



European
Commission

Management Plan 2021

DG CLIMATE ACTION

Contents

INTRODUCTION 3

PART 1. Delivering on the Commission’s priorities: main outputs for the year 5

PART 2. Modernising the administration: main outputs for the year 20

 A. Human resource management 20

 B. Sound financial management 22

 C. Fraud risk management 23

 D. Digital transformation and information management 24

 E. Sound environmental management 26

 F. Examples of initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of financial and non-financial activities 28

ANNEX: Performance tables 29

INTRODUCTION

The Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA) leads the European Commission's efforts to fight climate change at EU and international level. As presented in the Multi-annual Strategic Plan 2020-2024, the **mission of DG CLIMA** is to formulate and implement EU climate policies and strategies so that the EU can become the world's first climate-neutral and climate resilient continent by 2050.

DG CLIMA plays a leading role in developing and facilitating the implementation of cost-efficient policies and legislation **to deliver the European Green Deal, one of the 6 headline ambitions of this Commission.**

DG CLIMA's management plan defines the most **important yearly deliverables in 2021** to meet the objectives set forth in its strategic plan 2020-2024. It is structured around the six specific policy and five organisational objectives defined in DG CLIMA's strategic plan 2020-2024 and reflects the priority actions identified in the Commission's Work Programme for 2021. Part 1 describes DG CLIMA's main policy deliverables and part 2 explains the main steps DG CLIMA intends to take to modernise its operations. Performance tables are presented in Annex 1.

To deliver the European Green Deal, DG CLIMA's main priorities and challenges in 2021 will be:

- To **review its 2030 climate framework** to align with the newly proposed target to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, as compared to 1990 levels. As part of this "**Fit for 55 Package**", DG CLIMA will enable the College to adopt by June 2021 proposals to revise **the EU Emission Trading System Directive**, the **Effort Sharing Regulation**, the CO2 standards for **cars and vans** and the **Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry Regulation**. It will also enable the College to propose by the end of 2021 a review of the **Fuel Quality Directive**, the **Fluorinated-Gases Regulation** and the **Ozone Regulation**.
- To contribute to the work of the Commission to deploy the **Next Generation EU** and its **Recovery and Resilience Facility**, so that these can contribute to delivering on the Green Deal priorities and support the economic revival of the Union after the COVID-19 pandemic. To this end, DG CLIMA will contribute to the assessment of the **national recovery and resilience plans** setting out the reform and investment agenda of the Member States, ensuring compliance with the EU commitments for a twin green and digital transition.
- To supervise the implementation of three programmes, namely the **Innovation Fund**, the sub-programme "Climate Mitigation and Adaptation" of the **LIFE programme** and partly **Horizon Europe cluster 5** dedicated to climate, energy

and mobility (co-chaired by DG CLIMA, DG RTD¹, DG MOVE² and DG ENER³). As from 1 January 2021, DG CLIMA assumes its new role as one of the seven parent DGs of the **European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** and will delegate implementing tasks to this agency.

- To adopt a new, more ambitious **Adaptation Strategy** and to start implementing its actions as from 2021, for example with the launch of the **health observatory** in coordination with DG SANTE⁴ and the European Environment Agency (EEA), by **mainstreaming adaptation into the building policy** (Renovation wave), contributing to the launch of the **Horizon Europe Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change**, improving knowledge of climate impacts, closing the climate protection gap and improving access to climate-related disaster risk data.
- To steer **the European Climate Pact**, launched in December 2020, and, with the help of a contractor for the Secretariat, to start nominating ambassadors, creating communication and outreach activities and recording pledges from grassroots organisations and individuals via an online platform.
- To lead the **EU at the international climate negotiations** in the context of the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UNFCCC scheduled for November 2021 in Glasgow, United Kingdom, as well as at the negotiations and meetings taking place in the context of the Montreal Protocol, IMO and ICAO.
- To engage and collaborate with **multilateral and plurilateral platforms** and organisations, as well as to pursue tailor-made approaches for cooperation with third countries – and particularly with advanced and emerging economies – towards the transition to global climate neutrality, through EU's leading role in climate diplomacy and with the use of our external policy instruments, including sustainable financial instruments and trade policy.

