

European Green Deal Barometer

Fourth edition

Summary
March 2024



Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy



Executive Summary

The European Commission launched the European Green Deal in December 2019 with the objective of achieving climate neutrality in the European Union by 2050. Depicted as a green growth strategy, it includes a set of policy initiatives requiring changes in all the sectors of our economy while improving people's well-being and securing a healthy planet for future generations. The fourth edition of the European Green Deal Barometer assesses the progress of the Green Deal's policy in the past four years and identifies trends with previous editions, keeping a special focus on what will come after the 2024 EU elections and the thematic areas of the Green Deal that should be taken forward according to the EU sustainability experts. Also, this edition covers five case-study countries (Czechia, France, Poland, Spain and Sweden) and monitors the external impact of the Green Deal.

METHODOLOGY

Savanta interviewed 312 sustainability experts world-wide via a 20-minute online survey. Over eight in ten (88%, n=276) live in EU countries. Just over one in ten (12%, n=36) live in countries outside the EU. The stakeholder sample is diverse, with respondents being evenly balanced across academia and think tanks (24%), policy and politics (24%), NGOs and foundations (24%) and the private sector (22%). The remaining 6% of respondents work in trade unions, media and uncategorised organisations. Six in ten (63%) respondents have worked in a sustainability-related role for at least five years.

Fieldwork took place between 4 January and 26 February 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS

Most sustainability experts believe that the European Green Deal will exhibit at least moderate resilience following the 2024 European elections. However, while experts have faith that the EGD will persist, they believe it will likely do so in a weakened or more constrained form. Less than 10% of experts believe the 2024 European elections will have a positive impact on the Green Deal. However, experts do not expect the Green Deal to be abandoned, and a majority of EU experts remains confident that the EGD agenda will be enacted as legislation. Also, almost all experts living outside the EU also agree that the implemented EGD will have an impact on a global scale.

7%



experts think the 2024 European elections will have a positive impact on the implementation of the Green Deal.

53%



stating the European Green Deal will be very to moderately resilient following the 2024 elections.

62%



EU experts anticipate the Green Deal agenda might narrow or weaken after the 2024 elections.

69%



experts think the overall external impact of the European Green Deal is positive.



Climate mitigation and the path to climate neutrality



Experts are divided on whether the target set for 2040 is sufficient for the EU to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement, with nearly half (47%) thinking that it is and a slightly lower proportion (43%) thinking it isn't sufficient.



Protecting and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity



Over two thirds of experts believe the Nature Restoration Law will have a moderate-to-full impact (67%), on the restoration of biodiversity in the European Union.



Ensuring a socially just transition



Almost half (45%) of those with expertise on ensuring a just transition believe progress made towards mainstreaming the principle since 2019 has been poor. Four in ten (40%) EU experts believe that this area should be one of the top two priorities of the Commission after 2024.



A fair and sustainable food and farming system



Three quarters (75%) of those with expertise on issues surrounding a sustainable food and farming system believe that progress made since 2019 has been poor. Increasing financial support for farmers to transition towards sustainable agricultural practices (59%) is seen by the experts as one of the most necessary measures to achieve a more environmental and climate-friendly EU agriculture policy.



Supplying decarbonised, affordable and secure energy



Over a third (34%) believe that progress has been good, making this the one policy area where those with expertise are more positive than negative on the progress being made. However, only 1 in 10 (10%) experts think the current version of the Electricity Market Reform protects citizens from future energy crises or price spikes to a great extent/completely.



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is a sustainability think tank. Working with stakeholders across EU institutions, international bodies, academia, civil society and industry, our team of economists, scientists and lawyers produce evidence-based research and policy insight. As a not-for-profit organisation with 45 years of experience, we are committed to advancing impact-driven sustainability policy across the EU and the world.

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SURVEY PARTNERS

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