

European Green Deal Barometer

Third edition



Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy

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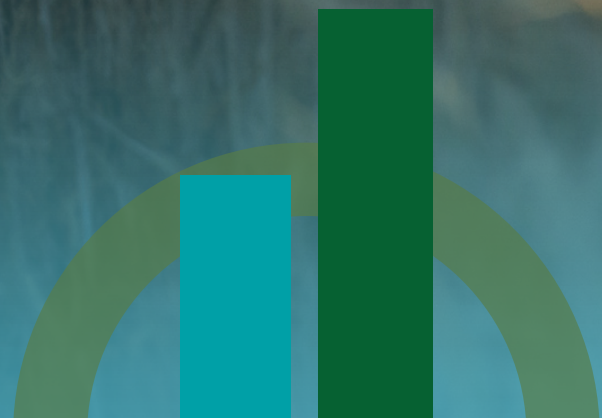




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'The European Green Deal Barometer prepared by IEEP with the help of the Think2030 platform provides a unique source of information from sustainability experts, from across the Union and the globe, on the progress of the Green Deal agenda. It represents a very useful supporting tool for EU policy-makers to plan future EU initiatives aiming at a green and fair transition.'

Virginijus Sinkevičius

European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries in the European Commission



Commission européenne
European Commission

Foreword

The European Green Deal Barometer is taking stock of the progress made on the delivery of the Green Deal agenda. More than just a monitoring tool, it is a “confidence survey” drawing the picture of what over 600 sustainability experts think about the Green Deal’s strengths and weaknesses. More than three years after its presentation, and despite repeated crises of various kinds, the Green Deal is close to becoming tangible legislation, complete with legally binding objectives and dedicated funds to achieve them. Based on the experts’ answers, our Barometer defines the challenges and opportunities for making the Green Deal a more resilient, ambitious, and effective agenda.

PREPARING FOR THE GREEN DEAL 2.0 AND THE NEXT EU 2024 ELECTIONS

In about a year, EU citizens will go the polls to elect a new political majority that will [A1] hold their positions until mid-2029. This will only be a fraction of time before 2030 and our first intermediary deadline on the road to 2050. The forthcoming European Parliament and Commission will be responsible for both drafting and implementing several crucial pieces of legislation that are yet to be designed and agreed upon. As our previous Barometers have shown, ensuring support for the Green Deal at a national and local level will also be vital, as ultimately it will be the Member States who will need to ensure that each of its policies are enforced. To help the EU achieve this leap of faith, we are identifying the political space for action and providing recommendations, setting the scene for the Green Deal 2.0.



**By Eero Yrjö-Koskinen,
IEEP Executive Director**

BOOSTING THE GREEN DEAL’S RESILIENCE VIA A STRONG AND DEDICATED COMMUNITY

The EU institutions will not be capable of making the transition a reality without the support of a strong Green Deal community. Over the past 12 months, a diverse coalition opposed to this agenda has assembled, calling for a moratorium on any new policies. Yet, this year’s Barometer may show that sustainability experts are more confident than in previous years that the Green Deal’s objectives will be turned into approved legislation. If this is the case, such confidence must encourage our policymakers to step up their effort in achieving climate neutrality. This is why IEEP will continue its commitment in fostering a Green-Deal-championing stakeholder community – within and outside of Brussels – through a combination of the European Green Deal Barometer, and our leading roles in Think Sustainable Europe (a pan-European network of sustainability think tanks) and the multi-stakeholder platform Think2030.

Executive summary

Launched by way of a 2019 communication from the European Commission, the European Green Deal is an exhaustive policy agenda, aimed at enabling the transition towards a sustainable economy and making the EU the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. The third edition of the European Green Deal Barometer continues to track the barriers to and opportunities for the implementation of the Green Deal, with particular focus on the political trends that may impede that progress, given the upcoming 2024 European elections. In addition to this, this edition of the Barometer also takes a closer look at the social provision aspects of the EGD, and at perceptions of its impact on non-European countries.



METHODOLOGY

Savanta conducted a 20-minute online survey with 615 sustainability experts¹ from across the world. The vast majority (87%, n=535) specialise in EU countries, while a smaller portion (13%, n=80) focus on non-EU countries.² The stakeholder sample is diverse, with respondents being evenly balanced across academia and think tanks (27%), policy and politics (24%), NGOs and foundations (23%) and the private sector (22%). The remaining 4% of respondents work in trade unions, media, and uncategorised organisations.

Fieldwork took place between 13 March and 1 May 2023. The first edition of the European Green Deal Barometer was conducted between December 2020 and January 2021, recruiting 291 respondents, while the second took place between April and May 2022, recruiting 315.

Please note that where a difference between two numbers is referred to as 'significant', this refers to differences that are statistically significant to a confidence level of 95%.

HIGHLIGHTS

Despite political shifts that may occur at next EU elections, the 2023 edition of the European Green Deal Barometer shows that sustainability experts are rather confident about the resilience of the Green Deal Agenda.

Sustainability experts express some confidence that institutions will successfully transform climate goals into law. However, there is not always full alignment between scientific effectiveness and political priorities, which suggests that some policy areas need to be improved and should remain priorities in the next Commission's agenda. This will be the only way to achieve climate neutrality in the EU.

56%



EU experts are confident that the EU institutions will turn the European Green Deal agenda into approved legislation.

73%



selected 'insufficient commitment by Member States governments' as one of the four biggest barriers to turning the EGD into approved legislation.

61%



stating that the agenda will be at least moderately resilient after the 2024 European elections.

79%



EU experts and 80% of Rest of World experts agree that the EGD will have a global impact.

¹ Sustainability experts are defined in this edition of the Barometer as people who have worked for organisations or in roles focused on environmental or sustainability issues, studied the same at Masters or PhD level, and/or contributed to EU legislation focused on environmental or sustainability issues, for at least a year.

² In 2023 this includes experts on Albania, Argentina, Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, French Polynesia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Montenegro, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Peru, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, Togo, Turkiye, Ukraine, UK, USA and Yemen.



Climate mitigation and path to climate neutrality

Seven in ten (68%) EU experts state that the recent increase in the EU's greenhouse gas reduction targets from 55% to 57% are not sufficient for achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement.



Protecting and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity

'Farmers, fishers and foresters anticipating loss of income' and 'conflicting objectives between the Nature Restoration Law proposal and energy, climate, land use and oceans legislations' are considered the most important obstacles to maintaining the Nature Restoration Law proposal's ambition in a future final legislative agreement.



Supplying decarbonised, affordable and secure energy

Over three quarters (77%) of EU experts agree that the REPowerEU plan, designed to diversify the EU's energy supply and double the deployment of renewable energy, as well as to combat energy poverty, is a key addition to the EGD agenda.



Financing the transition to carbon neutrality

91% of EU experts believe that 'as part of the mid-term review of the EU long-term budget for 2021-2027, the European Commission should propose to increase the share of funds allocated to the implementation of the European Green Deal agenda'.



Fair and sustainable food and farming system

EU experts are most likely to select 'increasing financial support for farmers to transition towards sustainable agricultural practices' (63%) as the most important actions to focus on to achieve a more environmental and climate-friendly EU agriculture.

1

General assessment

European Green Deal Barometer
Third edition (2023)

In the three and half years since the launch of the European Green Deal, there has been a lot of progress made towards concretising the objectives of the Green Deal. Table 1 presents a non-exhaustive list of the strategies, proposals and budgetary instruments presented by the Commission in these last years.

The approaching finalisation of the Fit for 55 package, a set of policy proposals to enable the EU to meet the 2030 emission reduction targets of the European Climate Law, marks an important milestone in achieving climate neutrality. Other noteworthy proposals include the European Critical Materials Act and the Zero Emissions Industry Act. Released last March, these proposals are designed to promote industry's transition to a clean, circular economy, a vital step on the path towards carbon neutrality.

However, some proposals have yet to be published, especially those related to the food and biodiversity package, such as the Soil Health Law and the EU Waste Framework Directive.

These have been delayed until July. In addition, the long-awaited Sustainable Food Systems Framework Law, scheduled for the third quarter, may not be as ambitious as expected. As such, while significant progress has been made, it is not even across all areas of the Green Deal agenda.

To keep track of progress towards the 2030 and 2050 climate goals, last July the Commission launched the Monitoring framework for the 8th Environment Action Programme.³ This includes a set of 26 headline indicators, ranging from indicators for climate change mitigation to indicators monitoring various enabling conditions such as environmental protection expenditures. Within this framework, the Commission will present annual reports, the first of which is planned for the end of this year. These reports will serve as a supporting communication on progress towards the Green Deal goals, informing citizens and policymakers on whether the actions taken by the Commission are ambitious enough.

Table 1 : Non-exhaustive list of relevant strategies, proposals and budgetary instruments published since the start of the Green Deal.

Date	Document from the European Commission
2020	
January	European Green Deal Investment Plan
	Proposal for a Regulation establishing the Just Transition Fund (JTF)
March	New Industrial Strategy
	New Circular Economy Action Plan

³COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS on the monitoring framework for the 8th Environment Action Programme: Measuring progress towards the attainment of the Programme's 2030 and 2050 priority objectives. See text [here](#).

March	Proposal for a European Climate Law
May	Farm to Fork Strategy
	Biodiversity Strategy for 2030
	Proposal for NextGenerationEU
	Proposal for the Recovery and Resilience Facility
July	EU Hydrogen Strategy
	Energy System Integration Strategy
September	Action Plan on Critical Raw Materials
October	Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability
	Proposal for an 8th Environment Action Programme
	Methane Strategy
	Renovation Wave Strategy
	Proposal for a revision of the Aarhus Regulation
November	Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy
December	Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy
	Proposal for a revision of the Regulation on Guidelines for Trans-European Energy Infrastructure(TEN-E)
	Proposal for a revision of the Batteries Regulation
2021	
February	Climate Adaptation Strategy

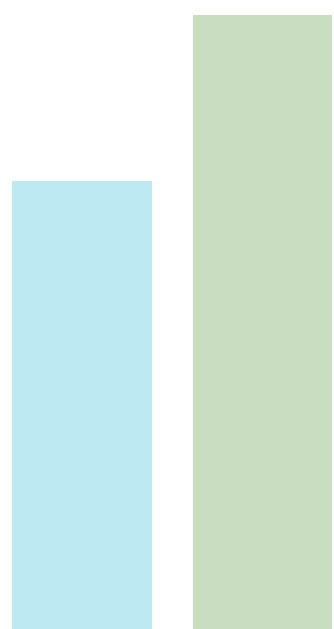
April	Organic Production Action Plan
	Proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (revision of the Non-Financial Reporting Directive)
May	Blue Economy Strategy
	Zero Pollution Action Plan
	Communication on Updating the 2020 New Industrial Strategy
July	Renewed Sustainable Finance Strategy
	Forest Strategy
	Roadmap to Planting 3 Billion Trees by 2030
	Proposal for a revision of the CO2 Emission Standards for New Passenger Cars and Vans
	Proposal for a revision of the Emissions Trading System (ETS) – Extension to Road Transport, Building and Maritime Sectors
	Proposal for Amending the Contribution of Aviation to the ETS
	Proposal for a recast of the Energy Taxation Directive (ETD)
	Proposal for a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)
	Proposal for a revision of the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR)
	Proposal for a revision of the Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry Regulation (LULUCF)
	Proposal for a revision of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED III)
	Proposal for a recast of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED)

July	Proposal for an Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation
	Proposal for a Sustainable Aviation Fuels Regulation (ReFuelEU Aviation)
	Proposal for a Cleaner Maritime Fuels Regulation (FuelEU Maritime)
	Proposal for a Regulation for a Social Climate Fund
	Proposal for a Regulation on European Green Bonds
September	EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change Implementation Plan
	EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters Implementation Plan
	EU Mission Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Implementation Plan
	EU Mission Soil Deal for Europe Implementation plan
October	Proposal for a revision of the Regulation on Persistent Organic Pollutants
November	Contingency Plan for Ensuring Food Supply and Food Security
	Soil Strategy for 2030
	Proposal for a revision of the Regulation on Shipments of Waste
	Proposal for a Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products
December	Revision of the Third Energy Package for Gas
	Proposal for a recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive
	Proposal for a Regulation on Methane Emissions Reduction in the Energy Sector
	Action Plan on Sustainable Carbon Cycles

December	Proposal for a revision of the Environmental Crime Directive
	Rail Action Plan
	Urban Mobility Framework
	Proposal for a revision of the Regulation on Guidelines for the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)
	Proposal for a revision of the Intelligent Transport Systems Directive
2022	
February	EU Taxonomy Climate Delegated Act
	Proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive
March	EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles
	Proposal for an Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation
	Proposal for a revision of the Construction Products Regulation
	Proposal for an Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition Directive
April	Restrictions Roadmap
	Proposal for a revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED)
	Proposal for a revision of the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register Regulation (E-PRTR)
	Proposal for a revision of the Regulation on Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases
May	Proposal for an Ozone Regulation
	REPowerEU Plan

