non-recyclable plastics and develop sustainable alternatives</p> <p>EU as global leader in just transition to a carbon-neutral circular economy</p>	<p>Green new Deal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of adequate infrastructure • Development of digital and clean technology as well as eco-innovation guided by social needs and SDGs • Common sustainable industrial policy aimed at innovation • Special European scheme to support retraining and social security as part of a just transition

	<p>Just transition for regions and workers</p> <p>‘creating more value and using fewer resources, while making sure the circular economy does not lead to more hazardous substances’.</p>	<p>Ecological tax reform: taxing more what we want less off (pollution, resource use) and taxing less what we want more (jobs)</p> <p>Consume smarter and in moderation, reduce meat consumption</p> <p>Only low-carbon biofuels to be allowed</p> <p>Combat planned obsolescence</p> <p>More sustainable public procurement with a more systematic use of social, environmental and fair-trade criteria</p>	<p>Go beyond GDP: ‘we want to complement it with alternative metrics that reflect social and environmental concerns’.</p> <p>Strict limit on waste exports and introduction of taxes regarding extraction and import of materials</p> <p>Ban or tax on non-recyclable plastics</p> <p>Consider environmental taxes at the European level</p> <p>More systematic use of social, environmental and fair-trade criteria in public procurement</p>
Transport	<p>Rise in Co2 emissions in transport due to cars and aviation</p> <p>Need of a sustainable transport system</p>	<p>Make trains an alternative to planes</p> <p>Taxing flights and road transport according to the polluter pays principle</p> <p>Redirect subsidies to air travel to provide funding from sustainable travel.</p> <p>Overcome dependency on polluting cars</p>	<p>Fair taxation of flights: European flight tax, European VAT on tickets</p> <p>Connecting countries and regions with fast trains, night trains and regional trains</p> <p>Ban on sale of new fossil-fuel car sales after 2030</p>
Biodiversity and protection of natural capital	<p>Need to act on unsustainable and illegal logging and deforestation</p> <p>Need to prevent soils degradation and act for restoration</p> <p>Need of sustainable fisheries limits</p>	<p>No EU funding which harms biodiversity</p> <p>Greater funding for nature protection</p> <p>Fishing within sustainable limits</p> <p>Combat urban sprawl to protect farm land</p>	<p>Expansion of protected natural areas</p> <p>Marine protected areas to cover 20% of Europe’s seas</p> <p>Heavy oil banned in the Arctic and Antarctic regions; control of sulphur emissions from shipping extended to all coasts;</p> <p>Payments to farmers linked to public goods (climate change, animal welfare, biodiversity)</p>

			<p>Unsustainable and illegal logging to be sanctioned harder</p> <p>Fishing seasonal closures; imported fish to meet European conservation standards; end to deep-sea bottom-trawling</p>
Health and pollution	<p>Pollution of air (fine particles and air pollutants) causing deaths and diminishing quality of life</p> <p>Water pollution</p> <p>Health risks linked with chemicals, hormones, nitrate and micro plastics in food chain</p>	<p>Moving to sustainable farming to reduce water pollution</p>	<p>Ban or taxation of non-recyclable plastics, development of alternatives and increase in recycling targets</p> <p>Ban poisonous pesticides and dangerous chemicals including glyphosate</p> <p>Low emissions zones in cities and promotion of cycling and walking</p>
Food production	<p>Current subsidization of the agro-food industry at the expense of the environment and equity “Cruelty of mass breeding and long-distance livestock transport torture”</p> <p>Dumping of EU agricultural products onto the world market destroying local food production in third countries</p>	<p>Promote “good, local, pesticide-free” food</p> <p>Payments to farmers linked to public goods (climate change, animal welfare, biodiversity)</p> <p>Fair prices for farmers</p> <p>Support animal welfare</p> <p>No public fund for industrial animal farming</p>	<p>Ban poisonous pesticides including glyphosate</p> <p>Redirect subsidies towards healthy food production</p> <p>Move from industrial agriculture and GMOs to more sustainable farming</p> <p>Call for reduction of meat consumption and promote healthier plant-based diets</p> <p>Call for a ban on fur farming, transporting animals long-distances and animal testing</p>
Governance	<p>Need to improve access to information and environmental justice for citizens and CSOs</p>	<p>Ever closer union</p> <p>Strengthen policy coherence</p> <p>New environmental action plan</p> <p>Implementation of SDGS in internal and external policies</p> <p>Strengthening environmental law and</p>	<p>High level SDG implementation strategy for Europe</p> <p>Implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, guarantee people access to justice and work towards a treaty</p>

