



European  
Commission

# Management Plan 2021

DG ENVIRONMENT

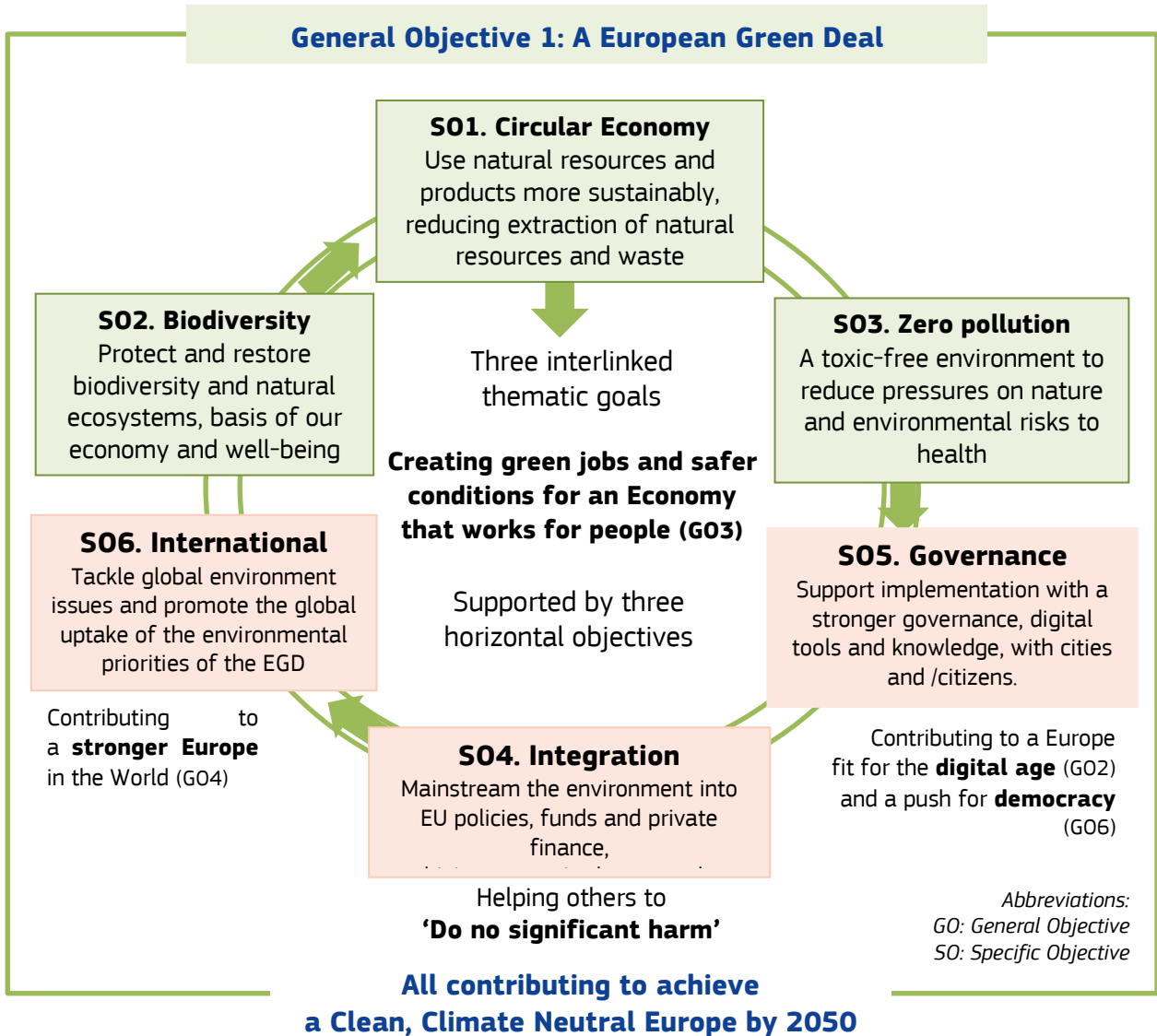
**Contents**

- INTRODUCTION ..... 3
- PART 1. Delivering on the Commission’s priorities: main outputs for the year ..... 6
  - Specific Objective 1- Circular Economy ..... 6
  - Specific Objective 2– Biodiversity ..... 8
  - Specific Objective 3-Zero Pollution ..... 11
  - Specific Objective 4-Integration ..... 13
  - Specific Objective 5-Governance ..... 16
  - Specific objective 6- International ..... 18
- PART 2. Modernising the administration: main outputs for the year ..... 21
  - A. Human resource management ..... 21
  - B. Sound financial management ..... 23
  - C. Fraud risk management ..... 24
  - D. Digital transformation and information management ..... 25
  - E. Sound environmental management ..... 27
  - F. Examples of initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of financial and non-financial activities ..... 29
- ANNEX: Performance tables ..... 30

# INTRODUCTION

The **Directorate-General for Environment** leads the European Commission's activities in the field of the environment. Its **key mission** is to contribute to enabling EU citizens to live well, within the planet's ecological limits, based on an innovative, circular economy, where biodiversity and ecosystems are protected and restored, environment-related health risks are minimised in ways to enhance our society's resilience, and where growth has been decoupled from resource use.

As outlined in its [Strategic Plan 2020-2024](#), DG Environment pursues six specific objectives, primarily contributing to the Commission's general objective 1, **A European Green Deal** with very strong links to the Commission's general objective 3, **An economy that works for people** and general objective 4, **Stronger Europe in the world**.



The European Green Deal has become the **EU's new growth strategy** that underpins the **EU Recovery Plan** with its specific climate and biodiversity targets and the “**do no significant harm**” oath being a guiding principle for all EU initiatives.

To succeed in its green ambition, the EU is committed to mobilise international partners and multilateral fora towards the goal of achieving a sustainable, resource efficient, carbon neutral and regenerative economy. The negotiations on the **new Global Biodiversity Framework** at the 15<sup>th</sup> Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity will be an important pillar of this work.

Following the first year of this Commission's mandate, geared towards setting the larger policy framework, in 2021 the focus will be on complementing the policy framework (e.g. Zero Pollution, EU Forest Strategy) but also strengthening the regulatory framework and delivering the green transition across EU policies and through the EU's unprecedented Recovery Plan. The year 2021 will thus mark the shift from strategy to delivery announced in the President's State of the Union Speech.

In line with the [2021 Commission Work Programme](#), DG Environment will be in the lead on a legislative initiative on **sustainable products** to apply circular economy principles and eco-design to all products and services in the EU, with resource efficiency, circular business models and value chains as key drivers of industrial competitiveness and sustainable employment in the post COVID-19 recovery.

Another key proposal will be to set binding **nature restoration targets** to protect Europe's natural capital. It will focus on ecosystem's potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters. A third important initiative will aim to minimise the risk of **deforestation and forest degradation** associated with products placed in the EU market, taking due consideration of the recent European Parliament legislative initiative resolution on the subject. In proposing measures to protect and restore nature and biodiversity, DG Environment takes full account of the COVID-19 crisis and aims to contribute to the recovery, build **longer-term resilience** and help prevent future similar crises.

A **Zero pollution action plan** will also be presented, to tackle pollution across water, air and soil with an innovative, systemic approach. The pandemic has strengthened the need for a stronger, **integrated health and environment** agenda. The action plan will steer and coordinate future efforts to reduce pollution under the European Green Deal.

The **integration** of environmental considerations into other EU policies will remain fundamental to attaining ambitious environmental goals, with EU spending programmes and **sustainable finance** as key integration targets and activities. The **LIFE programme** will continue supporting the DG policy objectives, notably with the launch of the first Multiannual Work Programme under the new Regulation. The DG's integration work will also help other Commission services to uphold the green oath to 'Do no significant harm'.

Across domains, the DG will pursue an ambitious **Better Regulation** agenda, with a significant number of evaluations, impact assessments and public consultations, for instance, in the fields of waste, water, air quality, industrial emissions and more.


Strengthening the governance framework remains a priority, to help close the **implementation** gap and ensure that Europeans reap the full benefits of EU environment legislation. Efforts to support Member States will continue and enforcement action will be pursued when necessary. The **8<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme** will be under interinstitutional negotiation in 2021. Supporting the European Parliament and the Council to reach a swift agreement on this proposal will be fundamental to ensure sound governance and coordination of all the stakeholders involved in the implementation of the European Green Deal.

With its **international activities**, the DG will promote environmental standards and the European Green Deal also abroad, contributing to enhance the EU's global role as an anchor of responsibility, cooperation and solidarity, by addressing the interlinked global challenges of biodiversity loss, pollution, resource depletion and climate change and by promoting circular economy as a solution to a **green global economic recovery**, including through the Union's trade agenda.

Finally, contributing to modernise **corporate administration** will remain a key management goal, in line with this Commission's ambition and taken into consideration the continued pandemics context. **Working online efficiently**, while reducing the environmental footprint of the organisation, and giving to staff a strong sense of direction will be priorities, as described **in part 2** of this Management Plan.

## PART 1. Delivering on the Commission's priorities: main outputs for the year

The narrative below presents the main outputs that DG Environment expects to deliver in 2021 under each of the DG's specific objectives. Further details are available in the performance tables in the annex.

The management plan focuses, as a priority, on the environmental initiatives announced in the **2021 Commission Work Programme**<sup>1</sup>, as well as on remaining 2020 activities postponed due to the COVID-19 crisis<sup>2</sup>. In the performance tables, such initiatives are flagged with the icon: 

### Specific Objective 1- Circular Economy: The EU economy is more circular and uses natural resources and products more sustainably

The new **Circular Economy Action Plan** (CEAP) puts the focus at the level of the product, and particularly product design. Sustainable products should be the norm for Europeans, and the Commission will therefore propose a key legislative initiative in 2021 as part of the CEAP flagship **sustainable product policy framework**. This will be a proposal to extend the scope of the Ecodesign Directive beyond energy-related products and apply wider criteria to make sure products sold in Europe are also sustainable and circular. This will harness the collective power of 450 million consumers, through the single market, to provide a level playing field for companies based on minimum requirements for example on durability, reparability and recyclability.