May	Solar Energy Strategy
	Proposal for a revision of the Farm Accountancy Data Network Regulation
June	Proposal for a revision of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive
	Proposal for a Nature Restoration Law
July	Monitoring Framework for the 8th Environment Action Programme
	Environmental Implementation Review
September	Regulation on recycled plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foods
	Proposal for a revision of the Ambient Air Quality Directives
October	Proposal for a revised Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive
	Proposal for a Directive amending the Water Framework Directive, the Groundwater Directive and the Environmental Quality Standards Directive
	Framework on biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics
November	Proposal for a revision of EU legislation on Packaging and Packaging Waste
	Proposal for a Regulation on an EU Certification for Carbon Removals
	Recommendation on a Framework for Safe and Sustainable by Design Chemicals
December	Proposal for a revised Regulation on Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Chemicals (CLP)
2023	
January	Revision of the EU Pollinators Initiative

January	Revision of the EU Pollinators Initiative
February	Renewable Energy Directive Delegated Acts
	Proposal for a revision of the CO2 Emission Standards for New Heavy-Duty Vehicles
March	Proposal for an amending Regulation to improve the Union's Electricity Market Design
	European Critical Raw Material Act (ECRMA)
	Net Zero Industry Act
	European Hydrogen Bank
	Proposal for a Directive on Common Rules Promoting the Repair of Goods
	Proposal for a Directive on Green Claims



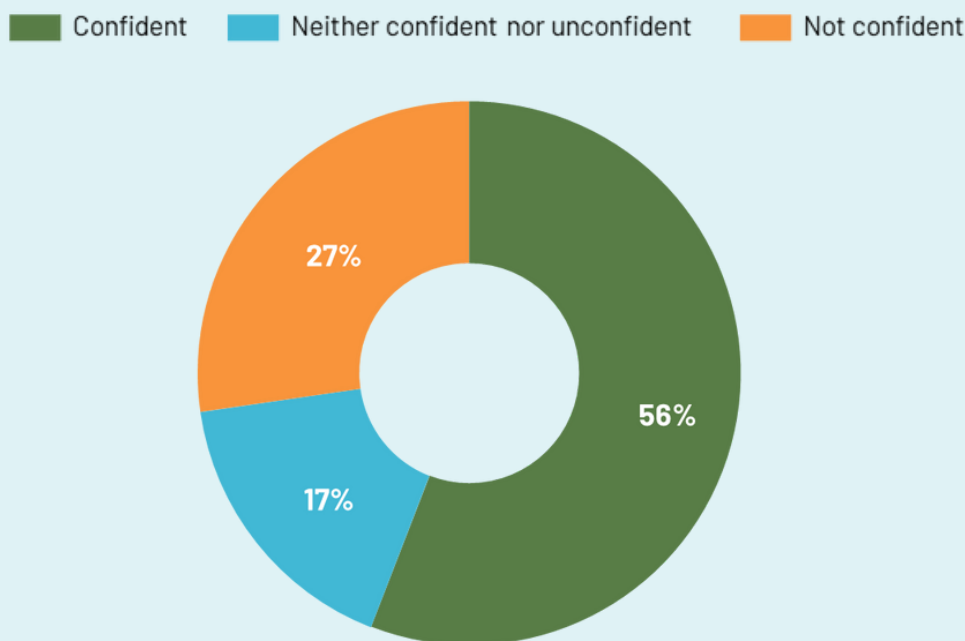
1.1. Confidence in EGD implementation

More than half of EU experts (56%) are confident that the EU institutions will turn the EGD agenda into approved legislation. However, this confidence is soft with only a minority (11%) saying they are 'very confident'.

However, what is striking is that compared to the previous Barometers, expert confidence may have increased. In 2022 only 21% thought it was likely that the EGD would be implemented by 2024. We can only make broad comparisons between survey years, as the wording of the question was changed between 2022 and 2023.⁴

However, given that the EGD is necessarily a long-term agenda for change, this question better reflects expert confidence, and these findings give us reason for optimism. With the Green Deal having survived the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and rising energy prices, experts believe that the European institutions will maintain their commitment to the European Green Deal in the years to come.

Chart 1: Confidence that the EU institutions will turn the EGD agenda ambitions into approved legislation



Q12. The European Green Deal is a comprehensive agenda with specific environmental ambitions and targets, with the goal of making the EU climate neutral by 2050. How confident are you that the EU institutions will turn these ambitions into approved legislation?

Single code, closed question, five point scale.

Base: EU experts (n=535)

⁴ In the previous editions of the Barometer (see [here](#)), IEEP asked experts whether they felt it was likely that the Green Deal would be translated into SBTs, legislation, regulation and public investment by 2024. This year we asked whether experts were confident that the Green Deal would be turned into approved legislation at all. As such, this year's the confidence question asks experts to envision the long- rather than short-term timescale of the EGD.

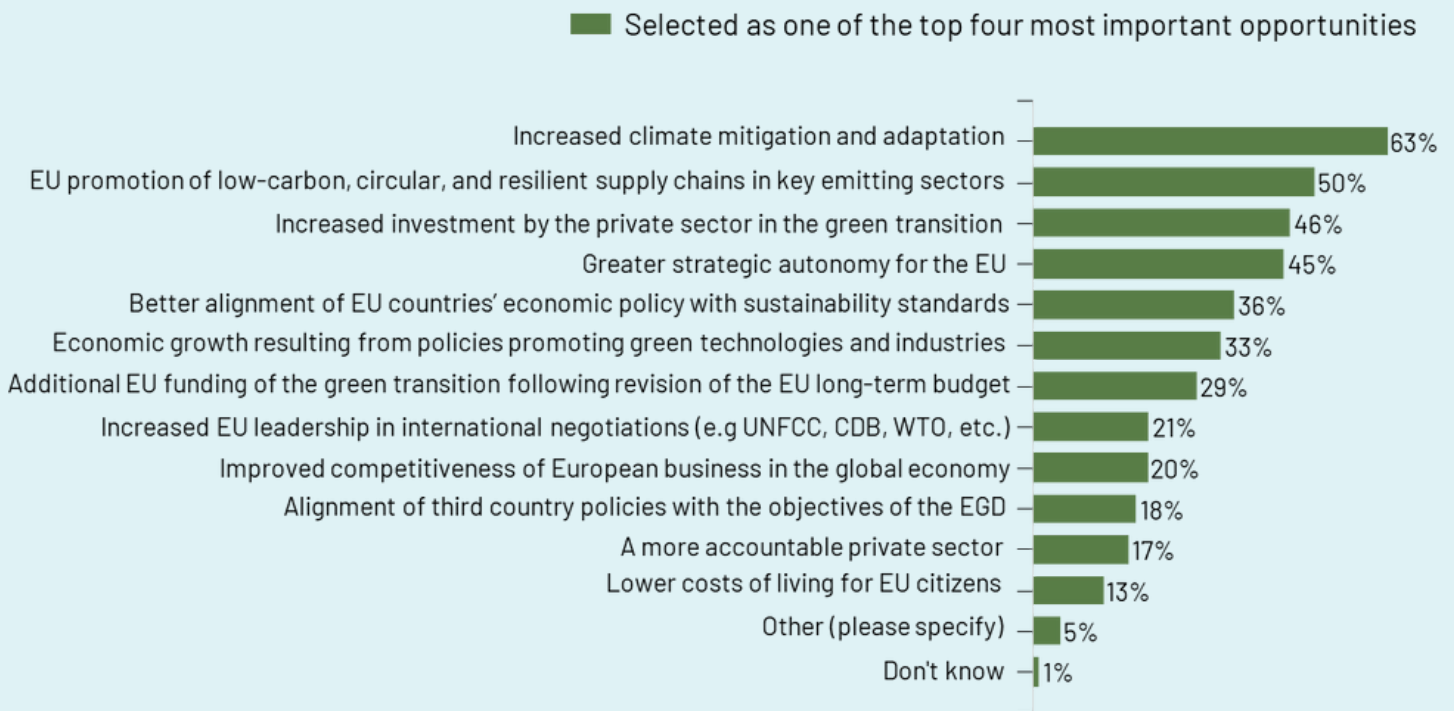
1.2. Opportunities: the importance of climate mitigation and adaptation

EU experts are most likely to choose 'increased climate mitigation and adaptation' as one of the four most important opportunities that would arise as a result of turning the European Green Deal into approved legislation. Six in ten (63%) select this option. Addressing climate change therefore remains the most valued result of implementing the EGD.

In addition to climate mitigation, many EU experts are enthused by the opportunities the EGD offers to promote 'low-carbon,

circular and resilient supply chains' (50%), stimulate 'increased investment by the private sector' (46%), and create 'strategic autonomy for the EU' (45%). This suggests that in addition to benefiting the climate, EU experts also see the EGD as presenting new economic opportunities, by offering both attractive incentives and greater security.

Chart 2: One of the four most important opportunities that would arise as a result of turning the EGD into approved legislation



Q15. Which four of the following are the most important opportunities that would arise as a result of turning the European Green Deal into approved legislation?

Multicode, choose up to four options

Base: EU experts (n=535)

1.3. Barriers: National governments remain the greatest obstacle

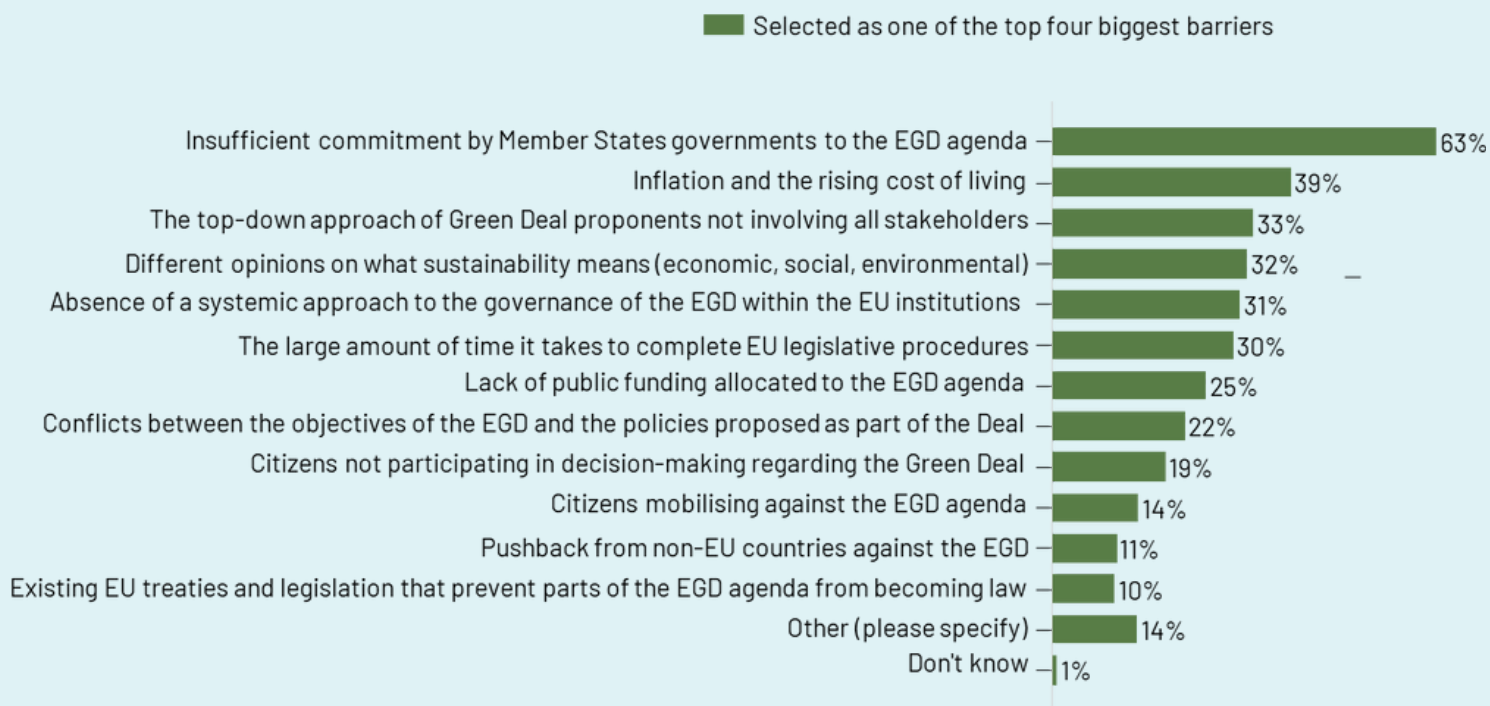
EU experts are most likely to choose ‘insufficient commitment by Member States governments’ as one of the four biggest barriers to turning the EGD into approved legislation, with seven in ten (73%) selecting this option. This is a longstanding concern among experts, with ‘insufficient commitment’ also being the most popular choice in previous editions of the Green Deal Barometer. Relatedly, four in ten respondents (38%) select the ‘top-down approach’ of Green Deal proponents as one of the four biggest barriers to implementing the Green Deal. There is therefore widespread concern that certain stakeholders are insufficiently involved in the design of Green Deal policies and objectives.