¹ The Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation

² The Commission's Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport

³ The Commission's Directorate-General for Energy

⁴ The Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety

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

Specific objective 1 - MITIGATION: Climate neutrality to be achieved by 2050 through a well-functioning EU carbon market and a fair regulatory framework for the EU and its Member States to reduce emissions

“Fit for 55 Package” - Revision of the existing 2030 climate framework to step up the climate target from -40% to at least -55% GHG emissions as compared with 1990

The European Green Deal⁵ is the Union’s agenda to tackle climate change in the short to medium term, to ensure climate neutrality in the EU by 2050. Accordingly, the Commission proposed to increase the EU’s ambition on reducing greenhouse gases in the coming decade. Based on a comprehensive impact assessment, the Commission has proposed **to raise its 2030 target to an economy-wide net greenhouse gas emission reduction of at least -55% compared to 1990 levels**⁶. The new target was endorsed by the European Council in December 2020 and was also included in the amended Commission proposal on the **Climate Law**⁷, which is currently under co-decision. The ‘*Communication on stepping up the EU’s 2030 climate ambition*’ showed how all sectors of the economy and society can contribute, and sets out the policy actions required to achieve this goal.

In 2021, DG CLIMA will review the Union’s climate legislation against this new target, with a view to the Commission making the appropriate legislative proposals by June 2021. This will be part of a Commission “**Fit for 55 Package**” expected by the end of June 2021 which will cover a coherent set of **initiatives to increase the ambition of the existing 2030 climate, energy and transport framework** including renewables, energy efficiency, buildings, as well as land use, energy taxation, effort sharing and emissions trading and a wide range of other pieces of legislation.

In particular, DG CLIMA will review the following:

1. **The EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)**, resulting in two workstreams conducted in parallel:

⁵ COM(2019)640 final

⁶ Communication on stepping up Europe’s 2030 climate ambition, COM(2020)562 final

⁷ COM(2020)80 final and COM(2020)563 final

1.a. The revision of the role of the EU ETS⁸ and its contribution to the overall climate ambition for 2030. This will revise the current contribution of the ETS to the reduction of GHG emissions in the EU in light of the new 2030 target; it will examine and possibly propose extending the ETS to **new sectors of the economy** (such as transport, buildings and the maritime sector); it will review the **ETS 'market stability reserve'**.

1.b. An amendment of the EU's emissions trading system to implement the **carbon offsetting and reduction scheme for international aviation (CORSA)**⁹ in a way that is consistent with the Union's 2030 climate objectives. This will also look at increasing the share of **allowances auctioned under the system for aircraft operators** to further contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

2. **The CO2 emission performance standards for cars and vans**¹⁰.

This initiative will revise the current standards, to ensure a clear pathway from 2025 towards zero-emission transport. It will look at the ambition level of the targets, the incentive scheme for zero- and low-emission vehicles and other design elements of the regulatory system, e.g. in relation to renewable and low-carbon fuels.

3. The Regulation **on binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030 (Effort Sharing Regulation)**¹¹

This initiative will look at the scope of the Regulation and its overall collective ambition level, at how to share this ambition over Member States' national targets, at the interconnections with the sectoral scope of the ETS and LULUCF, at flexibility mechanisms and at the monitoring, reporting and compliance systems in place.

4. **The Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation**¹²

The goal is to increase this sector's efforts to reduce emissions and maintain and enhance carbon removals, to enhance synergies with efforts in the agricultural

⁸ ["Have your say", Updating the EU Emissions Trading System \(ETS\)](#)

⁹ ["Have your say", EU Emissions Trading System - updated rules for aviation](#)

¹⁰ ["Have your say", CO2 emissions for cars and vans – revision of performance standards](#)

¹¹ ["Have your say", National emissions reduction targets \(Effort Sharing Regulation\) – review based on 2030 climate target plan](#)

¹² ["Have your say", Land use, land use change & forestry – review of EU rules](#)

sector, and to simplify monitoring and reporting rules by making use of innovative technologies such as satellite imaging.