Consumers should also be able to trust environmental claims on products, and the Commission will tackle greenwashing through a legislative proposal making the use of **environmental footprint** methods obligatory to substantiate **green claims** - a concern that President von der Leyen highlighted in her political guidelines<sup>3</sup>. DG Environment will coordinate and lead the work of several DGs involved.

Europe's industrial competitiveness and sustainable employment in the post-COVID recovery will rely on developing resource efficiency, circular business models and value chains. DG Environment will provide proactive guidance through DG REFORM to help Member States target the investments in their **Recovery and Resilience Plans** towards developing repair, re-use, remanufacturing and recycling activities, and to mainstream circular approaches in construction and renovation, infrastructure and industrial regeneration investments. The DG will also take an active part in the strategic dialogue with

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Work Programme 2021, COM (2020) 690 final

<sup>2</sup> Adjusted Commission Work Programme 2020, COM (2020) 440 final

<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/political-guidelines-next-commission\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/political-guidelines-next-commission_en.pdf)

Member States organised by RECOVER, the Commission's Recovery and Resilience Task Force.

Specific measures will be developed and adopted to address high-impact value chains. A comprehensive initiative will be proposed to make **textiles** more sustainable, and the DG will contribute to DG Communication Networks, Content and Technology's initiative on **circular electronics**, notably to improve the collection, reuse and repair of mobile phones, laptops and other devices. DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs will be a close partner in all these developments. In the area of plastics, an in-depth analysis will clarify the policy framework on **biodegradable, compostable and bio-based plastics**. An impact assessment will be launched to identify best options and measures to reduce the unintentional release of **microplastics** into the environment, and measures will be taken to restrict the use of intentionally added microplastics<sup>4</sup>.

The **Single Use Plastics** Directive requires the development of several implementing acts and guidance notes (as detailed in the performance tables in annex). For the new Regulation on **Water Reuse**, efficient implementation of the new rules will be key to improve water efficiency, based on promoting safe recycling of urban waste water for agricultural irrigation, in line with circularity principles.

The rapid growth of electric mobility and energy storage needs mean that **Batteries** will remain a priority. Following the delivery of the proposal to update the EU legislative framework<sup>5</sup>, DG Environment (with DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs and the Joint Research Centre) will already, and in parallel to the co-decision negotiations, prepare an extensive number of implementing measures to ensure swift implementation on the ground.

DG Environment will further continue to bring EU waste legislation in line with the circular economy principles and the waste hierarchy. Waste prevention is at the pinnacle of that hierarchy and a priority in the new CEAP. Rules on **packaging** will be revised in 2021 to reduce overpackaging and make all packaging reusable or recyclable by 2030. DG Environment will develop new rules to facilitate **waste shipments** for preparation for re-use and recycling within the EU, reduce exports of waste and address illegal shipments. Trust in the safety and quality of secondary materials will be boosted through the revision of rules on **Persistent Organic Pollutants** in waste management<sup>6</sup>. Several evaluations will be concluded including on the **Restriction of Hazardous Substances** (ROHS) in waste, and a significant number of **exemptions under** the ROHS directive will be decided upon in 2021.

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<sup>4</sup> Microplastics intentionally added will be addressed in parallel through a REACH restriction, under development with The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

<sup>5</sup> COM(2020) 798 final

<sup>6</sup> See details in the performance tables – Specific Objective 1, Refit initiatives

Strategic compliance and **enforcement** action will continue, aiming in particular to tackle persistent illegal and substandard landfills across the EU, to accelerate the alignment of national plans to the EU's circular economy objectives and the attainment of waste targets. Ensuring the correct transposition of waste legislation, where this is necessary, will be a priority.

Working towards the **global uptake** of the circular economy model and implementing the CEAP's international chapter, the DG will formally launch the **Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency** (GACERE) in early 2021 and pursue association with relevant regional alliances in Africa and Latin America and advance the discussions on a Global Plastics Agreement to better manage plastics throughout their lifecycle and avoid marine litter. The resource efficiency work in the G7 and G20 will intensify again; the DG will strengthen bilateral Circular Economy cooperation with a number of G20 partner countries such as China, India, South Africa; and plans to resume the programme of Circular Economy Missions (delayed due to COVID-19) once circumstances permit.

In partnership with the Economic and Social Committee, DG Environment will continue to support the upscaling of the **European Circular Economy Stakeholder platform** as the unique hub for stakeholders information, networking and mobilisation. The DG's **external communication** activities will seek to raise awareness of citizens why Circular Economy is in their interests as individuals and collectively, as consumers of products from fashion to smartphones. The DG will also take the lead on updating the Circular Economy Monitoring Framework.

### **Specific Objective 2– Biodiversity and natural ecosystems in the EU are put on the path to recovery by stepping up the protection and restoration of nature**

In 2021, the implementation of the **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030** (BDS) will reach cruising speed, with the delivery of the legislative proposal to set binding **nature restoration targets**. Its development will progress in parallel with the final evaluation of the previous EU biodiversity framework that extended until 2020. A public consultation will cover both initiatives, and the findings of the evaluation will feed into the impact assessment of the nature restoration proposal.

Forests will be high on the EU and the global agendas, in connection to their essential role to achieve the EU's climate and biodiversity objectives. In collaboration with DG Agriculture and Rural Development and DG Climate Action, a new **EU Forest Strategy** will be delivered and focus on forest protection, restoration and sustainable management. A core aim will be to increase forests' resilience to wildfires and pests as well as their role as carbon sinks.



The need to address the EU's global footprint will be tackled through a legislative proposal to minimise the risk of **deforestation and forest degradation** associated with products placed on the EU market. A fitness check of the EU Timber<sup>7</sup> and Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Regulations (FLEGT)<sup>8</sup> Regulations will be finalised and provide evidence for this proposal, also supported by a dedicated impact assessment and public consultation. The views of the European Parliament, as reflected in its legislative initiative resolution<sup>9</sup>, will be duly considered. In parallel, guidance will be delivered on biodiversity-friendly afforestation, reforestation and on closer to nature forestry, as foreseen in the BDS.

**Seas and oceans** continue to be under severe threat. According to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Member States had to achieve good environmental status by 2020. Based on information provided by Member States, DG Environment will prepare a Commission report that will show the progress in achieving this objective, as well as the main pressures, measures and targets that Member States have identified. This will be part of the evidence base for the upcoming review of the Directive. A roadmap and an open public consultation will be launched, marking the start of this important review.

Soil degradation is a main driver of biodiversity loss and will be tackled as a matter of priority under the BDS. A new **EU Soil Strategy** will be delivered, with a view to achieving a better balance between the conservation and improvement of soil and the socio-economic benefits from its use. In connection with these initiatives, and complementing both, a public consultation will be launched on **Integrated Nutrients Management**, as a first step towards the new EU Action Plan foreseen for delivery in 2022. Work on soil and nutrients will be key for some of the common targets of the BDS and Farm to Fork. It will be developed in synergy with the Zero Pollution Action Plan on water, air and soil, foreseen under the DG's Specific Objective 3.

Implementation of the **EU Pollinators Initiative** will continue, with a progress review possibly leading to a revision in the course of 2021. A report will be published on the implementation of the EU Regulation on **Invasive Alien Species** and a new delegated act will be proposed adding species to the EU List of Invasive Alien Species. Work will be intensified to establish a global business and biodiversity movement building on the **EU Business and Biodiversity** Platform.

A new **governance framework** for the BDS will be established including a monitoring and review mechanism to help assessing progress made in achieving the commitments and objectives of the BDS. This will be supported by the new Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity.

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<sup>7</sup> Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market.

<sup>8</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 2173/2005 on the establishment of a (FLEGT) licensing scheme for imports of timber into the European Community.

<sup>9</sup> European Parliament resolution of 22 October 2020 with recommendations to the Commission on an EU legal framework to halt and reverse EU-driven global deforestation, 2020/2006(INL)

Efforts will also continue to boost the implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives to improve the conservation status of EU species and habitats, building, in particular, on the **Natura2000 network**. Guidance and criteria for the identification, designation and effective management of additional protected areas, including the definition of strict protection, as well as guidance on restoring rivers (of which at least 25 000 km free-flowing), will be elaborated in collaboration with Member States. An update of the estimated **funding needs** and priorities for Natura 2000 will be provided, based on Member States' Prioritised Action Frameworks under the Habitats Directive. The Commission will also issue a licence agreement to enable Member States to use the Natura 2000 logo to promote goods and services that are linked to and benefit the designated areas.

**Enforcement action** will focus on completing the Natura 2000 network; the insufficient designation of Special Areas of Conservation or the absence of conservation objectives and measures. The insufficient protection of species and habitats in decline will also be a priority, including in the marine context, in collaboration with DG MARE.

At the **international level**, the priority will be to ensure the adoption of an ambitious **global biodiversity** framework at the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations (UN) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15), scheduled for the first half of 2021. The DG will also ensure effective representation of the EU at the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, a stepping stone towards the CBD COP15 that will focus, in particular, on the issue of drought.

As part of the efforts to protect **wildlife**, DG Environment is carrying out an evaluation of the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking<sup>10</sup>. Based on the evaluation's findings, a revised plan will be proposed to ensure continuity of action against this type of global organised crime, thereby contributing to strengthen the Security Union. Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, the CITES Convention<sup>11</sup>, will also continue, aligning international and EU efforts to protect endangered species notably through the regulation of their trade.

DG Environment will continue supporting and, where necessary, will coordinate the EU representation in the **Regional Sea Conventions**<sup>12</sup> to ensure that the interests of the EU are safeguarded.

Biodiversity remains a key **external communication** priority, to support the EU's leading role in the upcoming international negotiations (CBD COP15) and building momentum for

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<sup>10</sup> COM (2016) 87 final

<sup>11</sup> <https://cites.org/eng>

<sup>12</sup> HELCOM (Helsinki Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area), OSPAR (Convention for the Protection of the marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic) and UNEP/MAP (United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan), Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution

actions globally. DG Environment will continue developing the global coalition for biodiversity conservation launched in March 2020, mobilising national parks, aquariums, botanic gardens, zoos, science and natural history museums to jointly boost public awareness about the nature crisis, and about the importance of EU intervention to address it. In 2021, DG Environment will launch a virtual reality exhibition on pollinators, using innovative technology to bring nature closer to citizens. Depending on the sanitary situation, Citizen Dialogues “CitzEnv” will engage youth in debating about nature and biodiversity in a participatory format.