EU experts are also worried about the ongoing impact of inflation and price rises on the EGD. Just under half (45%) of experts select this as one of the four biggest barriers to the implementation of the EGD.

When asked to pick the single most important barrier, the gap between the poor commitment of national governments (the option most often selected), and inflation is much wider. In fact, the latter even falls to third place. This suggests that while economic pressures are a common concern within the EU, they are of less concern to experts than political intransigence.



Chart 3: One of the four biggest barriers to turning the EGD into approved legislation



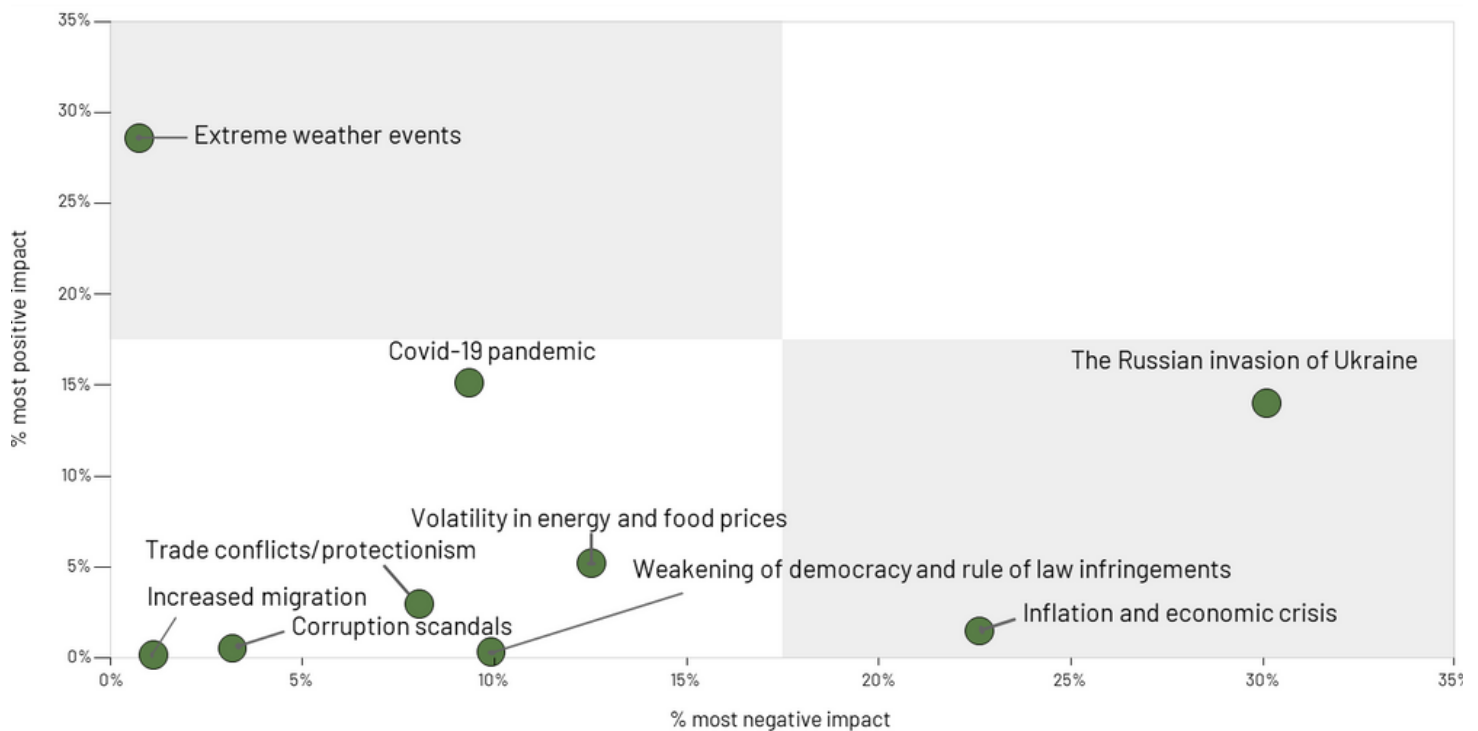
Q13. Which four of the following are the biggest barriers to turning the European Green Deal into approved legislation?
 Multicode, choose up to four options
 Base: EU experts (n=535)

1.4. The impact of crises on the EGD

With the various crises that have hit the European Union in recent years, policymakers have had to shift their actions and prioritise issues other than the climate crisis that appear more pressing. As shown in Chart 4, EU experts are agreed that rising inflation and the accompanying economic crisis has had a purely negative impact on the European Green Deal. Almost a quarter (23%) select it as the event or crisis that has had the most negative impact on the EGD so far, while just 1% selected it as the event or crisis that has had the most positive impact on the EGD. The reverse pattern holds true for extreme weather events, which instead seem to have benefited the Green Deal, possibly because they manifest the effects of climate change.

Opinion is more mixed when it comes to the invasion of Ukraine. Three in ten EU experts (30%) select ‘the Russian invasion of Ukraine’ as the event or crisis that has had the most negative impact on the EGD. However, a considerable number of respondents (14%) also believe the invasion has had some positive impacts. This may be due to the invasion incentivising EU Member States to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, in particular natural gas which was previously mostly purchased from Russia. The resulting efforts to reduce dependency on Russian fossil fuels inspired measures such as REPowerEU, designed to diversify the EU’s energy supply and double the deployment of renewable energy, as well as to combat energy poverty.

Chart 4: The perceived impact of each of the tested events or crises on the European Green Deal



Q22. In your opinion, which three of the following events or crises, if any, have had the most negative impact on the European Green Deal so far? / Q23. In your opinion, which three of the following events or crises, if any, have had the most positive impact on the European Green Deal so far?

Ranked, choose up to three
 Base: EU experts (n=535)

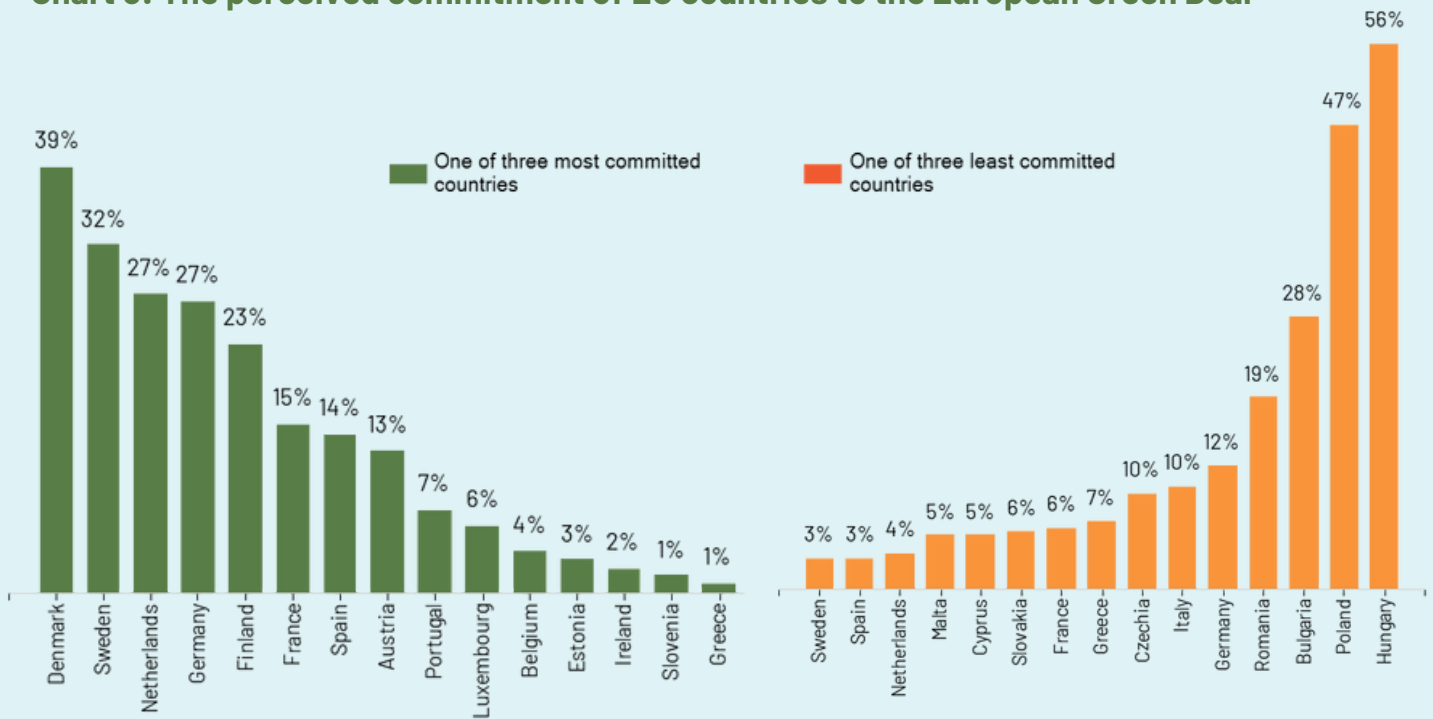


1.5. The commitment of Member States

When asked which three Member States are the most committed to the EGD, the largest proportion of EU experts chose Denmark (39%). On the other hand, the country that experts consider to be least committed to the EGD is Hungary, which was selected by

56% of EU experts, and 83% of experts on Hungary. However, there is significant uncertainty among EU experts on this issue, so much so that when they were asked to name the one country most/least committed to the EGD, the most common response in both cases was 'Don't know'.

Chart 5: The perceived commitment of EU countries to the European Green Deal



Q17. Which three European countries are most committed to the European Green Deal? / Q19. Which three European countries are least committed to the European Green Deal?

Multicode, choose up to three options

Base: EU experts (n=535)

2

Case studies: Leveraging the EU presidencies

European Green Deal Barometer
Third edition (2023)

In order to develop a deeper understanding of the Green Deal's implementation at the national level, IEEP focused on interviewing experts on the following five EU countries: France, Czechia, Sweden, Spain, and Hungary.⁵ These interviews have been used, as was done in the previous edition of

the Barometer, to produce five case studies examining the progress of the EGD agenda in each country. These countries were chosen for analysis as they have recently held, or will soon hold, the Presidency of the Council of the EU, which makes them important players in the advancement of Green Deal policies.

2.1 Key country trends⁶



France

Figures are based on sample of 43 France experts.

France held the Presidency of the Council from January to June 2022, the first of trio also including Czechia and Sweden. As the Russian invasion occurred just a month after its term started, the French government found itself having to rapidly change its agenda and focus on emergency measures such as energy security. This issue became a political priority for the EU and was highlighted in the push on the REPowerEU negotiations.

When choosing the top two areas the EU should focus on to increase support for the EGD in each country, France experts are more likely than Sweden, Spain and Hungary experts to select 'a fair and sustainable food

and farming system'⁷ and 'zero pollution for a toxic-free environment'.⁸ Respondents are not particularly enthusiastic about the efforts the national government (14% rate its efforts as good) or parliament (9% rate its efforts as good) has made towards implementing the EGD. Still, a majority of France experts (77%) believes that the national government will commit to the continuation of the EGD agenda in 2024, although President Macron's agenda has not always been that ambitious on the environmental issue. For example, the President recently called for a regulatory pause in the submission of new EU environmental laws, a statement that has drawn some criticism.⁹

⁵ Q2: Which country's environmental/sustainability policies, if any, are you most familiar with?

⁶ Due to the low sample size of the Czechia expert group, significant differences between Czechia experts and experts on other countries could not be calculated. As such headlines presented for Czechia are not comparative.

⁷ 42% vs 13%, 22% and 10% respectively

⁸ 19% vs 2%, 3% and 0% respectively

⁹ Macron's calls for 'regulatory pause' in EU environmental laws wink at conservatives, POLITICO, 12 May 2023. See [article](#).



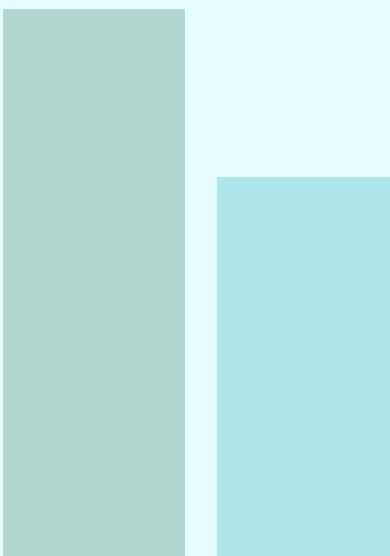
Czechia

Figures are based on sample of 24 Czechia experts (small sample).