The **inception impact assessments** published in 2020 set out the potential nature and scope of the revisions for each of these policy instruments. A first open public consultation was launched on 1 October 2020 and was open until 14 January 2021 concerning the “EU ETS – updated rules for aviation”. It was followed by four **open public consultations** (one per initiative mentioned above) published simultaneously on 13 November 2020¹³ and open for contributions until 5 February 2021, which will give citizens and organisations the opportunity to express their views on the revision of the policy instruments. In 2021, DG CLIMA will analyse for each initiative the different policy options according to the ‘**Better Regulation**’ principles and will take into account collected stakeholder views. **Legislative proposals** will be prepared, accompanied and underpinned by **five impact assessments** (with two separate impact assessments for the EU ETS) to be adopted by the Commission by the end of June 2021.

In 2021, DG CLIMA, in coordination with DG ENER, will evaluate and review the **Fuel Quality Directive** in line with the 2030 Climate Target Plan, while ensuring consistency with other fuel-related legislation (in particular the Renewable Energy Directive). The review will aim at improving and updating the fuel quality provisions and boosting the production and uptake of sustainable alternative fuels.

Revision of the Ozone and F-Gas Regulations

By the end of 2021, DG CLIMA will evaluate and put forward a proposal **to review the fluorinated greenhouse gases (F-gases) Regulation**. The proposal aims to revise the rules to achieve even more ambitious emission reductions in line with the new 2030 target and the 2050 climate neutrality objective. It also aims at ensuring long-term compliance with the Montreal Protocol and at facilitating enforcement. Milestones of the revision are presented in the combined “evaluation roadmap / inception impact assessment”¹⁴. Public views and evidence are being collected on the Regulation’s impact so far, as well as on a number of proposed policy options going forward¹⁵. As foreseen by the Better Regulation principles, in 2021, DG CLIMA will assess the Regulation against the five evaluation criteria¹⁶ and will analyse the various policy options and their impacts, taking into account contributions received. It will draft an **evaluation Staff Working Document as well as**

¹⁴ [“Have your say”, Fluorinated greenhouse gases – review of EU rules \(2015-20\)](#)

¹⁵ from 1 October until 14 January

an impact assessment, which will accompany the legislative proposal to be adopted before the end of 2021.

The evaluation of the **Ozone Regulation** conducted in 2019 concluded that there is scope for simplifications, clarity and better coherence. The revision will focus on options to safeguard the significant results achieved so far in the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and to do so in a more efficient and coherent manner as well as options to update the Regulation to the latest technological developments and improve its functioning. The contributions received from the open public consultation launched in 2020 will be analysed¹⁷ and analytical work will further progress to prepare an impact assessment for adoption foreseen by the fourth quarter of 2021. This proposal will also aim to ensure additional GHG emissions reductions.

Implementation of EU climate legislation

DG CLIMA will continue to implement EU climate legislation currently in force, including the EU Emission Trading System¹⁸, the Effort Sharing Regulation¹⁹, the Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation²⁰, CO2 Emissions Performance Standards for Cars and Vans²¹ and for Heavy-duty vehicles²², Fuel Quality Directive²³, the Ozone Regulation²⁴, the F-Gas Regulation²⁵ and the Energy Union Governance Regulation²⁶.

Phase 4 (2021-2030) of the EU ETS will start in January 2021. To implement it, DG CLIMA will launch an updated Union Registry IT system with the new rules for Phase 4 and a new auctioning platform contract at the beginning of the year. It will adopt in 2021 a number of implementing acts and Decisions, such as an Implementing Regulation determining the benchmark values for free allocation in the period 2021-2025 and a Decision on the free allocation of allowances to each installation in that period.

¹⁶ i.e. relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, coherence and EU added value.