**Specific Objective 3-Zero Pollution: Citizens and natural ecosystems are better protected from environmental pressures and risks to health as a result of Europe’s zero-pollution ambition and measures for a toxic-free environment**

Pollution of air, water and soil continues to be of high concern for European citizens. The European Green Deal calls for an integrated governance in tackling pollution sources, to build a **Healthy Planet for Healthy People**. The COVID-19 outbreak has strengthened the need for a stronger, integrated health and environment agenda.

In 2021, DG Environment will present a **Zero Pollution Action Plan** to tackle pollution with a systemic approach across all sources and minimise harmful impacts on air, water and soil, to the benefit of human health and biodiversity. The plan will announce a set of new, innovative measures, along with ongoing efforts to streamline existing legislation, building on recently concluded evaluations and fitness checks. It will also aim to better coordinate and step up the implementation of legislation and policies, both within and beyond EU borders, through an integrated governance for better tackling pollution at source.

Implementation of the new **chemicals strategy for sustainability**<sup>13</sup>, adopted in October 2020 under the Zero pollution ambition, will start in 2021. This strategy will better protect citizens and the environment from hazardous chemicals, and encourage innovation for the development of safe and sustainable alternatives. It sets out a roadmap to simplify and strengthen EU rules on chemicals and improve how EU agencies and scientific bodies can work together towards a one-substance/one-assessment process. This means that, when an assessment is proposed under one piece of legislation, full account shall be taken of the planning under other pieces of legislation, so that coordinated action is ensured. In the context of the **COVID-19** crisis, the strategy aims to support the recovery of the chemicals industry and promote the EU’s open strategic autonomy for pharmaceuticals, disinfectants and other chemicals essential to health.

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<sup>13</sup> COM(2020) 667 final

With regards to risks for public health, **air pollution** remains the first environmental challenge, despite the progress done in recent years. Substantial work will be carried out in 2021 on a proposal to review the air quality legislation, to be tabled in 2022. Several stakeholder consultations will be conducted to gather the views of the broadest possible range of stakeholders. The third Clean Air Forum, foreseen to take place in late 2021, will be an important milestone of this process. Implementation of the National Emission Reduction Commitments Directive will also continue, building upon lessons learned from the 2020 Report on progress made under this Directive.

Legislative proposals will be delivered to tackle **industrial pollution**, as announced in the European Green Deal and the Commission Work Programme. They will provide the opportunity to simplify and align the Industrial Emissions Directive and the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Regulation<sup>14</sup> to the ambitious objectives set out in the European Green Deal and the Industrial Strategy.

As regards **water pollution and efficiency**, the DG will prepare for the entry into force, in 2023, of the revised Drinking Water Directive and the new Water Reuse Regulation<sup>15</sup>, whilst finalising the legislative revision of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. These work-strands aim at improving quality and efficiency by raising water quality standards and integrating circular principles. A review of the pollutants listed under the Environmental Quality Standards and Groundwater Directives will start, in conjunction with relevant provisions of the Water Framework Directive, with a view to better tackle chemical pollution in water. Action on nutrient pollution will progress in parallel, linked to the BDS target to reduce nutrient pollution by 50% by 2030. Work on soil (described under Specific Objective 2) will be very relevant for the Zero pollution ambition.

Implementation of the existing pollution prevention legislation will be stepped up<sup>16</sup>, supported, when necessary, by **enforcement action**. In fighting pollution, the priorities will be, in particular, the inadequate monitoring and insufficiency of national measures to meet air quality standards for key pollutants; the substandard collection and treatment of urban wastewaters and insufficient measures to prevent and remediate water pollution by nitrates of agricultural origin, and the incorrect transposition into national law of EU legislation on industrial emissions and on the prevention of industrial accidents.

At **international level**, the 5<sup>th</sup> session of the International Conference on **Chemicals Management**, postponed from 2020, will address the sound management of chemicals

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<sup>14</sup> Detail of these deliverables is provided the performance tables in annex, under the category of “Other important outputs”

<sup>15</sup> Adopted in 2020 by the co-legislators based on proposals prepared by DG ENV

<sup>16</sup> Further details are provided in the tables in annex – Specific Objective 3, compliance and other important outputs

and waste globally. The comprehensive approach set out in the new EU Strategy will allow the Commission to lead in this area, along with ongoing work in the context of the Stockholm (persistent organic pollutants), Rotterdam (international trade in hazardous chemicals and pesticides) and Basel (transboundary movement of hazardous waste) conventions. Important developments are also expected under the Minamata Convention on **mercury**, where the main goal in 2021 will be to upgrade global restrictions in line with the more stringent EU requirements.

DG Environment will continue to promote the UNECE **Water Convention**, and will participate in the 2021 Meeting of the Parties, as well as major global events, such as the 2021 World Water Forum and UN General Assembly Water conference and water-related discussions in G20.

The **EU Green Week**, fully virtual in 2021, will be dedicated to the Zero Pollution Action Plan and provide an opportunity to launch a dedicated Stakeholder Platform.

**Specific Objective 4-Integration:** Environmental concerns are integrated, and biodiversity standards mainstreamed, across EU policies, investments and finance, through existing consultation mechanisms and a proactive approach to coordination

The EC Treaty requirement on **environmental integration** means making sure that environmental concerns are fully considered in other policy sectors at EU and Member States level. Integration is fundamental for the success of the green transition as systems of production and consumption (food, energy and mobility) must be transformed to achieve the European Green Deal's objectives. It is key to secure compliance with the **do no significant harm** principle across other policies and in their implementation as well as through the EU Recovery Plan, including the next Multiannual Financial Framework and the Next Generation EU instruments. A key task will be to ensure that the EU environmental and climate objective, including the 30% climate target for the totality of EU expenditure and the phased in biodiversity target, are not only included in the sectoral funding instruments but also practically implemented through the different programming cycles and later, in the implementation phase. A solid and updated methodology for the tracking of biodiversity target will be an important element. DG Environment will contribute actively in the practical application of the do no significant harm principle across the **sectoral EU budget instruments** as well as under the **Recovery and Resilience Facility**.

The entry into force of the own resource decision based on non-recycled plastic will be a powerful practical application of the "polluter pays" principle. It will not only be a new source of revenue to the EU budget but also provide a strong incentive to Member States to advance the circular economy agenda.

In 2021, the DG will continue its work to further the integration of environmental sustainability in all the relevant policies of the Union. This notably includes the overhaul of EU energy and climate legislation required to achieve the **55% emission reduction target**, which must be designed to also contribute to the wider European Green Deal objectives.

Work will also continue on **sustainable finance**, with DG Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, DG Climate Action, Joint Research Centre and other core DGs and the European Environmental Agency (EAA). In 2021, the **greening of financial markets** will continue; work will focus on the forthcoming Renewed Strategy, as well as on developing criteria for the identification of green economic activities based on environment objectives other than climate (to be adopted as a Commission delegated act under the EU Taxonomy Regulation). The application of these criteria will have a wider purpose including through the Commission's proposal for an EU **green bond standard**, which will be key, following the Commission's commitment to use green bonds to raise at least 30% of **NextGenerationEU** funding. DG Environment will contribute to these processes, including by proposing new **EU Ecolabel criteria for financial products**. Promoting the EU approach to sustainable finance in all its environment aspects, notably through the International Platform on Sustainable Finance, will remain of strategic importance for the EU, as key global partners are developing their own taxonomy rules.

The **European Semester** process – which guides our common efforts for a stronger and more effective Union – has also become a key tool for the achievement of environmental integration and sustainability in the **Member States**. It is a bridge between the EU's political priorities, including in environmental protection, and the investments and reforms necessary in each Member State to make those priorities a reality. In 2021, reflecting the developments brought in by the last Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy, the focus will be on how the recovery from the economic crisis linked to the pandemics can accelerate the **green and digital transitions**. DG Environment's contribution to the Semester will be based on the assessment of the Recovery and Resilience Plans, and will seek to consolidate the recognition of environmental policies, investments and reforms as significant contributors to the green transition. This includes promoting structural reforms conducive to the transition, such as sustainable taxation, green budgeting and the end of environmentally harmful subsidies, mainly through the strategic dialogue with Member States led by the RECOVER Task Force and the assessment of the final plans, and taking into account the 'do no significant harm' principle and the climate mainstreaming target of 37%.

Ensuring that the national **Common Agriculture Policy** Strategic Plans are in line with the European Green Deal objectives will also require significant efforts from DG Environment, in parallel with the implementation of the transitional Common Agricultural Policy Regulation for 2021/2022.

The **Strategic Environmental Assessment** (SEA) and **Environmental Impact Assessment** (EIA) Directives will remain crucial instruments for the integration of environmental considerations into Member States programmes and projects. In 2021, important guidance will be provided to clarify Member States' obligations under the EIA directive in situations where the lifetime operation of existing installations, including nuclear power plants, is extended. Further guidance will be prepared for a shared understanding of the notions 'plans' and 'programmes' under the SEA directive (for adoption in 2022).

**Public and private investments** are essential to achieve ambitious environmental objectives. In the area of public investments, 2021 will be crucial for the use of **EU funding** opportunities to propel **environmental investments** across the Member States. Environmental considerations need to be integrated in Member States' NextGenerationEU and MFF programming documents for the period 2021-27, to ensure that funds are allocated for activities and projects that can contribute significantly to improve environmental implementation. Particularly relevant will be the Recovery and Resilience Plans, Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes for structural funds, Just Transition Plans and Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plans. Horizon Europe funds will also be directed to support DG Environment's strategies under the European Green Deal.

These and the **InvestEU** financial instrument will require constant collaboration with other DGs, in particular DG Regional and Urban Policy, DG Economic and Financial Affairs, DG Mobility and Transport, DG Energy, DG Structural Reform Support and the RECOVER Task Force. Working in partnership with the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and national promotional banks will provide further opportunities to promote national investments that contribute to reduce the environmental implementation gap. In the same vein, as from 2021, the DG will monitor the fulfilment by the relevant Member States of the enabling conditions for accessing cohesion funds for investments in circular economy, water and biodiversity.

