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#### COVER NOTE

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From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director
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To:	Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
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Delegations will find attached document COM(2019) 22 final - Annexes.

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Brussels, 30.1.2019  
COM(2019) 22 final

ANNEXES 1 to 3

**ANNEXES**

*to the*

**Reflection paper**

**Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030**

## **ANNEX I The Juncker Commission's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that the United Nations adopted on 25 September 2015 sets out a global framework for achieving sustainable development by 2030. It includes an ambitious set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets, for countries and stakeholders to take forward.

The EU was instrumental in shaping the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, together with its Member States, has committed to being a frontrunner also in its implementation, both within the EU and by supporting implementation efforts in other countries, in particular those most in need, through its external policies.

Key aspects of sustainable development feature in all of the Juncker Commission's 10 priorities: jobs, growth and investment (priority 1); a digital single market (priority 2); making energy more secure, affordable and sustainable (priority 3); a deeper and fairer internal market (priority 4); a deeper and fairer economic and monetary union (priority 5); open and fair trade (priority 6); justice and fundamental rights (priority 7); migration (priority 8); a stronger global actor (priority 9); a union of democratic change (priority 10).

Since the start of its mandate in November 2014, the Juncker Commission has mainstreamed sustainable development into key crosscutting agendas as well as sectoral policies and initiatives, using its better regulation tools. All Commission impact assessments preceding legislative proposals include the analysis of social, environmental and economic impacts with the view to duly consider and factor in sustainable development considerations. Furthermore, all recent EU trade agreements include a chapter on

sustainable development with the view to promote sustainable growth and development and decent work for all.

The Juncker Commission has planted a number of most important seeds for the next generation policies for sustainable European future – from the European Pillar of Social Rights, the European Consensus on Development, the global strategy on foreign and security policy to the values-based trade for all strategy, strategic engagement for gender equality and a European Education Area; from the circular economy package, the mobility and clean energy packages to the blue growth strategy; from the 'Investment Plan for Europe' and the sustainable finance action plan to the urban agenda for the EU and nature action plan, to name a few. The Commission has also proposed to strengthen the link between EU funding and the rule of law, assess all EU co-funded research and innovation activities for their environmental and social impacts, as well as to adopt a more ambitious climate expenditure target for the future EU budget. Most recently, the Commission presented the European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy by 2050, which paves the way for a structural shift of the European economy, driving growth and employment while reaching climate neutrality. This will require breakthrough solutions and investment in research and innovation.

This document provides an overview of the contributions of the Juncker Commission to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, first outlining the main policy highlights and then providing a list of different actions that have been taken on each of the SDGs.

While the focus of this Annex is on the initiatives of the Juncker Commission, it goes without saying that many other EU policies, which were already in place before this Commission took office, have been contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. The Charter of Fundamental Rights

of the EU, the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020, the clean air package, the continued implementation of the corporate social responsibility strategy, the European health insurance card, the rules on the sustainable use of pesticides and the EU rules on tobacco products are only a few examples.

## **Policy Highlights**

### ***The European Pillar of Social Rights***

The European Pillar of Social Rights of November 2017 sets out 20 principles directly aimed at promoting upward convergence towards better working and living conditions in Europe. It helps to tackle poverty in all its dimensions and to ensure fair, adequate and sustainable welfare systems. It supports equal opportunities and access to the labour market including gender equality and fair working conditions, and promotes social inclusion and protection. It is accompanied by a Social Scoreboard, which together with other tools contributes to its monitoring.

Implementing the principles and rights set out in the European Pillar of Social Rights will also make an essential contribution to a sustainable Europe, by providing active support to secure employment and fair wages that provide for a decent standard of living, and by helping to equip people with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, giving them access to high-quality jobs and countering the impact of demographic ageing on the labour market and social protection systems. While supporting competitiveness and innovation, the European Pillar of Social Rights will promote social fairness, equal opportunities, social dialogue and access to good quality care services, including affordable quality healthcare for all, child and long-term care, housing assistance and other essential services.

### ***EU action for gender equality***

In 2015, the Commission adopted a strategic engagement for gender equality 2016-2019. This is the framework for the Commission's continuing work to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. The European Pillar of Social Rights confirmed the EU's commitment to equality of treatment and opportunities between men and women in all areas. In 2017, the Commission put forward a comprehensive work-life balance package of legislative and policy measures, encouraging more female labour market participation.

The EU's gender action plan 2016-2020 is the EU's framework for promoting gender equality and women and girls' empowerment in our external relations with third countries, as well as in international fora and agendas. The EU puts its gender action plan into practice through the revised European neighbourhood policy and its development policy.

### ***The EU youth strategy***

In May 2018, the Commission presented ideas on 'Engaging, Connecting and Empowering young people' for a new EU youth strategy, which was endorsed by the Council in November 2018. The new framework for cooperation on youth 2019-2027, aims to bring the EU closer to young people and to help address issues of concern to them. The new EU youth strategy aims to encourage young people's participation in civic and democratic life (engage); to connect young people across the EU and beyond to promote volunteering, opportunities to learn abroad, solidarity and intercultural understanding (connect); and to support youth empowerment through boosting innovation in, as well as the quality and recognition of youth work (empower). The instruments proposed to reach the strategy's goals include a renewed youth dialogue, the use of national activities planners, as well as a Council work plan for youth for 2019-2020.

The Commission also helps European Member States to boost youth employment. Each year, more than 3.5 million young people registered in the youth guarantee receive an offer of employment, continued education, traineeship or apprenticeship.

### ***Linking EU funding and respect for the rule of law***

The Commission's proposal for the next multiannual European budget for the period 2021-2027 is a budget guided by the principles of prosperity, sustainability, solidarity and security.

The proposal includes a new mechanism to strengthen the link between EU funding and the rule of law. Generalised deficiencies in the rule of law in a Member State have serious consequences for sound financial management and effective EU funding. This is not a sanction mechanism: this is a budgetary tool, which allows protecting the EU budget and ensuring sound financial management, while promoting the rule of law.

### ***The Investment Plan for Europe / Juncker Plan***

After the global economic and financial crisis, the EU was suffering from low levels of investment. The 'Investment Plan for Europe', the so-called 'Juncker Plan', aims to remove obstacles to investment, provide visibility and technical assistance to investment projects, and make smarter use of financial resources.

In July 2018, the Juncker Plan European Fund for Strategic Investments reached its initial target of EUR 315 billion investment and by December 2018 it has mobilised EUR 371 billion in additional investment across the EU since 2015. It has already supported more than 750,000 jobs. The figure is set to rise to 1.4 million jobs by 2020. More than 850,000 small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) are benefiting from improved access to financing. At least 40% of European Fund for Strategic Investments financing under the infrastructure and innovation window supports project components that contribute to climate action in line with the Paris Agreement on climate action.

### ***Horizon 2020 – the EU's research and innovation programme***

'Horizon 2020' is the largest programme in the world promoting cooperation in science, technology & innovation in the EU and beyond.

Almost EUR 77 billion of funding is available over seven years (2014 to 2020) for 'Horizon 2020' - the current Framework programme for research and innovation - in addition to the private and national public investment that this money will attract. More than 60% of this budget is invested in sustainable development. An even larger budget is proposed for its successor programme 'Horizon Europe'.

'Horizon 2020' aims to help to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The goal is to ensure that the EU produces world-class science and technology, which benefit the economy, the society and the environment alike, removes barriers to innovation and makes it easier for the public and private sectors to work together in delivering solutions to the big challenges facing our society.

### ***Financing sustainable growth***

As our planet increasingly faces the unpredictable consequences of climate change and resource depletion, urgent action is needed to adapt to a more sustainable model. Around EUR

180 billion of additional investments a year are, according to estimates, needed to achieve the EU's 2030 targets agreed in Paris, including a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions.

This is why, in March 2018, the Commission adopted a sustainable finance action plan to boost the role of finance in promoting a well-performing economy that delivers on environmental and social goals as well. By doing so, the EU is allowing the financial sector to throw its full weight behind achieving the SDGs.

*#SustainableFinanceEU*

### ***Circular economy action plan***

In a circular economy the value of products, materials and resources is maintained in the economy for as long as possible, and the generation of waste minimised (e.g. food waste, plastics, marine litter). The wider benefits of a circular economy include the creation of new competitive advantages and the lowering of the need for scarce resources, energy consumption and carbon dioxide emission levels.

The actions delivered by the Commission since the adoption of the circular economy action plan in 2015 support a circular economy in each step of the value chain. With its circular economy package, the EU is giving a clear signal to economic operators and society on the way forward. Action at EU level can drive investments, create a level playing field, and remove obstacles in the single market.

### ***A clean planet for all - the long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy by 2050***

The long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy by 2050, adopted by the Commission in November 2018, shows how Europe can lead the way to climate neutrality by modernising the energy system, investing into realistic technological solutions, empowering citizens, and aligning action in key areas such as industrial policy, finance, circular economy, and research – while ensuring social fairness and support for a just transition. In full consistency with the SDGs, it also outlines a number of strategic building blocks for the transition to a climate-neutral EU.

The purpose of the long term vision is to set the direction of travel of EU climate policy and open a thorough debate as to how the EU should prepare itself towards a 2050 horizon with the aim to submit by 2020 an ambitious EU long-term strategy to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change by 2020.

### ***Paris Agreement on climate action – Clean energy for all Europeans package***

Europe was instrumental in concluding the first-ever universal, legally binding climate agreement in Paris, which sets out a global action plan to tackle climate change. The EU has agreed to cut at least 40% in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared with 1990.

It led the way for the clean energy for all Europeans package, spurring the clean energy transition and the modernisation of the energy system to allow the achievement of the Paris goals.

The clean energy transition and the fight against climate change will significantly transform the way we produce and consume energy. It will affect the various sectors and regions differently. Carbon-intensive business models such as coal mining stand to become less economical and ultimately will be phased out.

The Commission therefore launched dedicated initiatives to address the social and economic challenges faced by the citizens in coal regions. They support the development of transition strategies, concrete projects for structural diversification and technology transition. Support actions for 41 regions with coal mining activities across 12 Member States aims turning transition into opportunities boosting innovation, investment and new skills.

### **Europe on the Move**

Following the low-emission mobility strategy, the Commission has adopted three ‘Europe on the Move’ mobility packages respectively in 2017 and 2018. ‘Europe on the Move’ is a wide-ranging set of initiatives that will make traffic safer; encourage smart road charging; reduce CO2 emissions, air pollution and congestion; cut red-tape for business; fight illicit employment and ensure proper conditions and rest times for workers. The long-term benefits of these measures will extend far beyond the transport sector by promoting growth and job creation, strengthening social fairness, widening consumer’s choices and firmly putting Europe on the path towards zero emission.

The last ‘Europe on the Move’ package sets out a positive agenda and aims to allow all Europeans to benefit from safer traffic, less polluting vehicles and more advanced technological solutions, while supporting the competitiveness of the EU industry. To this end, the initiatives included an integrated policy for the future of road safety with measures for vehicles and infrastructure safety; the first ever CO2 standards for heavy-duty vehicles; a strategic action plan for the development and manufacturing of batteries in Europe and a forward-looking strategy on connected and automated mobility.

### **EU plastics strategy**

Healthy oceans are fundamental to our existence. They are an essential source of food and income for around 40% of the global population. Our climate, water and oxygen are all ultimately provided and regulated by the sea.

The EU’s international ocean governance agenda established an overarching framework for strengthening international ocean governance to ensure oceans are safe, secure, clean, legally and sustainably used. One of the actions included in the ocean governance agenda was the fight against marine litter

In May 2018, the Commission proposed new EU-wide rules to target the 10 single-use plastic products most often found on Europe's beaches and seas, as well as lost and abandoned fishing gear. Together these constitute 70% of all marine litter items.

Other initiatives in relation to plastics include measures to prevent littering; making the plastics economy circular; tackling sea-based sources of marine litter; and ensuring we better understand and monitor marine litter.



### ***EU action plan for nature, people and the economy***

The birds and habitats laws are the EU nature protection flagships. They establish the largest coordinated network of biodiversity-rich protected areas in the world ('Natura 2000') which contribute to the EU economy through water purification, carbon storage, pollination or tourism ('ecosystem services') corresponding to between 1.7 and 2.5 % of EU GDP.

In April 2017, the Commission adopted an 'Action plan for nature, people and the economy' to ensure the laws' full implementation on the ground and thereby improve the protection of nature for the benefits of EU citizens and the economy.

The action plan foresees 15 main actions to be carried out by 2019 along four key priorities: improving knowledge and guidance to ensure better coherence with socio-economic activities; completing the network and ensuring it is effectively managed; strengthening investments in 'Natura 2000' and ensuring increased funding; engaging citizens, stakeholders and local communities.

### **The urban agenda for the EU**

Cities in Europe are at the heart of many of today's economic, environmental and social challenges. More than 70% of EU citizens live in urban areas and about 85% of the EU's GDP is generated in cities.

The urban agenda for the EU launched in May 2016 is pivotal in ensuring that urban areas act as catalysts for innovative sustainable solutions promoting the transition to low-carbon and resilient societies. The urban agenda is a joint effort of the Commission, Member States and European cities, to better ensure the consideration of the impact of policies in urban areas. It also aims to strengthen the resilience of urban settings by preventing disasters and climate related risks.

The urban agenda for the EU is reinforced by Commission initiatives that promote long-term energy and climate action at local level such as the **Covenant of Mayors**. Based on this European initiative, the Global Covenant of Mayors for climate and energy was established in 2016 gathering 10.28% of the global population in an alliance supporting action to combat climate change and move to a low emission society.

### ***Skills agenda for Europe***

With the new skills agenda for Europe, Europe invests in people so that they can face the future with confidence. By delivering on the 10 actions of the skills agenda, the Commission is helping to equip people with the right skills to keep on top of changes in society and in the labour market. Europe is also making skills more visible and comparable and gathering intelligence on skills needs in occupations and sectors across Europe. The Commission has also supported European countries to step up their assistance to adults who struggle with basic skills. Initiatives have been launched to prepare people for the digital revolution and the future of work. Finally, the Commission has created the European vocational skills week to raise awareness of the many opportunities that vocational education and training offers. Since 2016, these successful annual campaigns have helped millions of young people and adults discover that vocational education and training is a first or equal choice.

### ***A sustainable EU bioeconomy to strengthen the connection between economy, society and the environment***

We live in a world of limited resources. Global challenges like climate change, land and ecosystem degradation, coupled with a growing population force us to seek new ways of producing and consuming our biological resources that respect the ecological boundaries of our planet. With a turnover value of EUR 2.3 trillion and accounting for 8.2% of the EU's workforce, the bioeconomy is a key component of the EU economy.

The updated bioeconomy strategy will launch 14 actions paving the way to a more innovative, resource efficient and competitive society reconciling food security with the sustainable use of biotic renewable resources, while ensuring environmental protection. It will strengthen the bio-based sectors and develop new technologies to turn biowaste into value, provide benefits to rural communities and ensure that the bioeconomy operates within the ecological boundaries.

### ***The EU cohesion policy***

The EU cohesion policy is the EU's main investment policy, whose core mission is to achieve economic, social and territorial cohesion by reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions. It is one of the most transversal and cross-cutting policies, which contributes to most, if not all 17 SDGs.

In addition, key cross-cutting principles and objectives, such as sustainable development, elimination of inequalities, promotion of equality between men and women, integration of gender perspective, as well as combatting discrimination are mainstreamed at all stages of implementation of the policy. Priority granted to the partnership principle makes sure that national and subnational actors are engaged and take ownership on delivering EU priorities through co-financed projects.

### ***European Education Area***

The EU is seeking to establish a European Education Area by 2025, where *“learning, studying and doing research is not hampered by borders. A continent, where spending time in another Member State – to study, to learn, or to work – has become the standard and where, in addition to one's mother tongue, speaking two other languages has become the norm. A continent in which people have a strong sense of their identity as Europeans, of Europe's cultural heritage and its diversity.”*

In line with the first principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the aim is to make innovative, inclusive and lifelong learning accessible to all. First concrete actions include developing European universities; making qualifications obtained in upper secondary and tertiary education, as well as learning periods abroad automatically recognised across Member States; improving language learning; promoting quality early childhood education and care; supporting the acquisition of key competences; and strengthening digital learning.

### ***The EU platform on food losses and food waste***

In the EU, an estimated 20% of the total food produced is lost or wasted, while 43 million people cannot afford a quality meal every second day. Households generate more than half of the total food waste in the EU with 70% of food waste arising at household, food service and retail.

There is not one single cause with one solution because the food chain is a complex and dynamic system. Tackling food waste means working together with all key players from public and private sectors in order to better identify, measure, understand and find solutions to deal with food waste.

Established in 2016, the EU platform on food losses and food waste brings together international organisations, Member States and stakeholders to define good practice and catalyse progress in food waste prevention. With the support of the platform, the Commission adopted EU guidelines to facilitate food donation (2017) and is running a 3-year EU pilot project to promote their implementation on the ground. In 2018, EU guidelines were adopted to valorise the use of food, which is safe but no longer marketable for human consumption, as a resource for animal feed. The Commission is also actively examining ways to improve the use and understanding of 'use by' and 'best before' dates in the supply chain and by consumers, in order to reduce the associated food waste.

### ***European Consensus on Development***

In 2017, the EU and its Member States adopted the European Consensus on Development. It is a joint vision for development policy. The Consensus reflects the new framework of external action and updates the vision of development policy to address the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. It also promotes coordinated implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate action and of the decent work agenda.

The European Consensus on Development is structured around the '5 Ps' framing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. Eradicating poverty remains the primary objective. It integrates the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The Consensus strengthens the crucial link between external policies such as humanitarian, development and trade policies and policies to sustain peace and security, and to deal with migration, environment and climate change.

### ***Towards a new 'Africa - Europe Alliance'***

The EU is Africa's first partner in trade, investment and development. The EU accounted for 36% of Africa's trade in goods in 2017, EU's investment stocks represent 40% of foreign direct investments in Africa worth EUR 291 billion in 2016, and in 2016 alone Africa received 55% of its official development assistance, amounting to EUR 23 billion, from the EU and its Member States.

In order to take this partnership to the next level the Commission launched a new 'Africa – Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs' in September 2018.

The alliance sets out key strands of action for the EU and its African partners to attract private investors, improve the business environment, support education and skills and boost trade.

The alliance complements the longstanding political partnership, proposing a paradigm shift beyond a donor-recipient approach towards an alliance of equals. It builds on the joint

commitment to boost investment, job creation and trade, made at the 5th African Union – European Union summit of 2017.

*“Africa needs true and fair partnership. And we, Europeans, need this partnership just as much.”*

Jean-Claude Juncker,  
European Commission President  
State of the Union, 2018

### ***The EU global strategy on foreign and security policy***

The global strategy on foreign and security policy sets out a vision for the EU’s engagement in the world. The SDGs are a cross-cutting dimension of all the work to implement the strategy.

The EU is helping to build peaceful and inclusive societies. In the current context of shrinking civic and democratic space, the EU has reaffirmed its unconditional support for democracy, human rights and good governance worldwide.

