



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 17 May 2024  
(OR. en)

9775/24

**LIMITE**

**ENER 222  
ENV 504  
CLIMA 198**

**NOTE**

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From:	Presidency
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	European Green Deal - State of play and way forward = Exchange of views

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In view of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council on 30 May 2024, delegations will find in the Annex the Presidency discussion paper on the state of play and way forward of the European Green Deal.

**Presidency discussion paper**  
**European Green Deal**

**State of play and way forward**

**Since the launch of the European Green Deal less than five years ago, the EU Commission and co-legislators have delivered the enabling policy and regulatory framework to achieve the 2030 climate and energy targets and to keep Europe on track for climate neutrality and a sustainable economy by 2050.** Shortly after taking office, President von der Leyen announced the European Green Deal<sup>1</sup> as an overarching growth strategy aiming to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy. Within this strategy, the Commission committed to tackling energy, climate and environmental challenges and to achieving climate neutrality by 2050, in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

In this context, by 2024 the co-legislators had agreed on a large number of energy-related legislative initiatives - most of which have now entered into force - that are to transform the energy landscape in Europe for years to come. In addition, Member States' national energy and climate plans (NECPs) play an instrumental role in ensuring the achievement of agreed EU-wide targets and Green Deal objectives. By introducing a first ever pan-European forward-looking strategic planning framework, the NECPs contribute to policy stability and predictability, providing the necessary investor certainty to drive investments in the clean energy transition.

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2019) 640 final.

**As the clean transition enters its implementation phase, the focus must now be on a swift and uniform delivery of results on the basis of the agreed framework across all EU Member States.** Despite the significant progress made during the first five years of the European Green Deal, additional efforts will be needed to remain on track for the EU's increased 2030 energy efficiency and renewable energy targets, including a swift and full implementation of the updated legislative framework in Member States, the finalisation of NECPs that are commensurate with the agreed level of ambition and the creation of a facilitating framework that accommodates and enables the achievement of the aforementioned targets, inter alia through a roll-out of grid infrastructure.

**In parallel, there is potential to further strengthen the current framework of the European Green Deal with the aim of better supporting the EU's global competitiveness.** In this vein, it should be recalled that on 17 and 18 April, the European Council announced a new European competitiveness deal to build a robust, innovative and resilient economy and boost the Union's competitive transition towards climate neutrality. At the same time EU leaders called for the achievement of a genuine Energy Union, by securing the supply of abundant, affordable and clean energy, that serves the dual objective of pursuing European energy sovereignty and climate neutrality.

Further electrification is needed to allow all sectors to deliver on the Green Deal objectives and to increase competitiveness and ensure a just transition for all. Therefore, the development of electricity grids and a well-functioning genuine European Energy Union will continue to be fundamental. With regard to the functioning of the internal electricity market, significant progress was made in the recent revision of the electricity market framework. However, moving to a fully decarbonised power system will bring further challenges.

Against this background, and in light of the substantial progress made under the European Green Deal strategy, the Belgian Presidency would like to ask delegations' views on the following two aspects:

1. How can we accelerate the implementation of the 2030 energy efficiency and renewable energy targets? Do you see any need for further EU policies, guidance, recommendations or dedicated funding mechanisms to support you in the achievement of these targets ?
2. Further to our discussions on electricity grid infrastructure, what additional steps (legislative and/or operational) are needed to achieve a genuine Energy Union?