

# European People's Party (EPP) manifesto analysis

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



## I. Highlights

The manifesto released by the EPP highlights the need for Europe to be a global leader in fighting climate change. Suggestions for achieving this goal include innovation in clean technologies, putting an effective price on CO2 and ensuring all forms of transportation contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases.

The manifesto alludes to the need to modernise the CAP and refers to climate change adaptation. However, the proposals seem to confirm the fundamentals of the current model (e.g. export orientation) and do not refer, contrary to other parties, to the need for a fundamental rethink of Europe's food systems in line with societal demands. The manifesto mentions the circular economy, but seems to focus on downstream measures rather than waste prevention measures such as eco-design.

The manifesto mentions the Paris Agreement but fails to mention the SDGs. It claims that there is a fundamental trade-off between environmental action, economic prosperity and social inclusion; speaking of 'a Green narrow-mindedness that categorically rejects trade, hinders economic growth and fails to include large parts of our societies'. Other gaps include the lack of an overarching sustainability plan beyond climate action. For instance, there is no proposal on biodiversity. Likewise, the proposal to increase the funding of the European Fund for Transition is approached as part of a response to globalisation and technology, but fails to mention the need for a just green transition. The blanket proposal for deregulation, which includes quantitative targets, does not preclude the removal of environmental regulations.

## II. How prominent is the environment within the manifesto?

The only words singled out by the word cloud related to climate and environment are referring to agriculture and food systems (rural, food, farmers), and 'change' could relate to climate change. Other themes include the economy (jobs, trade, market, digital, economy, stability), community and unity (common, regions, rights, values, social, citizens, families, together, health). Security issues seem to also be quite prominent (borders, threats, defence, defend, security).

Whilst none of the 6 major headings makes mention of the environment, climate change is mentioned in one sub-heading with environmentally-related words including e-mobility, a carbon tax and biodiversity.

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

Issues	Problem analysis	Objectives, principles and targets	Proposals, policies and instruments
<b>Climate change</b>	<p>Climate change as a threat to well-being and prosperity.</p> <p>Fighting against climate change recognised as means to pass on a clean planet to our children and grandchildren.</p>	<p>Defend Paris Climate agreement based on scientific evidence and remain global leader in combating climate change.</p> <p>“Only if we can act together will we [...] combat climate change”</p> <p>A future-oriented economic policy which enables Europe to remain a leader in the innovation of tomorrow’s clean technologies and a policy that benefits the whole planet.</p>	<p>Ensure an effective price on CO2 through well-functioning ETS and further incentives to reduce emissions in the industrial and energy sectors.</p> <p>Enable investment and innovation in technological solutions to low-carbon mobility.</p> <p>All forms of transportation contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gases.</p> <p>Establish European charging standards for cars.</p> <p>Build a true Energy Union.</p>

<b>Green and circular economy</b>	The need to open new sectors in the Circular Economy identified.	Increase recycling, reusing and repairing.	None provided
<b>Transport</b>	Transport identified as a means of reducing CO2 emissions.	All forms of transport to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases.  EU to be a global leader in e-mobility.	Enable investments and innovation in all technological solutions to low-carbon mobility.  Self-driving vehicles and connected mobility solutions.  Establishing European charging standards.
<b>Biodiversity and protection of natural capital</b>	The need to protect biodiversity is recognized as a problem.	None provided	None provided
<b>Health and pollution</b>	Antimicrobial resistance mentioned.	None provided	None provided
<b>Food production</b>	The need to modernise the CAP identified as a problem.	Design CAP to help mitigate climate change and food security.	None provided
<b>Governance</b>	Energy security identified as a problem due to uneven distribution and accessibility to energy.	Ensure electricity and gas can cross European borders without obstacle.  Support cost-effective green energy.	Proposal to build an Energy Union that ensures affordable access to green energy.
<b>Peace, security and global challenges</b>	Potential for Europe to be pioneer in green technology.	Show other countries in "concrete terms" how to achieve sustainability.	None provided

#### 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

Both the 2014 and 2019 manifesto's stem from a vision based on economic growth and social solidarity. However, the 2019 manifesto mentions a broader range of environmental and climate issues than its predecessor.

##### Comparison with international commitments

The manifesto mentions the Paris Agreement as a key element to tackle climate change but fails to take into account the SDGs framework.

##### Comparison with 7<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Programme evaluation

Regarding the link between the manifesto and the 7<sup>th</sup> EAP, the manifesto highlights the need to protect biodiversity without clearly stating what should be implemented to do so. There is no mention of citizens' wellbeing and protection from environmental-related pressures. There is no reference to the four enablers, nor to the two horizontal priorities, even though the need to address climate change is mentioned, however not clearly about the global level.

In the following table, we compared the issues mentioned in the EPP 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 EPP manifesto
Exposure of terrestrial ecosystems to eutrophication due to air pollution	Not mentioned
Land take	Not mentioned
Gross nutrient balance in agricultural land: nitrogen	Not mentioned

Status of marine fish and shellfish in European seas	Not mentioned. Call for standards of fisheries to be upheld.
Abundance and distribution of selected species	Biodiversity protection mentioned without specific proposals.
Species of European interest	
Habitats of European interest	
Status of surface waters	Not mentioned
Greenhouse gas emissions from transport	A call for all forms of transportation to contribute to reduction in GHGs, with investments in technological solutions for low-carbon mobility. Self-driving cars, “connected mobility solutions” and European charging standards cited as contributing to decreases.
Animal product consumption	Not mentioned. Mention of antimicrobial resistance but only from a health perspective, not related to agriculture.
Share of environmental and labour taxes in total tax revenues	Mention of putting a price on CO2. Tax section does not include environmental taxation.
Exceedance of air quality standards in urban areas	Not mentioned
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.

Governance 2030	Prosperity 2030	Wellbeing 2030	Nature 2030	Peace and security 2030
No proposal for an overarching sustainability plans	Strong emphasis on social prosperity but	No environmental health strategy.	Mention of biodiversity without	No mention of SDGs, but emphasis on the

<p>with time-bound targets</p> <p>No mention of establishing a European Panel for Sustainability or environmental justice</p> <p>A call for deregulation to facilitate “sustainable growth” rather than approaching regulations in terms of its effectiveness to reach Europe’s environmental goals.</p>	<p>without integrating environmental issues.</p> <p>Proposal to shift to a circular economy without proposing eco-design solutions</p> <p>No mention of sustainable consumption</p> <p>Lack of measures to green the economy and finance, as well as the role of budget in the green transition</p>	<p>No mention of a Just Transition.</p> <p>No integration of sustainability considerations in proposals pertaining to taxation or social protection.</p>	<p>concrete proposals.</p> <p>Marine pollution not mentioned with call for standards to be maintained.</p> <p>No mention of degrading soil and air quality.</p>	<p>key global role the EU plays for climate and sustainable development.</p> <p>No reference to the role that a preserved environment could play in terms of strengthening Europe’s security.</p> <p>Mentions of external EU action for development in Africa, with the objective to make it ‘ready for the challenges of the 21st century’.</p> <p>Emphasises EU role in global trade without referring to policies to make trade more sustainable.</p>
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## References

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  - o Bas-Defossez, F., Allen, B., Weigelt, J., Marechal, A., Meredith, S. and Lorant, A. (2018) 'Feeding Europe: Agriculture, and sustainable food systems'. Policy Paper produced for the IEEP Think2030 conference, Brussels, October 2018.
  - o All available on: <https://ieep.eu/publications/think-2030-policy-papers>

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