This commitment takes various forms including political and policy dialogue and financial support through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. The EU action plan on human rights and democracy (2015-2019) provides a framework for policies with third countries. Over the years, the EU has established human rights dialogues with an increasing number of third countries in order to enhance cooperation on human rights and improve the human rights situation in third countries, including access to justice.

Furthermore, the EU is supporting programmes to strengthen transparent and accountable institutions, including parliaments, judiciaries and law enforcement bodies, and national human rights institutions. The EU is also working towards strengthening resilience in partner countries as a means to address fragile situations and is supporting conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives including by improving partners’ governance of the security sector to help prevent crises and foster human security.

### ***Trade for all: Towards a more responsible trade and investment policy***

Today's economic system, global and digital at its core, is based on international value chains, with goods and services increasingly traded across borders.

The Commission recognises the need for the EU's trade and investment policy to address the challenges of our time and to facilitate the exchange of ideas, skills and innovation. The Commission also recognises that an effective trade policy should be coherent with sustainable development and broader foreign policies, as well as external objectives of EU internal policies, so that they mutually reinforce each other. The Commission emphasises that trade shall ensure a level-playing field while promoting core principles like human rights, decent work, sustainable development around the world or high quality regulation and public services at home.

With the values-based “Trade for all strategy: Towards a more responsible trade and investment policy”, the Commission shows that EU trade policy is for all, that trade policy must deliver growth, jobs and innovation but it must also be consistent with the principles of the European model. That it must, in short, be responsible.

### ***The next multiannual European budget – a tool to integrate sustainability***

The Commission's proposal for the next multiannual European budget for 2021-2027 is a budget guided by the principles of prosperity, sustainability, solidarity and security. Sustainable development is at the very core of the proposals. It is a crosscutting priority, not just one heading or a single programme. Sustainability is promoted through and mainstreamed into numerous programmes and spending instruments. Some examples from the Commission's proposals for the next multiannual European budget:

- A major restructuring of the EU's **external action instruments** to provide more coherence between instruments, to exploit economies of scale and synergies between programmes and to simplify processes. This will make the EU better equipped to pursue its goals and project its objectives, policies and values and interests globally. The proposed new **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument** with a budget of almost EUR 90 billion is aligned with the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. With the new **European Peace Facility**, worth EUR 10.5 billion, the EU will also seek to enhance its ability to prevent conflicts, build peace and strengthen international security.
- Breakthrough solutions to support the transition to sustainable development will require unprecedented investment in Research and Innovation through '**Horizon Europe**', the **largest ever EU research and innovation programme** with a proposed budget of EUR 100 billion.
- A more ambitious goal for **climate mainstreaming** across all EU programmes, with a target of 25% of EU expenditure contributing to climate, including clean energy transition objectives. This target is raised to 35% of the overall budget of the proposed research and innovation framework programme '**Horizon Europe**', which is conceived and designed in line with the SDGs.
- A **reformed cohesion policy** with more than EUR 370 billion - the highest budget of all EU policies and initiatives for 2021-2027 - that will leverage significant additional national and private investments. The focus of the proposal is on sustainable growth, the transition towards a low carbon and circular economy, the environment and resource efficiency, and social inclusion. The reformed cohesion policy will enable the EU to deliver on the targets of the Paris Agreement on climate action and will help localise SDGs since its delivery is done in close cooperation with regions and local authorities. Investing in people will be a key priority with the **future European Social Fund (ESF+)** that helps implement the European Pillar of Social Rights, with a proposed budget of EUR101 billion.
- A proposal to catalyse key strategic investments through a new, fully integrated investment fund, **InvestEU**, which will be key to Europe's future prosperity and its leadership on the SDGs. With a contribution from the EU budget of EUR 15.2 billion, InvestEU is expected to mobilise more than EUR 650 billion of additional investment across Europe.
- A **simplified, modernised common agricultural policy** with a total budget of EUR 365 billion to ensure access to safe, high quality, affordable, nutritious and diverse food for the EU's 500 million consumers. The new common agricultural policy will place a greater emphasis on the environment and climate. All farmers receiving area and animal-based payments will have to comply with a range of requirements related to climate change, water, soil, biodiversity and landscapes, as well as to public health, plant and animal health and welfare.

- Strengthened environmental **LIFE programme**, with a budget of EUR 5.5 billion for projects supporting environment and climate action, including a new window dedicated to support for clean energy transition .
- It is proposed to double the budget for the future **Erasmus Programme** to EUR 30 billion, to enable more European citizens to study, train, volunteer and gain professional experience abroad.
- The **Connecting Europe Facility programme** for the period 2021-2027 aims to develop smart, sustainable, inclusive, safe and secure infrastructure in the transport, energy and digital sectors with a proposed budget of EUR 42.3 billion. Synergies between the three sectors will be promoted and investment streamlining with coherent eligibility criteria and visibility on the pipeline. At least **60% of financing** from the Connecting Europe Facility programme will contribute to climate action.
- The digital transformation is an important enabler for the transition to a low-carbon, circular economy and a society needed to achieve the SDGs. The proposed **Digital Europe Programme** with a budget of EUR 9.2 billion will work to this end, for instance by supporting the provision of large scale capacities in high-performance computing and artificial intelligence, which will offer new opportunities for sustainable development, including for reducing CO2.
- A simplified and more targeted **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund** with a total budget of EUR 6.14 billion to support the common fisheries policy, the EU's maritime policy and international commitments in the field of ocean governance, especially in the context of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

# **Main SDG related initiatives of the Juncker Commission**

## **SDG 1: No Poverty**

- European Pillar of Social Rights, social scoreboard
- Strengthened European semester of economic and social policy coordination
- Recommendation on long-term unemployment
- Recommendation on access to social protection for all
- EU framework for national Roma integration strategies
- European accessibility act
- Action plan to tackle the gender pay gap
- Strategic approach to resilience in the EU's external action
- European Consensus on Development
- Action plan on the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction 2015-2030
- Revised European neighbourhood policy & EU enlargement strategy, Western Balkan strategy
- Trade for all strategy
- Updated aid for trade strategy

## **SDG2: Zero Hunger**

- Common agriculture policy
- Common fisheries policy
- Circular economy action plan
- Multi-stakeholder platform on food loss and food waste
- Rules for organic farming
- FOOD 2030 initiative to develop a coherent research and innovation agenda for sustainable food and nutrition systems
- A sustainable bioeconomy for Europe: strengthening the connection between economy, society and the environment
- European Consensus on Development
- Revised European neighbourhood policy & EU enlargement strategy, Western Balkan strategy
- Task Force for Rural Africa
- Trade for all strategy

## **SDG3: Good Health and Well-Being**

- European Pillar of Social Rights, social scoreboard
- State of health in the EU- reporting cycle
- Digital transformation of health and care: bringing better health and care to more citizens in better and effective ways
- One health action plan against antimicrobial resistance
- Updates to the carcinogens and mutagens rules
- EU cooperation on vaccine-preventable diseases

- Steering group on health promotion, disease prevention and management of non-communicable diseases
- New rules on medical devices
- Enforcement of EU air pollution standards and measures to help national, regional and local actors fight air pollution
- A clean planet for all – the long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy by 2050
- Strategic action plan on road safety
- European Consensus on Development
- Research partnership with Africa against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases
- Revised European neighbourhood policy & EU enlargement strategy, Western Balkan strategy
- Trade for all strategy

#### **SDG 4: Quality Education**

- European Pillar of Social Rights, social scoreboard
- European Education Area by 2025
- Renewed EU agenda for higher education
- New skills agenda for Europe
- Youth strategy 2019–2027
- Digital education action plan
- Recommendations on high quality early childhood education and care systems; on the automatic mutual recognition of diplomas and learning periods abroad; on improving the teaching and learning of languages; on a European framework for quality and effective apprenticeships; on key competences for lifelong learning; and on upskilling pathways, new opportunities for adults
- Strengthened European semester of economic and social policy coordination
- EU action on education in emergencies and protracted crises
- European Consensus on Development
- Revised European neighbourhood policy & EU enlargement strategy, Western Balkan strategy
- A new ‘Africa – EU alliance’

#### **SDG 5: Gender Equality**

- Strategic engagement for gender equality 2016-2019
- Work-life balance package
- Action plan to tackle the gender pay gap
- European Pillar of Social Rights, social scoreboard
- Strengthened European semester of economic and social policy coordination
- 'Women in Transport'
- Action plan for gender equality and women's empowerment in external relations
- European Consensus on Development
- Global alliance: spotlight initiative (EU-UN) to eliminate violence against women and girls



- Revised European neighbourhood policy & EU enlargement strategy, Western Balkan strategy
- Trade for all strategy

### **SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation**

- Proposal on revised drinking water rules
- Proposal on minimum requirements for water reuse
- European Consensus on Development
- Revised European neighbourhood policy & EU enlargement strategy, Western Balkan strategy
- Global strategy for the EU's foreign and security policy

### **SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy**

- Energy union strategy
- 'Europe on the Move' packages
- Clean energy for all Europeans package
- A clean planet for all - the long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy by 2050
- The 2030 energy and climate framework
- Horizon 2020 large scale initiative on digital transformation in the energy sector through Internet of Things
- Strategic energy technology plan
- European battery alliance
- Mission Innovation
- Support for coal regions in transition
- Energy poverty observatory
- Clean energy for EU islands initiative
- Cohesion policy
- Sustainable finance action plan
- Low emission strategy
- European Consensus on Development
- Energise Africa strategy
- European and Global Covenant of Mayors for climate and energy
- Revised European neighbourhood policy & EU enlargement strategy, Western Balkan strategy
- Global strategy for the EU's foreign and security policy

### **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**

- Investment Plan for Europe / "Juncker Plan"
- European Pillar of Social Rights, social scoreboard
- Strengthened European semester of economic and social policy coordination

- Renewed EU industrial policy strategy
- Renewed agenda for research and innovation and the ‘Horizon 2020’ programme
- Cohesion policy
- Rules for transparent and predictable working conditions
- Update of rules on posting of workers
- Proposal for setting up a European Labour Authority
- Updates to the carcinogens and mutagens rules
- Recommendation on access to social protection for all
- Recommendation on long-term unemployment
- A clean planet for all – the long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy by 2050
- Circular economy action plan
- External investment plan, including the European Fund for Sustainable Development
- European Consensus on Development
- Revised European neighbourhood policy & EU enlargement strategy, Western Balkan strategy
- Trade for all strategy
- Updated aid for trade strategy
- Global strategy for the EU’s foreign and security policy
- A new ‘Africa – EU alliance’

### **SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**

- Renewed EU industrial policy strategy and the Critical raw materials list
- High level roundtable ‘Industry 2030’
- Circular economy action plan
- A clean planet for all – The long term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy by 2050
- Renewed agenda for research and innovation and the ‘Horizon 2020’ Programme, including a large focus area on Digitising European Industry
- Cohesion policy
- Digital single market strategy
- Sustainable finance action plan
- Clean energy for all Europeans package
- Energy poverty observatory
- Implementation of the corporate social responsibility strategy
- ‘Europe on the Move’ packages
- ‘Women in Transport’
- Connecting Europe Facility
- European Processor initiative
- Low emission mobility strategy
- External investment plan
- European Consensus on Development
- Revised European neighbourhood policy & EU enlargement strategy, Western Balkan strategy
- Trade for all strategy
- A new ‘Africa – EU alliance’

## **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities**

- European Pillar of Social Rights, social scoreboard
- Strengthened European semester of economic and social policy coordination
- European accessibility act
- Recommendation on access to social protection for all
- Work-life balance package
- Rules for transparent and predictable working conditions across the EU
- Cohesion policy
- EU framework for national Roma integration strategies
- European agenda on migration
- EU action plan on human rights and democracy 2015-2019
- European Consensus on Development
- Revised European neighbourhood policy & EU enlargement strategy, Western Balkan strategy
- Trade for all strategy
- Global strategy for the EU's foreign and security policy

## **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**

- Urban agenda for the EU
- Strategy for low emission mobility
- European Pillar of Social Rights, social scoreboard
- Renewed agenda for research and innovation and the 'Horizon 2020' programme, including large scale initiative on digital transformation within Smart Cities and Communities
- Joint communication on resilience
- Cohesion policy
- A clean planet for all – the longterm vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy by 2050
- Circular economy action plan
- European and Global Covenant of Mayors for climate and energy
- Strengthened EU disaster management (rescEU) and revised EU civil protection mechanism
- Action plan on the Sendai action plan for disaster risk reduction 2015-2030
- European Consensus on Development
- Revised European neighbourhood policy & EU enlargement strategy, Western Balkan strategy
- EU cities fair and ethical trade award

## **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**

- Circular economy action plan, including a monitoring framework and the European circular economy stakeholder platform

- A clean planet for all – the long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy by 2050
- Multi-stakeholder platform on food loss and food waste
- New EU rules on waste, including action on food loss and food waste
- EU plastics strategy
- Large Scale initiatives under Horizon 2020 on digital and sustainable transformation of the AgriFood Sector
- A sustainable bioeconomy for Europe: strengthening the connection between economy, society and the environment
- Eco-design and energy labelling working plan
- European agenda for a collaborative economy
- Implementation of the corporate social responsibility strategy
- Rules on conflict minerals
- European Consensus on Development
- Revised European neighbourhood policy & EU enlargement strategy, Western Balkan strategy
- Trade for all strategy

### **SDG 13: Climate Action**

- Entry into force Paris Agreement on climate action
- A clean planet for all – the long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy by 2050
- The 2030 energy and climate framework
- Renewed EU emission trading system
- Clean energy for all Europeans package
- ‘Europe on the Move’ packages
- Low emission mobility strategy
- Circular economy action plan
- Ocean governance agenda
- Critical raw materials list
- European and Global Covenant of Mayors for climate and energy
- Strengthened EU disaster management (rescEU) and revised EU civil protection mechanism
- Action plan on the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction 2015–2030
- European Consensus on Development
- Revised European neighbourhood policy & EU enlargement strategy, Western Balkan strategy
- Trade for all strategy
- Global strategy for the EU’s foreign and security policy

### **SDG 14: Life below Water**

- EU plastics strategy
- International ocean governance agenda
- EU blue growth strategy
- New rules for the sustainable management of external fishing fleets

- Proposal for the revision of the EU fisheries control system
- Fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
- A clean planet for all – the long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy by 2050
- European Consensus on Development
- Revised European neighbourhood policy & EU enlargement strategy, Western Balkan strategy
- Trade for all strategy
- Global strategy for the EU’s foreign and security policy

### **SDG 15: Life on Land**

- Action plan for nature, people and the economy
- EU pollinators initiative
- New rules on invasive alien species
- New rules for organic farming
- EU action plan against wildlife trafficking
- A clean planet for all – the long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy by 2050
- European Consensus on Development
- Revised European neighbourhood policy & EU enlargement strategy, Western Balkan strategy
- Trade for all strategy

### **SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**

- Global strategy for the EU’s foreign and security policy
- European Consensus on Development
- Trade for all strategy
- Revised European neighbourhood policy & EU enlargement strategy, Western Balkan strategy
- A new ‘Africa – EU alliance’
- The European agenda on security
- Action plan to protect public places
- Measures to tackle illegal content online
- EU action plan on human rights and democracy
- Implementation of the corporate social responsibility strategy
- European public prosecutor’s office
- Rules on anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing
- Rules on tax transparency and anti-tax avoidance measures
- Strengthened rules on procedural rights of suspects and accused persons
- Revised firearm rules
- Measures for securing free and fair European elections
- Action plan against disinformation
- Strengthened European semester of economic and social policy coordination
- A clean planet for all – the long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy by 2050

## **SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals**

- EU better regulation agenda
- Multi-stakeholder platform on the implementation of the SDGs in the EU
- Initiative on ‘Next steps for a sustainable European future’
- Yearly monitoring report on EU progress towards the SDGs
- European Pillar of Social Rights
- EU health policy platform
- The European solidarity corps
- A new start for social dialogue
- Collect more spend better initiative
- Sustainable finance action plan
- European external investment plan and its European Fund for Sustainable Development
- Critical raw materials list
- A clean planet for all – the long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy by 2050
- International urban cooperation
- Smart financing for smart buildings initiative
- Strengthened European semester of economic and social policy coordination
- European Consensus on Development
- Revised European neighbourhood policy & EU enlargement strategy, Western Balkan strategy
- Trade for all strategy
- Updated aid for trade strategy
- Global strategy for the EU’s foreign and security policy

## **ANNEX II The EU's performance on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

The EU is one of the best places to live in the world and the EU Member States are already leading the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Yet, no single country in the world has reached all agreed objectives and closer assessment of the EU's performance on the SDGs shows that also in the EU we need continued efforts on all fronts.

The 17 SDGs of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are strongly interlinked and designed to be indivisible, which is why their mainstreaming into the actions of all actors is essential for their successful delivery on the ground. It is important to create better synergies and coherence between policies, and develop an enabling regulatory, financial and behavioural environment for turning them into reality.

Putting our production, distribution and consumption patterns on to a sustainable path, addressing climate change and strengthening our actions to protect our oceans, ecosystems and biodiversity must be a priority as the planet's natural systems that support life on earth are increasingly being pushed to the edge. The fight against poverty, social exclusion, inequalities and gender disparities has to be stepped up to guarantee prosperity and well-being for all, ensure social and political stability and maintain the support for the European project. Promoting and nurturing the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights as well as strong rules-based multilateralism and trade must continue.

This document provides an insight to the EU's performance on the SDGs. For each of the Goals, an overview is given of where the EU stands today, what the development trends are and how the EU compares in the global context. A snapshot is provided of how the EU is expected to progress until 2030 and what will drive and what may hinder the transition towards a sustainable Europe. Sustainable development must be a joint endeavour with all members of the society on board. This in mind, also several real-life examples are presented with a view to showcasing good practices from different actors at different levels.