A majority of Czechia experts (79%) rate the efforts of civil society organisations to drive progress on the EGD in their country as good, while six in ten (63%) describe the efforts of the national parliament as poor. This may be linked to 'lack of consensus across the national political spectrum on the EGD's priorities being the option most often selected by Czechia experts as the most important barrier to implementing the EGD (25%).

Reinforcing this pessimism regarding politics, just one expert said that they felt the next national elections would have a positive impact on progress towards the EGD. However, two thirds of Czechia experts do expect the national government to commit to the continuation of the EGD agenda (67%).

Greater focus on the social dimension could be key to maintaining this commitment, as Czechia experts most often select 'ensuring a socially fair transition' (33%) as the top area the EU should focus on to increase support for the EGD. While at the national level scepticism towards the Green Deal is fairly high, the current government, which also held last semester's Council Presidency, did make progress on several proposals from the Fit for 55 package (in particular, the Effort Sharing Regulation and the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry Regulations). The Czech Government also delivered multiple emergency measures to tackle the energy crisis, such as a windfall tax for energy companies. Furthermore, the Czech Presidency's efforts as the EU negotiator for COP15, to secure the ambitious biodiversity targets of the Kunming-Montreal Agreement, received high praise on an international level.





Sweden

Figures are based on sample of 48 Sweden experts.

Sweden experts have a particular focus on the importance of the private sector in facilitating EGD implementation. Over three quarters of Sweden experts (77%) rate the efforts of large-scale businesses to drive progress on the EGD in Sweden as good. They are significantly more likely to do so than France, Spain and Hungary experts.¹⁰

In line with this, Sweden experts tend to think that the private sector is not a barrier to EGD implementation.¹¹ Sweden experts are also more likely than both France and Spain experts to select 'mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy' as the most important thematic area for the EU to focus on to increase support for EGD implementation in their respective countries.¹²

Regarding the future of the Green Deal at national level, only a very slim majority of Sweden experts (56%) believe that their government will commit to the continuation of the EGD agenda. A quarter (25%) seems to be uncertain. The positive perception about Sweden's commitment to the Green Deal has slightly diminished compared to last edition, following a change of government in the September 2022 elections. Sweden was selected as the most committed Member State in the 2022 Barometer.¹³ However, generally speaking, Sweden is still ranked among the most committed countries to the Green Deal.



Spain

Figures are based on sample of 78 Spain experts.

Spain experts have a notably high opinion of the national government. They are more likely than France, Sweden and Hungary experts¹⁴ to believe their respective national government has been good at

driving progress forward on the EGD in their country. They are also less likely than these country experts to see commitment as the highest barrier to EGD implementation.¹⁵

¹⁰ 9%, 27% and 14% respectively

¹¹ Just 6% select 'the private sector believes the Green Deal increases the cost of doing business' as one of the four biggest barriers to implementing the EGD.

¹² 21% vs 5% and 6%

¹³ The European Green Deal Barometer 2022 is available [here](#)

¹⁴ 72% vs 14%, 23% and 2% respectively

¹⁵ 5% of Spain experts select it as the biggest barrier vs 30% of France, 25% of Sweden, and 40% of Hungary experts.

This enthusiasm is tempered. Just one in six Spain experts (15%) expects the impact of the next national elections to be positive. However, even with this pessimism, seven in ten Spain experts (69%) believe that the national government will commit to the continuation of the EGD following the 2024 European elections. Due to recent local elections resulting in a majority victory for the opposition, Spanish citizens will be called to the polls in July, earlier than planned.¹⁶

Some of the EGD proposals that Spain is expected to work on during its term are the conclusion of the Nature Restoration Law and the Carbon Removal Certification Framework. In addition, the Sustainable Food System Framework and the Soil Health Law are supposed to be published in the next semester, meaning that the incoming Spanish government might launch negotiations on these proposals too. Depending on the outcome of the general elections, the previous perception of Spain's commitment to the Green Deal may well change.



Hungary

Figures are based on sample of 42 Hungary experts.

The Hungarian Government's efforts to drive progress on EGD implementation are rated lower than those of the other case study governments. Indeed, a majority of Hungary experts consider its inconsistent political commitment to be the primary barrier to implementing the EGD in the country.

In addition, seven in ten Hungary experts (69%) also expect their government will not commit to the continuation of the EGD agenda, significantly more than France, Sweden and Spain experts.¹⁷ Perhaps as a result of assumed government inaction, Hungary experts are more likely than France, Sweden and Spain experts to select 'financing the transition to carbon neutrality'¹⁸ as the thematic area the EU should most

focus on to increase support for the EGD. This is possibly because they believe that if the EU bears the cost of transition, then political opposition in Hungary may be minimised. Hungary will hold the Council's Presidency from July 2024, as the third country of the 2023-24 presidency trio. They will follow Spain and Belgium, two member States that are currently considered to be committed to the EGD agenda. The Presidency trios usually publish a joint programme for their 18-month terms. The priorities of this trio might be affected by national elections and the European elections in 2024, meaning the programme and common priorities may be subject to change.

¹⁶ Fieldwork took place prior to this announcement.

¹⁷ 12%, 19% and 3% respectively

¹⁸ 21% vs 2%, 4% and 8% respectively

Chart 6: The biggest barrier to implementing the EGD identified by experts in each country

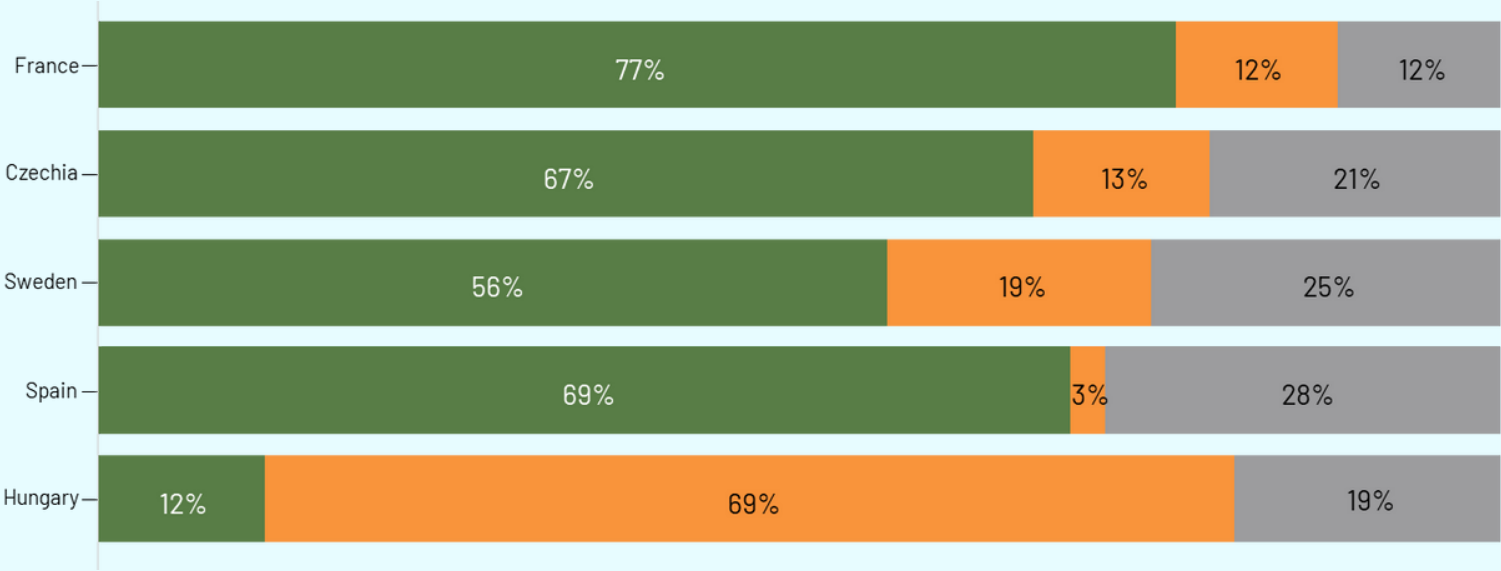


Q131 Which four of the following, if any, are the biggest barriers to implementing the European Green Deal in each country? Ranked, choose up to four

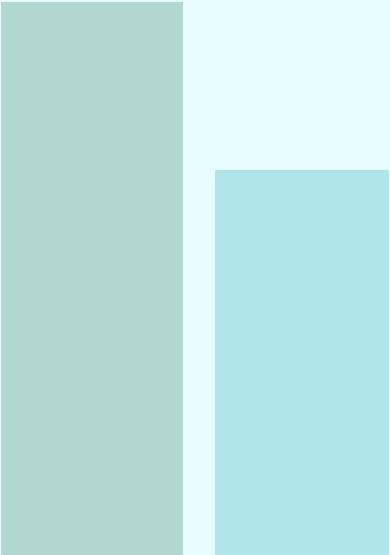
Base: experts in each country (France, n=43; Czechia, n=24; Sweden, n=48; Spain, n=78; Hungary, n=42]

Chart 7: Experts' beliefs regarding whether the governments of the case study countries will or will not commit to the European Green Deal agenda beyond the 2024 EU elections

- The government will commit to the continuation of the European Green Deal agenda
- The government will not commit to the continuation of the European Green Deal agenda
- Don't know



Q35. Do you believe the government will commit to the continuation of the European Green Deal agenda at the EU level beyond the 2024 EU elections?
 Single code, closed question, two point scale.
 Base: Experts in each country (France, n=43; Czechia, n=24; Sweden, n=48; Spain, n= 78; Hungary, n=42)



2.2 Country summary table

	France (n=43)	Czechia (n=24)	Sweden (n=48)	Spain (n=78)	Hungary (n=42)
Experts that believe their government will commit to the EGD.	77%	67%	56%	69%	12%
Experts that believe the next national elections will have a positive impact on progress towards the EGD agenda.	7%	4%	17%	15%	0%
Experts that believe the impact of previous national elections has been positive.	26%	75%	8%	78%	0%
Stakeholder experts most often identify as making a good effort to drive progress on the EGD in each country.	Civil society organisations (56%)	Civil society organisations (79%)	Civil society organisations & Large-scale businesses (joint 77%)	Civil society organisations (73%)	Civil society organisations (71%)
Stakeholder experts most often identify as making a poor effort to drive progress on the EGD in each country.	Large-scale businesses (58%)	The national parliament (63%)	The national government (50%)	Large-scale businesses (40%)	The national government (90%)
Area experts most often select as one of the two thematic areas the EU should focus on to increase support for the EGD in each country.	A fair and sustainable food and farming system (42%)	Ensuring a socially fair transition (71%)	Supplying decarbonised, affordable and secure energy (48%)	Supplying decarbonised, affordable and secure energy (36%)	Ensuring a socially fair transition (43%)

3

External impacts of the EGD

European Green Deal Barometer
Third edition (2023)

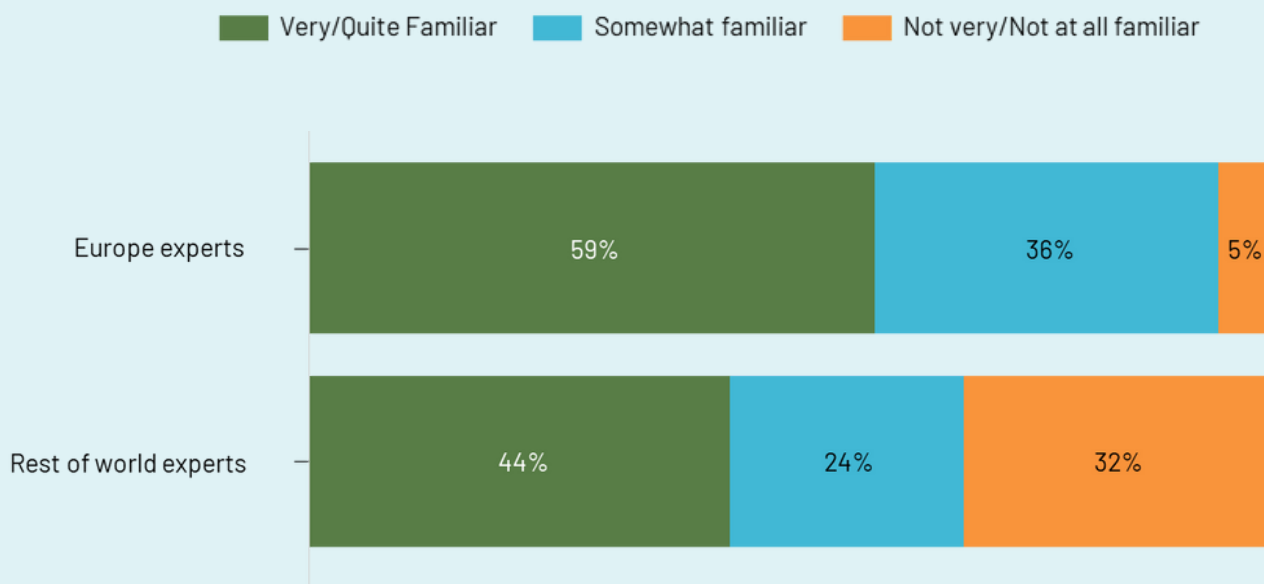
In this edition of the EGD Barometer we have extended the survey to include experts on countries outside of the EU. By incorporating international perspectives, we are able to assess the impacts the Green Deal may have on third countries. We can also better understand whether experts on countries outside of the EU believe the Green Deal objectives will help the EU to achieve its international climate objectives.