¹⁷ [« Have your say », Ozone layer protection – review of EU rules](#)

¹⁸ Directive (EU) 2018/410

¹⁹ Regulation (EU) 2018/842

²⁰ Regulation (EU) 2018/841

²¹ Regulation (EU) 2019/631

²² Regulation (EU) 2019/1242

²³ Directive 98/70/EC

²⁴ Regulation (EC) 1005/2009

²⁵ Regulation (EU) 517/2014

²⁶ Regulation (EU) 2018/1999

Other important low carbon related initiatives

As foreseen in the Circular Economy Action Plan²⁷, in 2021 DG CLIMA will prepare a **Communication on Carbon Removal Certification (CRC)** to explore the development of a regulatory framework for the certification of carbon removals based on robust and transparent carbon accounting to monitor and verify the authenticity of carbon removals.

Together with DG AGRI²⁸ and DG ENV²⁹, DG CLIMA will propose in 2021 a new **EU Forest Strategy** covering the whole forest cycle and promoting the many services forests provide. The Strategy will aim to ensure healthy and resilient forests that can withstand the impacts of climate change and contribute significantly to biodiversity and climate goals, secure livelihoods and support a circular bioeconomy.

As foreseen in the Farm to Fork Strategy³⁰, DG CLIMA will prepare in 2021, together with DG AGRI, the **carbon farming initiative** to promote a new business model whereby farming practices that remove CO2 from the atmosphere would be rewarded.

New implementing and delegated acts will be prepared to ensure the proper functioning of the CO2 emission standards framework **for light- and heavy-duty vehicles**.

DG CLIMA will continue to work in 2021 to secure an agreement by the co-legislators on the Commission proposal on the **Climate Law**³¹ and on the **EU Monitoring, Reporting & Verification (MRV) Regulation for shipping**³².

DG CLIMA will also ensure the appropriate legal, interinstitutional and communication support for the timely delivery and interinstitutional adoptions of these initiatives.

²⁷ COM(2020)98 final

²⁸ The Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development

²⁹ The Commission's the Directorate-General for Environment

³⁰ COM(2020)381 final

³¹ COM(2020)80 final and COM(2020)563 final

³² Regulation (EU) 2015/757

Specific objective 2 – MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT: EU climate legislation is monitored through the Energy Union Governance, is properly applied and enforced and is mainstreamed in the European Semester process

EU Recovery Plan and the European semester

With **NextGenerationEU**, the EU is not only endeavouring to repair the damage caused by the pandemic and support those most hit by the crisis, but to do so in a way that delivers a better way of life for the world of tomorrow. At its heart, the Recovery and Resilience Facility offers an unprecedented opportunity to speed up the recovery in Europe and reinforce the commitment to the twin green and digital transitions. In order to benefit from the Recovery and Resilience Facility, Member States will have to prepare **national recovery and resilience plans** setting out their reform and investment agendas for the years 2021-23. The Commission will assess the national plans against the **37% climate mainstreaming target for green investments and reforms**. DG CLIMA will contribute to the Commission's assessment of these plans, in particular regarding the "Environmental sustainability" dimension, their contribution to achieving the Union's new 2030 climate target, their compliance with the trajectory towards the EU climate neutrality objective by 2050, and their consistency with the objectives of the Paris Agreement ("do no significant harm" principle).

The **European Semester** and the Recovery and Resilience Facility are intertwined. The publication of the 2021 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy has launched this year's European Semester process. It continues last year's growth strategy based on the European Green Deal and the concept of competitive sustainability. DG CLIMA will contribute to the Commission's assessment of the recovery and resilience plans against the country-specific recommendations and latest insights from the National Energy and Climate Plans. It will provide specific guidance to Member States on the areas where structural reforms and investments towards a sustainable and climate-neutral economy are most needed.

Governance of the Energy Union

Together with DG ENER, DG CLIMA will submit in 2021 an Implementing Regulation on the Member States' reporting of information as foreseen in the **Governance Regulation of the Energy Union**. This Regulation is needed to specify the provisions necessary for the integrated national energy and climate progress reports, which will be submitted by Member States to report on their progress towards the objectives defined in their National Energy and Climate Plans. Both DGs will also prepare the sixth State of the Energy Union Report, showing the progress made towards reaching energy and climate targets. DG CLIMA, together with DG ENER, will analyse whether the Governance Regulation needs to be revised in view of the revisions of the energy, climate and transport legal framework ("*Fit for 55 package*", cf. above) and the new priorities of the NextGenerationEU Recovery Plan.