In worldwide comparison, seven EU-27 Member States are among the top 10 in the global SDG Index ranking and all EU-27 Member States are in the top 50 out of 156 countries assessed<sup>1</sup>. In the past five years, the EU as a whole has made progress towards almost all SDGs. Most progress has been made on SDG 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, and on SDG 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, which are both also among the top three of the highest-ranking SDGs for the EU-27 Member States in the global ranking. On average, in the global ranking the EU-27 Member States score the highest on SDG 1 – End poverty in all its form everywhere. The EU has, however, moved away from SDG 10 – Reduce inequality within and among countries, with notable differences between the Member States. It is important to note that making progress does not necessarily imply that the current status of the

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<sup>1</sup> In this paragraph the global ranking is based on “[The 2018 SDG Index and Dashboards Report](#)” produced by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Bertelsmann Stiftung; whereas the trends in EU are based on the 2018 Edition of the Eurostat report “[Sustainable development in the European Union – Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context – 2018 Edition](#)”

relevant Goal is satisfactory for the EU. For example, notable progress has been achieved towards SDG 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, but this is also the SDG where in the global ranking the EU-27 Member States have the second lowest average score with much work still to be done. On average, in the global ranking EU-27 Member States score the lowest on SDG 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

**Overview of progress towards the SDGs in an EU context<sup>2</sup>**



<sup>2</sup> Eurostat (2018), “Sustainable development in the European Union – Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context – 2018 Edition”



1 NO POVERTY



## End poverty in all its forms everywhere

### European Union today

#### *Snapshot/Qualitative overview*

Although the EU is a front-runner in most of the employment and social areas, our society still faces challenges that need to be addressed. Poverty hampers people's opportunities to realise their potential, their active participation in society and their rights to access quality services. Poverty is multidimensional: it is more than the lack of adequate income and includes other aspects ranging from material deprivation to discrimination and the lack of participation in decision-making. Poverty can persist over time and across generations. The EU has acted on multiple fronts to tackle poverty both internally and externally, ranging from legislative interventions, to dedicated funding, policy coordination, promotion of corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct and social dialogue, while respecting its competencies and the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. In 2017, for the first time since the onset of the global crisis, the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU has decreased below the 2008 reference point: 3.1 million fewer people are at risk of poverty or social exclusion compared to 2008 or 10.8 million fewer people compared to the peak level of 2012. However, the EU's target of lifting at least 20 million people out of poverty or social exclusion by 2020 compared to 2008 remains an important challenge. Persons in vulnerable situations, such as children, young people, people with disabilities, those with low levels of education, the unemployed, non-EU born, people from marginalised communities, and those living in households with very low work intensity or working in precarious employment have a higher risk of being in poverty or to experience social exclusion. On the external side, the EU is a global leader in contributing to the eradication of poverty, through a coherent mix of policies, including development cooperation, various trade policy instruments and the European neighbourhood and enlargement policies. The European Consensus on Development - the framework for development cooperation by EU and its Member States - puts eradication of poverty, tackling discriminations and inequalities and leaving no one behind at its centre. The EU's free trade agreements, unilateral trade preferences as well as the updated 2017 Aid for trade strategy support poverty reduction in developing countries.

#### *Key trends*

- Most recent data shows that in 2017, 112.9 million people, or 22.5 % of the EU population, were at **risk of poverty or social exclusion**, meaning they experienced at least one of the following situations: at-risk of poverty, severe material deprivation or very low work intensity. This continues the downward trend started in 2012, when the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion reached its peak of 123.8 million.. Women across the EU are at a higher risk of poverty, primarily due to gender inequalities in the labour market experienced during the life course. While declining, the rate for children at risk of poverty or social exclusion (aged 0-17) remains well above that of the general population in most Member States. Within the EU, significant cross-country differences persist.
- The share of **people at risk of income poverty** rose for several years following the crisis, but stabilised in 2015-2016 (around 17.3 %) and decreased in 2017 to 16.9 % of EU population, thanks to the ongoing recovery and improving labour market conditions. With respect to the working poor, 9.6 % of the employed were also affected by income poverty in 2017. This has stabilised in the last four years, although at a higher level than in 2008 (8.6 %).

- The **share of people experiencing severe material deprivation** has declined consistently since its 2012 peak at 9.9% to 6.9 % of the EU population in 2017 and is below its 2008 level (8.5 %), translating in around 1 in 14 people being constrained by a lack of resources, such as not being able to pay their bills, keep their home adequately warm, or take a one week holiday away from home.
- People at risk of poverty tend to be more exposed to **housing deficiencies**, such as leaking roofs, damp walls or lack of basic sanitary facilities. Being on a downward trend, this affected 13.1 % of the EU population in 2017.

### ***Global ranking***

According to the global SDG Index and dashboards report 2018 (Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network), all EU Member States have a score above 95 out of 100 for SDG 1, making it on average the highest scoring SDG for the EU Member States.

## **European Union in 2030**

### ***EU under current trends/all things being equal***

By 2030, although important challenges will remain, it is expected that the EU will have made further significant progress on eradicating poverty and social exclusion. Employment growth will play an important role, but will not be sufficient to lift all people out of poverty. Access for all to adequate social protection, quality healthcare, education, housing, and social services will need to be adapted to future demographic changes, new technologies, evolving forms of work, migration and climate change challenges. Continuous progress is expected from a broad range of stakeholders at all levels, including local, national and European. The EU's external policies will continue to contribute to poverty eradication in third countries.

### ***Opportunities/Positive drivers***

Policy levers linked to employment and social welfare (in particular social protection and social inclusion systems, labour market policies, gender equality, educational attainment, skills levels, lifelong learning and healthcare and long-term care), equal access to new technologies, social innovation, sustainable finance, multilateralism, open and fair trade, societal involvement and participatory politics, corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct, taxation.

### ***Risks/Negative drivers***

Inequality of opportunities, ageing societies, changing household composition (e.g. single person households), climate change, backlash on gender equality policies and movements, geopolitical instability and security threats, return to economic protectionism worldwide, labour market segmentation and job precariousness, digital divide.

## **Policy highlights**

***At EU level:*** The European Pillar of Social Rights represents the main guiding framework for fighting poverty at EU level. Most of its 20 principles tackle directly SDG targets on poverty, such as reducing poverty in all its dimensions, implementing nationally-appropriate protection systems, and creating sound policy frameworks supporting investments in poverty eradication. The social scoreboard helps monitor performances and track trends across Member States in the employment and social field, including the risk of poverty or social exclusion.


***At Member State level:*** Portugal took several measures to strengthen social protection and the fight against poverty, social exclusion and inequalities. The so-called 'Income Package' supports household incomes by uprating the amount of pensions; restoring the reference value of the social solidarity income, as well as the minimum income equivalence scales; and increasing the lower levels of child and family allowances. The social support index – a reference value for social protection measures – has been uprated and coverage of

the minimum income scheme has been extended.

**At regional/local level:** The city of Munich in Germany has implemented several initiatives with support from the European Social Fund during 2015-2018 to support the integration of the unemployed into the local labour market and thus help reduce poverty. Initiatives included ‘Work & Act’ project that has helped the unemployed get back to work; ‘Power-M’ project which has supported empowering women to get back to work after maternity leave; the ‘Guide’ project that has been offering guidance to women entrepreneurs; and the ‘FIBA’ and ‘MigraNet’ projects that have supported the integration of migrants into the labour market.

**At company level:** Naturgy, a gas and electricity company in Spain, has put in place the energy vulnerability plan that guarantees the protection of vulnerable customers. The Plan's social impact seeks to position the new private business as a catalyser in the fight against poverty and supporting social agents fighting social exclusion.

**At civil society level:** The European Minimum Income Network raises awareness on the need to provide adequate minimum income benefits, ensuring life in dignity at all stages of life and effective access to enabling goods and services. It brings together various organisations, experts, professionals, academics and other entities active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

 The icon for Sustainable Development Goal 2, Zero Hunger, features a white bowl with three wavy lines above it representing steam, set against a blue background. To the left of the bowl is the number '2' and the text 'ZERO HUNGER'.	<b>End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</b>
<b>European Union today</b>	
<p><b>Snapshot/Qualitative overview</b></p> <p>In the EU, achieving safe and healthy diets and ensuring productive and sustainable agricultural systems, fisheries and aquaculture are a priority. Through its policies, the EU is helping farmers and fishermen to meet the food demand and provide stable, sustainably produced, safe and high quality food at affordable prices for the population. Sustainable and nutrition-sensitive agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture is essential for ensuring a consistent supply of safe and healthy food to the consumer now and in the future, particularly in the face of challenges, such as climate change and population growth. In this context, EU exports are a primary contributor to the global food supply. While food productivity has continued to increase in Europe over the past decade, although at a pace slower than in the past, measures are also being put in place to enhance the environmental and climate-related performance of agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture in order to ensure its long-term sustainability, also taking into account the impact on third countries. Unlike other areas of the world facing hunger, the EU's central nutrition issues are overweight and obesity, as well as micronutrient deficiencies. Globally, two thirds of the world's poor live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. The EU has continuously maintained food and nutrition security at the heart of development cooperation and pays particular attention to food security, sustainable agriculture and fisheries in its trade relations and its neighbourhood and enlargement policies. The EU is the world's major donor in humanitarian food assistance to victims of food crises around the world and invests massively in the response to the countries facing risk of famine.</p>	

### **Key trends**

- **Obesity** is a significant health issue in the EU: 15.9 % of the total adult population was obese in 2014. Obesity disproportionately affects people with lower education levels and older people in Europe. When considered together with pre-obesity, the problem becomes more severe, as just over 50 % of the total adult EU population is affected and the situation is expected to worsen in the years to come.
- **Economic sustainability** needs to be achieved in the **European agricultural sector** to ensure its long-term viability. Agricultural factor income per annual work unit - an indicator of labour productivity - has been on a slight upward trend in the EU and is currently at 21.6 %, above 2010 levels. However, there are significant differences between Member States.
- The share of **organic agriculture** in total agricultural area nearly doubled from 2005 to 2017, rising from 3.6 % to 7.0 %. Precisely – the total organic area in the EU-28 (i.e. the fully converted area and the area under conversion) was almost 12 million hectare in 2016. The value of the **organic retail market** in the EU was EUR 30.7 billion in 2016 with retail sales growth of 12 % between 2015 and 2016.
- Several indicators measuring **adverse impacts of agriculture on the environment** show some positive trends, but also a number of worrisome developments over the past years, including increasing consumption of pesticides in certain parts of Europe and still high consumption of antimicrobials (in the EU, 70% of antimicrobials are consumed in food-producing animals), and no significant progress made against the overall decline in biodiversity.
- **Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture** have been slowly rising since 2010, though they are still far below 1990 levels. This increase may be attributed to productivity and production increases in the agricultural sector.
- The amount of EU land affected by the risk of severe **soil erosion** is decreasing, in part thanks to mandatory cross-compliance measures in the EU common agricultural policy. The share of non-artificial erosive area estimated to be at risk of severe soil erosion by water decreased from 6.0 % to 5.2 % between 2000 and 2012.
- There has been a continuous improvement in performance of the **EU aquaculture sector** over the period 2014-2016. In 2016, the EU aquaculture sector placed 1.4 million tonnes of seafood in the market worth almost EUR 5 billion; a 2.2% yearly increase between 2014 and 2016 in volume and 3.1% in value. There is also a growing transition from conventional to organic aquaculture.

### **Global ranking**

According to the global SDG Index and dashboards report 2018 (Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network), 14 EU Member States have a score above 70 out of 100 for SDG 2. 13 EU Member States are in the worldwide top 20.

### **European Union in 2030**

#### **EU under current trends/ all things being equal**

The EU is expected to continuously evolve towards eliminating hunger and promoting sustainable practices in the future. Based on the 'EU Agricultural Outlook for 2030', no major shortfalls are expected with regards to EU food security in absence of major market disruptions. Food safety policies ensure a high level of food safety and animal and plant health within the EU, while ensuring an effective internal market. Uncertainties will always persist and, therefore, selected risks are being monitored. Achieving this SDG will strongly depend on industry, non-governmental organisations, authorities and citizens becoming more conscious of the social, commercial and individual determinants of unhealthy diets, and of their repercussions both on human health and on public budgets. In this respect, the ongoing efforts towards food reformulation can play an important role in addressing overweight and obesity and their economic impact. It will also depend on educating people, on how to use

new technologies or address new challenges. Strong societal involvement at all levels (associations, governments, private sector, scientists and health experts) will be crucial for improving the environmental and health impact of food systems, identifying best practices, managing food resources efficiently, reducing food waste etc. Investing in a more sustainable agriculture will also have positive effects on improving food supply security, necessary for facing challenges such as global population growth or climate change. People would benefit from integrated pest management or food with optimal nutritional qualities, as this would have a role on improving their wellbeing and, thus, quality of life.

***Opportunities/Positive drivers***

Societal involvement and participatory politics, behavioural change, corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct, sustainable finance, public-private partnerships, sustainable food systems, new technologies, artificial intelligence, research and innovation, a focus on resilient societies, education, public and private investments, open and fair trade.

***Risks/Negative drivers***

Poverty, social and health inequalities, ageing of our population, geopolitical instability, climate change and loss of biodiversity, uncontrolled animal diseases, plant pests and contaminants.

**Policy highlights**

***The EU at the international level:*** The EU-Africa partnership on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture, launched in April 2016, fosters research and innovation cooperation in the areas of sustainable intensification, agriculture and food systems for nutrition and agricultural markets and trade.

***At EU level:*** The modernised and simplified common agricultural policy aims to maximise its contribution to the implementation of the SDGs. The proposals of the Commission for the next multiannual budget 2021-2027 explicitly outline the objective to further improve the sustainable development of farming, food and rural areas.

***At Member State level:*** The programme for diversity of cultivated plants is a national programme intended to be an adaptive tool for creating an intelligent and sustainable way to conserve and utilise the plant riches of Sweden. Seeds and other older varieties are being collected throughout Sweden and preserved in the Nordic Gene Bank. It reintroduces old cultivated plants on the market.

***At regional/local level:*** The 2014-2020 rural development programme for mainland Portugal promotes investments in farming, aiming at increasing the capacity to generate added value, increase productivity, promote a more efficient use of resources and support the productive and social tissue in rural areas.

***At company level:*** The Grupo Cooperativo Cajamar in Spain is part of the TomGEM project, which develops new strategies aimed at maintaining high yields in the production of fruits and vegetables under high temperature conditions. The project aims to phenotype a wide range of genetic resources to identify cultivars/genotypes that show stable yield and discover the genes that control flower induction, pollen fertility and fruit set.

***At civil society level:*** 'Baltic Friendly Agriculture' is a cycle of workshops organised by WWF Poland Foundation under the auspices of the Agricultural Advisory Centre in Brwinów. It has enabled to increase the knowledge of farmers on methods of reducing losses of nitrogen and phosphorus compounds from agricultural holdings which contribute to water pollution.



### European Union today

#### *Snapshot/Qualitative overview*

Health is a basic human need and the EU has made significant progress in addressing health inequalities and their environmental and social determinants. Good health is not only of value to the individual as a major determinant of quality of life, well-being and social participation, but it also contributes to shaping a sustainable European economy. Universal health coverage is an objective of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and one of the rights recognised by the European Pillar of Social Rights, and thus an important policy objective for the EU and its Member States. The accessibility and affordability of health care to patients remain, together with effectiveness and budgetary sustainability, the main policy objectives for health system reforms discussed in the EU context. Nevertheless, tobacco and excessive alcohol consumption, being overweight, lack of physical activity, mental health issues such as depression and suicide, alongside communicable diseases continue to adversely affect health and, together with demographic and social changes, they create additional burdens on the EU healthcare systems. The EU supports Member States, for example by fighting risk factors of non-communicable diseases, exchanging best practices, helping ensure access to quality healthcare and strengthening the capacity to prevent and manage global health threats such as antimicrobial resistance, and by investing in research and innovation. On the international side, EU development aid promotes universal access to quality health services. In line with the European Consensus on Development, the EU helps strengthen all areas of health systems and progress towards universal health coverage.

#### *Key trends*

- **Europeans live longer than ever** before and the trend is projected to continue. In 2016, life expectancy in the EU was 81 years, which is 3.3 years more than in 2002.
- **Unhealthy lifestyles** have repercussions on human health, public budgets and the productivity. Smoking prevalence among the population aged 15 or over decreased to 26 % in 2017. However, still more than half of the adult population in the EU was overweight in 2014.
- In 2017, 1.6 % of people in the EU reported **unmet needs for medical care**, compared to 3.4 % in 2011. Costs and long waiting lists are the main reasons for unmet medical needs.
- Deaths due to **non-communicable diseases** before the age of 65 fell steadily between 2002 and 2015. However, non-communicable diseases account for up to 80 % of healthcare costs. Yet, only around 3% of health budgets are spent on prevention. Deaths in the EU due to **HIV, tuberculosis and hepatitis** fell rather steadily between 2002 and 2015. **Antimicrobial resistance** is responsible for an estimated 33,000 deaths per year in the EU, costing EUR 1.5 billion per year in healthcare costs and productivity losses.
- Exposure to **air pollution** by fine particulate matter in urban areas decreased by almost 20% in the EU in 2010-2015. However, air pollution is still the number one environmental cause of premature death. More than 400,000 people yearly die prematurely in the EU due to bad air quality; millions suffer from respiratory and cardiovascular diseases caused by air pollution.
- Road **safety** in the EU has greatly improved in recent decades. The EU has become the world's safest region with 49 deaths per million inhabitants due to road accidents. In 2001-2010, the number of road fatalities in the EU decreased by 43 % and in 2010-2017 by another 20 %.

### ***Global ranking***

According to the global SDG Index and dashboards report 2018 (Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network), 18 EU Member States score above 90 out of 100 for SDG 3. 11 EU Member States are in the worldwide top 20. Overall, it is in the top 3 of the highest scoring SDGs for EU Member States.

### **European Union in 2030**

#### ***EU under current trends/ all things being equal***

To keep on ensuring universal health coverage in the EU, health systems will need to be resilient to future evolutions, ensure accessibility and effectiveness. A shift to a model that places greater emphasis on disease prevention and health promotion, is more personalised and capitalises on digital technologies will be needed, as well as strengthening primary care and the development of patient-centred integrated care. It will also be important to reduce illicit drug supply and demand. The EU remains committed to fight both non-communicable and communicable diseases and antimicrobial resistance. An important effort is taking place to promote the wider scale implementation of validated best practices. The EU will pursue new interim targets to reduce road deaths by 50 % between 2020 and 2030 as well as halving the number of serious injuries in the same period.

#### ***Opportunities/Positive drivers***

Societal involvement and participatory politics, behavioural change, healthier workforce and population, corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct, sustainable finance, public-private partnerships, prevention and health promotion, research and innovation, new technologies, digital transformation of health and care, a focus on resilient societies, education, public and private investments, open and fair trade.

#### ***Risks/Negative drivers***

Poverty, social and health inequalities, biological threats, climate change and environmental risks, fiscal sustainability impacted by demographic ageing and cost inflation associated with novel technologies and socio-economic risks, ageing population, unhealthy habits, geopolitical instability and health security threats.

### **Policy highlights**

***The EU at the international level:*** The EU contributed to the EU-World Health Organisation universal health partnership programme to strengthen health systems in more than 35 partner countries and supports improved access and demand for family planning, reducing harmful traditional practices and gender-based violence together with the UN.

***At EU level:*** On antimicrobial resistance, the EU has adopted an ambitious 'one health action plan' to preserve the possibility of effective treatment of infections in humans and animals. It provides guidelines on prudent use of antimicrobials in human health, boosts research on new antimicrobials, vaccines and diagnostics, further incentivises innovation, provides input into science-based policies and legal measures and addresses knowledge gaps. On prevention, validated best practices are implemented on a wider scale in close cooperation with EU Member States.

***At Member State level:*** In the public health sector in the Slovak Republic, a network of general and specialised health advisory centres are in place, which provide counselling based on examining the main personal risk factors (such as smoking, nutrition, physical activity, or stress). They also serve to raise awareness, and increase turnout at screenings and preventive check-ups.