President von der Leyen, in her political guidelines, stressed the importance of **mainstreaming biodiversity** across sectors. In November 2020, in the context of the multiannual budget 2021-2027 negotiations, the European Parliament and the Council agreed to set a specific target on biodiversity spending (7,5% as of 2024 and 10% as of 2026). Once adopted, this will require reinforced mainstreaming of biodiversity in the programming instruments of all EU funds, and notably into the strategic plans to be established by Member States under the **Common Agricultural Policy**. Methods, criteria and standards will be developed to better integrate biodiversity considerations into public and business decision-making at all levels, and to measure the environmental footprint of products and organisations.

In order to deliver the European Green Deal on the ground, it is also necessary to make sure that EU public and private investments in non-environmental matters take into account their impact on biodiversity, climate, water, air, soil and be resource-efficient.

Full integration of environmental priorities in EU **external, enlargement, neighbourhood and development** funding will also be very relevant and require working in close collaboration with the European External Action Service, DG International Cooperation and Development, DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations and the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments. DG will continue to manage and develop new projects under the Cooperation Agreements with the United Nations Environment Programme, and aim to secure substantial funding to support global environmental governance for the new budgeting period 2021-2027.

### Specific Objective 5-Governance

There is an enabling framework for implementation based on strong governance and enforcement action, supported by advanced knowledge and digital technologies, close collaboration with cities and citizens' engagement

A sound **governance framework** and close collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders are key to achieving the full implementation of environmental legislation, for the effective attainment of the objectives of all environmental policies, for an effective green transition and for making the European Green Deal a reality on the ground.

With many initiatives scheduled for delivery in 2021, the DG will need to make an effort to comply with **Better Regulation** requirements, seek synergies and focus on coherence across work streams. Under all specific objectives, initiatives will be underpinned by vastly expanded evaluation and impact assessment work and supported through a **strong scientific base**, counting on a streamlined coordination and close cooperation with the European Environment Agency and the Joint Research Centre. Concrete projects, such as on citizens science, and actions within the Environment Knowledge Community will be launched to support the European Green Deal strategies. This work will include continuing applying a **foresight approach** to risks and opportunities for the environment as well as contributing to the yearly corporate foresight report.

In 2021, work on governance will focus on supporting the co-legislators so that agreement is found on the **8<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme** (8<sup>th</sup> EAP). This will ensure a stable framework for environmental action during this mandate and beyond. Once adopted, the 8<sup>th</sup> EAP policy objectives will guide actions and contributions from all levels, including public authorities and stakeholders, towards the implementation of the European Green Deal. In line with the Better Regulation, the progress must be measured, and clearly communicated. A simple, yet robust monitoring framework will be set up to ensure coherence between the more specific environmental or climate monitoring frameworks and monitor progress in the EU and its Member States.

Access to information is another key element of good governance and implementation. In 2021, an evaluation of **environmental data and information** rules will be concluded



and open the path towards a revision of the legislation on geographical data (INSPIRE)<sup>17</sup> and access to information<sup>18</sup>.

The 2021 INSPIRE Conference will attract a wide array of participants, well beyond the EU, and provide further input about the needs on the ground. Notably the evaluation of the environmental information rules will pave the way for the **GreenData4All** initiative under the new EU Data Strategy<sup>19</sup>, expected to be launched at the end of 2021. The core aim is to modernise data collection and management, making it easier for public authorities, businesses and citizens to support the transition to a greener and carbon-neutral economy, and reducing administrative burden.

The realisation in practice of environmental governance rights – including of those identified in the 2020 Communication on access to justice in national courts in environmental matters – will strengthen the **private enforcement** by citizens and their organisations of the substantive obligations defined by the EU's environmental laws and will continue to provide an indispensable complement to the **public enforcement** efforts deployed by the European Commission and by the national authorities of the Member States. Support to Member States will continue for instance through targeted training to equip national judges with state-of-the-art environmental information, as well as through the **Environmental Governance Forum** which has aligned its activities to the priorities of the European Green Deal.

The completion of the revision of the EU rules on **Access to Justice** in environmental matters should help meet the Union's international obligations under the **Aarhus Convention** on access to justice, public participation and public access to environmental information. This will have to be applied in practice as from 2021, enhancing the consistency between EU non-legislative acts in policy areas such as energy, agriculture, transport, health, internal market and the EU's environmental laws and, thus, help deliver a consistent European Green Deal in practice. In addition, contributing to the revision of the Environmental Crime Directive (led by DG Justice and Consumers) will also be relevant with a view to increase its role in supporting the enforcement of environment legislation.

Environmental action is particularly important in urban settings where more than 75% of EU citizens live. Cities have an important role in tackling environmental challenges and in helping to improve implementation of EU rules on the ground. The **Green City Accord**, launched in October 2020, will mobilise cities to achieve greener, cleaner and healthier environments, with a focus on air, noise, water, nature and biodiversity, circular economy and waste. It will support the local delivery of the European Green Deal and in particular the CEAP, the urban dimension of the BDS, and the upcoming Zero Pollution Action Plan. Further

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<sup>17</sup> Directive 2007/2/EC establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (OJ L 108, 25.4.2007, p. 1–14)

<sup>18</sup> Directive 2003/4/EC on public access to environmental information (OJ L 41, 14.2.2003, p. 26–32)

<sup>19</sup> COM (2020) 66 final

efforts will also go into increasing outreach, in particular through the **European Green Capital and Leaf** awards.

To multiply the **communication** of environmental priorities and support corporate communication, DG Environment will develop tools to bring environmental policy closer to citizens and promote engagement, through an active **information policy** towards the general public -via media including press, publications, website and social media- and to relevant stakeholders via specific conferences and events. The DG continue mobilising **networks** such as “the Green Spiders Network” of national communication correspondents, and the coalitions of aquariums and Museums of Natural Science. It will also keep engaging citizens and youth in the ongoing dialogues and debates – including in the context of the Conference of the Future of Europe.

**Specific objective 6- International:** Global uptake of the environmental objectives of the European Green Deal is stimulated through participation in multilateral agreements, institutions and fora, EU accession negotiations, engagement with third countries and trade

With a strong domestic environment *acquis* and a set of ambitious strategies under the European Green Deal, pressures on the environment emanating from third countries come increasingly into focus. DG Environment will contribute to enhance the EU’s global role as an anchor of responsibility, cooperation and solidarity, by addressing the interlinked global challenges of biodiversity loss, pollution, resource depletion and climate change and by promoting circular economy as a solution to a **green global economic recovery**.

In 2021, despite the difficulties of reaching out in the COVID-19 crisis, DG Environment will continue to strengthen bilateral policy advocacy and other forms of exchanges in the framework of **Green Deal diplomacy**, as well as efforts to strengthen global environment governance, in particular in areas where there are gaps. Wherever possible, international meetings and conferences will be held in virtual format and be used to showcase EU environment policies.

Outreach to partner countries and regions will be geared towards supporting a green **recovery** from the COVID crisis that is also just and oriented towards a fundamental transformation to sustainable production and consumption systems worldwide.

DG Environment will continue to engage at the multilateral level and in particular prepare the EU’s contribution to the fifth session of the **UN Environment Assembly** focusing *inter alia* on a **Global Plastics Agreement** (see specific objective 1). In a year in which Conferences of the Parties of seven major Multilateral Environment Agreements will be held, the DG will represent the EU, striving to achieve outcomes in line with the Green Deal ambitions. Dialogue and participate in relevant G7/G20 meetings, seizing opportunities within a multilateral setting more conducive to progress on the priorities of DG Environment than in past years.

With regards to **bilateral and regional cooperation**, the thematic focus will follow the external dimension of the Commission's political priorities as outlined in the European Green Deal and the international chapters of the **BDS**, the **CEAP** and the upcoming **Zero-pollution** Action Plan. Another thematic focus will be on ensuring that the highest standards of environmental protection are upheld in EU Free Trade Agreements, where effective implementation of the relevant trade and sustainable development chapters will be ensured.

An enhanced presence in **Africa**, in line with the political priorities of this Commission, will continue to be pursued. In particular, this entails contributing to the implementation of the Communication "Towards a comprehensive strategy with Africa"<sup>20</sup>, with the ambition to establish a more structured cooperation with the African Union (AU) and to continue to work on possible green deliverables for the 2021 EU-AU Summit. At continental level, active engagement will continue with our partners in the context of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN).

To ensure minimum disruption of diplomatic relations with **strategic partners**, high-level dialogues on the broader environment agenda will be conducted through video-conferencing, paving the way for technical exchanges and project-based cooperation.

This will include dialogues with ASEAN, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea and other key countries and regions. In line with the recent Communication on a "new transatlantic agenda"<sup>21</sup> DG Environment will step up its dialogue and technical cooperation with the **United States** building on the relaunched partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency and the working arrangements agreed in 2019, and taking advantage of opportunities developing under the new administration. It will also follow-up on the **EU-India** Joint Statement at the 2020 summit launching a new EU-India Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Partnership, and will aim to join regional circular economy initiatives in Africa and Latin America. Finally, the DG will continue to closely engage with **China** as host of the Convention on Biological Diversity's 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties and indispensable partner for greening supply chains and transitioning to a global circular economy.

In the **enlargement** area, in addition to supporting enlargement negotiations, the DG will work with DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations and other concerned services to implement the **Green Agenda for the Western Balkans**. Preparations will continue for Ministerial meetings of the **Eastern Partnership** and of the **Union for the Mediterranean**. The DG will also aim at a clear reflection of environment priorities in the Communications on the **Southern Neighbourhood** and on the new **EU Arctic Policy**.

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<sup>20</sup> JOIN(2020) 4 final

<sup>21</sup> JOIN(2020) 22 final

Finally, priority attention will be given to the implementation of the **Protocol concerning Northern Ireland** attached to the Withdrawal Agreement concluded between the EU and UK, as key pieces of EU environmental legislation continue to apply in Northern Ireland. Any comprehensive agreement on the future relations between the EU and the UK, if concluded, will also require attention in order to set it on a path of proper implementation.