Of the 80 experts that completed this part of the survey, 39 are experts on countries in Europe (but outside the EU), while 41 are experts on countries outside of Europe.

The following results break down the non-EU sample into these two groups, indicating significant differences where relevant.

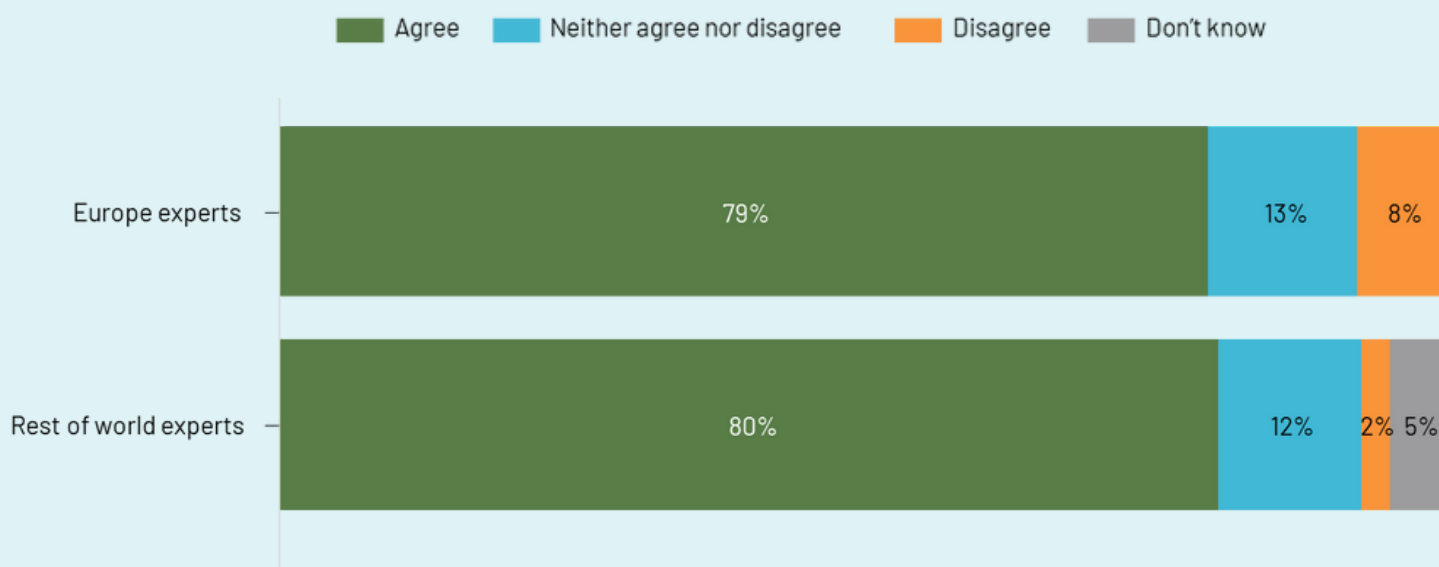
For purposes of shorthand, the groups will be referred to as Europe experts and Rest of World experts. Our first goal is to understand the familiarity of non-EU experts with the European Green Deal. Six in ten Europe experts (59%) and more than four in ten Rest of World experts (44%) report that they are familiar with the EGD. Given they are expert on countries closer to the EU, Europe experts are likely to be more familiar with the EGD than Rest of World experts (see Chart 8). Eight in ten of both Europe (79%) and Rest of World (80%) experts agree that the EGD will have a global impact. Both groups also see the EGD as presenting the country in which they have expertise with both problems and opportunities (64% and 59% respectively, difference not significant).

Chart 8: Familiarity with the European Green Deal



Q4. How familiar are you with the European Green Deal?
 Single code, closed question, five point scale.
 Base: Europe (Non-EU) experts (n=39) and Rest of World experts (n=41)

Chart 9: Agreement and disagreement that the EGD will have a global impact



Q5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "If turned into legislation by the EU institutions, the European Green Deal will have a global impact"?

Single code, closed question, five point scale.

Base: Europe (Non-EU) experts (n=39) and Rest of World experts (n=41)

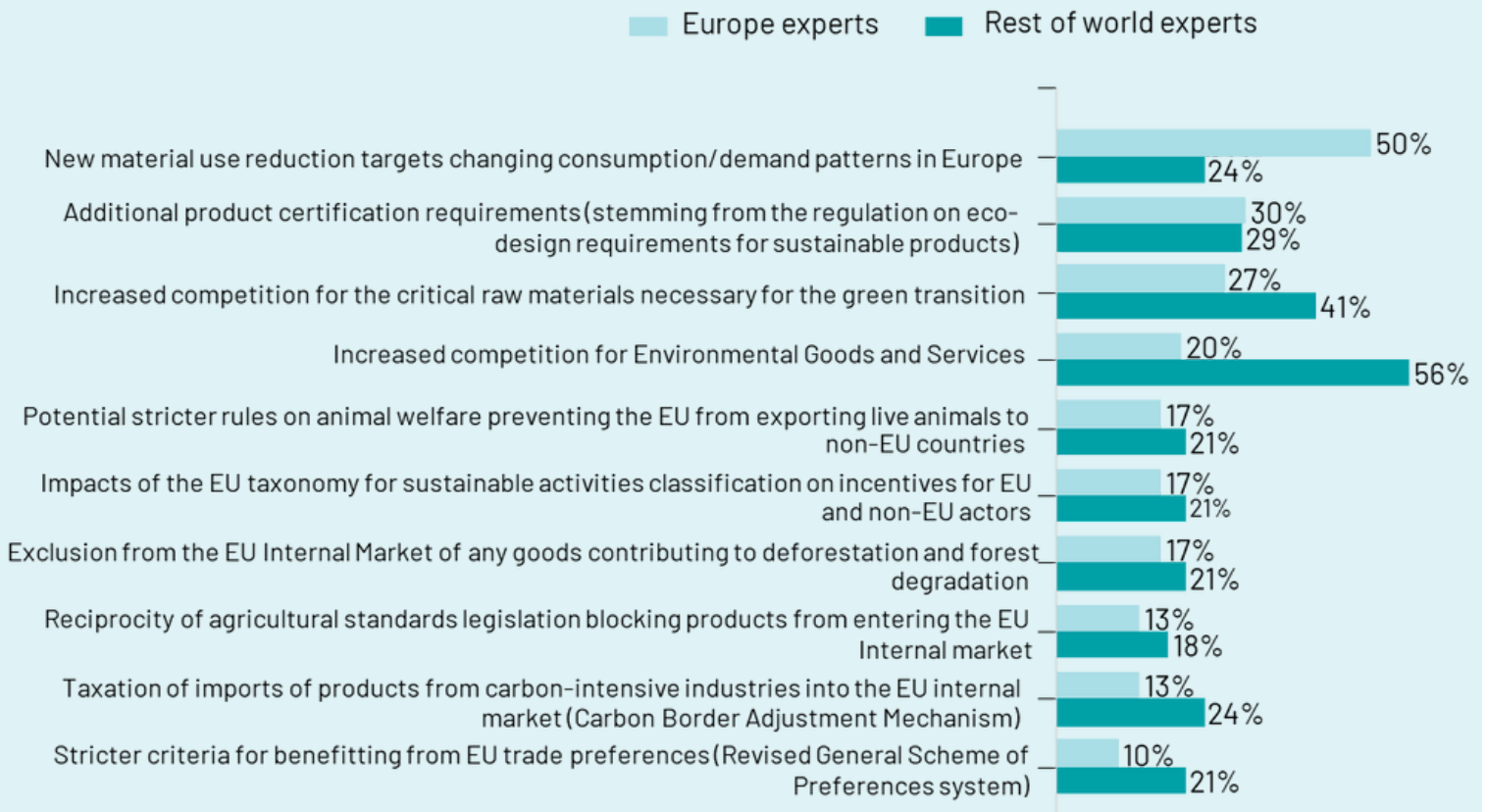
The problems Europe experts most associate with the EGD are the taxation of imports, reciprocity of agricultural standards legislation and new material use reduction targets (all 33%). Meanwhile, Rest of World experts most often select the taxation of imports as one of the main problems posed by the EGD (selected by 50%).¹⁹ With regard to positive impacts, Europe experts are most likely to select the new material use reduction targets (50%) as one of the three EU policies that pose the biggest opportunity for their country, significantly more than Rest of World experts (24%).

Rest of World experts meanwhile see 'increased competition for Environmental Goods and Services' (56%) as a great opportunity for their country resulting from the EGD.²⁰ While both groups are focused on different opportunities, there is nevertheless consistency in that the anticipated effect of these policy changes would be the emergence of new commercial opportunities within the EU, potentially exploitable by non-EU countries.

¹⁹ The figures above are the proportion of Europe and Rest of World experts that see the EGD as presenting the country they are expert on with problems, or with both problems and opportunities (n=27 Europe experts, n=24 Rest of World)

²⁰ The figures above are the proportion of Europe and Rest of World experts that see the EGD as presenting the country they are expert on with opportunities, or with both problems and opportunities (n=30 Europe experts, n=34 Rest of World)

Chart 10: EGD policies perceived as opportunities by non-EU experts



Q8. Which three European Green Deal policies offer the biggest opportunities for each expert's country?

Ranked, choose up to three

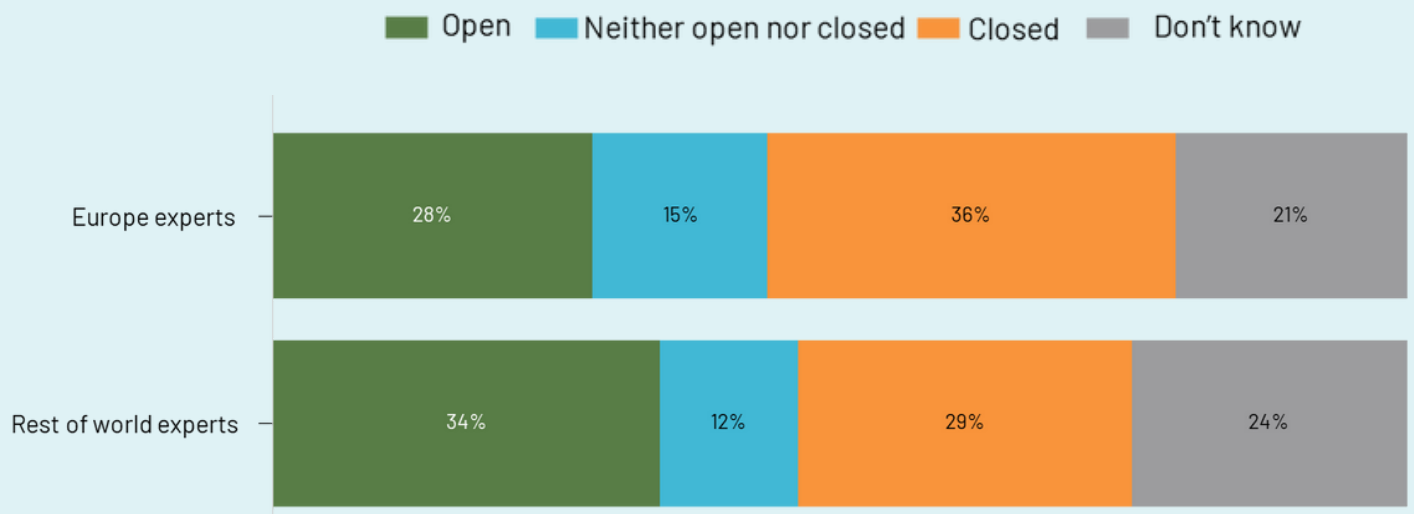
Base: Europe (Non-EU) experts (n=30) and Rest of World experts (n=34) who see the EGD as presenting their country of expertise with opportunities

Both groups also feel similarly on how open or closed the EU is to input from countries outside the EU on the design and implementation of the EGD, with experts in both groups equally split on the EU's receptivity (see Chart 11).

Europe and Rest of World experts are also alike in their agreement that the EGD will help the EU achieve the objectives of the UN

Sustainable Development Goals of the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Most experts in both groups are also equally likely to agree that the ambitiousness of the EGD establishes the EU as a leader in addressing global environmental challenges.