***At regional/local level:*** In 2011, the inter-municipal association for the conservation of nature in Luxembourg launched the project 'Savour nature - eating regional, organic and fair

food'. This project aims to promote sustainable food in the school canteens of the 33 member municipalities and to provide economic opportunities for farmers in the region who are particularly committed to protecting the environment. In addition to the criteria ensuring general protection of the environment and animal welfare, farmers wishing to join the project must use 5% of their farming land to protect biodiversity. In school canteens, specific training courses are available to staff: 'Meet the producers', healthy food, seasonal menus, the impact of food on climate, and developing countries.

**At company level:** Supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, CureVac GmbH in Germany won the EU's first ever innovation inducement prize for progress towards a novel technology that keeps vaccines stable at any ambient temperature.

**At civil society level:** Within the framework of the national health programme in Poland, non-governmental organisations developed tools for mood disorders screening, materials for assistance on mental problems, radio programmes, publications and instructional films, created an online forum and conducted information campaigns.



## Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

### European Union today

#### Snapshot/Qualitative overview

Education, vocational training and lifelong learning have a central role in building a sustainable, resilient, competitive and cohesive Europe for the future, as they enable people to reach their full potential. Throughout all life stages, education and training are crucial aspects of human development and key drivers for growth, jobs and social cohesion. Education levels among young people are steadily improving in Europe. The EU is on track towards reaching the Europe 2020 targets on early school leavers and tertiary educational attainment. Good progress has been registered for participation in early childhood education and care, while progress is still needed for underachievement in maths, science and reading, digital skills and adult participation in learning. Young people with disabilities or with migrant background show significantly lower educational attainment. Early leavers and low educated young people face particularly severe problems in the labour market. On the international side, many EU partner countries benefit from bilateral support programs which help strengthen their education systems, focussing on improved access to quality basic education for low income as well as fragile and conflict affected countries, in particular for girls and marginalised groups.

#### Key trends

- The share of **early leavers from education and training** has fallen continuously since 2002. The fall from 17 % in 2002 to 10.6 % in 2017 represents a clear progress towards the 'Europe 2020' headline target of 10 %.
- The **tertiary educational attainment** 'Europe 2020' headline target of 40 % for people aged 30-34 has practically been reached (39.9 % in 2017).
- **Participation in early childhood education and care** has steadily increased since 2003. The EU's target of 95 % of children between 4 and the age of compulsory education participating in pre-primary education was reached in 2016, although cross-country differences persist.
- The EU has also set a target to reduce the **share of 15-year-olds achieving low levels of**



**reading, maths and science to less than 15 % by 2020.** EU Member States show great variation concerning the share of low achievers in all three subjects. The EU as a whole is lagging behind in all three domains and - according to the latest 2015 available data - took a step backward compared to 2012 results (science: 20.6%, +4.0 percentage points; reading: 19.7%, +1.9 percentage points; maths: 22.2%, + 0.1 percentage point).

- In 2017, 57% of the EU population aged 16-64 had at least **basic digital skills**.
- The **employment rate of recent graduates** rose from 76.9 % in 2015 to 80.2 % in 2017, close to the EU target of 82 %.
- The percentage of **young people who are neither in employment nor in education or training** has continued to fall to 10.9 % in 2017, down from its peak level of 13.2 % in 2012.
- **Adult participation** (aged 25-64) in learning was 10.9% in 2017, well below the target of at least 15 %.

### ***Global ranking***

According to the global SDG Index and dashboards report 2018 (Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network), 16 EU Member States have a score above 90 out of 100 for SDG 4. Seven EU Member States are in the worldwide top 20. On average, it is in the top 3 of the highest scoring SDGs for EU Member States.

## **European Union in 2030**

### ***EU under current trends/ all things being equal***

Increases in educational attainment among the young population are expected to continue in the future as a result of structural changes in labour markets, demographic change and policy reforms. By 2030, the European Education Area will be firmly established and it is hoped that there will be no borders or obstacles to inclusive learning mobility and academic cooperation. All young people should receive better education and training, irrespective of their socio-economic background, leading to more and better skills. Inclusive education and lifelong-learning are expected to further result in fewer early school leavers and more learners at all levels. Transformations in labour markets are also expected to trigger higher participation of adults in education and training. People will be able to obtain validation of the skills they develop outside formal education and training. All education and training provision will include a stronger work-based learning dimension and take advantage of closer cooperation with business and civil society. It will remain important to step up efforts to integrate education on sustainable development in curricula at all levels of education.

### ***Opportunities/Positive drivers***

Societal involvement and participatory politics, behavioural change, corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct, sustainable finance, public-private partnerships, research and innovation, digital technologies and online platforms, artificial intelligence, changing jobs market and skills needs, a focus on sustainable and resilient societies.

### ***Risks/Negative drivers***

Inequality of opportunities, poverty, low public and private investment, skill mismatches, increasing knowledge gaps.

## **Policy highlights**

**At EU level:** Pursuing the first principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Commission is coordinating the new skills agenda for Europe, and working with Member States towards a European Education Area by 2025. The aim is to improve the inclusive, lifelong-learning based and innovation-driven nature of education and training systems. Measures presented in 2018 towards the European Education Area by 2025 address automatic mutual recognition of diplomas and study periods abroad, key competences, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, high quality early childhood education and care, and


better language learning and teaching.

**At Member State level:** In 2016, Slovenia launched a programme that would improve teaching quality and learner experience by giving teachers and mentors opportunities to increase their knowledge, skills and competences through job rotation. Running until 2022, the programme has funding of EUR 1.65 million, of which EUR 1.32 million is from the European Social Fund.

**At regional/local level:** An initiative in the Veneto Region, Italy, financed from the European Social Fund, allows adults without an upper secondary qualifications, including those with a lower vocational qualification no longer relevant for the labour market, to get credit recognition for their previous professional or training experience and embark on a personalised training path.

**At company level:** A tripartite agreement was signed in France in 2018, opening an inclusive learning section for young people and disabled adults in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region. A dozen apprentices with disabilities will be trained in the electronics, electrical and electrical engineering sectors. Half will be hosted in the electricity enterprise Enedis sites and half in adapted companies.

**At civil society level:** ToekomstATELIERdelAvenir (alias TADA) provides supplementary, voluntary, and society-oriented education to vulnerable teenagers from disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Brussels, Belgium. It seeks to empower its young participants and prevent demotivation and its negative consequences (such as learning fatigue, early school dropout, delinquency, unemployment, extreme radicalisation) and to contribute to increased integration and social cohesion.

	<p><b>Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>European Union today</b></p>	
<p><b>Snapshot/Qualitative overview</b></p> <p>The EU is among the global leaders on gender equality and progress has been made over the last decades. This results from equal treatment legislation, gender mainstreaming and specific measures to advance women’s rights and gender equality. There is a higher number of women on the EU’s labour market and they secure better education and training; yet, women are still over-represented in lower paid sectors and under-represented in decision-making positions. Gender differences in income and career patterns often translate into lower pension entitlements for women. The need and momentum for further improvements remains. A special Eurobarometer survey in 2017 showed that the general population in the EU is broadly supportive of gender equality: 84% of Europeans consider gender equality to be important for them personally (including 80% of men). At the international level, the EU includes the gender perspective through its external policies, ranging from trade instruments, to the European Consensus on Development, and the EU’s neighbourhood and enlargement policies.</p>	
<p><b>Key trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Gender Equality</b> Index of the European Institute for Gender Equality (2017) highlights that the past decade has witnessed a generally positive, albeit slow, development towards gender equality. The most significant improvement was made in the domain of power (e.g.</li> </ul>	

decision-making in the private and public sector), while gender inequalities increased in the domain of time (e.g. housework, leisure time, unpaid care). There is large variability in the performance of Member States. The majority of the Member States improved their overall scores since 2005. A few Member States have seen stagnation in their overall scores or even a slight drop of their score.

- The **employment gap** between men and women at EU level was below 12 percentage points in 2017, substantially lower than in 2008, when it reached 15.1 percentage points. This improvement was largely driven by an increase in the employment rate of women. The lack of available, accessible and quality formal care services, in particular for young children is one of the main factors hampering women's labour market participation. In 2016, only 32.9% of the children between 0 and 3 years old in the EU were cared for in formal education and care services, up from 28% in 2008.
- The **gender pay gap** has decreased slightly over the past several years. In 2016, women's gross hourly earnings were on average 16.2 % below those of men; after retirement, this gap widens exponentially with a **gender pension gap** of 36.6%.
- As regards **gender equality in politics** in the EU, the proportion of seats in national parliaments held by women increased from 20.9% in 2004 to 29.7 % in 2018.
- In 2017, a quarter of the **board members of the largest listed companies** were women. Between 2003 and 2017, there was an almost steady yearly increase of a total of 16.8 percentage points.
- The way in which women and men allocate **time for care, domestic work and social activities** has become more unequal in the EU compared to 10 years ago. This decline in equality has occurred in 12 Member States, while improvements were noted in eight Member States.
- One in three women in Europe has experienced either **physical and/or sexual violence** since the age of 15.

#### **Global ranking**

According to the global SDG Index and dashboards report 2018 (Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network), 11 EU Member States have a score above 80 out of 100 for SDG 5. 11 EU Member States are in the worldwide top 20.

### **European Union in 2030**

#### **EU under current trends/ all things being equal**

Continued progress on gender equality and on empowering women and girls requires commitment, more funding and persistent efforts by actors at all levels, from the individual household to EU institutions. While regulatory incentives are important to accelerate this progress, gender equality depends strongly on cultural and ethical values and on the evolution of societal change. By 2030, we could expect the EU to have made further progress on women's economic empowerment, gender balance in decision-making and combating violence against women and girls. The materialisation and extent of this progress depends on the developing cultural and political context as well as the future regulatory measures.

#### **Opportunities/Positive drivers**

Societal involvement and participatory politics, shifts in social norms, behavioural change, corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct, formal childcare, balanced family leave arrangements, flexible working arrangements, a balanced education system, access to new technologies, and furthering women's tech skills, open and fair trade.

#### **Risks/Negative drivers**

Inequality of opportunities, backlash against progress, skill mismatches, security threats, return to economic protectionism worldwide.

### Policy highlights

**The EU at the international level:** In 2015, the EU adopted its second action plan for gender equality and women's empowerment in external relations (2016-2020). In September 2017, the Commission launched the joint EU-UN spotlight initiative to end violence against women and girls.

**At EU level:** In 2015, the Commission adopted a strategic engagement for gender equality 2016-2019. The strategic engagement is the framework for the Commission's continuing work to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, and focuses on the following five priority areas: 1) increasing female labour market participation and equal economic independence; 2) reducing the gender pay, earnings and pension gaps; 3) promoting equality between women and men in decision-making; 4) combating gender-based violence; 5) promoting gender equality and women's rights across the world. In addition, the strategic engagement foresees that a gender equality perspective is integrated into all EU policies and funding programmes.

**At Member State level:** Denmark generally scores well on gender equality. Women in Denmark generally work outside the home and pursue careers while raising a family, assisted by the country's generous parental leave and tax-subsidised daycare. Danish men also benefit from gender equality. They get more time with their families than in many other countries. Parental leave after the birth of a child can be split between parents, and limited workdays mean it is often the father who picks up children from day care.

**At regional/local level:** France introduced a system of binomial candidates for departmental elections in which the vote goes for a team of female and male candidates. This guarantees gender parity at departmental level and establishes shared decision-making positions in territorial politics, sharing responsibilities and improving the possibilities of work-life balance for politicians.

**At company level:** GründerRegio M e.V. was co-financed by the European Social Fund to provide training, counselling and networking for female entrepreneurs in Munich. It targets women returning to the labour market after raising a family, as well as women over 50. The project with the name GUIDE has supported some 5,000 female entrepreneurs, out of which 56 % started their own businesses.

**At civil society level:** Two Bulgarian organisations are running the project 'Career ROCKET'. Teachers, school directors and career consultants in schools are being trained to introduce gender equality in all subject matters in secondary education by offering information about women's contribution in natural sciences, technology, politics, history, geography, mathematics, literature, the arts and music.



**Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**

### European Union today

#### *Snapshot/Qualitative overview*

Access to water is a basic human need. Water is also an important economic resource and

serves as the backbone for biodiversity, climate and ecosystem regulation. Protecting water ecosystems from pollution and hydro-morphological changes, and using water sustainably is crucial to meet the demands of current and future generations, as well as maintain political stability at national and regional level. In the EU, a comprehensive water policy aims at ensuring that sufficient quantity of good-quality water is available for both people's needs and the environment, through regulating the main pressures (agriculture, industry, urban waste water), water uses (bathing water, groundwater, drinking water) and integrated water management. The vast majority of European citizens has access to basic sanitation and is connected to at least secondary wastewater treatment. Moreover, Europeans citizens benefit from very high drinking water quality. However, pressure resulting from urbanisation, diffuse pollution from agriculture, industry and climate change influence water quality and long-term water security. At the global level, the EU is promoting availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all through the European Consensus on Development and the EU's neighbourhood and enlargement policies.

### **Key trends**

- The share of people without **improved sanitation facilities** in their households has decreased from 3.2% in 2007 to only 2.0% of the European population in 2017. The amount of people connected to **secondary wastewater treatment** increased between 2010 and 2015. However, differences between Member States remain, with some still facing considerable problems. A new type of pollution becomes significant – this is the case for urban run-offs or combined sewer systems releasing vast amount of pollution in case of heavy rains.
- 86.3 % of all **coastal bathing sites** and 82.1 % of **inland bathing sites** showed excellent bathing water quality in 2017.
- **Water quality in European rivers** has increased significantly between 2000 and 2014; average concentrations of phosphate in European rivers show a downwards trend.
- While progress is made in various areas, only around 40% of **surface waters** achieved good ecological status in 2015; **groundwater** is in a better shape, with 74% good chemical status and 89% good quantitative status. Although pollution caused by nitrates from agriculture has decreased in the last two decades, problems remain. Nitrates are the most common pollutants causing poor chemical status of groundwater in the EU. This is particularly problematic because groundwater, next to running surface water, is an important source of drinking water in Europe.
- **Water stress** is low in most of the EU countries, but high in a few, mainly Southern European countries and the phenomenon is on the rise in Western and Northern Europe as well.
- To decrease water scarcity, all relevant sectors need to use freshwater efficiently. **Water abstraction** has reduced in Europe over the past decade, while **water use efficiency** has increased. The **average drinking water consumption** dropped in the last 20 years from around 200:l per person and day to around 120:l.

### **Global ranking**

According to the global SDG Index and dashboards report 2018 (Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network), 25 EU Member States have a score above 80 out of 100 for SDG 6. Three EU Member States are in the worldwide top 20.

## European Union in 2030

### **EU under current trends/ all things being equal**

Overall, the EU is expected to continue to make progress on sustainable management of water and sanitation. Almost all citizens will enjoy good access to water services - such as drinking water and waste water treatment - and sanitation facilities. Still, further efforts are needed to ensure full access for all EU citizens, to ensure waste water is treated up to required standards in the entire territory and to achieve good status for all Europe's water bodies. Emerging

pollutants of concern such as microplastics and pharmaceuticals should also receive specific attention in the coming years. Diffuse pollution from agriculture has to be further reduced. Water use efficiency needs to be further improved. Finally, climate change and its aggravating effects on drought and floods in EU regions increase the need for water management to become more sustainable. Climate change will add to the water stress already felt in waterbodies mainly in southern Europe, but increasingly also in other part of the continent. The implementation of existing water legislation and the development of new legislation like the recent proposals for drinking water and reuse will help tackling these challenges. The ongoing evaluation fitness check of a substantial part of EU water legislation will help to establish whether the legislative framework needs to be adapted to achieve the relevant SDGs in full.

#### ***Opportunities/Positive drivers***

Behavioural change, societal involvement and participatory politics, society's pressure for sustainable food system and production chains, corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct, sustainable finance, public-private partnerships, digitalisation, better data through the use of earth observation tools such as the Global component of the EU Copernicus Land Monitoring Service, increased water reuse, artificial intelligence and new technologies, research and innovation, internet of things, circular economy, multilateralism.

#### ***Risks/Negative drivers***

Poverty and inequality of opportunities, climate change, diffuse pollution from agriculture, urbanisation, organic pollutants, residues of pharmaceuticals, plastic waste, industrial production, household discharges, geopolitical instability and security threats, affordability and water price.

### **Policy highlights**

***At EU level:*** European water research and innovation promotes solutions to water challenges. The Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), a EUR 494 million initiative, focuses on water scarcity, agriculture and food security in the Mediterranean region.

***At Member State level:*** In Cyprus, recycled water is a growing and stable resource used, among others, for irrigation and protection against drought. With help from European funds, two projects are already under way: the Anthoupolis Water Reuse Scheme and the Larnaca Water Reuse Scheme.

***At regional/local level:*** The Racibórz Dolny flood protection reservoir is being built in Poland in the Dolnośląskie Region. The comprehensive flood protection programme aims to provide protection from flooding by the River Oder, by restoring the natural flood retention of the Odra river valley and the natural floodplain terrace of the river.

***At company level:*** Wastewater treatment plants across Europe start using the energy and other resources contained in waste to reduce their consumption and even act as an energy producer. A prime example is a treatment plant of Aarhus water, in the town of Marselisborg, Denmark, that produces more than 150% of the energy it needs to operate by investing in more efficient technology.

***At civil society level:*** Malta encourages the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management. The river basin planning cycle ensures a high participation of communities and stakeholders, as decisions on certain measures will involve balancing the interests of various groups.



### European Union today

#### *Snapshot/Qualitative overview*

The EU 2020 energy and climate targets have placed the EU on the right path to ensure secure, affordable and clean energy for all Europeans. Solid progress has already been achieved in terms of increased use of renewable energy and enhanced energy efficiency, and the EU is forging ahead with the clean energy transition. The EU's transition from a fossil fuels-based to a low-carbon economy with a digital and consumer centric energy system is becoming the new reality on the ground. The decoupling of greenhouse gas emissions and gross domestic product has continued, mainly driven by innovation. Economic growth and energy consumption have also been decoupled. Global changes in energy production and demand have a significant impact on geopolitics and industrial competitiveness. This poses serious challenges to Europe, but also creates unique opportunities. In this context, the EU wants to step up its role as a global leader in the clean energy transition while providing energy security to all its citizens. With its energy union, the EU aims to provide secure, affordable, sustainable and clean energy for EU citizens and businesses. On the external side, the European Consensus on Development focuses on increasing access to energy services that are affordable, modern, reliable and sustainable, on increasing the deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures and on contributing to the fight against climate change. The EU is a pioneer in stimulating private sector investments in the sustainable energy sector with its blending instruments, the EU external investment plan and the electrification financing initiative. Also, the neighbourhood and enlargement policies contribute in this area.