## PART 2. Modernising the administration: main outputs for the year

President von der Leyen, in her political guidelines, announced that the Commission would take the necessary steps to modernise its administration and ensure that the institution has the appropriate resources to deliver the best results for Europeans. DG Environment's approach to this corporate goal is defined in its [Strategic Plan 2020-2024](#). With its human, financial, knowledge and IT resources, the DG aims to deliver on the environmental priorities of the European Green Deal, while maximising its contribution to other political ambitions.

This part of the DG Management Plan presents the activities that the DG intends to carry out during 2021, in pursuing the five objectives (on human resources, financial and anti-fraud management, digital transformation and environmental management) set out in the DG's Strategic Plan.

DG Environment has established an internal control system tailored to its particular characteristics and circumstances. The internal control framework<sup>22</sup> supports sound management and decision-making. It notably ensures that risks to the achievement of objectives are taken into account and reduced to acceptable levels through cost-effective controls. The effective functioning of the service's internal control system will be assessed on an ongoing basis throughout the year and be subject to a specific annual assessment covering all internal control principles.

### A. Human resource management

DG Environment has a charged policy agenda for 2021, including new far-reaching policy initiatives as well as a high number of legal obligations and deadlines to meet. Delivering in time will require a very **effective workforce**. Managing efficiently the available human resources while maintaining and, if possible, increasing the skills and motivation of staff will be very relevant. In a context of resource constraints, the challenge for the DG to deliver on its commitments under the European Green Deal will be more than demanding.

The staff satisfaction survey published in 2019 showed that DG Environment scored higher than the Commission average *inter alia* on staff recognition (staff considered that their opinion was valued and had a sense of pride in their job), but was lower regarding e.g. work-life balance and acceptable workload. As a follow-up, **work-life balance** and well-being will be at the centre of concerns, and the new ways of working learned during the **COVID-19** lockdown will be maintained, where they have demonstrated increased efficiency and less burden for staff. **Internal communication** activities will be geared towards creating a sense of shared objectives and collective ownership of the

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<sup>22</sup> Communication C(2017)2373 - Revision of the Internal Control Framework

achievements of the DG. Specific challenges in 2021 will be to prepare for the move to a new building as well as to accompany the deployment of Teams + and Office365. More generally, internal communication will support developing a common governance for the use of collaborative platforms in the DG.

With this in mind, the DG will finalise its **local HR Strategy**, building on the work launched in 2020 and focused on aligning resources with the **policy priorities**. The finalisation of this strategy, initially foreseen for 2020, was postponed to integrate latest information and pending corporate decisions on the additional resources requested by the DG.

**Ageing** is one of the specific issues that the DG needs to address<sup>23</sup>. As an important number of senior colleagues with broad expertise approach their retirement, measures have to be put in place to keep their in-depth knowledge and ensure it is transmitted to other colleagues across the DG. This need will be approached in collaboration with the DG knowledge team.

In the field of **equal opportunities**, DG Environment exceeded the target set for female representation in middle management positions for the period 2016-2020 (at the end of 2020, women represented 43% of the management, 13 out of 30 occupied posts). In April 2020<sup>24</sup>, the Commission adopted targets for first female appointments to middle management during 2020-2022. DG Environment’s target for this period is one new appointment.

**Objective: DG Environment employs a competent and engaged workforce and contributes to gender equality at all levels of management to effectively deliver on the Commission's priorities and core business**

**Main outputs in 2021:**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
To reach 50% gender equality on middle management positions	1 appointment	2021 Q1
Development of a local HR Strategy	HR Strategy and action plan	2021 Q1
Programme of internal online communication actions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online events such as coffee breaks with Senior Management</li> <li>• Targeted information on policy achievements</li> </ul>	Number of events / policy campaigns implemented	Regular pipeline of events during lock down/recovery Policy achievements regularly highlighted through internal communication means, including direct messaging and the DG’s intranet/collaborative sites

<sup>23</sup> During the last mandate, average age has increased from 45.2 to 47.2 years (1/06/2019).

<sup>24</sup> The baseline for the first female management target is 1 December 2019. The target will be revised and extended for the period 2023-2024 by January 2023.

## B. Sound financial management

DG Environment aims at **sound and efficient management** of its financial resources, maintaining effective internal control, risk management and accounting systems.

In the context of the **COVID-19** crisis, efforts will continue to mitigate potential negative effects of the lockdown on budget implementation, while ensuring an appropriate and adequate level of control. Mitigation actions have been adopted to minimise the impact of the crisis on the pace of budget implementation and on payment delays. Attention is needed for carrying out the ex-post controls programme of the DG, which are an essential base for assurance building. This is particularly demanding, as on-site audits will be constrained by mobility restrictions.

2021 will be the first year of the implementation of the **LIFE programme 2021-27**, for which a significant 55% envelope increase has been proposed in the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027. A Multiannual Work Programme 2021-2024 and a Financing Decision are expected to be adopted by the Commission after the adoption of the new Regulation by the co-legislators (still pending at the time of drafting). The new delegation arrangements to the executive agency that will manage LIFE in the future (implementing around 80% of the programme envelope) will be finalised, in close collaboration with DG Climate Action and DG Energy. Ensuring a smooth transfer of staff and files from the current to the new executive agency will be key.

Work with the **European Court of Auditors** (ECA) will continue to be very intensive. This concerns both the audits of financial transactions for the annual budget discharge as well as the policy performance audits. Particularly relevant will be the audits on the *Polluter Pays Principle* (to be published in the first quarter of 2021), *Forestry, Water and Agriculture*, *Transport Flagships*, and the *Review on Electronic Waste* (all four scheduled for publication in the second quarter). Further audit tasks will be carried out by the Internal Audit Service.

**Objective:** The authorising officer by delegation has reasonable assurance that resources have been used in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and that cost-effective controls are in place which give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of underlying transactions

### Main outputs in 2021:

Output	Indicator	Target
Effective controls: Legal and regular transactions	Risk at payment	remains < 2 % of relevant expenditure
	Estimated risk at closure	remains < 2 % of relevant expenditure
Efficient controls	Budget execution and time-to-pay	remains > 99 % of payment appropriations and remains > 95 % of payments (in value) on time
Economical controls	Overall estimated cost of controls	remains < 2% of funds managed

Effective controls: safeguarding of assets	Number of security incidents confirmed by the CSIRC	0
Effective controls: safeguarding of assets	Number of personal data breaches with risk to the rights and freedoms of the data subjects	0

## C. Fraud risk management

The updated DG **Anti-Fraud Strategy (AFS)** was endorsed by the DG senior management in November 2020. It covers the period 2020-2023 and applies to all types of DG Environment's expenditure as well as to non-spending activities. In 2021, the DG will focus on the following actions:

1. Provide analyses of closed OLAF investigations, ex post audits, waivers etc. that feed the fraud risk assessment and fraud prevention activities.
2. Analyse significant fraud risks, in the context of the Annual Risk Assessment (when relevant).
3. Set up a regular channel of cooperation with CINEA to exchange information on the need to know basis and to fight against fraud and irregularities
4. Supervision of alleged fraud cases and cooperation in tackling them jointly, when appropriate, with OLAF, European Public Prosecutors Office and CINEA.

DG Environment's anti-fraud objectives and actions, established in the action plan, have been aligned with the objectives and actions of the Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy<sup>25</sup>

**Objective:** The risk of fraud is minimised through the application of effective anti-fraud measures and the implementation of the Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy (CAFS)<sup>26</sup> aimed at the prevention, detection and correction<sup>27</sup> of fraud

### Main outputs in 2021:

Output	Indicator	Target
Assessment of significant fraud risks, for further improvement in understanding of fraud patterns	Minutes of the annual risk management assessment Internal note on fraud risk	2021 Q4

<sup>25</sup> Actions 1 and 2 are aligned with action 1 of the Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy (CAFS 2019); action number 3 with action 5 of the CAFS 2019 and action 4 with action 13 of the CAFS 2019.

<sup>26</sup> Communication from the Commission "Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy: enhanced action to protect the EU budget", COM(2019) 176 of 29 April 2019 – 'the CAFS Communication' – and the accompanying action plan, SWD(2019) 170 – 'the CAFS Action Plan'.

<sup>27</sup> Correction of fraud is an umbrella term, which notably refers to the recovery of amounts unduly spent and to administrative sanctions.



	assessment	
Channel of cooperation with CINEA to fight against fraud and irregularities	Meetings between DG Environment and CINEA with a focus on fraud related matters and anti-fraud actions	2021
Supervision of potential fraudulent cases and cooperation in tackling them jointly (DG Environment, OLAF, European Public Prosecutor's Office and CINEA)	Meetings with OLAF and with EPPO (once it is operational)	2021
Revised policy for sensitive information in order to reduce risk concerning leakage of information	Guidelines on conflict of interest available to staff	2021

## D. Digital transformation and information management

In the context of the European Green Deal, the improvement of data, knowledge and information governance, crucial for evidence-based policy making and implementation, has become key for the DG to deliver on the environmental priorities.

2020 represented a paradigm shift in the way DG Environment works on Data, Information and Knowledge. With a new governance and action plan put in place, the DG was able to act more efficiently and give wider access to the existing knowledge. This had a positive impact on the limited resources.

In 2021, DG Environment aims at implementing the relevant Commission strategies and corporate guidelines in a more open and effective manner, integrating corporate requirements with the existing Data, Information and Knowledge **governance** of the DG. Regular meetings will take place at management level to discuss the strategic aspects; more specific meetings will be organised at technical level, to find solutions for existing ungoverned information and data flows.

In line with corporate guidelines, a new procedure will be tested to deal with **country knowledge**, and will be progressively adapted throughout the year to meet the growing need of quality country knowledge at DG level. This will involve the use of Teams and *SECEM*, building on the trainings organised in 2020.

Another key action to harness the potential of data in support of the political priorities, under the new Data, Information and Knowledge action plan, will be the creation of a **green dataspace**. A mandate will be developed together with the **Environment Knowledge Community** (EKC) partners and results will start to be delivered soon after.