Chart 11: Experts' belief that the EU is open or closed to input on the design and implementation of the EGD from countries outside the EU

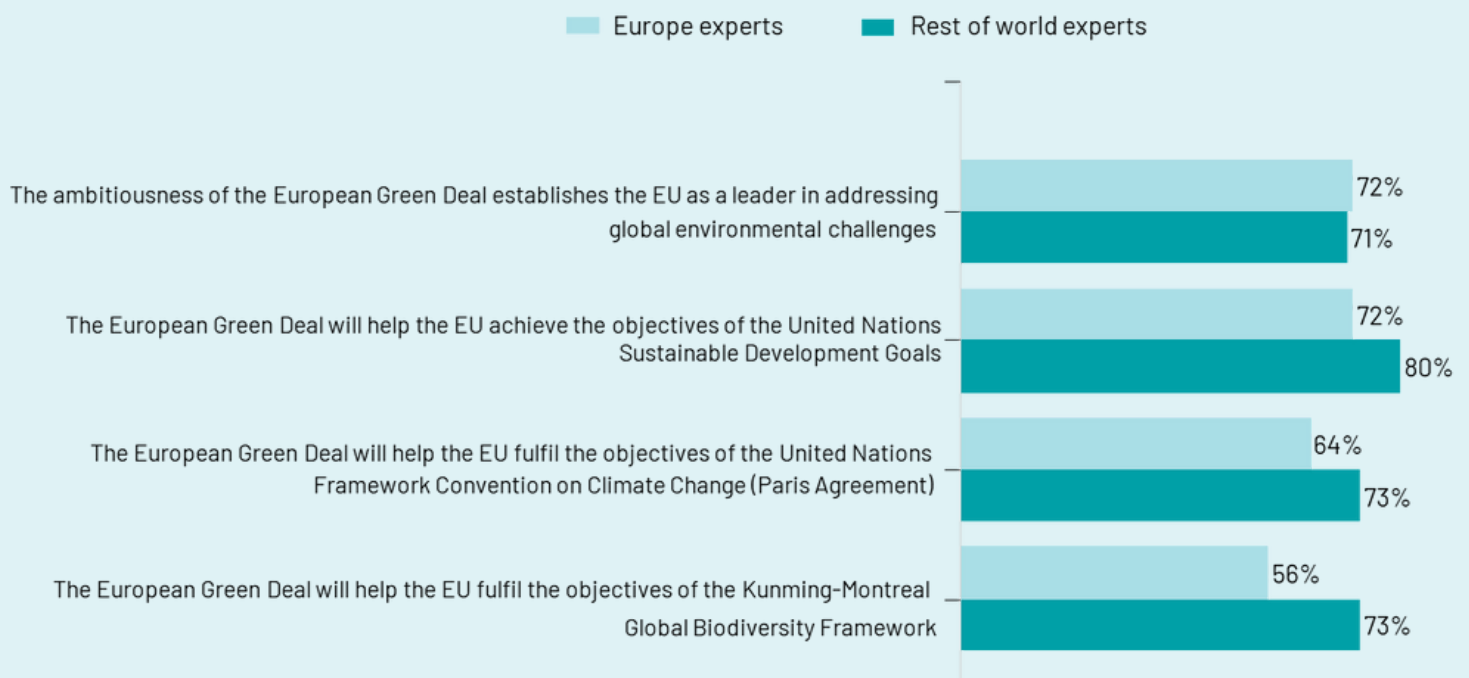


Q9. Is the EU closed or open to input from countries outside of the EU on the design and implementation of the European Green Deal?

Single code, closed question, five point scale.

Base: Europe (Non-EU) experts (n=39) and Rest of World experts (n=41)

Chart 12: Agreement with the tested statements



Q10. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following:

Single code, closed question, five point scale, respondent presented with list of statements one at a time.

Base: Europe (Non-EU) experts (n=39) and Rest of World experts (n=41)

4

Policy focused questions

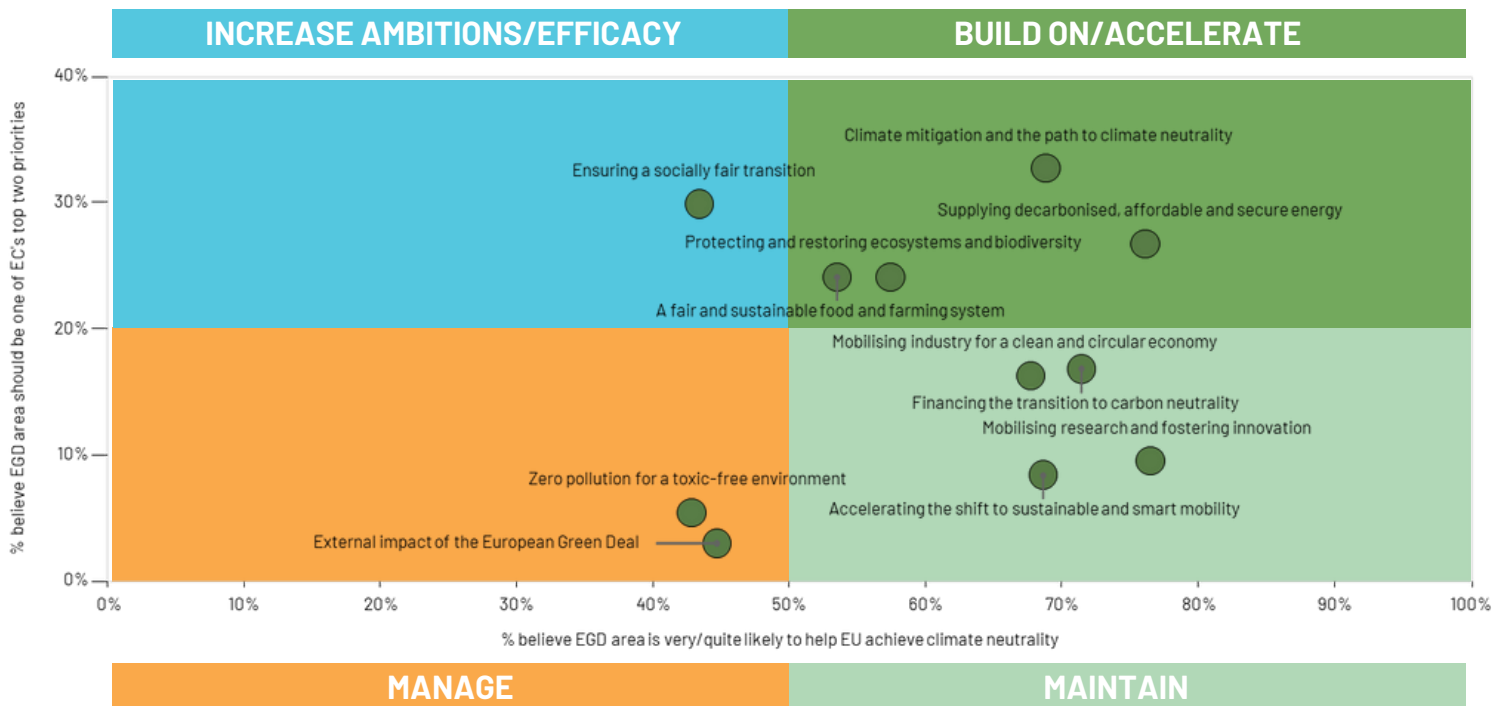


4.1. Priority and likelihood of success

EU experts are most likely to say that the EGD thematic areas ‘mobilising research and fostering innovation’ and ‘supplying decarbonised, affordable and secure energy’ are likely, from a scientific perspective, to help the EU achieve climate neutrality by 2050 (76% of EU experts selected each option). This means that some progress was recognised in these areas and EU legislators were able to present and/or conclude laws with ambitious targets. However, the latter also appears to be one of the main priorities for the European Commission after 2024, demonstrating that the decarbonisation process still requires major efforts. Another area that should be at the core after the next EU elections is ‘climate mitigation and the path to climate neutrality’, with the climate

crisis increasingly manifesting itself in the rising global average temperature and extreme weather phenomena. By comparing the level of priority and the likelihood of success of each area, it appears that there is not always total alignment between scientific efficacy and political prioritisation (see below Chart 10). For example, while many experts believe the social dimension of the transition should be prioritised, they are less likely to say the area’s proposals will help the EU achieve climate neutrality by 2050. As such, if they are to be given a more central role in the new Commission’s agenda, revising the social provisions so that they better aid the EU’s climate goals is recommended.

Chart 13: The perceived priority of implementing each EGD thematic area, against their perceived likelihood of helping the EU achieve climate neutrality



Q21. From a scientific perspective, how likely or unlikely is it that each of the following thematic areas’ targets and objectives, as they currently stand, will help the EU achieve climate neutrality by 2050? / Q28. Which of the following thematic areas of the European Green Deal should be the top two priorities of the European Commission after 2024?

Q21. Single code, closed question, five point scale, respondent presented with list of statements one at a time.; Q28. Ranked, choose up to two

Base: EU experts (n=535)

4.2. Policy areas

Climate mitigation and the path to climate neutrality (n=203)

Seven in ten (68%) EU experts familiar with this policy area state that the recent increase in the EU's greenhouse gas reduction targets from 55% to 57% is not sufficient for achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

Respondents are split on the impact of the revised National Energy and Climate Plans. The current revision of the NECPs covers a 10-year period that goes from 2021 to 2030. Member States are required to outline their climate and energy goals, as well as the strategies they will adopt to meet the EU binding targets for 2030, taking into account the latest provisions of the Fit for 55 package.

Therefore, the Plans are crucial to reach the objective of climate neutrality; however, about four in ten respondents believe that they will not further raise the EGD's carbon neutrality objective. When asked which review clause foreseen in the Fit for 55 package they would prioritise, experts chose the revision of the Emission Trading System (ETS) and the Social Climate Fund (both 67%). This flexibility mechanism allows European institutions to revise and potentially increase the ambitions of each piece of legislation.

Supplying decarbonised, affordable and secure energy (n=176)

Just over three quarters (77%) of EU experts familiar with this area agree that the REPowerEU plan is a key addition to the EGD agenda. They are most likely to select 'Accelerating renewable energy deployment' (69%) as one of the three most important priorities set out by the REPowerEU plan.

Over eight in ten experts (83%) believe the reform of the electricity market is important for achieving the EGD's objectives.

The new reform is designed to accelerate the replacement of gas with renewable energy, and to protect citizens from market volatility. However, the Commission's proposal, published last March, is not as comprehensive and revolutionary as expected. It will be up to the legislators to further improve the text and ensure that citizens can benefit from it in case of future crises or price spikes.

Mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy (n=120)

EU experts familiar with this policy area are most likely to select 'Upscaling circularity processes in production and extraction projects in the EU' (93%) as one of the three approaches they would prefer the EU take to secure an adequate supply of critical raw materials.

In addition, they are most likely to select 'tax breaks for green industry' (46%) as one of

the three actions the EU should prioritise to best support green industries. Despite the Commission's intentions to advance the digital and ecological transition in parallel, a third of experts (32%) feels that the EU has not been successful in this.

Zero pollution for a toxic-free environment (n=68)

Respondents familiar with this policy area are most likely to select 'only reusable or recycled packaging can be on the market by 2030' (59%) as one of the three elements of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive revision that most contributes to its goals.

Just under half (47%) of experts believe it is unlikely that the EU institutions will complete their revision of the Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) before the next EU elections.

Initially, the Commission committed to publishing the revision by the end of last year, but it was then delayed to the last quarter of 2023, which leaves little time to the legislators to agree on a common text before the end of the mandate.

Similarly, three in ten (31%) respondents believe it is unlikely that the EU institutions will complete their revision of the Regulation on the Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Substances and Mixtures (CLP) before the next EU elections.



Protecting and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity (n=176)

Biodiversity experts are likely to select 'farmers, fishers and foresters anticipating loss of income' and 'conflicting objectives between the Nature Restoration Law proposal and energy, climate, land use and oceans legislations (e.g., Renewable Energy Directive, Common Agricultural and Fisheries Policies etc.)' (59%) as the most important obstacles to maintaining the Nature Restoration Law proposal's ambition in a future final legislative agreement. In the Parliament, the committees on Agriculture and Fisheries rejected the proposal in its entirety, arguing that it jeopardises the rights of farmers and fishermen.

The Commission proposal sets legally binding targets on Member States to restore habitats and reverse the declining presence of soil carbon, farmland birds, pollinators, and protected species on farmland, in forests, and in oceans. There is a perception in the farming, fisheries and forestry sectors that Member States will then impose legal restrictions on producers without adequate compensation for lost production opportunities.

Among those experts who see conflicting objectives as an obstacle (n=104), just under half (48%) believe the Proposed Council Regulation on accelerating renewables does conflict with the EU's biodiversity objectives.

If the regulation is adopted, it would become part of the environmental commitments that EU funding programmes must align with, including the Common Agricultural Policy, the fisheries fund EMFAF (European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund), and climate action. The environmental community fears that this will not happen because the funding programmes will prioritise production objectives above increases in funding for nature restoration.

Regarding reducing pressures on biodiversity from agriculture, experts are most likely to select 'evidence that farming can reduce pesticide use whilst maintaining qualitative yields and sufficient income for the farmer' (69%) as one of the three most important factors for securing a legislative agreement that includes the proposed pesticide reduction target.