#### *Key trends*

- Trends in Europe point to a '**decoupling**' of **economic growth** from energy inputs and their associated **greenhouse gas emissions**. Between 1990 and 2017 greenhouse gas emissions fell by 22 % while GDP grew by 58 %. Both energy productivity and greenhouse gas intensity of energy consumption have improved nearly continuously since 2000 in the EU.
- The EU aims at meeting its 2020 **energy efficiency** target of 20 %. Between 2005 and 2016, the EU's primary energy consumption dropped by 9.9 % and its final energy consumption by 7.1 %.
- The EU is on track to meet its target of 20 % of final energy consumption from **renewable energy** by 2020. The use of renewable energy has increased continuously in the EU over the past decade, from 9.0 % to 17% of gross final energy consumption between 2005 and 2016. A predictable EU regulatory framework, more efficient technologies, falling costs for renewable energy technologies and more market-oriented support, have been the main drivers of this increase.
- The EU still relies on **fuel imports from non-EU countries** to meet its energy demands. Standing at 53.6 %, the EU's import dependence remained quasi-constant between 2006 and 2016 whilst the energy production decreased by 14 % over the same period. A consistent reduction of the primary energy consumption of about 10 % has been observed over the same period.
- The EU has made progress on improving **access to affordable energy**. Over the past years, the inability to keep one's home adequately warm became less prevalent. In 2017, 8.1 % of the EU population indicated a lack of access to affordable energy — 2.8 percentage points lower than in 2007.

**Global ranking**

According to the global SDG Index and dashboards report 2018 (Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network), 26 EU Member States have a score above 80 out of 100 for SDG 7. Seven EU Member States are in the worldwide top 20.

**European Union in 2030****EU under current trends/ all things being equal**

The EU will continue to make progress towards affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all based on the ambitious regulatory framework agreed at EU level. By 2030, the main EU goals translate into at least 40 % reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, at least 32 % EU energy from renewables and an increase in energy efficiency by at least 32.5 %. These lay the needed groundwork for a profound societal transformation leading to a clean and sustainable energy future. Development of energy infrastructures will continue to be supported via the Connecting Europe Facility. Under the new ‘Horizon Europe’ Framework Programme, an intense research and innovation programme has been proposed, with a budget of EUR 15 billion for energy, mobility and climate. Overall, for the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework, the proposed climate mainstreaming target of 25 % would mean that one in four Euros is to be spent on climate-related issues, also relevant for the energy sector. Continued engagement is needed to ensure the achievement of the energy union, including an active dialogue with civil society and stakeholders, as their contribution and commitment is the key to the success of the energy transition.

**Opportunities/Positive drivers**

Behavioural change, informed, protected and empowered consumers, societal involvement and participatory politics, anticipatory policies for just transition, corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct, new business opportunities, crowdfunding and other forms of innovative financing, sustainable finance, public-private partnerships, resource taxation, internet of things, education, digitalisation, artificial intelligence and new technologies, research and innovation, circular low carbon economy, low- and zero emission mobility, resilient societies, multilateralism.

**Risks/Negative drivers**

Increasing electricity consumption driven by digitalisation, volatile energy prices, continued dependency on and subsidies for fossil fuels, lack of behavioural change, slow down of policies implementation, low public and private investment, digital divide, climate change, geopolitical instability and security threats, transition more costly in relative terms for middle and lower income people.

**Policy highlights**

**The EU at the international level:** In May 2017, in order to renew the impetus of the Africa-EU Partnership, the EU proposed the ‘Energise Africa’ strategy. The EU has committed to spur public and private investments in sustainable energy in Africa, in particular in the context of the external investment plan and to deepen strategic alliances and collaboration.

**At EU level:** Establishing a European energy union has become a core priority for the Commission. Initiatives for the achievement of the energy union have been adopted. Notably, the 2016 clean energy for all Europeans package, will lead to a more competitive, modern and cleaner energy system, building around the three main goals: putting energy efficiency first, achieving a global leadership in renewable energies and providing a fair deal for consumers.

**At Member State level:** In 2013, over 40 organisations in the Netherlands (local and national governments, companies, trade unions and environmental organisations) signed an Energy Agreement for Sustainable Growth, aiming to increase the share of renewable energy from 5.8% in 2015 to 16% in 2023. It sets targets for a transition to zero-emission vehicles: by 2035, all newly sold cars should be emission-free, and in 2050 all cars on the roads must be

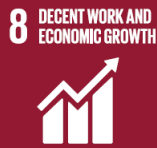


emission-free.

**At regional/local level:** Budapest is member of the Covenant of Mayors, an EU funded initiative which gathers regions and cities committed to implementing EU climate and energy objectives. Since 2011, one of its most famous thermal baths - the Szechenyi bath -, the nearby zoo and the local district heating company have made a partnership which saves carbon emissions and lowers the energy bill. The heat of the Szechenyi thermal waters is recycled into the Budapest Zoo to supply warm air for some 350 animal species and nearly 500 plants spread over some 26 buildings.

**At company level:** The energy company Fortum Jelgava, established in 2008 in Jelgava, Latvia, restructured the city's heat network by replacing the gas boiler station with a new biomass cogeneration station that uses wood chips. The city's district heating system has almost completely switched from fossil fuels to the locally-sourced renewable resource of wood.

**At civil society level:** Renewable energy communities are entities through which citizens and/or local authorities own or participate in the production and/or use of renewable energy. With more than 2500 initiatives EU-wide, they have been key in triggering the energy transition in Europe. The local anchorage and ownership of such initiatives increases social acceptance for renewable energy projects, especially for wind. They also lower the costs by making available the most adequate sites.



**Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

### European Union today

#### **Snapshot/Qualitative overview**

Europe's recovery from the economic crisis supported the steady increase of employment. Investment nearly recovered to the pre-crisis level and public finances are improving, although the recovery faces downside risks. Still, the expansion is not benefitting all citizens and Member States in the same manner, with in particular unemployment still high in some countries. Investment and productivity trends suggest more can be done to bolster the recovery and the transition to a more sustainable economic growth under the long-term global challenges of demographic change and digitalisation. Next to the continued efforts to arrive at sustainable public finances in the long term, the EU continues to promote investments, in particular in education, skills and R&D, and structural reforms to increase the effectiveness of the business environment and product and labour markets. The 'Investment Plan for Europe' is instrumental in attracting private investment into strategic sectors of the European economy. Structural reforms designed to improve labour markets and social policies should help the workforce to acquire the necessary skills for the transition to green economy and promote better access to and equal opportunities in the labour market, fair working conditions, and sustainable and adequate social protection systems. They should also contribute to increasing labour productivity and thus wage growth. Involvement of social partners in the design and implementation of reforms can improve ownership, impact and delivery. At the international level, the EU is pursuing inclusive and sustainable growth, creating decent jobs, and promoting labour and human rights. Examples of external action in this respect include the European Consensus on Development, the EU external investment plan, the EU action plan on human rights and democracy 2015-2019, and EU action through EU neighbourhood

and enlargement policies. The EU's trade policy promotes the respect of core international labour standards and human rights. The promotion of responsible business practices based on international guidelines is anchored in several EU policies, including trade.

### **Key trends**

- Europeans have on average a higher **living standard** than two decades ago. In 2002 - 2017, real **GDP** per capita has grown by an average of 1.1 % per year. Recently, the EU economy has been expanding at the highest pace since the onset of the 2008 crisis, with real GDP growth increasing to 2.2 % in 2017.
- The total **investment** share of GDP in the EU was 20.8 % in 2017, following a sharp drop during the economic and financial crisis. It has grown by 1.0 % on average per year since 2013. The 'Investment Plan for Europe' is expected to create 1.4 million jobs and increase EU GDP by 1,3% by 2020.
- **Labour productivity** has accelerated somewhat, but its growth remains below pre-recession trends.
- **Labour market participation** continues its stable increase, reaching an activity rate of 73.4 % in 2017. The increase has been mainly driven by older workers and women. Total employment has hit a record of 239 million workers, full-time jobs are on the rise increasing by 2.3 million, while the number of part-time workers remained stable. By 2015, employment in the environmental goods and services sector alone has increased by 47.3 % since 2000. **Long-term unemployment** continues to decline but still represents a little less than half of total unemployment. **Youth unemployment**, which peaked at 23.8 % in 2013, diminished to 16.8 % in 2017. In 2017, 7.7 % of European employees were involuntarily working on **temporary contracts**, corresponding to 57.7 % of all temporary employees and this share has increased slightly over the past decade. The share of involuntary **part-time employment** in the EU, which affects mostly women, as a percentage of total part-time employment rose from 25.6 % in 2008 to reach its peak at 29.6 % in 2014, after which it declined to 26.4 % in 2017.
- With respect to the **working poor**, 9.6 % of the employed were also at-risk-of-poverty in 2017. This has stabilised in the last four years, although at a higher level than in 2008 (8.5 %).

### **Global ranking**

According to the global SDG Index and dashboards report 2018 (Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network), 17 EU Member States have a score of 80 or more out of 100 for SDG 8. Nine EU Member States are in the worldwide top 20.

## **European Union in 2030**

### **EU under current trends/ all things being equal**

The EU will have to ensure high overall employment rates through the creation of quality jobs serving the sustainability transition, especially for women, young people, the elderly, disabled people, migrants and marginalised communities. This would help ensure the adequacy and sustainability of the European social welfare model in a context of population ageing and slow productivity growth. Although investments in the European economy will continue to grow, they need sustained support to overcome bottlenecks. The EU's shrinking population and waning economic power will influence its position in the global economic order. Digitisation and demographics will have implications for both future growth and labour market developments. This calls for a stronger focus on the EU's comparative advantages linked to quality education and further investment in research and innovation, which needs to promote social inclusion and environmental sustainability. The transition towards a circular economy will continue as well as actions to eradicate forced labour and human trafficking.

***Opportunities/Positive drivers***

Upskilling and reskilling, digitalisation, research and innovation, societal involvement and participatory politics, society's pressure for sustainable production chains, artificial intelligence, new technologies, corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct, sustainable finance, public-private partnerships, the collaborative circular low carbon economy, social economy and development of social economy ecosystems, focus on resilient societies, multilateralism, open and fair trade, research and innovation.

***Risks/Negative drivers***

Low productivity growth, skill mismatches, slow diffusion of new digital technologies and the impacts of technological transformations on workers and specific sectors, social inequalities, regional and territorial disparities, the impacts of demographic changes and the role of migration and forced displacement, environmental degradation and climate change, geopolitical instability and security threats, return to economic protectionism worldwide, difficulty to measure productivity in increasingly intangible economies, labour market segmentation and job precariousness, digital divide, data protection, work-life balance.

**Policy highlights**

***At EU level:*** The 'Investment Plan for Europe', the so-called 'Juncker Plan', has had a strong success in boosting the investment climate. In July 2018, the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) reached its initial target of EUR 315 billion investment and by December 2018 it has mobilised EUR 371 billion in additional investment across the EU since 2015. It has already supported more than 750,000 jobs. The figure is set to rise to 1.4 million jobs by 2020. More than 850,000 small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) are benefiting from improved access to financing. At least 40% of European Fund for Strategic Investments financing under the infrastructure and innovation window supports project components that contribute to climate action in line with the Paris Agreement on climate action.

***At Member State level:*** In 2017, the Czech Republic introduced more flexibility in scheduling and entitlements to working hours and leaves; strengthening collective bargaining process; changes into contract law; changes into collective redundancies' regime; changes in 'teleworking'-related provisions; and strengthening of reconciliation tools such as 'homeworking'.

***At regional/local level:*** The city of Ghent in Belgium makes regular use of the European Social Fund to support the integration of refugees and Roma in the labour markets. For example, its project 'Labour Team IEM' (2015 - 2017) offered tailored guidance to Roma people. The main objective was to help at least 190 intra-European migrants (IEM), mostly Roma, enter the labour market. The project continues in 2018-2019 with European Social Fund support.

***At company level:*** The European Investment Bank is providing a EUR 7.5 million loan (backed by the European Fund for Strategic Investments) to Greenfiber International SA to finance a recycling and circular economy project in Romania. The project will help create 280 full-time jobs and it will increase the amount of waste collected and processed by over 50,000 tonnes per year.

***At civil society level:*** In 2014, a Portuguese coalition of national civil society umbrella organisations was created to prepare a common position on the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The coalitions organised national consultation processes, online questionnaires and local workshops to debate expectations on the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including those related to SDG 8.



### European Union today

#### *Snapshot/Qualitative overview*

High-performance infrastructure in the transport, energy and digital sectors is essential to a well-connected and integrated EU, where citizens and businesses can fully benefit from free movement and the single market, as well as from adequate social infrastructures. This is why inter alia the trans-European networks in transport, energy and digital sector address in an integrated way the need for resilient, sustainable, seamless and innovative infrastructures. Investments in space infrastructure are also a strategic concern. Europe's industry is strong and has retained a leading position in many sectors in global markets. The EU facilitates the transition to a smart, innovative and sustainable industry that creates benefits for all citizens. While the EU experiences GDP growth, total greenhouse gas emissions are decreasing, suggesting a decoupling of emissions from growth. European policies are geared to empower industry to conduct their business in a responsible and sustainable way, create jobs, boost Europe's competitiveness, foster investment and innovation in clean and digital technologies and defend Europe's regions and workers most affected by industrial change. The EU emphasis on investing in research and innovation as well as digital transformation helps us to compete globally by creating more jobs and business opportunities. The EU is the most open research and innovation area in the world, but improvements are needed in terms of scale-up and diffusion, with innovations not always being translated into new market and growth opportunities. Business sector investment in research and innovation has to step up as it currently only reaches 1.3% of GDP, lagging behind China (1.6%), the United States (2%) or Japan (2.6%). Digital transformation is an important enabler for the transition to low-carbon, circular economy and society. At the international level, the European Consensus on Development supports the design, construction and operation of high quality, resilient, climate-friendly infrastructures in order to promote equitable and affordable access for all, growth, trade and investments. EU trade, enlargement and neighbourhood policies also contribute in this area.

#### *Key trends*

- **Manufacturing industry** accounts for two thirds of the EU's exports, provides jobs for 36 million people - one out of five jobs in Europe - and contributes to high standards of living for European citizens.
- **Greenhouse gas emissions** in terms of industrial processes and product use have decreased by more than 17 % in the period 2000-2016. Moreover, this improvement is confirmed by the reduction in energy consumption by 17% in industry over the period 2000-2016.
- **R&D investment:** Europe accounts for 20% of global R&D investment, produces one third of all high-quality scientific publications, and holds a world leading position in industrial sectors such as pharmaceuticals, chemicals, mechanical engineering and fashion. The two biggest spenders on research and development are the business enterprise sector (65 %) and the higher education sector (23 %) while the government sector had a share of 11% in 2016.
- **Patent applications** in the EU increased considerably prior to the economic crisis, and have stagnated ever since.
- **Corporate Social Responsibility:** 77% of EU companies include corporate social responsibility in their reporting and many of them lead in integrating corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct activities with the SDGs.

### ***Global ranking***

According to the global SDG Index and dashboards report 2018 (Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network), 10 EU Member States have a score of 73 or more out of 100 for SDG 9, with notable differences between Member States. 10 EU Member States are in the worldwide top 20.

### **European Union in 2030**

#### ***EU under current trends/ all things being equal***

Europe is leading the path towards a more sustainable and inclusive industry. Economic, societal and environmental transformations will accelerate as well as technological breakthroughs in areas such as robotics, internet of things, artificial intelligence and energy systems. Automation, enabled by information technologies, will transform traditional manufacturing processes and the nature of work. Industry is increasingly integrated in global value chains with strong service components. Emerging business models will disrupt traditional markets. Innovation itself and value creation change in profound ways, driven by a new generation of consumers who expect value-co-creation, sustainable business conduct, connectivity and real-time performance measurements. Data become the new competitive factor. Demand for raw materials will continue to increase. With strained natural resources and climate change becoming an ever more tangible reality, demand for sustainable products, circular consumption and zero- or low-emissions will increase exponentially and eco-innovations are needed. Europe will step up its investment in research and innovation, and resilient infrastructure, inter alia through 'Horizon Europe' - the EU's next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

#### ***Opportunities/Positive drivers***

Societal involvement and participatory politics, artificial intelligence, internet of the things, full digitalisation, the collaborative and circular carbon-neutral economy, focus on resilient societies, corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct, responsible and sustainable mining and sourcing, sustainable finance, public-private partnerships, crowdfunding and education, multilateralism, open and fair trade.

#### ***Risks/Negative drivers***

Low public and business sector investment, also in research and innovation, changing value chains, skill mismatches, shifts in global demand, geopolitical instability and security threats, social inequalities, ageing of our societies, climate change and environmental risks associated with increasing demand for natural resources, urban/rural divide.

### **Policy highlights**

**The EU at the international level:** Thanks to their increased accuracy and reliability, the European Satellite Navigation Programmes Galileo and EGNOS offer improved positioning and timing information with significant positive implications for many European services and products that people use every day, from the navigation device in your car to a mobile phone as well as critical, emergency response-services. The Group on Earth Observations promotes applications of environmental observations in support of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on climate action.


**At EU level:** The trans-European networks address the need for resilient, seamless and innovative infrastructures in the transport, energy and digital sectors. They aim at providing connectivity for all regions of the EU, and thereby contribute to 'including' citizens in all parts of Europe. Infrastructure is built and adapted so as to ensure it withstands risks associated with climate change, while promoting inclusion, fostering innovation and job creation.

**At Member State level:** Sweden is the innovation leader in the EU with high private and public investment in research and development, a high number of patent applications, innovative SMEs and a high share of employment in knowledge-intensive activities.

Furthermore, investment in manufacturing has grown faster than the EU average and energy-efficiency of industrial production is very high.

**At regional/local level:** The thematic smart specialisation platform for industrial modernisation offers opportunities to regional managing authorities with similar smart specialisation priorities to cooperate based on each other's competences, share infrastructure, allow scaling up to larger impact and develop joint investment projects.

**At company level:** The European Fund for Strategic Investments has helped an Estonian company produce an energy storage device called ultra-capacitor, which is 100 times more powerful than an ordinary battery and can withstand one million recharge cycles. The company has raised EUR 15 million for a manufacturing facility in Germany capable of producing millions of new ultra-capacitors a year.

<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p> 	<p><b>Reduce inequality within and among countries</b></p>
<p><b>European Union today</b></p>	
<p><b>Snapshot/Qualitative overview</b></p> <p>Like poverty, inequality is a multidimensional concept. It covers inequalities in both outcomes and opportunities, such as income inequality, uneven access to social protection, as well as intergenerational transmission of inequality. Inequality of opportunities is an important driver of income inequality. Income convergence has been taking place within the EU, and living standards have been recovering from the crisis in most Member States. However, as the European economies are regaining strength, concerns have grown about the inclusiveness of economic growth. Income inequality within the EU as a whole has stabilised over the last years, although its level remains a challenge. Marginalised and vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities, migrants and ethnic minorities (including the Roma), homeless people or isolated older people and children suffer from particular forms of inequalities. Their socio-economic inclusion continues to be inadequate. Inequality can hamper economic growth, macroeconomic stability, and can potentially undermine social cohesion. Globally, persistent high levels of inequalities in the EU partner countries are a threat to progress towards most SDGs. Global inequality may also lead to higher migration into the EU. In response to recent challenges in the area of migration, the Commission has worked to provide an immediate response and to build a sustainable, crisis-proof system for the future. Sustainable management of migration flows is essential. The EU's external action, including its foreign and security policy, development policy, enlargement and neighbourhood policies, and the EU's trade and investment policy all contribute to tackling the causes of inequality outside Europe. For example, the European Consensus on Development promotes the principle of leaving no one behind and commits to taking action to reduce inequality of outcomes and promote equal opportunities for all.</p>	
<p><b>Key trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Disposable income:</b> Economic disparities between EU countries have reduced over time. The real adjusted gross disposable household income per capita increased in a large majority of Member States. In 2017, it was on average 4.4 % above the pre-crisis level in 2008. There has been some income convergence between EU Member States, as the disposable income in the Member States with lower income levels, such as Romania,</li> </ul>	

Bulgaria and Poland, grew faster than the EU average.