Other important actions

Several **monitoring reports** will be adopted, such as the annual report on the functioning of the carbon market, the Climate Action Progress Report, the annual report on CO2 emissions from maritime transport and the annual report on progress of clean energy competitiveness for the year 2021.

DG CLIMA will complete in 2021 the ongoing **infringement proceedings** for non-communication of transposition of the revised EU ETS Directive³³ (phase 4 ETS) and the conformity check of this transposition.

Specific objective 3 - FINANCE: Climate-related spending mainstreamed in the EU budget and in private funds to finance the green and just transition and invest in particular in low carbon and other climate innovations

DG CLIMA will supervise the implementation of three programmes, namely the **Innovation Fund, the sub-programme “Climate Mitigation and Adaptation” of the LIFE programme** and **Horizon Europe’s cluster 5** related to climate, energy and mobility (co-chaired by DG CLIMA, DG RTD, DG MOVE and DG ENER).

As from the 1st of January 2021, DG CLIMA will become a parent DG of **the European Climate, Environment and Infrastructure Executive Agency (CINEA)**. The former executive agency INEA is now converted into a “climate agency” with a clear focus on climate, environment and energy, entrusted *inter alia* with implementation tasks for the three programmes mentioned above.

DG CLIMA will ensure the **policy supervision, the strategic planning and policy feedback of the programmes** and will steer the executive agency’s operational, administrative and financial activities. It will also operationalise the concrete *modus operandi* defined in a Memorandum of Understanding detailing the collaboration with the Agency. For each call for proposals, DG CLIMA will initiate and coordinate the preparation and adoption of a Financing Decision, ensure that projects co-financed are aligned with the policy objectives and disseminate project results. DG CLIMA will also coordinate and mount, together with the CINEA, outreach and communication activities to promote the various programmes.

Concerning the **Innovation Fund**, award decisions for the 2020 calls for proposals will be adopted in 2021. Further, DG CLIMA will prepare, in close collaboration with CINEA, the

³³ Directive 2018/410

launching of second calls for large-scale and small-scale project proposals in second half of 2021, to financially support innovative low-carbon technologies and processes. DG CLIMA will also consider preparing a Commission Decision concerning the blending of Innovation Fund resources with InvestEU. Outreach and communication activities will be conducted, in particular online events to promote the calls and webinars to familiarise applicants with the application process. A second edition of the 'cleantech' financing conference will be organised as well.

DG CLIMA will finalise (in coordination with DG ENV, lead DG, and DG ENER) a Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of the **LIFE multiannual work programme** for 2021-2024 expected to be adopted by the second quarter of 2021. The DG will also prepare, together with CINEA, a call for proposals in the third quarter of 2021 to finance climate change mitigation and adaptation projects on the ground.

DG CLIMA will be actively involved in the implementation of the **Horizon Europe programme**. As co-chair of Cluster 5 on 'Climate, Energy and Mobility', DG CLIMA is defining the climate research focus of this Cluster together with DG RTD, DG ENER and DG MOVE. The goal is to adopt in early 2021 the first work programme for 2021/22. DG CLIMA will also continue to pursue, together with the different DGs involved in Horizon Europe, the mainstreaming of climate relevance across the programme. In addition, DG CLIMA is strongly involved in the preparation of two Missions, one related to climate adaptation and the other one related to climate-neutral and smart cities³⁴.

The **Modernisation Fund** is a dedicated funding programme to support 10 lower-income EU Member States in their transition to climate neutrality, by helping to modernise their energy systems and improve energy efficiency. It will be operational in January 2021 under the responsibility of the beneficiary Member States, who will work in close cooperation with the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Commission and the Investment Committee. Based on the investment proposals submitted by Member States to the EIB, the Commission will adopt **two disbursement decisions** respectively in July 2021 and in December 2021 specifying the amount to be disbursed to each investment confirmed as a priority investment by the EIB or recommended for the financing by the Investment Committee. DG CLIMA will cooperate with the EIB in daily operations and will conduct some outreach and support activities in Member States.