Fair and sustainable food and farming system (n=196)

EU experts familiar with this policy area are most likely to select 'increasing financial support for farmers to transition towards sustainable agricultural practices' (63%) as the most important action to focus on. This suggests that CAP spending is perceived to fall short of what is needed to achieve a more environmental and climate-friendly EU agriculture. The introduction of eco-schemes in the new CAP delivery model could contribute to increasing its environmental and climate performance but the environmental community fears their level of ambition is too low.

Increasing the share of plant-based food in diets can have many environmental and climate benefits. Experts are most likely to select 'an update of CAP provisions to support the production and consumption of alternatives to animal-based products' (59%) as the action that would most help to increase the adoption of plant-forward diets.



Accelerating the shift to sustainable and smart mobility (n=101)

Just under half (47%) of EU experts familiar with this policy area believe that the inclusion of a review clause in the legislation on revised CO2 emissions standards would impact the transport sector's contribution to the EGD objectives positively. Just over six in ten (63%) of respondents believe extending the EU Emission Trading System to the road sector would be an appropriate policy

instrument for decarbonising road transport emissions. A separate Emission Trading System, covering road transport and other sectors, was created and will enter into force in 2027. The target is to reduce by 42% emissions in 2030 compared to 2005 levels, which would be in line with the 2030 targets.

Financing the transition to carbon neutrality (n=86)

Nine in ten (91%) EU experts familiar with this policy area agree with the statement 'as part of the mid-term review of the EU long-term budget for 2021-2027, the European Commission should propose to increase the share of funds allocated to the implementation of the European Green Deal agenda'. Almost all (94%) of experts believe it is important for the delivery of EGD

objectives to maintain a science-based taxonomy for sustainable activities. The EU taxonomy is a classification system that determines which economic activities are to be considered environmentally sustainable. Its purpose is to incentivise green financing and transition projects. As such it is an indispensable tool for the implementation of the EU's climate goals.

Ensuring a socially fair transition (n=150)

Nine in ten (89%) EU experts familiar with these policies believe that the EGD agenda ensures a just energy transition to at least a limited extent. However, only one in six (17%) believe it ensures a just transition to a great extent or more. The latter finding is also reflected in the subsequent question with the majority of experts selecting the 'Social Climate Fund' (61%) as one of the most important instruments to promote a just energy and climate transition in the EU.

The SCF was created to tackle any social impacts resulting from the newly established ETS. By providing temporary direct income to vulnerable households, it supports investments to reduce emissions in the transport and buildings sectors. This aims to ensure that the energy transition is not done via an increase in energy poverty.

The external impact of the EGD (n=83)

EU experts familiar with EU external policies are more likely to agree than disagree that the EGD will help the EU fulfill the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. However, they do not consider that the EU external policies are sufficiently mainstreamed into the EGD agenda. Two thirds of respondents (67%) think that the introduction of trade-related autonomous measures is likely to be beneficial to achieving EGD objectives.

For example, the recently adopted Deforestation-Free Products Regulation aims to reduce the import and sale on the EU market of products that have contributed to global deforestation and forest degradation, e.g., due to the expansion of agriculture and the intensive cultivation of certain products. The new provisions therefore aim to preserve biodiversity and reduce carbon emissions.

A hand holding a white envelope against a background of the European Union flag. The hand is positioned in the center, holding the envelope from the top edge. The envelope is tilted slightly to the right. The background is a blurred image of the EU flag, showing the blue field with yellow stars. A dark green horizontal band is overlaid on the top of the image, containing the number '5' and the title text. The bottom of the image features a light blue abstract graphic consisting of overlapping curved shapes.

5

EGD resilience after the EU 2024 elections

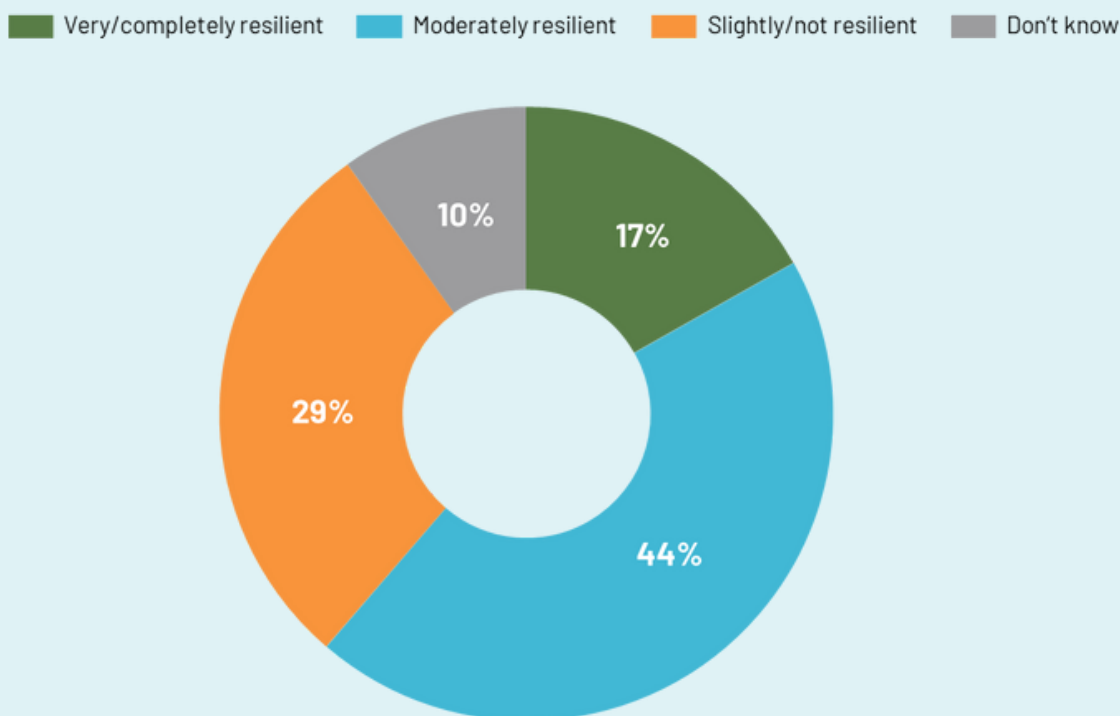
European Green Deal Barometer
Third edition (2023)

Despite a potential political swing towards less economically-interventionist or more climate-sceptic parties, EU experts are fairly positive regarding the future of the Green Deal, with six in ten (61%) stating that the agenda will be at least moderately resilient after the 2024 European elections. However, this expert optimism is cautious, as only 17% consider the EGD to be very or completely resilient, less than the 29% who consider it only slightly or not resilient.

EU experts were asked whether various social actors would be important or not for ensuring the continuation of the EGD agenda beyond 2024.

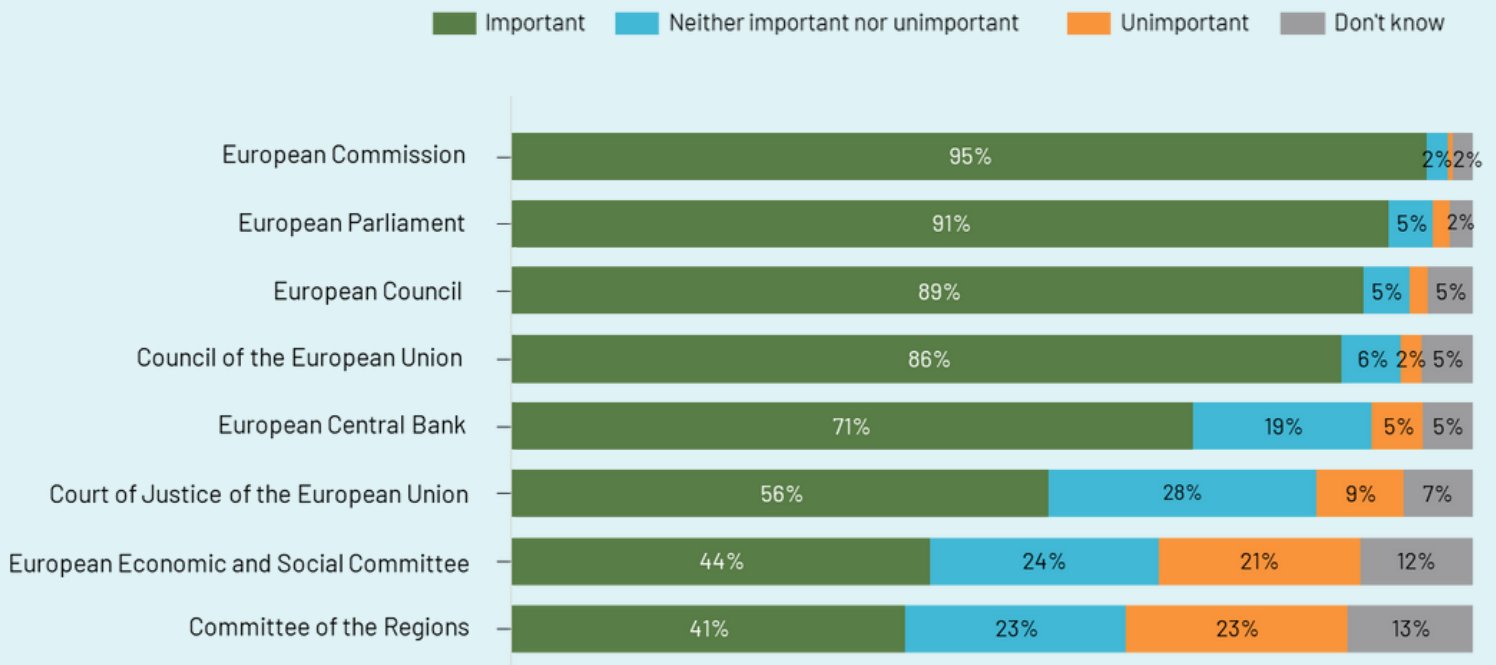
When asked about EU institutions specifically, almost all experts (95%) reported that the European Commission would be important. Similar proportions said the same for the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council of the EU, composed respectively by the Heads of State/Government and the Ministers. EU experts are least likely to consider the Committee of the Regions to be important, but even for the CoR the proportion saying it is important (41%) remains higher than the proportion saying it is unimportant (23%).

Chart 14: The perceived resilience of the EGD agenda, in the face of any changes to the current political balance of power resulting from the 2024 European Elections



Q24. How resilient or not will the European Green Deal agenda be, in the face of any changes to the current political balance of power resulting from the 2024 European Elections?
 Single code, closed question, five point scale.
 Base: EU experts (n=535)

Chart 15: The importance/unimportance of each EU institution for ensuring the continuation of the EGD



Q25. How important or unimportant will each of the following EU institutions be for ensuring the continuation of the European Green Deal agenda? (Proportions under 2% not shown to improve visual clarity)

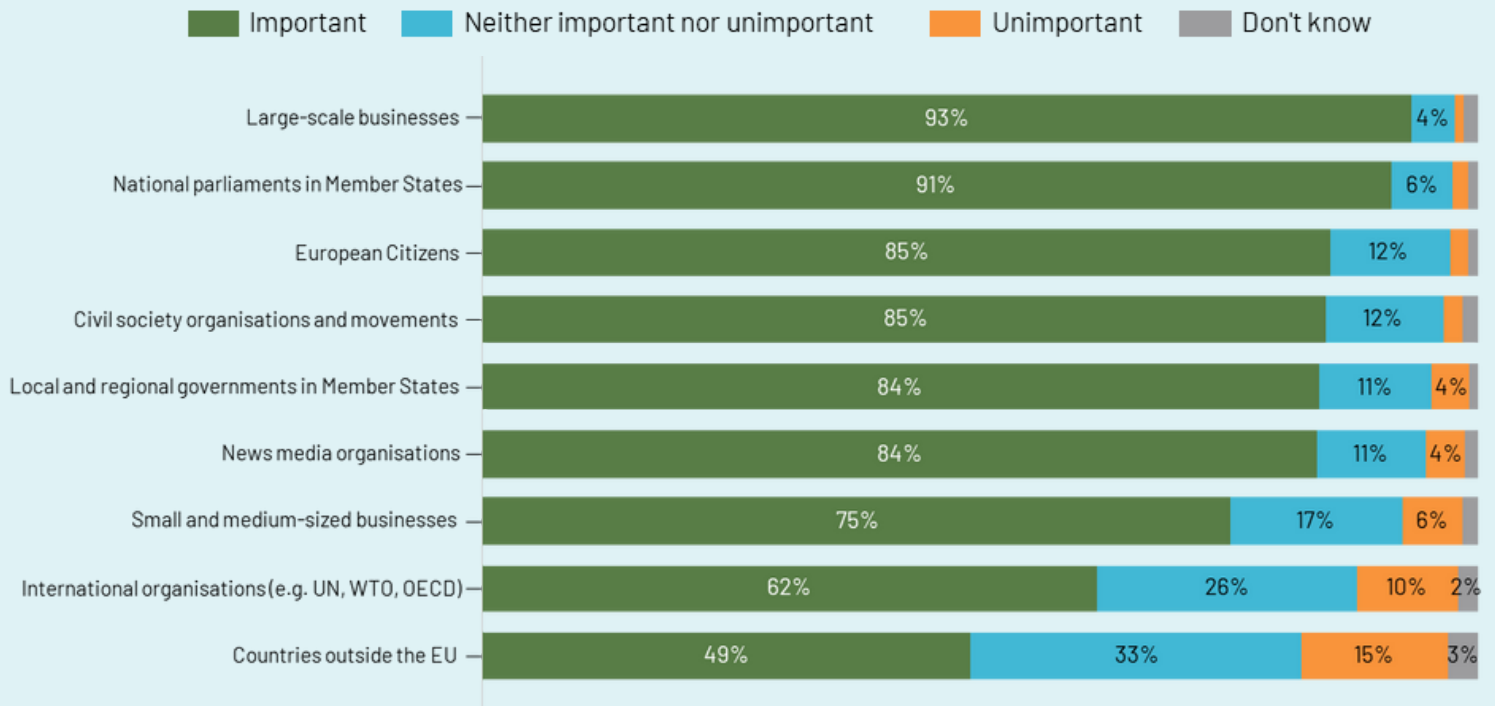
Single code, closed question, five point scale, respondent presented with list of statements one at a time.