- **Income inequality:** In 2017, for the EU on average across the Member States, the richest 20 % of households received an income share that was 5.1 times higher than that of the poorest 20 %, which is still above pre-crisis levels (4.9 in 2009). However, this ratio decreased compared to 2016 (5.2), signalling some improving prospects on reducing income inequalities in the EU Member States. Stabilisation trends in income inequality within EU Member States are also observed when looking at the income share of the bottom 40 % of the population. This stood at 21.2 % in 2008 and 2012, slight dropped to 20.9 % in 2016, and increased back to 21.2 % in 2017.
- **Inequality of opportunity:** An important feature of inequality of opportunity is the impact of parents' socio-economic position on their children's educational attainment. According to the 2015 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) test, 33.8% of EU pupils from the most disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds were low achievers in science, compared to only 7.6% of their most privileged peers. There were large variations between the Member States.
- **Development aid:** The EU remains the world-leading donor, providing over 50 % of all global development aid, thereby also contributing to reducing inequalities worldwide. Total EU financing for developing countries, encompassing flows from the public and private sector, has more than doubled since 2001, representing an average annual growth of 6.4 %.

#### ***Global ranking***

According to the global SDG Index and dashboards report 2018 (Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network), 13 EU Member States have a score of 80 or more out of 100 for SDG 10. 11 EU Member States are in the worldwide top 20.

### **European Union in 2030**

#### ***EU under current trends/ all things being equal***

The EU and its Member States will work towards ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth in the EU, a necessary condition to reduce inequality. They will combine efficient, effective, and adequate social protection and support services, good education allowing equal chances for all, and well-functioning labour markets supported by effective labour market policies. This will not only allow to reduce inequalities between EU Member States, but also to significantly reduce inequality within Member States. Technological advances, in particular the deployment of artificial intelligence, will have to be well managed to avoid a digital divide. As for migration trends, it is clear that no EU country can or should be left alone to address huge migratory pressures. The EU will further reduce incentives for irregular migration, save lives and secure external borders, implement a strong common asylum policy and policies on legal migration, whilst helping to effectively integrate legal migrants and refugees into the EU's labour markets and societies. The EU's external action will continue tackling inequality outside Europe.

#### ***Opportunities/Positive drivers***

Societal involvement and participatory politics, corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct, social welfare (e.g. taxation and social protection and social inclusion systems, labour market policies, housing policies, healthcare, childcare, educational attainment, skills levels and lifelong learning), transport and digital accessibility addressing the spatial dimension of inequality, fight against fraud and corruption, sustainable finance, multilateralism, open and fair trade.

#### ***Risks/Negative drivers***

Inequality of opportunities, ageing societies, changing household composition (e.g. single person households), gaps in social welfare, climate change and environmental degradation, geopolitical instability and security threats, return to economic protectionism worldwide.

## Policy highlights

**The EU at the international level:** The European Consensus on Development promotes the principle of leaving no one behind and commits to take action to reduce inequality of outcomes and promote equal opportunities for all. The EU's trade and investment policy aims to maximise the potential of trade preferences, trade agreements and investment agreements for job creation, high levels of labour protection and investment generation in partner countries, notably developing ones, thus contributing to reducing inequality.

**At EU level:** Many of the 20 principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights are about ensuring equal opportunities for all, fairness and inclusion in labour markets and society. It is accompanied by a social scoreboard monitoring trends and performances across the EU. The European semester is a key delivery mechanism of the Pillar, and it has been further strengthened to focus on social fairness, inequalities and a more inclusive growth. The EU cohesion policy promotes social inclusion, while fighting poverty and discrimination.

**At Member State level:** The tax and benefits system in Cyprus has become more effective in addressing income inequality. Its redistributive effects have grown almost twofold since the crisis (during 2009-2016). For instance, in 2014, Cyprus introduced a guaranteed minimum income scheme, which also helps to incentivise work. The scheme appears to have an important positive impact on reducing poverty and inequality, and has contributed to strengthening the social safety net.

**At regional/local level:** A pilot project 'Housing First for Families' run by the local municipality of Brno in Czech Republic demonstrates the leadership of the municipality with community partners in addressing homelessness. The project provides a municipal flat and intensive housing first case management for 50 Roma and non-Roma families, shelters or other forms of homelessness. Based on the pilot, an action plan to end family homelessness in Brno 2018-2025 was adopted.

**At company level:** La Bolsa Social is the first equity crowd-impacting platform in Spain for investors and businesses who want to create a positive social impact. The company connects social impact investors with enterprises to promote the SDGs. La Bolsa Social has funded 10 social and environmental impact companies with EUR 1.8 million. Five of them have specifically focused on providing people with disabilities with access to information, social life and public space.

**At civil society level:** The Swedish 'Bread in Bergslagen' project entailed traditional bread baking courses as a means of integrating new migrant arrivals and providing vocational training. It used the physical activity as the starting point for dialogue, whilst trained volunteers facilitated discussions between participants.



**Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

### European Union today

#### ***Snapshot/Qualitative overview***

Cities in Europe are at the heart of today's economic, environmental and social challenges. More than 70% of EU citizens live in urban areas while about 85% of the EU's GDP is generated in cities. Cities and communities are essential for the well-being of Europeans and their quality of life as they serve as hubs for economic and social development and innovation. They attract many people because of the wide range of opportunities for



education, employment, entertainment and culture. However, EU cities also face challenges such as migratory pressures and social exclusion, congestion, a shortage of adequate housing, declining infrastructure and rising air pollution, to name a few. Cities are also particularly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters impacts. It is a joint effort of the Commission, Member States and European cities, to strengthen the urban dimension of European and national policies. In line with the UN New Urban Agenda, the EU strengthens the resilience of urban settings through prevention of disaster and climate related risks and responds in a more coordinated way to the different urban challenges. At international level, the European development, foreign and security, enlargement and neighbourhood policies seek to improve living conditions in cities. The European Consensus on Development stresses the need to focus more on cities and local authorities as important actors in achieving the SDGs.

### ***Key trends***

- The **recycling rate of municipal waste** increased, by 11.0 percentage points in total between 2007 up to 2016.
- **Quality of housing** in the EU improved over the past six years. The share of EU inhabitants experiencing basic deficits in their housing condition decreased by 4.8 percentage points between 2007 and 2017 when it stood at 13.1%.
- People living in cities had easier access to **public transport**, with only 9.7 % of them reporting high or very high levels of difficulty, compared to 37.4 % of those living in rural areas.
- Substantial **air pollution** hotspots remain although exposure to air pollution by fine particulate matter had decreased by almost 20% between 2010 and 2015.
- **Artificial land cover** per capita has increased by 6 % in 2015 since 2009. As Europe is one of the most urbanised continents in the world, further efforts are needed to halt land degradation.
- **Local and regional authorities** involved in the European Covenant of Mayors' action plans achieved a 23% greenhouse gas emission reduction, cut final energy consumption by 18% and work towards increasing the share of local energy production to reach 19% of the energy consumed by 2020.

### ***Global ranking***

According to the global SDG Index and dashboards report 2018 (Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network), 23 EU Member States have a score of 80 or more out of 100 for SDG 11. 10 EU Member States are in the worldwide top 20.

## **European Union in 2030**

### ***EU under current trends/ all things being equal***

The share of the urban population in Europe is projected to rise to just over 80 % by 2050. The EU and its Member States at all levels of governance, together with civil society, businesses and researchers work together to create the ever-evolving city for tomorrow's society. European cities will remain poles of attraction for citizens, offering increasing employment possibilities, quality of living, and social services. To ensure living well together, European cities work in a participatory manner with stakeholders at all levels on areas such as housing, energy, mobility, water, climate action, poverty eradication, inequality, circular economy, resilience and security. European cities will become smart cities, where traditional networks and services will be more efficient with the use of digital and telecommunication technologies for the benefit of its citizens and businesses.

### ***Opportunities/Positive drivers***

Smart specialisation, partnerships between cities, societal involvement and participatory politics (e.g. collaborative urban governance, multi-stakeholder platforms), sustainable urban mobility plans, corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct, crowdfunding

and other forms of innovative financing, digitisation, artificial intelligence and new technologies, collaborative economy, low-emission public transport, active mobility (walking and cycling) and relevant infrastructure, research and innovation, low-emission buildings, urban farming, urban green spaces.

**Risks/Negative drivers**

Environmental degradation and climate change, pollution, ageing societies, crime and security threats, fraud and corruption, social inequalities, rising housing prices.

**Policy highlights**

**The EU at the international level:** In the field of development, the Commission has a new approach on ‘European Union cooperation with cities and local authorities in third countries’, focusing EU external support on planning, financing, and governance of cities.

**At EU level:** The urban agenda for the EU was launched in May 2016 with the Pact of Amsterdam. It represents a new multi-level working method promoting cooperation between Member States, cities, the Commission and other stakeholders in order to stimulate growth, liveability and innovation in the cities of Europe and to identify and tackle social challenges. By focusing on concrete priorities within dedicated Partnerships, the urban agenda for the EU seeks to improve the quality of life in urban areas.

**At Member State level:** Current housing pressures in Ireland arise in part as a result of the collapse of housing construction levels. In 2016, the Irish government launched its action plan on housing and homelessness rebuilding Ireland, which aims to accelerate housing supply across all tenures. The action plan has five main ‘pillars’ to address specific challenges: address homelessness, accelerate social housing, build more homes, improve the rental sector and utilise existing housing.

**At regional/local:** ‘Global Nachhaltige Kommune’ (Global Sustainable Municipalities) is a project implemented in the German region of North Rhine-Westphalia helping 15 local authorities, ranging from small and medium-sized to large towns and rural districts, via systematic support in the elaborating a sustainability strategy addressing their individual local challenges, based on the global framework of the SDGs. Its approach has also been adopted in other German regions.

**At company level:** LIPOR, an inter-municipal waste management company of Greater Porto in Portugal, is responsible for the management, recovery and treatment of municipal waste produced in associated municipalities. LIPOR invested and created an Adventure Park in an old landfill after environmental and landscape recovery. It has created a playful space zone, leisure and training.

**At civil society level:** The Urban Laboratory, an Estonian non-governmental organisation, is dealing with the development of sustainable and inclusive cities. Urban Laboratory is counselling the local authorities, introducing modern trends in Estonia and improving the awareness of people about the living environment.



**Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

**European Union today**

**Snapshot/Qualitative overview**

Sustainable consumption and production aims to reduce Europe’s environmental footprint by

changing the way we produce, distribute and consume goods and use resources. The EU has made progress over the past few years towards becoming resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy but sustainable consumption and production still remains the key challenge for achieving the SDGs in the EU and requires continued efforts at all levels. The EU's approach is to promote resource efficiency whilst reducing environmental impacts through transition to a circular economy where the value of products, materials and resources is maintained in the economy for as long as possible, and the generation of waste and pollution minimised. The 54 actions of the 2015 EU circular economy action plan intervene at all stages of product and material cycles (production, consumption, waste management, market for secondary raw materials, innovation & investments, monitoring) and 5 priority areas (plastics, food waste, critical raw materials, construction and demolition, biomass and bio-based products). By 2018, more than 85% of the actions had already been delivered, while the remaining ones have been launched. A European circular economy stakeholder platform was launched in 2017 to encourage companies, public authorities and other stakeholders to share knowledge and showcase good practices, as well as a the EU platform on food losses and food waste in 2016. A dedicated partnership was established in the framework of the urban agenda for the EU to look into this question and proposes several actions to mainstream circular economy in cities. Additionally, Europe's bioeconomy Strategy, renewed in 2018, supports the modernisation and strengthening of the EU industrial base through the creation of new value chains and greener, more cost-effective industrial processes. On the external side, the EU promotes responsible management of supply chains and fair and ethical trade schemes as part of its values-based trade agenda; also the EU's development, enlargement and neighbourhood policies stress the importance of sustainable consumption and production in their actions.

#### ***Key trends***

- **Decoupling of economic growth from the consumption of natural resources** is measured by the EU's resource and energy productivity. Since 2001, the EU has increased its resource productivity by 36.4 % (2017) and its energy productivity by 29.2 % (2016), meaning that more output (in terms of GDP) was produced per unit of used materials or energy.
- Between 2004 and 2016, the **amount of waste** generated, excluding major mineral wastes, decreased by 6.5 % in the EU. Between 2004 and 2014 the **EU recycling rate** rose slightly from 53 % to 55 % and the circular material use rate, indicating the share of materials which came from collected waste in the overall material use, increased from 8.3 % to 11.7 %.
- The EU economy depends on raw materials from the rest of the world. More than 60 % of EU's total physical imports are raw products.

#### ***Global ranking***

According to the global SDG Index and dashboards report 2018 (Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network), 11 EU Member States score above 60 out of 100 for SDG 12. Overall, this is on average the second lowest ranking SDG for the EU Member States.

### **European Union in 2030**

#### ***EU under current trends/ all things being equal***

Europe will have to continue to focus on sustainable production and consumption in face of pressure on material supplies and its own relatively limited domestic material resources. Particular attention will need to be paid to metal ores and critical raw materials, which are high value and where Europe is particularly dependent on imports. Emphasis will also be needed on heavy and energy intensive materials such as cement, aluminium, steel and plastic in view of their potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Sectors where resource use has a particularly high impact on the environment (for example in terms of water use, pollution, air quality and nutrients) will also need attention, for example food systems and

textiles. Thanks to the revised EU waste legislation and the EU action plan on food waste, the EU will reduce the food waste generated annually to help achieve the global target of halving food waste by 2030. Waste legislation will drive up rates of recycling to a legally binding 60% by 2030, with higher rates for many packaging materials. Attention will need to be paid to delivering higher quality of recycling, not only quantity, to reducing resource use and generation of waste through better product design, and to systemic approaches designed to keep products and materials in use, providing value in the economy. The recycled content in new products, notably in plastic products, will need to increase.

***Opportunities/Positive drivers***

Behavioural change, societal involvement, society's pressure for sustainable production chains, partnerships and participatory politics, education, corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct, crowdfunding and other forms of innovative financing, anticipatory policies for just transition, artificial intelligence, new technologies, research and innovation, collaborative and circular economy, bioeconomy, digitalisation, sustainable finance, reformed taxation (e.g. taxation of resources and pollution), green procurement, smart cities, internet of the things, open and fair trade.

***Risks/Negative drivers***

Traditional/conservative consumption and production patterns, resistance from sectors/regions losing their traditional economic activities, slow change of regulatory environment, lack of financial incentives.

**Policy highlights**

**The EU at international level:** At the international level, one of the EU initiatives is the SWITCH to green flagship that brings together governments and stakeholders from the EU and partner countries and focus on the adoption of sustainable consumption and production practices by the private sector.

**At EU level:** New EU rules on waste were adopted in 2018 aiming that by 2030 all Member States must re-use or recycle 60 % of municipal waste and 70% of packaging waste, and they must reduce landfill to less than 10 % by 2035. For the first time, the new waste rules require Member States to adopt specific food waste prevention programmes and reduce, monitor and report on food waste levels.

**At Member State level:** A recent regulation proposal in Sweden cuts value-added tax (VAT) charged on repair work and provides tax rebates for the labour cost of repairs. The measure will reduce the cost to consumers of repairing appliances, and encourage them to commission repair work, rather than dispose of them and buy new ones.

**At regional/local level:** With the help of EU funds, Ljubljana has developed an integrated waste system covering 37 municipalities with a regional waste management centre. Since joining the EU, the Slovenian capital has boosted separate collection and recycling, and reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill by 59%. It also invested in prevention and reuse. Ljubljana now generates 41% less waste per capita than the European average and decided not to build two new incinerators as originally planned.

**At company level:** UMICORE has transformed itself in 20 years from a Belgian non-ferrous mining company, into a global materials technology and recycling group, with 10,000 employees and a turnover of EUR 10.4 billion with investments in Belgium, Bulgaria, the Netherlands and France. The company embraces a circular economy model recovering valuable metals and critical raw materials from waste electronic and electrical equipment.

**At civil society level:** Together with its members, the European Federation of Food Banks

provided, in 2017, 44.700 front-line charity organizations with 4.1 million meals each day for the benefit of 8.1 million people. This is done in close cooperation with food business operators in order to save food which would otherwise go wasted and make it available to those in need.



## Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

### European Union today

#### Snapshot/Qualitative overview

Climate change is one of the greatest global challenges of our generation. Combatting climate change requires global action to reduce the world's greenhouse gas emissions. The EU has been at the forefront of international efforts towards a global climate deal. The international community, including the EU, has committed to halting the increase in global temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 °C. These objectives, underpinned by scientific research as part of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, are enshrined in the Paris Agreement. The EU has committed to cutting its greenhouse gas emissions by 20 % by 2020 and at least 40 % by 2030 (from 1990 levels). The EU is on track to meet its emissions reduction target for 2020 and has legislation in place to achieve its 2030 target, including ambitious energy efficiency and renewable energy legislation. Since 2013, the EU strategy on adaptation to climate change supports actions to make the EU more climate-resilient. But the EU needs to go further to live up to the Paris Agreement and significantly reduce its dependency on fossil fuels, which are still significantly subsidised. The Commission presented in November 2018 its strategic longer-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate-neutral economy by 2050. It highlights how all sectors and policies should contribute to achieve this transition. At the international level, the EU's foreign and security, development, enlargement and neighbourhood policies actively integrate climate objectives. The fight against climate change is also included in the trade and sustainable development chapters of the EU's new generation trade and investment agreements and is also an integral part of the EU positions at the G20, a leading forum of the world's major economies

#### Key trends

- The EU continues to successfully **decouple** its **economic growth** from its **greenhouse gas emissions**: during the period 1990-2017, the EU's combined gross domestic product grew by 58 %, while total greenhouse gas emissions decreased by 22 % in comparison with 1990 levels. At the Member State level, there are significant differences in greenhouse gas emission trends since 1990, with some Member States having cut emissions by almost 60 % and a few Member States having increased emissions.
- The **greenhouse gas intensity of energy consumption** - the emissions per unit of energy consumed - fell by 12.1 % between 2000 and 2016.
- The EU aims at meeting its 2020 **energy efficiency target of 20 %**. Between 2005 and 2016, the EU's primary energy consumption dropped by 9.9 % and its final energy consumption by 7.1 %. In the period 1980-2016, **weather and climate-related losses** accounted for a total of EUR 410 billion in losses at 2016 values for Member States.
- Fossil fuel subsidies remain high. In the EU, approximately EUR 112 billion are estimated to have been allocated annually to the production and consumption of fossil fuels between 2014 and 2016.
- The EU is pursuing an overall target of 20 % **climate related expenditure** in the current

**European multiannual budget** for the period 2014-2020, and has proposed to increase this target to at least 25 % in the period 2021-2027.