Platforms for data management, integration and communication will be enhanced as part of the **Commission Modernisation Plan**. The IT solution landscape will be the target of

continuous improvement to align with the principles of the digital strategy and to support our policy work.

A proof of concept of an **EU-wide system for electronic data exchange** will be completed, delivering technical specifications describing the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), in view of including it in revision of the Waste Shipment Regulation in 2021.

As regards **records management**, the objectives defined in the DG strategic plan will continue to be pursued, in line with the user needs and taking account of the corporate eDomec, personal data protection and information security rules.

Further steps will be taken to raise awareness and ensure full compliance with the **Data Protection** Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. In 2021, procedures will be put in place to ensure that the DG Data Protection Coordinator will be consulted on procurement and other relevant activities, to ensure they comply with the applicable rules.

Local training and coaching sessions on records management, personal data protection and information security will continue to be organised. The DG will also encourage staff participation in Commission’s centrally organised in-depth trainings.

**Objective:** DG Environment is using innovative, trusted digital solutions for better policy-shaping, information management and administrative processes to forge a truly digitally transformed, user-focused and data-driven Commission

**Main outputs in 2021:**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Creation of green dataspace	Creation of mandate within EKC and start developing the dataspace	Q3 2021
Seamless coordination of data, information and knowledge management aspects in DG Environment	Number of meetings organised	2 governance board meetings (director level) 4 correspondents meetings (representatives of each directorate) 12 data coordination team meetings (representatives of the main data, information and knowledge actors in the DG) Outreach data meetings to find solutions to ungoverned data
Delivery of quality and timely feedback to the SG requests on country knowledge	Proper use of agreed methodology for the delivery of quality and timely feedback to the SG requests on country knowledge	Throughout 2021
Waste Shipment Regulation system Electronic Data Interchange technical	Availability of working PoC system proving electronic data exchange EU-wide is possible	Q4 2021

specifications		
Increase staff awareness on data protection	Data protection information included in the welcome pack	Q4 2021
	Data protection awareness communication sent to staff	1
	General data protection events organised	1
	Percentage of DG Environment data controllers having followed training	100%

## E. Sound environmental management

DG Environment will continue implementing the local **EMAS action plan** adopted in 2019. Raising awareness and providing staff with adequate equipment to reduce their footprint at work are at the core of this plan.

Teleworking and videoconferences will be encouraged as a way to reduce **commuting emissions**, for staff as well as with stakeholders. A high number of external events will go hybrid in 2021 (including DG Environment’s flagship communication event, EU Green Week 2021), allowing a greater number of participants with less traveling.

Internally, the corporate initiative to implement the electronic signature for middle and senior management will allow the DG to make further savings on **printing paper**, as most of the files and notes will be signed electronically. However, as in 2020, observed reductions may be linked to the pandemic and the months of lockdown, and not fully reflect a real sustainable trend.

In 2021, recognising the growing environmental impact of the **digital sector**, and as part of its efforts to reduce carbon footprint, DG Environment will aim to reduce the number of documents exchanged by e-mail within the DG by promoting document sharing on easily accessible wikis.

Finally, corporate work on greening the Commission’s **procurement**, launched in 2020, is expected to finalise in 2021 and provide green procurement criteria for all DGs. Based on those, DG Environment will also elaborate internal guidelines to integrate green criteria in its own procurement (studies and services).

**Objective: DG Environment takes full account of its environmental impact in all its actions and actively promotes measures to reduce the related day-to-day impact of the administration and its work**

**Main results and outputs in 2021:**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Videoconference meetings and hybrid are more and more encouraged. All the DG Environment meeting rooms have been renovated and equipped with last technologies in order to facilitate videoconferencing.	Trainings on how to use the new installations were organised for colleagues, including lunchtime videoconference with the participation of SCIC and DIGIT	Reduce emissions from DG Environment's missions by 8% per year.
Reduce the number of personal office printers to reduce unnecessary printouts. Only RUE printers allowed.	Amount of paper used	Reduce the number of paper sheets used in DG Environment by 8% per year.
Raise awareness to switch lights off when leaving the offices. Switch off remaining office lights by the last person leaving the office. Switching off the main power hub for each office PC at source (unplugging from main electricity supply to avoid stand-by consumption)	Reduction of electricity consumption	Reduce consumption of electricity in BU-5 and BU-9 (DG Environment offices) by 8% per year
Gradual introduction of GPP criteria in contracts during their renewal whenever relevant (e.g. Technical tailor-made support provided by the <a href="#">Interinstitutional GPP Helpdesk</a> ) and start monitoring the process.	Reduction of paper used	Reduce the paper use in DG ENV with 50% in 2021
Implementation of the <a href="#">EC Guidelines for sustainable meetings and events</a> , e.g. reduce/eliminate single-use plastics, gadgets/gifts		
Analysis of DG Environment missions trends /patterns (based on corporate EC-staff's professional trips (missions) data provided by HR.D.02), optimise and gradually reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (e.g. by optimising the number of participants in the same mission, promoting more sustainable travelling options, promoting videoconferencing/virtual events as an alternative).	The number of missions for 2021 are reduce to most essentials	Reduce the number of essential missions with 50% for 2021, (partly due to a new studio that DG ENV is planning to set up in the first part of 2021 comprising a high quality video –conference room)

## F. Examples of initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of financial and non-financial activities









In view of the high political priority of environment policies within the European Green Deal and the limited resources available, DG Environment will strive to further simplify its internal functioning and implement local measures leading to **synergies and efficiency** gains, notably in the IT and document management domain, but also on public procurement, logistics and human resources.

Linked to the **COVID-19 lock down**, the DG has leapfrogged its transition to full electronic (paperless) workflows and e-signature in Ares for its internal procedures, including financial transactions that do not need blue ink. To make this change permanent, internal procedures have been aligned and information and training have been provided to staff. Ad-hoc training will be further rolled out in 2021, for staff that still need it and in particular for newcomers to the DG. A next step in the digitalisation of financial management is to fully introduce e-invoicing in new contracts, a process that started at the end of 2020, and the roll-out of electronic signature of contracts and grant agreements. Videoconference and other forms of online meetings, which have successfully enabled business continuity in confinement, will continue to be promoted when they can help to manage time more efficiently. In addition, new IT software enabling teams to work remotely has been tested and will soon become a corporate solution.

As regards the **LIFE programme**, new and ongoing measures will aim at streamlining procedures for the management and implementation of the new programme in the coming financial period, in cooperation with DG Climate Action and DG Energy. These will include multi-annual financing decisions allowing for greater flexibility and less administrative burden, simplification of the budget nomenclature to reduce the number of LIFE budget lines, additional simplification in LIFE grants (like the use of lump-sums and simplified costs options) and the promotion of Integrated Projects which, thanks to complementary funding from other EU, national and local funds, can create synergies across EU policies.

In the field of **human resources**, building on the experience acquired in 2020, a more collaborative and dynamic management of the available resources will be promoted. Depending on the comparative evolution of workload across the DG, internal calls for expression of interest will be launched to encourage policy and financial staff to get involved in developments outside their assignation units, to reinforce teams working on priorities on a temporary basis. Each individual exercise will be launched by a management decision, implemented in full transparency and recorded in the job description of the colleagues concerned.

## ANNEX: Performance tables

<b>General objective: A European Green Deal</b>		
<i>Specific objective 1: The EU economy is more circular and uses natural resources and products more sustainably</i>		<i>Related to spending programme LIFE</i>
<b>Main outputs in 2021:</b>		
<b>New policy initiatives</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
 Proposal for a Regulation on substantiating environmental claims using the Product/Organisation Environmental Footprint methods (green claims) (PLAN/2020/7435)	Adoption of legislative proposal by the Commission	2021 Q2
 Sustainable Products Policy Initiative (PLAN/2020/7714)	Adoption of legislative proposal by the Commission	2021 Q4
 Contribution to Circular Electronics - toolbox on the take-back and return schemes for small electric and electronic industry	Toolbox agreed with Industry and Member States	2021 Q4
EU strategy for textiles (PLAN/2020/8698)	Adoption of Communication by the Commission	2021 Q4
<b>Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
 Revision of Regulation (EC) 1013/2006 on Shipments of Waste (PLAN/2019/5394)	Adoption of legislative proposal by the Commission	2021 Q2
 Update of concentration limit values of persistent organic pollutants in waste - Amendments to Annexes IV and V on waste of the Regulation on persistent organic pollutants in waste (PLAN/2019/5397)	Adoption of legislative proposal by the Commission	2021 Q2
 Revision of Directive 94/62/EC on Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive in order to reinforce the essential requirements for packaging to be placed on the EU market (PLAN/2019/5396)	Adoption of legislative proposal by the Commission	2021 Q4
<b>Evaluations and fitness checks</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
 Evaluation of the Sewage Sludge Directive 86/278/EEC (PLAN/2020/7406)	Finalisation of the evaluation and publication of Staff Working Document	2021 Q4
 Evaluation of Directive 2011/65/EU on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances	Finalisation of the evaluation and publication of Staff Working Document	2021 Q2

in electrical and electronic equipment (PLAN/2018/3000)		
<b>Public consultations</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
EU strategy for textiles (PLAN/2020/8698)	Public consultation launched	2021 Q1
Revision of Directive 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles (PLAN/2020/8644)	Public consultation launched	2021 Q2
Measures to reduce the release of microplastics (PLAN/2020/8355)	Public consultation launched	2021 Q3
<b>Enforcement actions</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Scrutiny of Waste Management Plans and Waste Prevention Programmes	Launch infringement cases	2021 Q2
Closure of illegal and substandard landfills remaining in the EU	Number of cases moved or closed in relation to illegal and substandard landfills	(No adequate target)
<b>External communication actions</b>		
<b>Output/ Result</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Circular Economy communication actions	Number of people reached and number of interactions on Social Media including DG ENV accounts	+100 000 and +4000
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
EU Ecolabel criteria for financial products (PLAN/2020/9815)	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q4
EMAS reference documents - including best environmental management practice, environmental performance indicators and benchmarks of excellence for Fabricated Metal Products and Telecom/ICT services (PLAN/2018/3534, 3533)	Adoption of two reference documents by the Commission	2021 Q1 2021 Q4
Implementation of Waste Framework legislation (WFD Directive EU/2008/98) including: - Rules to calculate average loss rates for sorted waste (PLAN/2018/3612) - Decision on reporting format for the reuse of products (PLAN/2018/3623) - Guidelines on waste extended producer responsibility (PLAN/2020/6789)	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q2