		<p>better enforcing it on all levels</p> <p>Make sure that companies meet high standards both inside and outside the EU; exercise due diligence throughout their supply chain</p> <p>Prevent deregulation and roll back of environmental protection standards</p>	
<p>Peace, security and global challenges</p>	<p>Europe's ability to defend its values; A union that leads to protect the planet</p> <p>Energy reliance on hostile countries</p> <p>Extreme weather due to climate change as security challenge</p>	<p>Paris Agreement, international labour standards rules and Sustainable Development Goals to form the foundation of trade treaties</p> <p>Favouring WTO and multilateralism over bilateral treaties</p> <p>Focus on conflict prevention</p>	<p>Environmental conditionality within foreign policy and trade agreements</p> <p>Agricultural trade rules to allow compensation of domestic producers for extra costs due to environmental, animal protection or public health standards.</p> <p>Strict limits on exporting waste and the introduction of taxes on the extraction and import of raw materials.</p>

IV. Comparative analysis

We based our analysis on the following dimensions:

- Is the environment higher on the agenda than before?
- Are there references to existing key international commitments?
- Are recommendations aligned to Europe's existing environmental strategy?
- Are they taking into account lessons from the most recent evaluations?
- How do they compare with recommendations from European environmental experts?

Comparison with 2014 Manifesto

There is quite a lot of continuity between the two manifestoes. They refer mostly to the same themes, and both mentions elements such as a Green New Deal, the need to complement GDP with other indicators, or the EU having to take the lead on climate change at the international level. One key element that is in the 2019 manifesto and not in the 2014 one is sustainable consumption. Indeed the 2019 manifesto mentions the need to eat less meat and shift to healthier and plant-based diets.

Comparison with international commitments

The manifesto refers to the Paris Agreement and the SDGs with a high emphasis, and within the perspective of a 'climate crisis'. Regarding the Paris Agreement, the target of 1.5 degree of the UNFCCC is mentioned. A strategy for climate action is also developed in the manifesto, with a call for a

European climate law and for the EU to take the lead on climate action. There are also measures in energy or transports, and a call to increase international climate funding. As for the SDGs, the text clearly states ‘we are guided by the SDGs’. The Greens also argue that the SDGs should be implemented in the EU’s internal and external policies. They propose a Sustainability and Prosperity Pact. Finally, both the Paris Agreement and the SDGs, as well as international labour standards, should be the basis for future trade agreements.

Comparison with 7th Environmental Action Programme evaluation¹

The European Greens party is the only party mentioning the need for a new environmental action plan. In the following table, we compared the issues mentioned in the EGP manifesto with the areas in which Europe is struggling to meet its 2020 targets according to the European Environmental agency.

Outlook for meeting objective by 2020 seen by not likely to be met in the EEA report (red indicator)	Commitment/mention in the PES manifesto
Exposure of terrestrial ecosystems to eutrophication due to air pollution	Air pollution mentioned without specific proposals
Land take	Mentions need to stop urban sprawl without proposing solution
Gross nutrient balance in agricultural land: nitrogen	Not mentioned
Status of marine fish and shellfish in European seas	Relevant policy proposal on Marine Protected Areas
Abundance and distribution of selected species	Biodiversity protection mentioned with specific proposals
Species of European interest	
Habitats of European interest	
Status of surface waters	Water pollution mentioned without proposal
Greenhouse gas emissions from transport	Coherent set of proposals
Animal product consumption	Mentions reforming the CAP and subsidising sustainable farming to shift away from meat consumption
Share of environmental and labour taxes in total tax revenues	Not mentioned. Tax justice paragraph does not talk about environmental taxation
Exceedance of air quality standards in urban areas	Clean air/improving air quality
Exposure to environmental noise	Not mentioned

Comparison with Think2030

The Think 2030 platform has listed 30 key recommendations for Think 2030, divided into five main areas: Governance 2030, Prosperity 2030, Wellbeing 2030, Nature 2030 and Peace and Security 2030. The following table assesses links between the manifesto and the 30 key recommendations.

¹ Based on EEA’s Environmental Action Programme evaluation (2018), this table lists 2020 targets deemed as not likely to be met.

Governance 2030	Prosperity 2030	Wellbeing 2030	Nature 2030	Peace and security 2030
Quite a lot of alignment with Think2030 proposals with the exception of science policy interface which is not addressed within the institutional reforms envisioned.	<p>Proposal for a different macroeconomic model based on an end to austerity and a Green New Deal underpinned by investments in research, eco-innovation, infrastructure, greening of manufacturing and finance as well as changes to food production systems.</p> <p>Reference to sustainable consumption, but without a target or a concrete proposal</p>	A number of relevant proposals regarding environmental health risk, attention paid to distributional impacts of environmental degradation but also in terms of funding for a just transition.	Comprehensive approach to natural capital with concrete proposals (biodiversity, marine protection, fishing, water pollution and soils).	<p>A number of proposals aligned to Think 2030 recommendations regarding SDGs and development aid and trade.</p> <p>Link made between climate change and security, but no reference to environmental policies to playing a role of peace building initiatives or implications of climate change for Europe's foreign and defense policies.</p>

V. References

- Word Cloud generator: <https://www.wordclouds.com/>
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