- Between 2013 and 2018, the number of Member States with a national **climate adaptation strategy** went from 15 to 25, and work is ongoing in the remaining Member States. In 2018, 26% of all EU cities and 40% of the cities over 150,000 inhabitants were estimated to have local adaptation plans.
- The EU and its Member States are the **world's biggest providers of climate finance**: in 2017 the EU, European Investment Bank and Member States provided EUR 20.4 billion to help developing countries tackle and adapt to climate change, more than double the amount of 2013. This represents approximately half of the world's total.

### ***Global ranking***

According to the global SDG Index and dashboards report 2018 (Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network), 22 EU Member States score above 80 out of 100 for SDG 13. Five EU Member States are in the worldwide top 20.

## **European Union in 2030**

### ***EU under current trends/ all things being equal***

The EU remains determined to lead the way on the fight against climate change and will have achieved its goal to cut at least 40 % of its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 from 1990 levels. The Commission presented, in autumn 2018, a proposal for an EU long-term strategic vision in accordance with the Paris Agreement, which includes pathways to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions within the EU by 2050. The Commission provided a comprehensive vision for making the European economy more modern, competitive and resilient, as well as more socially fair for all Europeans, leaving no-one behind. The EU will have to continue assuming its climate action leadership and push for increased global ambition beyond 2030 from all the largest polluting countries worldwide. In this context, further strengthening of an ambitious global response to the impacts of climate change will remain a priority. Also, disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation and mitigation will remain high on the agenda. The EU will continue to cooperate in international fora, such as the International Civil Aviation Organisation and the International Maritime Organisation.

### ***Opportunities/Positive drivers***

Clean energy and low-and zero emission mobility, circular low carbon economy, bioeconomy and sustainable production chains, behavioural change, participatory politics, anticipatory policies for just transition, corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct, innovative and sustainable finance, public-private partnerships, green procurement, reformed taxation (e.g. taxation of resource use and pollution), education, green digitalisation, artificial intelligence and new technologies, research and innovation, resilient societies, multilateralism, uptake of environmental goods and services.

### ***Risks/Negative drivers***

Insufficient public and private investment, geopolitical instability and security threats, return to economic protectionism worldwide, social inequalities, increasing energy consumption and negative environmental impact driven by digitalisation, continued destruction of ecosystems and biodiversity, slow changes in the regulatory environment.

## **Policy highlights**

**The EU at the international level:** The EU Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA+) seeks to enhance policy dialogue and support developing countries in their efforts to address climate change.

**At EU level:** Local authorities are key drivers of the fight against climate change at the level of governance closest to citizens. The EU Covenant of Mayors for climate & energy brings together thousands of local governments voluntarily committed to implementing EU climate

and energy objectives. It has also contributed significantly to raising awareness at the local level on the need to prepare for the impacts of climate change, with local action for adaptation and resilience playing a crucial role in protecting people and their assets.

**At Member State level:** France has made it compulsory for municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants (covering 90% of France population) to adopt local climate plans, which must include sections on climate change mitigation and adaptation. In 2018, around 75% of French municipalities had developed local mitigation plans and around 55% had developed local adaptation plans. These rates are 2 to 5 times higher than in countries where no such national regulation exists.

**At regional/local level:** A geothermal power plant in Prelog, Croatia, will be able to make use of the full energy content of the geothermal brine: the heat of the thermal water and the energy contained in aquifer gases, such as methane, dissolved in the water, making it nearly 100 % greenhouse gas emissions free. It can serve as a blueprint for more sustainable exploitation of the geothermal resources, with replication opportunities in Europe and worldwide.

**At company level:** Hydrogen Breakthrough Ironmaking Technology (HYBRIT) is an initiative launched in 2016 by three large Swedish companies. It wants to set up an iron production process with close-to-zero greenhouse gas emissions, in which the oxygen from iron ore is removed by using hydrogen gas instead of coke (from coal).

**At civil society level:** The European Solidary Corps is an EU initiative which by 2020 could dedicate over EUR 40 million to establish community-focused volunteering opportunities for young people in the fields of climate action and environment. One example is the Vänö Vänner Project in Finland, which enabled young Italians to contribute to sustainability and environmentally friendly cultural landscaping solutions in the Turku Archipelago, thereby contributing to positive climate action.



## Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

### European Union today

#### *Snapshot/Qualitative overview*

23 out of 28 EU Member States have a coastline. The EU's coastline is 7 times as long as the US' and 4 times as long as Russia's. Including its outlying regions, the EU has the world's largest maritime territory. The EU and its neighbouring countries share four main marine regions: The Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea and the North-East Atlantic Ocean, with habitat alteration, overfishing, pollution and acidification amongst the most important factors affecting their environmental status. European coastal waters are measured to be of very high bathing quality, but organic and chemical pollutants from human activities as well as marine litter continue to pose a serious threat to Europe's marine ecosystems: in early 2018, only 40 to 58 % of the EU coastal waters were in good chemical status. The EU's environmental policy, including its flagship the Marine Strategy Framework law, and its integrated maritime policy provide a framework for a holistic approach to these problems. New EU-wide rules are proposed to target the 10 single-use plastic products most often found on Europe's beaches, as well as lost and abandoned fishing gear, which together constitute 70% of all marine litter. The new rules will put Europe ahead of the curve on an issue with

global implications. The EU is supporting the conservation of coastal and marine areas globally. The EU's international ocean governance agenda for the future of our oceans established an overarching framework for strengthening international ocean governance to ensure oceans are safe, secure, clean, legally and sustainably used. Moreover, the EU's trade and investment agreements include dedicated provisions on the sustainable management and conservation of natural resources, such as marine biodiversity and fisheries. The EU's earth observation programme Copernicus is also delivering on ocean monitoring products in order to improve the quality of water.

### **Key trends**

- Between 2012 and end 2016, the coverage of **marine protected areas** in Europe has almost doubled (from 6% to 10.8% of the EU sea surface) and it keeps increasing thanks primarily to the EU's marine 'Natura 2000' network. In 2016, three European regions surpassed the 10% Aichi target on biological diversity (the Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea) and the North-East Atlantic Ocean was very near to the target (9.9%).
- The conservation status of the large majority of individual marine habitats and species is unfavourable according to the last assessment available. Since 1988 there is a consistent and alarming increase in ocean acidity. Since 2008 significant progress has been made in defining, monitoring and assessing the good **environmental status of the marine environment** which is a prerequisite for measuring progress towards achieving clean and healthy oceans and seas.
- The **sustainability of fisheries** in the North-East Atlantic, where 75% of the EU's catch originates, has improved. The number of commercially important fish stocks caught at sustainable levels has increased from 34% in 2007 to 60% in 2015. Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Seas are not progressing towards sustainability at the same rate. In the Mediterranean Sea, more than 80 % of stocks are overfished.
- In the EU, the **blue economy** is 2.5 times its aeronautical and defence economies combined. It generates EUR 566 billion of turnover per year (a 7.2% more than in 2009) and employs 3.5 million persons (a 5% more than in 2014), representing an increase of respectively 7.2% and 2% compared to 2009. In several EU Member States, the blue economy has grown faster than the national economy. The UK, Spain, Italy, France and Greece have Europe's biggest blue economies.

### **Global ranking**

According to the global SDG Index and dashboards report 2018 (Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network), four EU Member States have a score above 60 or more out of 100 for SDG 14. Five EU Member States are in the worldwide top 20. Overall, this is the lowest ranking SDG for the EU Member States, with big differences between Member States.

## **European Union in 2030**

### ***EU under current trends/ all things being equal***

The EU will remain active in shaping international ocean governance in all relevant international fora and bilaterally with key global partners', given that around 60% of the oceans are outside the borders of national jurisdiction. Additional efforts are needed in cross-sectoral and transboundary cooperation, especially at the regional level, to address existing and emerging challenges. The momentum will intensify with the roll-out of the 2021-2030 UN decade on ocean science, in which the EU is actively involved. The EU will continue to promote the creation of protected areas as well as their effective and science-based management. Additional efforts are needed to achieve sustainable fisheries, in particular in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. Marine pollution, including plastics, noise and nutrients from agriculture, will remain a problem. The entry of new plastic debris to the ocean might



decrease with time but the plastic already present in the ocean will continue causing negative impacts. Enhanced action is required to reduce discharges of ship-generated waste and other forms of pollution, in particular nutrients and noise. The blue economy in Europe will continue to flourish. It is estimated that, by 2030, the global blue economy could double in size. For Europe this would mean 10.8 million jobs and more than EUR 1 trillion of turnover. All EU waters will be covered by ecosystem-based maritime spatial plans by 2021.

***Opportunities/Positive drivers***

International and regional ocean's governance, behavioural change, societal involvement and participatory politics, big data, earth observation, artificial intelligence, underwater and new technologies (e.g. molecular science), research and innovation, corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct, crowdfunding and other forms of innovative financing, sustainable finance, public-private partnerships, green procurement, reformed taxation (e.g. taxation of resource use and pollution), internet of things, education, digitalisation, collaborative and circular low carbon economy.

***Risks/Negative drivers***

Environmental degradation and climate change, pollution, irresponsible tourism, overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, social inequalities.

**Policy highlights**

**The EU at the international level:** The All Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance, launched in 2017, is a collaboration between the EU, Brazil, and South Africa aiming to deepen scientific knowledge of marine ecosystems and interrelations with oceans, climate change, and food.

**Cooperation between Member States:** The EU, its Member States and partners work on a concrete set of measures to achieve a healthy and productive marine environment for the Baltic Sea, the North-East Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea by 2020, based on monitoring and assessment. In addition, the EU promotes complementary ambitious regional initiatives on individual pressures, such as the 2017 commitment to cutting 80% of NOx emissions from ships operating in the Baltic Sea in order to combat the problem of eutrophication in the region.

**At Member State level:** Recently, France designated new marine protected areas. Among them, the largest marine 'Natura 2000' site so named 'Mers Celtiques - Talus du golfe de Gascogne', stretching over 62 320 km<sup>2</sup>, will offer protection for reef habitats and mobile marine species, the harbour porpoise and the bottlenose dolphin.

**At regional/local level and company level:** The project 'Clean Archipelago' is a multi-stakeholder public-private partnership led by the Tuscany Region in Italy, in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Environment, Unicoop Firenze and other associations. It was launched in April 2018, in collaboration with 10 boats from a fishermen cooperative association. The project strives to clear the sea of litter. The partnership aims to offer economic incentives to fishermen to collect fished plastics and bring them to the collection points inside the harbours. Fished plastics will then be recycled.

**At civil society level:** 'Fish Forward', a project led by WWF Austria, gathers 17 partners that work together with consumers, corporate sector and governmental institutions to support socially fair and climate smart seafood production and consumption. This ensures responsible management of fisheries and traceability contributing to the sustainable use of oceans and marine resources.

15  
LIFE  
ON LAND



**Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forest, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

### European Union today

#### *Snapshot/Qualitative overview*

Significant progress has been achieved in strengthening the policy frameworks and the knowledge base under EU nature legislation and the EU 2020 biodiversity strategy. After centuries of forest loss and degradations, Europe's forests have recovered to cover more than 40 % of the EU territory today but their conservation status needs to improve. Natural resources set the ecological limits for our socio-economic systems ('planetary boundaries'). Recent reports by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services clearly demonstrate the persisting and devastating effects on human societies by both land degradation and biodiversity loss. Despite the progress made, the pressures on Europe's and global natural capital resulting from our production and consumption patterns remain high and are likely to keep growing. Overstepping planetary boundaries threatens to undermine or even reverse advances of living standards. At the international level, the EU uses its external policy agenda to further this agenda. It actively supports multilateral environmental agreements, encourages policy change in partner countries, promotes corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct and mainstreams environmental concerns into all actions.

#### *Key trends*

- The number of **sites protected under the 'Natura 2000 network'** has increased as well as the conservation measures taken for these sites, which have now been reported for nearly 70 % of them (2018). In 2017, the EU had protected over 790 000 km<sup>2</sup> of terrestrial habitats, covering 18.2 % of EU land area. Member States with the highest percentage of protected areas include Slovenia (37.9 %), Croatia (36.6 %) and Bulgaria (34.5 %).
- The EU State of Nature report on the **conservation status of species and habitats** of European interest reveals that many species and habitats are not in favourable conservation status. Across the EU only 23 % of assessed species and 16 % of assessed habitats were in 'favourable' status in 2012 while only 52% of bird species were in 'secure' status. More generally, the mid-term review of the **biodiversity** strategy to 2020 confirmed that biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU have continued.
- In 2015, **forests** covered 41.9 % of the EU's total land area. The EU share of forests in proportion to total land area increased slightly by 2.6 % between 2009 and 2015.
- The State of the Environment Report 2015 (European Environment Agency) highlighted the poor **state of soils** in Europe. Efforts to address and mitigate soil erosion by water have generated some positive results: when integrating the potential impact of the common agricultural policy's measures on soil erosion, the areas estimated to be at risk of severe soil erosion by water were reduced by 14 % in the EU between 2000 and 2012. However, despite efforts to limit soil sealing, the conversion of land into artificial areas in the EU has been accelerating over the years, with growth from 2012 to 2015 being about 6 % higher than from 2009 to 2012. In addition, 45% of the EU agriculture area has a soil poor in terms of organic contents (affecting soil fertility and biodiversity).

#### *Global Ranking*

According to the global SDG Index and dashboards report 2018 (Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network), 19 EU Member States have a score above 70 out of 100 for SDG 15. 14 EU Member States are in the worldwide top 20.

## European Union in 2030

### *EU under current trends/ all things being equal*

Current global and European assessments show continuing trends towards biodiversity loss and land and ecosystem degradation with adverse consequences on ecosystem services (food, water, materials, energy, etc.), thereby threatening Europe's economic output and well-being. The implementation efforts regarding EU nature legislation need to be considerably increased to ensure that by 2030 the EU will have substantially improved the conservation status for species and habitats of EU interest protected under the birds and habitats rules. The speed of recovery of forest biodiversity also needs to be stepped up. The EU will have to play a key role at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Beijing, China at the end of 2020, which is expected to adopt the new post 2020 global biodiversity framework to avert global biodiversity loss.

### *Opportunities/Positive drivers*

Behavioural change, societal involvement and participatory politics, society's pressure for sustainable production chains (agroecology, organic farming), corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct, crowdfunding and other forms of innovative financing, sustainable finance, public-private partnerships, green procurement, wider deployment of nature-based solutions, reformed taxation (e.g. taxation of resource use and pollution), education, artificial intelligence and new technologies, research and innovation, collaborative and circular low carbon economy, resilient societies, multilateralism, open and fair trade, sustainable tourism.

### *Risks/Negative drivers*

Environmental degradation and climate change, environmental scepticism and related policy reversals, short-termism, resistance to change in the food production system, low public and private investment, geopolitical instability and security threats, social inequalities.

## Policy highlights

**At EU level:** The EU adopted an action plan for nature, people and the economy in 2017. The plan aims at accelerating EU law implementation and progress towards the EU 2020 goal of halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services and to better take account of socio-economic objectives. It was complemented by an initiative to tackle the decline of pollinators in the EU and contribute to global conservation efforts.

**At Member State level:** The recent French law 'Recovery of Biodiversity, Nature and Landscapes' established a new French Agency for Biodiversity. The biodiversity plan of 4 July 2018 stresses the importance of addressing together climate change and biodiversity challenges and includes new targets on no net land take, green urban areas, agroecology and soil protection, as well as actions related to payments for environmental services, pollinators and ecosystem restoration.

**At regional/local level:** In Germany, the State of Baden Württemberg increased funding for nature conservation from EUR 30 million to EUR 90 million in 10 years. The designation of national parks, and ecosystem restoration provides benefits for farmers and the economy, including start-ups producing packaging paper out of biodiverse grasslands, and for the sector of nature tourism.

**At company level:** 59 Austrian farmers, SPAR and WWF have built a strong alliance in the project 'Healthy Soil for Healthy Food'. By guaranteeing the sale of the produced vegetables and paying a bonus of EUR 30 per stored ton CO<sup>2</sup> in soil to the farmers, SPAR stimulates sustainable soil management practices. Soil samples are used to monitor the project's

effectiveness.

**At civil society level:** The Hellenic Ornithological Society, WWF Greece, the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds joined forces to halt the decline of the Egyptian vulture population in the Balkans. They broadened their cross-border approach to other countries along the species' flyway.



**Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**

### European Union today

#### *Snapshot/Qualitative overview*

The EU has been one of the most successful peace projects in the world. Under the guidance of the European Treaties, first signed in 1957, the EU can look back on 60 years of peace, democracy and solidarity. In 2012, the EU was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for advancing the causes of peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe. Promoting and upholding the rule of law and the EU's fundamental values is a top priority for the EU, both internally and in its external relations. Effective justice systems play a crucial role in that respect. They ensure that citizens can fully enjoy their rights and businesses benefit from legal certainty and an investment-friendly environment in the single market. The EU is encouraging Member States to improve the independence, quality and efficiency of their justice systems, including through effective monitoring via the European Semester and the EU Justice Scoreboard. More generally, the Commission ensures the respect of the rule of law and of the other EU fundamental values with all the tools and instruments at its disposal. One of the challenges for European societies is corruption, which compromises trust in democratic institutions and weakens the accountability of political leadership. The Commission has a political mandate to monitor the fight against corruption and to implement a comprehensive EU anti-corruption policy. On the external side, the EU contributes to international peace and helps partner countries to address fragile situations, establish accountable and transparent institutions, foster participatory decision-making and ensure inclusive and credible election processes through its foreign and security policy. Human rights, gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are at the heart of the European Consensus on Development. Through its enlargement and neighbourhood policies it further contributes to peace and stability. In particular, the EU actively promotes and assists EU accession candidates on delivering on the rule of law, justice reform, the fight against corruption and organised crime, security, fundamental rights and democratic institutions.

### ***Key trends***

- People's **perception of crime, violence or vandalism** has improved; in 2016, 13.0 % of the European population felt affected by these issues, 2.9 percentage points less than in 2007.
- The 2018 EU Justice Scoreboard shows that compared to 2010, the **efficiency of justice systems** in the Member States has improved or remained stable in almost all Member States with very few exceptions. However, civil and commercial proceedings still remain very long in several Member States.
- EU **general government expenditure on law courts** rose by more than 11 % in 2007-2016, reaching slightly more than EUR 50 billion in 2016. This growth rate was slightly lower than GDP growth.
- In 2018, 56 % of the EU inhabitants rated **the independence of the courts and judges** in their country as 'very good' or 'fairly good', which is an increase of four percentage points compared to 2016.
- According to Transparency International's **Corruption Perceptions Index**, EU Member States continue to rank among the least corrupt ones globally in 2017 and made up half of the global top 20 least corrupt countries.
- The situation of the **rule of law** in some Member States gives rise to concerns, which are addressed by a range of actions at EU level.