Implementation of Directive 2011/65/EU on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (ROHs) in waste – Management of exemptions: (2016/ENV/003, 004, 2016/ENV/028, 2016/ENV/029, 031, 032, 033, 034, 035, 036, 037, 038, 2016/ENV/042, PLAN/2018/3640, 3641, 3642, 3644 and 3645)	Adoption of 18 exemptions by the Commission	2021 Q2 and Q3
Delegated Act laying down the criteria for the assessment of equivalent conditions for the treatment of on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) exported outside the Union (2015/ENV/025)	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q3
Implementation of Single Use Plastic legislation - SUP Directive EU/2019/904): - Guidelines for Extended Producer Responsibility criteria on the costs of cleaning up litter, under SUP (PLAN/2020/6697)	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q3 2021 Q3
Report on implementation of the Waste shipments Regulation for 2016-2018 (PLAN/2020/9889)	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q3
Definition of EU position for the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention (July 2021, tbc)	EU position agreed in relevant Council Working Party and participation by the Commission to the CoP	2021 Q2



## General objective: A European Green Deal

**Specific objective 2:** Biodiversity and natural ecosystems in the EU are put on the path to recovery by stepping up the protection and restoration of nature


Related to spending programme **LIFE**

### Main outputs in 2021:

#### New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
 Minimising the risk of deforestation and forest degradation associated with products placed on the EU market (PLAN/2019/6251)	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q2
EU Soil Strategy (PLAN/2020/8697)	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q2
 Proposal for setting legally binding EU nature restoration targets as per EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (PLAN/2020/8491)	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q4
EU Forest Strategy (PLAN/2020/8551)	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q1



Revised EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking (PLAN/2020/8696)	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q4
<b>Evaluations and fitness checks</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (PLAN/2017/1319)	Finalisation of the evaluation and publication of conclusions (Staff Working Document)	2021 Q1
 Fitness Check of the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) and the EU Timber Regulations (PLAN/2019/6094)	Finalisation of the fitness check and publication of conclusions (Staff Working Document)	2021 Q2
Evaluation of the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking (PLAN/2019/6139)	Finalisation of the evaluation and publication of conclusions (Staff Working Document)	2021 Q4
<b>Public consultations</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Revision of the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking	Public consultation launched	2021 Q1
Back-to-back evaluation and possible amendment of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) (PLAN/2020/8067)	Public consultation launched	2021 Q2
<b>Enforcement actions</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Nature and biodiversity protected in conformity with Habitats Directive	Number of cases moved or closed in relation to by enforcement action under Art 4(4) Habitats Dir	(No adequate target)
<b>External communication actions</b>		
<b>Output/ Result</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Global Biodiversity Coalition "United for #Biodiversity"	Number of participants	At least 200
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Implementation of the Nitrates directive: - Report on the implementation of Directive 91/676/EEC on Nitrates for the period 2016-19 (PLAN/2020/8779) - management of derogation requests from Member States.	Adoption of report by the Commission  Adoption of relevant decisions by the Commission	2021 Q2  2021 Q4
Report on the review of the application of Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species (PLAN/2018/3164)	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q2
Regulation updating the list of invasive alien species of Union	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q4

concern (PLAN/2020/8838)		
Forest protection: - guidelines on closer-to-nature forestry; - guidelines on biodiversity friendly afforestation and reforestation; - guidelines on the definition, mapping, monitoring and strictly protecting all EU's remaining primary and old-growth forests (OGF)	Publication of guidance documents	2021 Q1 2021 Q1 2021 Q4
Development of criteria and guidance for the identification of additional protected areas and ecological corridors and on their appropriate management, including on strict protection and on how other effective area-based conservation measures and urban greening can contribute to the protected area target  Guidance on on river restoration to support the Member States in identifying sites for river restoration and possible funding instruments to remove barriers and achieve the target of 25000 km of free flowing rivers.	Agreement reached with MS on the technical note containing criteria and guidance on expanding protected areas in EU	2021 Q4
Update of the lists of Sites of Community Importance (Natura 2000) according to Member States proposals (max. 9 implementing acts)	Proposed updates adopted by the Commission	2021 Q4
Commission Decision on an EU level Prioritised Action Framework (implementing act)	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q4
Commission licence agreement for use of Natura 2000 logo	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q4
Implementing Regulation updating the EU List of Invasive Alien Species	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q4
New governance framework for the EU Biodiversity Strategy incl a new monitoring and review mechanism	Agreement with the MS	2021 Q3
Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken of behalf of the EU in the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC), regarding the 2016 International Tropical Timber Agreement (PLAN/2020/10032)	Adoption of proposals by the Commission and the Council	2021 Q1 (adoption by the Commission) 2021 Q2 (adoption by the Council)
Strengthening the EU regime governing trade in ivory (PLAN/2020/6500 and PLAN/2018/3345)	Adoption of implementing Regulation by the Commission Publication of revised guidance	2021 Q2
Implementation of the CITES	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q2

Convention – – Update of rules for the design of permits, certificates and other documents provided for in Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein and in Commission Regulation (EC) No 865/2006 (PLAN/2016/416) – Revision of the annexes to the EU CITES Regulation for the update of specific species (PLAN/2017/1009)		
Guidance on the compliance measures for users from the Nagoya protocol on fair use of genetic resources (PLAN/2020/7286)	Publication of guidance document	2021 Q1


### General objective: A European Green Deal

**Specific objective 3:** Citizens and natural ecosystems are better protected from environmental pressures and risks to health as a result of Europe's zero-pollution ambition and measures for a toxic-free environment


Related to spending programme **LIFE**

### Main outputs in 2021:

#### New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
 Zero pollution action plan for water, air and soil (PLAN/2020/7761)	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q2

#### Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction

Output	Indicator	Target
 Revision of Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (PLAN/2020/6608)	Adoption of legislative proposal by the Commission	2021 Q4
Revision of the E-PRTR regulation (PLAN/2020/8555)	Adoption of legislative proposal by the Commission	2021 Q4

#### Public consultations

Output	Indicator	Target
Revision of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (PLAN/2020/7347)	Public consultation launched	2021 Q1
Revision of pollutants affecting surface and groundwaters and the corresponding regulatory standards in the Environmental Quality Standards, Groundwater and Water Framework Directives (PLAN/2020/8554)	Public consultation launched	2021 Q3

Review of the Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC - back to back Evaluation and Impact Assessment (PLAN/2020/8063)	Public consultation launched	2021 Q2
Revision of the Ambient Air Quality Directives 2008/50/EC and 2004/107/EC (PLAN/2020/8962 and PLAN/2020/8636)	Public consultation launched	2021 Q3
Commission proposal for revising Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury (PLAN/2020/9940)	Public consultation launched	2021 Q3
<b>Enforcement actions</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Population protected from health hazards posed by PM <sub>10</sub> air pollution	Number of cases closed or moved in relation to air quality zones covered by PM <sub>10</sub> enforcement action (exceedances and monitoring)	(no adequate target)
Population protected from health hazards posed by NO <sub>2</sub> air pollution	Number of cases closed or moved in relation to air quality zones covered by a NO <sub>2</sub> enforcement action (exceedances and monitoring)	(no adequate target)
<b>External communication actions</b>		
<b>Output/ Result</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Virtual EU Green Week 2021 dedicated to Zero Pollution	Number of connected participants to the high-level virtual conference	2500 connected participants
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) - Decision to sign/join/support the decisions of ICCM5 (5 <sup>th</sup> International Conference for Chemicals Management) and the High-Level-Declaration beyond 2020	Strong EU representation at the Conference foreseen in July 2021	2021 Q2
Implementation of the REACH Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 on the Registration, evaluation and authorisation of Chemicals: (in collaboration with DG GROW)	Adoption of decisions by the Commission expected: - ca. 5 decisions on evaluations (ENV) - ca.10 decisions (GROW) - ca 5 decisions on identification of substances of very high concern (GROW) - ca. 80 authorisations (GROW)	2021 Q2 to Q4
Amendment of Commission Regulation (EC) 440/2008 laying down test methods pursuant to the REACH Regulation - 9 <sup>th</sup> Adaptation to technical progress	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q2

(PLAN/2018/3630)		
EU position at the triple Conference of the Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on Transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, on International trade in hazardous chemicals and pesticides, and on Persistent Organic Pollutants (PLAN/2020/8482 and 8483)	Adoption of two proposals by the Commission and subsequent Council decisions	2021 Q1 2021 Q2 for Council decisions
Commission summary report on the application of the Regulation on persistent organic pollutants (accompanied by a SWD presenting the complete Union synthesis report) (PLAN/2020/8477)	Adoption of report by the Commission	2021 Q1
Commission report on the Union Implementation Plan under the Regulation on persistent organic pollutants (accompanied by a SWD presenting the complete Union Implementation Plan) (PLAN/2019/6262)	Adoption of report by the Commission	2021 Q1
Regulation amending Annexes I and V to Regulation (EU) No 649/2012 on export and import of hazardous chemicals (PLAN/2020/8481)	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q1
Report on the application of Regulation (EU) No 649/2012 on the export and import of hazardous chemicals (accompanied by a SWD presenting the complete Union synthesis report) (PLAN/2020/8479)	Adoption of report by the Commission	2021 Q4
Statistical report on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes	Adoption of report by the Commission	2021 Q3
Directive amending annexes on requirements for the establishments and for the care and accommodation and killing of animals	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q4
Report on the implementation of Directive 2010/75/EU on Industrial Emissions(PLAN/2020/8946)	Adoption of report by the Commission	2021 Q1
Council Decision establishing EU position at the 4 <sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on mercury	Adoption of the proposals by the Commission Adoption of the Decision by the Council	2021 Q1 2021 Q2
Third Clean Air Forum	Event organised	2021 Q4
Decision setting up the mandatory digital information exchange mechanism on noise under Directive 2002/49/EC (PLAN/2020/9003)	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q1