Base: EU experts (n=535)

Regarding the importance of other stakeholders, nine in ten EU experts consider large-scale businesses (93%) and national parliaments in Member States (91%) to be important for ensuring the continuation of the EGD agenda. The role of citizens and civil society organisations is also widely recognised. Another finding is that EU experts are least likely to consider countries outside the EU to be important (49%) which might be due to their limited involvement.

Finally, EU experts were asked how committed or not the seven political groups of the EU Parliament will be to the EGD agenda after the EU 2024 elections. Broadly speaking EU experts consider green and left-wing groups to be more committed than right-wing groups. Unsurprisingly, EU experts are most likely to say that the Greens and European Free Alliance will be committed (88%), and that Identity and Democracy will not be (76%).

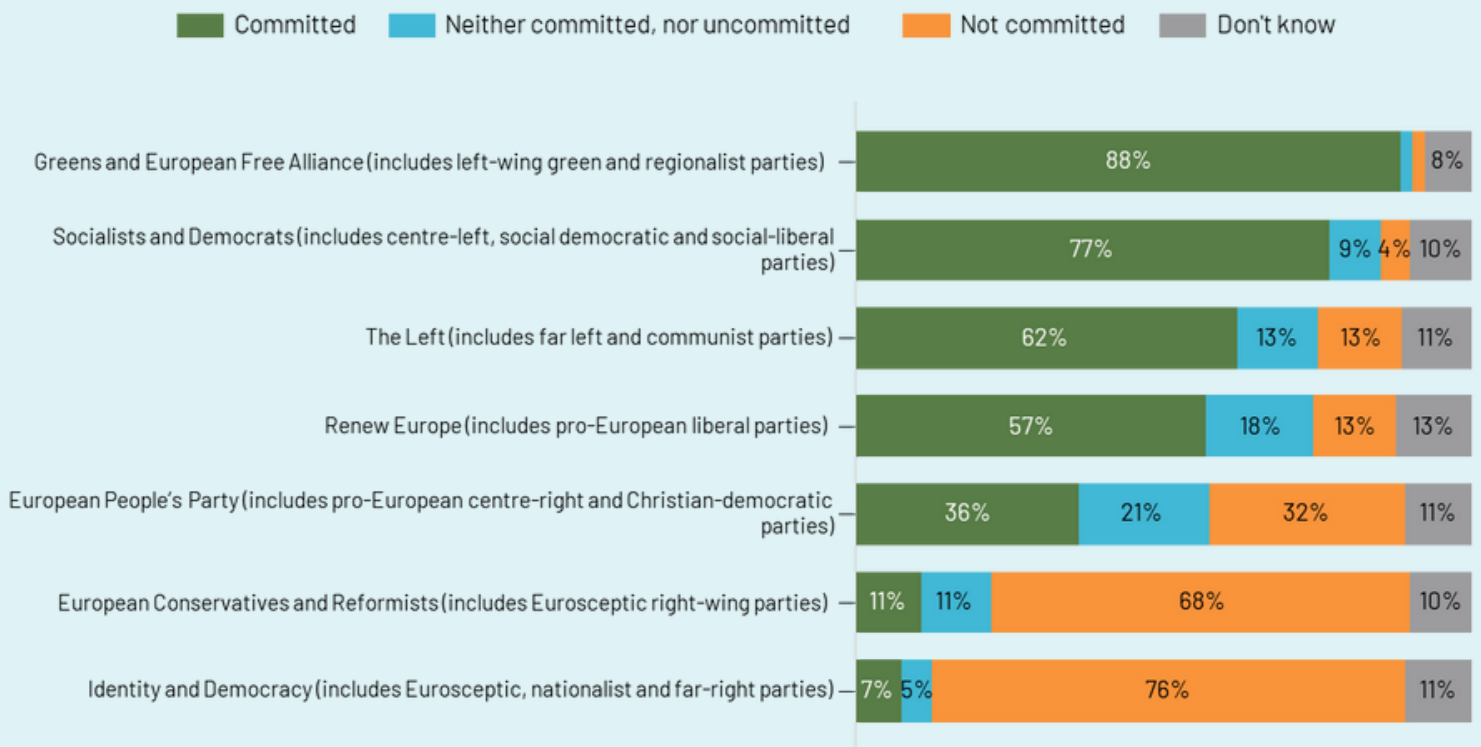
Chart 16: The importance/unimportance of the tested actors for ensuring the continuation of the EGD



Q26. How important or unimportant will each of the following actors be for ensuring the continuation of the European Green Deal agenda beyond 2024? (Proportions under 2% not shown to improve visual clarity)
 Single code, closed question, five point scale, respondent presented with list of statements one at a time.
 Base: EU experts (n=535)



Chart 17: The level of perceived commitment each political group will have to the EGD agenda after the EU 2024 elections



Q27. How committed do you think each of these political groups will be to the European Green Deal agenda after the EU 2024 elections? (Proportions under 2% not shown to improve visual clarity)

Single code, closed question, five point scale, respondent presented with list of statements one at a time.

Base: EU experts (n=535)

6

Recommendations



The European Green Deal is a long-term strategy to transform the EU economy and society, as a response to the ongoing climate crisis. Its success requires a multisectoral and bottom-up approach where all stakeholders are able to contribute to its shape and evolution.

To achieve our twin goals of building a more resilient, ambitious, and effective Green Deal and ensuring it remains at the heart of the EU agenda beyond 2024, our recommendations are as follows:



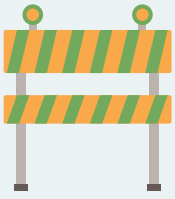
1. The future of the EGD and post 2024 priorities

The confidence (although soft) shown by experts regarding the EGD's resilience after the next EU elections is encouraging. However, it is necessary to ensure measures are in place to safeguard the resilience of those EGD policies which are essential to achieving the objectives of the Paris agreements by:

- Keeping climate mitigation and the path to climate neutrality, as well as supplying decarbonised, affordable, and secure energy, as priorities in the future Commission's programme;
- Ensuring the delivery of proposals, such as the revision of the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) and the legislative Framework for Sustainable Food Systems (FSFS);²¹
- Implementing nature restoration and ecosystems protection legislation, which is crucial for the achievement of the climate targets;²²
- Creating a positive narrative of what has been achieved during the current legislative period and what it means for citizens.

²¹ On the latter see: [Why an EU framework for sustainable food is crucial for climate, biodiversity and competitiveness](#)

²² See: [Benefits of nature restoration: A new series of policy briefs](#)



2. Breaking down barriers at national level

The main barriers to implementing the Green Deal identified in the case studies are related to governments' inconsistent political commitment to the EGD agenda, as well as the lack of political consensus. To mitigate the impacts of this highly politicised topic, it is important to:

- Raise awareness among policy and decision makers on the long-term benefits of implementing the Green Deal, rather than portraying the EGD as a burden on national governments;
- Provide civil society actors in Member States with a central role in the promotion and consultation phases of EGD implementation at Member State and EU level, considering their positive driving force.



3. Keep the private sector on board

According to the survey results, eight in ten (81%) of EU respondents working in the private sector, declared themselves to be familiar with the Green Deal Agenda. Without the meaningful involvement of the private sector, the green transition will struggle to progress. As promoters of sustainable practices and green investments, their contributions are crucial to the transformation of the economy.

Their key role was recognised by the experts when asked to assess the importance of certain stakeholders: large-scale businesses and small-medium enterprises are considered important for the continuation of the EGD policies beyond 2024.



4. The Green Deal as a social deal

The EU and MSs need to significantly increase their efforts if they are to leave nobody behind in the energy transition, notably by:

- Supporting vulnerable groups through effective implementation of instruments such as the Social Climate Fund and other carbon pricing tools;
- Assessing the effectiveness of the current public finance system models in ensuring a just transition, particularly looking at shifting the tax burden from income and profit to wealth, pollution, and resource use, according to a logic of sufficiency, solidarity, productive use of capital, no waste of resources, and planetary boundaries;
- Re-thinking both the sources of public revenues and the use of such revenues, and bringing the price signals in line with the environmental and socio-political goals, such as social justice, gender balance, valorisation of care work, and intergenerational solidarity.



5. Invest more in the green transition

Given the limited public capital available, it should be primarily channelled towards areas which markets cannot reach. Private capital must be brought into support to transition through:

- Including green capital market instruments, such as labelled bonds, as part of a new approach to public investment both at the national and subnational levels;
- Engaging the European Investment Bank in the transition regarding new landscapes, such as the sub-national level;
- Drawing lessons from international experience in this area (for example from the US) on how to do more and better to support the implementation of the Green Deal.



6. Improve the external dimension of the EGD to be more inclusive, relevant and conducive to collaboration with the EU

The EGD has significant impacts both inside and outside the EU. As evidenced by respondents, there is an increased need to enhance the involvement of external actors (e.g., non-EU countries) in the design of the EGD policies:

- Strengthening the integration of EU external policies into the EGD agenda, in particular those policies with extra territorial dimensions, such as CBAM, Deforestation Free Product Regulation, Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation, Waste Shipment Regulation, and any future legislation on agricultural standards applicable to imports, will positively impact the EGD and the EU's competitiveness as a global player;
- Gaining support and cooperation from third countries, by engaging them at an earlier stage, has the potential to deliver better results for the EU not only in terms of climate and environment but also through the achievement of several other lateral effects, such as energy security, ensuring access to critical raw materials, and reducing the direct and indirect risks associated with climate change (e.g., wars for resources, and migration pressures);
- Reducing the fiscal space to support SDGs in developing countries (i.e., unsustainable public debt curtails the opportunities of future generations, and creates costs that potentially will spill over to other geographical areas), as well as reducing the costs of dealing with Loss & Damage compensations.



7. Involve local and regional actors

Cities and regions are important implementers of the European Green Deal, being front-runners in the fight against climate change:

- Bring the local dimension into the discussion to complement the current, mainly top-down approach;
- Focus on local expertise to find appropriate and relevant solutions at this governance level.

ANNEX: STAKEHOLDER SAMPLE

The European Green Deal Barometer is based on a survey of 615 sustainability experts, defined as people who have worked with an organisation, or in a role, that focuses on environmental and sustainability issues for at least a year, or who have completed a Masters or Doctoral university course in a subject related to these issues, or who have helped design and/or implement EU environmental legislation.

In this edition of the Barometer nearly nine in ten (87%) sustainability experts are experts on, or live in, EU countries.²³ Of the non-EU experts 39 are from Europe, with the remaining 41 non-Europe experts either expert on or living in Africa (14), the Americas (12), Asia (13), and Oceania (2).

Of the EU experts, 16% are expert on or live in Central and Eastern Europe, 13% Northern Europe, 28% Southern Europe and 29% Western Europe.

The stakeholder sample is very evenly split across the four main sector categories. 27% of experts sampled come from academia and think tanks, 24% from roles in government or policy, 23% from NGOs and foundations, and 22% from the private sector. Just over six in ten (63%) have worked in or studied environmental policy, sustainable development, or corporate responsibility for five years or more.

²³Given the possibility that a person living in one country may well be most expert in the politics of another, in this edition of the European Green Deal Barometer we first asked respondents which country's environmental or sustainability policies they are most familiar with, with countries selected from a drop-down menu. They were also given the opportunity to say they were not familiar with environmental policy in any specific country. If this latter option was chosen, the respondent was asked which country they usually live in. They were then defined as being most expert on that country.

THE INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY (IEEP)

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European Green Deal Barometer 2023
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