### ***Global ranking***

According to the global SDG Index and dashboards report 2018 (Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network), 19 EU Member States have a score above 70 out of 100 for SDG 16. Nine EU Member States are in the worldwide top 20.

## **European Union in 2030**

### ***EU under current trends/ all things being equal***

The EU continues to experience a peaceful path. Through its enlargement and neighbourhood policies it further contributes to peace and stability. The EU actively promotes and assists also EU accession candidates on delivering on the rule of law, justice reform, the fight against corruption and organised crime, security, fundamental rights and democratic institutions. EU Foreign relations and development policy also contribute to peace elsewhere in the world. The EU furthermore continues to promote and uphold the rule of law among its own Member states. More needs to be done to improve the efficiency, quality and independence of the national justice systems in certain Member states. At the international level, there has been a trend towards authoritarian systems of governance in a number of countries. Promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law will therefore remain a top priority for the EU, both internal and in its external relations. The EU will continue to work towards improving access to justice, fight fraud, crime and address evolving security threats by further enhancing cooperation and information exchange between police and law enforcement authorities of EU Member States and will promote international cooperation in this field.

### ***Opportunities/Positive drivers***

Cultural values in line with respect for fundamental rights, societal involvement and participatory politics, corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct, education, digitalisation, artificial intelligence and new technologies, research and innovation, resilient infrastructure and societies, multilateralism, open and fair trade, development aid.

### ***Risks/Negative drivers***

Geopolitical instability and security threats, climate change and environmental degradation, migration and forced displacement, return to economic protectionism worldwide, lack of international cooperation, challenges to the rule of law, populism, social inequalities.

## Policy highlights

**The EU at the international level:** The 2017 EU rules on conflict minerals lay down supply chain due diligence obligations for EU importers of tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold, to ensure that they are sourced responsibly without directly or indirectly funding armed conflict or leading to human rights abuses in conflict-affected and high-risk areas.

**At EU level:** In 2017 the European Public Prosecutor's Office was established as an independent European prosecution office with the power to investigate, prosecute crimes affecting the financial interests of the EU. Following a build-up phase of three years, the European Public Prosecutor's Office is envisaged to take up its functions by the end of 2020. This will be a decisive improvement in the fight against fraud, corruption and other crimes against the EU budget.

**At Member State level:** The 2017 French law on duty of vigilance creates a responsibility for companies to implement measures ensuring that their subsidiaries, suppliers and subcontractors around the world respect good social, environmental and ethical practices. The law's purpose is to raise awareness among companies of their role in preventing tragedies in France and abroad, and to ensure that victims receive compensation for any harm caused by a breach of companies' new duty to implement vigilance plans. It applies to companies with more than 5,000 employees headquartered in France, or companies with more than 10,000 employees headquartered abroad.

**At company level:** In 2011, the Danish container shipping company Maersk Line was among the founders of the maritime anti-corruption network. This cross-sector partnership comprised of vessel-owning companies, cargo owners and service providers collaborates with key stakeholders, including governments and international organisations, to identify and mitigate the causes of corruption in the maritime industry.

**At civil society level:** In Slovakia, the government promotes the involvement of civil society and non-governmental organisations in the creation, implementation and control of public policies in various fields. In the area of environmental policy, a 'Green Tripartite' is in place to channel the suggestions and comments of non-governmental actors in the process of policymaking and implementation.

17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



**Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development**

## European Union today

### *Snapshot/Qualitative overview*

The SDGs are a cross-cutting dimension in the implementation of the global strategy for the EU's foreign and security policy, which sets out a vision for a joined-up EU engagement in the world. The European Consensus on Development provides a framework for a common approach to development policy for the EU and the Member States based on the SDGs. Based on the principle of policy coherence for development, the EU aims to maximise coherence and build synergies between its different policies to support partner countries reaching SDGs. Today, the EU is the world's largest provider of official development assistance. Over the last

decade, there has been a shift in the balance of roles, from donor-recipient towards a more equal partnership. The EU's enlargement policy and the revised European neighbourhood policy is focusing on political and economic fundamentals, including the rule of law, human rights, democracy, and sustainable economic growth and development, fully consistent with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. EU humanitarian engagement includes working in close partnership with a large number of humanitarian and development UN and civil society international organisations in the pursuit of human dignity. EU's values-based trade and investment policy, as set out in the trade for all strategy, maps across the SDGs, integrating implementation of sustainable development in all its dimensions. The EU remains a staunch supporter of a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, underpinned by the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and is actively working to preserve and strengthen the WTO in all its functions. EU also works closely with other international organisations, such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to promote human rights, corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct as well as social and environmental objectives in its trade policy. The EU actively promotes the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development and the SDGs within the G20. The EU strengthens its own fiscal and economic governance through the European semester of policy coordination, thereby contribution to global macroeconomic stability. Through its better regulation agenda, the Commission contributes to enhanced policy coherence.

#### ***Key trends***

- The EU is the **world's largest provider of Official Development Assistance**, providing EUR 75.7 billion in 2017. Additionally, with 0.5 % in 2017, the overall EU Official Development Assistance/Gross National Income (GNI) ratio was significantly higher than for most other OECD donors such as Canada, Japan or the United States. Sweden, Denmark, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom have achieved the target to spend 0.7 % of their GNI in official development assistance (2017).
- **Trade relations with developing countries** have intensified. Exports can create domestic jobs and allow developing countries to obtain foreign currency, which can be used for importing other goods needed. EU imports from developing countries have more than doubled from 2002 to 2017.
- **The share of EU imports from least developed countries** increased between 2002 and 2017. Nevertheless, overall, the almost 50 least developed countries still accounted for only 2.0 % of all imports to the EU in 2017. Over the past few years the EU strengthened its role as the main export market for least developed countries: its share of global least developed countries' exports of goods increased from 20.5 % in 2012 to nearly 25 % in 2016, followed by China (21 %) and the United States (8.2 %).
- Assisting developing countries in boosting their **domestic resources** is crucial. The EU approach to budget support to partner countries has been adjusted to better promote the SDGs, to enhance the result focus of countries' policies and to provide capacity building, through better supporting improved governance and public financial management, including anti-corruption measures.
- The **shift of taxation** burden from labour to environment can boost jobs, reduce inequalities and limit the pressures on the environment. The share of environmental taxes in total EU tax revenues has remained almost unchanged (6.8% in 2002 and 6.1% in 2017).

#### ***Global ranking***

According to the global SDG Index and dashboards report 2018 (Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network), six EU Member States have a score above 70 out of 100 for SDG 17. Three EU Member States are in the worldwide top 20.

## European Union in 2030

### *EU under current trends/ all things being equal*

The challenges Europe and the world face will be more complex, inter-connected and more global than ever before. Global partnerships on poverty eradication and all other SDGs will be indispensable. At the international level, the EU will therefore continue to promote preservation and strengthening of the rules-based multilateral international order, with the United Nations at its core. This is a necessary condition to ensure the means of implementation. The EU will continue to use its value-based trade policy to promote sustainable development including corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct, and will continue to strongly support the World Trade Organisation. For example, to improve results by dividing the work in the most efficient way, the EU and its Member States will use joint programming and joint implementation as effective means for implementing development cooperation partnerships. This means that they define together which donor should work in which sector. The EU institutions and Member States will moreover continue to increase their efforts to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which is the global framework for financing the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development, and which underscores the role of science, technology and innovation. ‘Horizon Europe’, the next research and innovation programme of the EU (2021-2027), underscores the central role of international scientific collaboration for achieving the SDGs. The EU is well positioned with regard to most financing for development commitments by 2030. Within the EU, partnerships for sustainable development will be promoted as well.

### *Opportunities/Positive drivers*

Societal involvement & participatory politics, corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct, better regulation, education, digitalisation, artificial intelligence, new technologies, research and innovation, effective technology transfer and knowledge sharing, earth observation, education, volunteering, crowdfunding & other forms of innovative financing, sustainable finance, public-private partnerships, multilateralism, open and fair trade, development aid.

### *Risks/Negative drivers*

Geopolitical instability and security threats, economic protectionism, lack of international cooperation, undermining of existing multilateral institutions.

## Policy highlights

**The EU at the international level:** The EU is engaged together with other G20 partners and International Organisations in the G20 Compact with Africa, aiming at boosting investments in the participating African countries. The EU will also support triangular cooperation - which are Southern-driven partnerships between two or more developing countries, supported by a developed country or multilateral organisation, as an important tool to reach out to developing countries and other stakeholders.

**At EU level:** The European external investment plan and its European Fund for Sustainable Development put forward the EU budget as a guarantee to unlock and boost investments in Africa and its neighbourhood. Their focus are fragile, conflict and violence-affected countries, landlocked and least developed countries that are in greatest need. It aims to unlock private investment and mobilise additional EUR 44 billion of investments by 2020.

**At Member State level:** ‘The Finland We Want by 2050 – Society’s Commitment to Sustainable Development’ is an innovative way to engage the whole of society in implementing the SDGs. In order to reach the eight objectives towards its vision for 2050, operational commitments are being established with administrative sectors and other societal actors, such as companies, municipalities, organisations, educational institutions and local



operators. The commitments have to be new and measurable.

**At regional/local level:** Latvian local governments and non-governmental organisations are actively involved in development cooperation projects with Eastern Partnership and Central Asian countries - Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and others. The Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments has provided long-term expert support for partner country budget planning, government negotiation, citizen involvement in decision-making, and business promotion.

**At company level:** Unilever, a transnational consumer goods company, has been a strong advocate for the SDGs since the adoption of the United Nations 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development, with the CEO of the company serving on the UN Secretary-General's Advocacy Group for the Global Goals. Unilever co-founded the Business & Sustainable Development Commission in 2016, culminating in the launch of a seminal report in 2017 'Better Business Better World' on the business case for action on the SDGs.

**At civil society level:** The Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS) aims to raise the awareness and mobilise the Italian society, economic stakeholders and institutions about the importance of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It brings together over 180 of the most important civil society institutions and networks, along with universities and companies.

**ANNEX III Summary of the Contribution of the SDG Multi-Stakeholder Platform to the Reflection Paper “Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030”**

**Letter by the members of the platform**

Brussels, 11 October 2018

To the present and future leaders of the European Commission and other EU Institutions,

To all players having a strong stake in people’s sustainable living, and in the environmental, social, economic and governance developments of Europe,

To the people and voters in Europe,

Through this new Platform and with our Report, we want to send a vibrant signal to the leaders, actors and people within and outside the European Union: time has come – more than ever – to develop and implement a visionary and ambitious Strategy for a Sustainable Europe 2030.

It is important to note that none of the members of the Platform is expected to endorse every recommendation or view entailed in this Report and each has the right to take a different view on the issues covered.

However, within a short period of time, we have strived to build upon and respect our diverse backgrounds and opinions, with the aim of pulling in the same direction for a better, sustainable Europe.

Through strong common values, structural policy improvements and innovative action proposals, we ground our recommendations in the experience and efforts of thousands of men and women in the public sector, civil society and private sector. They have a common ambition to transform the Sustainable Development Goals into practical solutions for the well-being of citizens and the protection of our environment for present and future generations.

Our report highlights different perspectives and addresses some challenging trade-offs between the environmental, economic, social and governance dimensions of sustainable development, some of which we have been able to negotiate, others which need more clarification and consensus-building.

We are confident that the trust and engagement of people and leaders in a continuous transformation of Europe will bear fruit. It requires a fair and equitable culture of dialogue and partnership on all levels, in which each partner can become, and trust the others to be, co-

designers of a Europe that cares and works for all. It also involves an overarching strategy for a Sustainable Europe to guide all European policies and programmes that will accelerate our individual and collective endowments in order to yield sustainable security, prosperity and dignity for all.

We are proud of the work achieved so far, while at the same time we feel the urgency to do much more. So, might the sustainability dialogue and collaboration within this Platform - both between the stakeholders and with the EU institutions – rapidly improve and grow.

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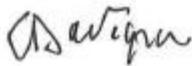
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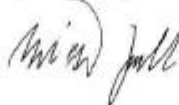
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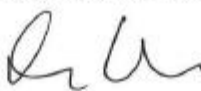
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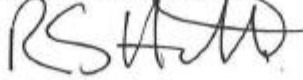
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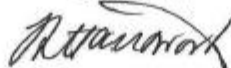
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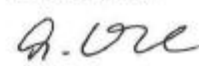
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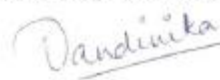
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Member acting in personal capacity



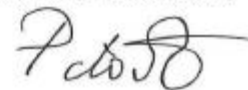
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**Executive Summary “Europe moving towards a sustainable future” -  
Contribution of the SDG Multi-Stakeholder Platform to the Reflection Paper “Towards  
a sustainable Europe by 2030” October 2018**

The Multi-Stakeholder Platform on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the European Union – the "EU SDG multi-stakeholder platform" – was established in May 2017 to support and advise the European Commission and all stakeholders involved on the implementation of the SDGs at EU level.

Through strong common values we, as representatives of the public sector, civil society and private sector, worked diligently to make well considered recommendations on how to transform the Sustainable Development Goals into practical solutions for the wellbeing of our present and future generations in the EU and beyond. Our recommendations aim to inspire and guide the Commission’s Reflection paper "Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030".

Given the ambitious agenda and the universal and indivisible nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, there is no single recipe for which to advocate. Achieving the Goals requires a comprehensive review, the identification of areas where changes are needed, and the development of coherent policies which produce lasting social, economic, governance and environmental co-benefits, recognising and acting on interlinkages between all goals and targets. Our recommendations provide an ambitious and consensus-based contribution to this goal.

As priority actions, we recommend that the EU develops and implements an overarching visionary and transformative Sustainable Europe 2030 strategy, guiding all EU policies and programmes. To be effective, such a strategy should include both interim and long-term targets and lay out Europe's vision for a sustainable Europe beyond the 2030 Agenda.

When implementing the 2030 Agenda, the European Commission and all other stakeholders need to respect key principles, to fulfil existing commitments under international agreements, to commit to a transformation of our social and economic model, to prioritise and fast-track actions for the poorest and most marginalised in society (“leave no one behind”), to recognise planetary boundaries, to respect human rights and the rule of law, and ensure policy coherence for sustainable development.

We also make some cross-cutting recommendations. We advise the EU to reinvent its governance system to ensure a coherent approach to sustainable development. The Commission President, assisted by a dedicated project team, should be in charge of the 2030 Agenda, ensure effective coordination and report on its implementation during the annual State of the European Union speech. We also will need action of regions, cities, citizens, communities, businesses and civil society in its diversity to implement the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. The EU should advocate a territorial approach for the delivery of the SDGs and allow a two-way dialogue where European and national strategies associate regional and local authorities as well as civil society and professional organisations in a multi-level and multi-

stakeholders governance approach. We also offer to assess the merits of this Platform - both its composition and mission - and to discuss how in the future it can best contribute to our proposal for an inclusive, participatory and transparent Sustainable Europe 2030 Strategy. Finally, additional efforts should be deployed to ensure policy coherence for sustainable development, meaning that all EU policies should contribute to sustainable development within or outside Europe.

We also have some specific recommendations on how to strengthen the EU's existing toolbox. The Better Regulation agenda could become more powerful by fully integrating sustainable development objectives and principles in the policy-making process. EU policy-makers should better use and further improve the Impact Assessment Guidelines to mainstream sustainable development. A Sustainable Europe coordination cycle should be set up, with EU Sustainable Development Action Plans, Member State and European Commission Sustainable Development Reports and recommendations. The European Semester process should be guided by the Sustainable Europe 2030 Strategy and include a sustainability check. EU public finances, including the Multi-annual Financial Framework, should be fully sustainable and the definition of environmental, social and governance risks embedded within financial regulations. Sustainable fiscal reforms should be carried out at Member State level, corporate tax avoidance and fiscal dumping addressed and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda fully implemented. To inform future decision makers, the EU should further develop an integrated and participatory monitoring, accountability and review framework, including a comprehensive EU SDG indicator set and qualitative analysis.

We also make sectoral specific recommendations. Sustainability should be reflected in a coherent way across all EU policies and initiatives. For the scope of this paper, however, we identified five EU policy areas with a vital role in achieving the SDGs:

(1) Sustainable Consumption and Production should be further promoted, incentivised and regulated while paying particular attention to global supply chains. We also need legal, policy and financing measures that should drive this transition. The EU's footprint needs to be reduced, a Resource Management Convention introduced and consumption based indicators developed. Sustainability should be part of the European Industry Strategy 2030.

(2) The EU should invest in research and innovation, people and human talents, employability and social inclusion. The European Pillar of Social Rights should be fully implemented. The social and solidarity economy should be promoted; investment in health and well-being scaled up and sustainability should become an interdisciplinary science. Quality education should be guaranteed, support to children and young people prioritised and a regulatory framework to ensure safe pathways for asylum seekers and migrants introduced, while strengthening integration and inclusion policy.

(3) Climate and energy policy. The EU should align its climate and energy targets with the agreed objective of limiting global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees compared to pre-industrial levels, while increasing resilience. Fossil fuels should be progressively phased out; investments in energy efficiency and clean energy increase; the uptake of nature based solutions promoted. Traffic congestion should decrease, sustainable infrastructure and comprehensive mobility plans should be encouraged. The EU should also support developing countries in adaptation and resilience to climate change.

(4) Food, farming and land-use including Common Agricultural Policy. The EU should ensure that all EU investment into agriculture is aligned with the EU's Treaty to ensure a high level of human health protection, food security, as well as the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment. Public income support should support food production, the provision of public goods and ecosystem services, while also ensuring a fair standard of living for the agricultural community, and enabling the transition to sustainable agriculture and food systems. Investments and research into environmentally friendly and economically viable practices should be prioritised and global value chains made sustainable.

(5) Cohesion policy is a major EU investment tool to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. It should strengthen the localisation of the Goals by directly supporting subnational governments, support the Urban Agenda of the EU, further promote social objectives and better encourage investments towards greener, more sustainable infrastructure, including in rural areas.

To address the urgency of action, we strongly encourage the Commission to follow up on our recommendations in a swift and timely manner so that Europe can fully and rapidly embrace the opportunity that sustainable development represents to our societies. The implementation of our requirements will require an inclusive and participatory approach and we fully commit our support. Our ultimate objective is to ensure that sustainable development becomes a permanent feature of European policy-making.

*The full contribution of the SDG Multi-Stakeholder Platform to the Reflection Paper "Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030" is available at [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/sdg\\_multi-stakeholder\\_platform\\_input\\_to\\_reflection\\_paper\\_sustainable\\_europe2.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/sdg_multi-stakeholder_platform_input_to_reflection_paper_sustainable_europe2.pdf)*