**General objective: A European Green Deal**

**Specific objective 4:** Environmental concerns are integrated, and biodiversity standards mainstreamed, across EU policies, investments and finance, through existing consultation mechanisms and a proactive approach to coordination

Related to spending programme  
**LIFE**

**Main outputs in 2021:**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Contribution to the European Semester Process	Environmental recommendations in country reports	Throughout the year
Appraisal and follow-up of major projects submitted for co-financing by the ESIF under the 2014-2020 programming period (Cohesion Policy).	Contribution in the context of interservices consultation	Throughout the year
Appraisal and follow-up of the Partnership Agreements and the Operational Programmes (including their modifications), for the 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programming period. Appraisal and follow-up of the Just Transition Plans under the 2021-2027 programming period.	Contribution in the context of interservices consultation	Throughout the year
Appraisal and follow-up of projects submitted for CEF co-financing (TEN-T and TEN-E) under the 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programming periods.	Contribution in the context of interservices consultation	Throughout the year
Assessment of Recovery and Resilience Plans required by the RRF regulation	Contribution in the context of interservices consultation	2021 – Q1/Q2
Appraisal of strategic documents and projects (including through Invest EU) submitted by EIB/EBRD.	Contribution in the context of interservices consultation	Throughout the year
Contribution on the acts related to the implementation of the Invest EU Regulation (investment guidelines, sustainability proofing, environmental tracking, financial products, advisory, guarantee agreements, approval process, scoreboard).	Contribution in the context of interservices consultation	Throughout the year
Appraisal and follow-up of the modifications of Rural Development Programmes under the 2014-2020 programming period.	Contribution in the context of interservices consultation	Throughout the year
Appraisal and follow-up of the modifications of Rural Development Programmes under the 2021-2022 programming period (transitional CAP Regulation).	Contribution in the context of interservices consultation	Throughout the year

Contribution to the development of Member States' Strategic Plans under the Common Agricultural Policy	Contribution in the context of interservices consultation	Throughout the year
Integrating environmental concerns in DG COMP policies, and in particular on State Aid	Contribution in the context of interservices consultation	Throughout the year
Contribution to the Fit for 55 review of energy and climate legislation	Contribution in the context of interservice consultation	Throughout the year
Contribution to the development of the EU Taxonomy delegated acts on issues other than climate	Contribution in the context of interservice consultation, and the work of the technical expert group	Throughout the year


### General objective: A European Green Deal

**Specific objective 5:** *There is an enabling framework for implementation based on strong governance and enforcement action, supported by advanced knowledge and digital technologies, close collaboration with cities and citizens' engagement*

Related to spending programme **LIFE**

### Main outputs in 2021:


#### New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
 8 <sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme	Adoption by the co-legislators	2021 Q3

#### Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction

Output	Indicator	Target
Revision of the Regulations implementing the INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/EC), with particular focus on adapting Commission Regulation (EU) No 1089/2010 as regards interoperability of spatial data sets and services, including the adaptation of Annex III to technical and scientific progress (PLAN/2017/1237)	Adoption by the Commission <sup>28</sup>	2021 Q2

#### Evaluations and fitness checks

Output	Indicator	Target
 Evaluation of Directive 2007/2/EC establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial	Finalisation of the evaluation and publication of Staff Working Document	2021 Q3

<sup>28</sup> Follow up to the REFIT evaluation of the INSPIRE Directive (COM(2016)478). The initiative will deliver environmental data more efficiently and thus underpins the European Green Deal initiatives and implementation.

Information in the European Community (INSPIRE) (PLAN/2020/8050)		
<b>Enforcement actions</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Proper functioning of key components of environmental governance (environmental assessments, access to justice, liability, international obligations)	Number of cases moved or closed in relation to environmental governance	(No adequate target)
Enforcement of environmental rules	Cases and Pilots moved or closed per annum	(No adequate target)
<b>External communication actions</b>		
<b>Output/ Result</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Direct reach of DG ENV social media channels	Number of followers in Instagram	15 000
	Number of followers in Facebook	280 000
	Number of followers in Twitter	100 000
DG ENV website performance	Number of visits	3 million
DG ENV web transformation	Number of webpages transformed	100
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Revision of Regulation on Access to Justice in Environmental matters	Adoption by the co-legislators	2021 Q3
Developing the 8 <sup>th</sup> EAP monitoring Framework	Monitoring framework ready	2021 Q4
Guidance document on the application of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive) to changes and extension of projects	Publication of guidance	2021 Q2
Guidelines providing a common understanding of the term 'environmental damage' as defined in Article 2 of Directive 2004/35/EC on environmental liability (PLAN/2020/7326)	Adoption by the Commission	2021 Q1
Annual INSPIRE Conference	Organisation of the event	2021 Q2
A new (post-2020) mandate for the Environment Knowledge Community (EKC) to support the European Green Deal.	Approval of the mandate at EKC DG-level and kick-off of the first set of actions.	2021 Q1
Science News Alert (Science for Environment Policy)	Publication of Science News	Publication of 20 news alerts and 3 future briefs (spread throughout the year)
Contribution to the implementation of Horizon Europe (work programmes, missions, partnerships)	Appropriate inclusion of environmental issues in research calls, partnerships and	Throughout the year



and co-management of cluster 6	mission WP	
Cooperation Framework Agreement between DG ENV and JRC	Signature of the Agreement	Q1 2021
Opinion on the EEA Single Programming Document 2022-2024	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2021
FORENV – The EU Foresight System for the Environment,	Publication of a report on issues emerging in the environment (exact topic tbc – probably related to Zero Pollution)	2021 Q4
EU Green Cities Awards: - European Green Capital Award - European Green Leaf Award	Titles awarded	2021 Q3
Green City Networks to contribute to delivery of the Green City Accord	Green City Applicants to sign GCA; organisation of thematic workshops, focus on Biodiversity Strategy 2030 (mentioned in the Green City Competitions)	2021 Q4
Green City Accord	Project launched	2021 Q4

### General objective: A European Green Deal

**Specific objective 6:** Global uptake of the environmental objectives of the European Green Deal is stimulated through participation in multilateral agreements, institutions and fora, EU accession negotiations, engagement with third countries and trade

Related to spending programme Global Public Goods and Challenges and NDICI<sup>29</sup> (Global Challenges Programme)

#### Main outputs in 2021:

Output	Indicator	Target
Sustainable Development Goals: Effective promotion of the environmental goals in the world	Participation in 2020 HLPF, including organisation of side event/s	July 2021
	Participation in G7 and G20 dialogues	2021
Declarations on climate and environment and on plastics co-signed with China	Declarations signed	2021 Q1 and Q2
Joint Declaration on Circular Economy with South Africa - Summit output	Declaration signed	2021 Q1 2021 Q2
UNEA 5.1 virtual session with a meaningful political statement.	Political statement adopted by UNEA 5 including a mandate for additional work on policy issues (SCP, Plastics etc.)	2021 Q 2

<sup>29</sup> The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument

Formal launch of the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE)	GACERE launched	2021 Q1
Circular Economy Vademecum ('comprehensive overview of key policy, legislative and financial instruments for advancing the circular economy transition in third countries' - see Section 6.1 in SWD(2020) 100)	Finalised and circulated to EU Delegations	2021 Q1
Consolidate support for a Global Plastics Agreement with a view to launching a negotiating process	Support sought for the Global Plastic Agreement	2021
Commission joining the African Circular Economy Alliance as strategic partner	African Circular Economy Alliance joined	2021 Q2
Commission decision joining the Latin America Circular Economy Coalition	Coalition joined	2021 Q4
High-level Environment dialogues with key EU trade and strategic partners (TSD) on environmental issues	Participation in high-level dialogues	25 high-level dialogues and 15 TSD committees
Enhanced integration of environmental considerations into trade policy	Environment covered in trade agreements including during implementation	2021 Q1 to Q4 (and beyond) 15 trade agreements
Progress in the environment chapter of accession negotiations with Serbia/Montenegro	Progress in fulfilling the closing benchmarks for Montenegro	2020 Q4
Annual programming of environment related projects under NDICI (Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument), including thematic work under the Global Challenges Programme of NDICI	Annual Action Programme 2021 adopted by the Commission	2021 Q4
Preparation of and participation in the 15 <sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, its subsidiary bodies and the inter-governmental working group on Drought established at COP14	Preparation and participation accomplished	2021 Q4
Preparation and Participation in the 9 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention	Preparation and participation accomplished	2021 Q3
Preparation of and participation in the International Tropical Timber Council Sessions 56 and 57	Preparation and participation accomplished	2021 Q1 and Q4
Preparation of and participation in the 16 <sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF16)	Preparation and participation accomplished	2021 Q2

FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreements: negotiations with Thailand and Laos, implementation Committees with Indonesia and Vietnam	Preparation and participation accomplished	2021 Q4
Participation in the 68th International Whaling Commission	Preparation and participation accomplished	2021 Q4
Preparation of and participation in the CITES Standing, Animal and Plants Committees	Preparation and participation accomplished	2021 Q1-Q3
CITES Workshop on Legal Acquisition Findings	Event organised	2021 Q2
Meeting of the Joint Management Committee of the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards	Preparation and participation accomplished	2021 Q4
Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15), fourth meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies and Open Ended Working Group meetings towards the adoption of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	Preparation and participation accomplished	2021 Q1-Q3
Organisation of an international workshop on Digital Sequence Information (DSI) (access and benefit sharing), participation in the informal process on building a dialogue on DSI and in the EU-China biodiversity dialogue, ABS/DSI component	Events organised and preparation and participation accomplished	2021
Multilateral trade meetings including World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) meetings and OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment (JWPTE) meetings	Preparation and participation accomplished	2021
Bilateral Free Trade Agreement negotiations with Chile, Australia, New Zealand and Indonesia	Preparation and participation accomplished	2021
Participation in the 2nd substantive consultation meeting on follow up to UNGA Resolution (73/333) (Former Global Pact for Environment)	Preparation and participation accomplished	2021 Q2