DG CLIMA will continue to monitor the further implementation of the two existing financial instruments, the **Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE)** and **Natural Capital**

³⁴ A Climate Resilient Europe - Prepare Europe for climate disruptions and accelerate the transformation to a climate resilient and just Europe by 2030' and '100 Climate-Neutral Cities by 2030 - by and for the citizens'

Financing Facility (NCF³⁵), funded by LIFE and delegated to the European Investment Bank. The EIB has signed eleven agreements under the PF4EE so far, and three additional operations are expected to be signed in 2021 .

The Commission has proposed to **mainstream climate across EU policies and spending**, including to increase the climate mainstreaming target of the EU up to an overall target of 30% contributing to climate action in the next MFF 2021-2027. Through bilateral contacts and supported by DG BUDG, DG CLIMA will continue to encourage the lead spending DGs to ensure the effective climate mainstreaming in their individual programmes. More broadly, DG CLIMA will continue to work towards ambitious implementation of the Green Deal Investment Plan. That includes putting in place climate proofing and ‘do no harm’ rules for public spending, and mainstreaming such considerations in the European Investment Bank (EIB) operations.

In the field of **sustainable finance**, DG CLIMA will continue working towards the integration of climate considerations in the corporate and financial market rules. In 2021, the DG will notably contribute to the Sustainable Finance Strategy and the policy and regulatory initiatives that the strategy would contain, including on climate risk integration and data availability. DG CLIMA will also continue to support the work of the Sustainable Finance Platform, the update of the Delegated Act for climate mitigation and adaptation taxonomy, the preparation of the Delegated Act under the article 8 of the Taxonomy regulation and the revision of the Non-Financial Reporting Directive and the International Platform on Sustainable Finance.

Specific objective 4 - COMMUNICATION AND DIALOGUE: A voice and a space is given to citizens, cities, regions and all stakeholders to design and implement climate actions, share information, launch grassroots activities and showcase solutions that others can follow through the Climate Pact and the EU Covenant of Mayors

The Communication on the **European Climate Pact**³⁶ launched at the end of 2020 outlines the objectives of this innovative Pact with citizens, stakeholders and society at large and the areas for future action.

The Pact will offer opportunities for people and organisations to learn about climate change, to develop and implement solutions, and to connect with others to multiply the impact of those solutions. The Pact will create a lively **space** to share information, debate and act on the climate crisis. It will **offer support** for a European climate movement to

³⁵ NCF is led by the Directorate-General for Environment

³⁶ [COM\(2020\)788 final](#)

grow and consolidate. It will focus on **spreading awareness and encouraging actions for example through the registration of their climate initiatives and pledges.**

At its launch, the Pact will allow people and organisations to learn and to commit to specific actions by becoming **Climate Pact Ambassadors**. Ambassadors will commit to climate action and engage in debates with people in their communities and networks about the options EU citizens have, what they can contribute to and why this is urgent. During the first year, the Pact will expand its activities to provide also the opportunity to launch and join climate action pledges, exchange experiences, and explore the aggregated impact of joint actions. As from 2021, a **dedicated Secretariat** will support the implementation of the Pact. The Secretariat will assist the Commission with information and communication tasks, identifying and sharing good practices that can help accelerate the necessary **changes in behaviour**, managing the **Pact's online platform**, engaging with stakeholders and facilitating meaningful participation, network and co-creation of actions, encouraging engagement, pledges and initiatives from citizens and stakeholders. The Pact's Knowledge Hub will support climate initiatives with expert knowledge and peer-to-peer support.

The objective of the **EU Covenant of Mayors (EU CoM)** in 2021 will be to assist cities in signing up to even more ambitious targets for 2030 in the midst of a global pandemic. In 2021, DG CLIMA will also continue to support cities in their transitions from planning to implementation of adaptation actions by providing them with technical assistance.

DG CLIMA will conduct by June 2021 its regular **EU27-wide Eurobarometer survey on perceptions of climate change** and attitudes towards fighting climate change. In the last report of 2019, climate change was increasingly considered not only as a very serious problem (93% of respondents), but singled out as the most serious problem facing the world today (60% of respondents). The 2021 Eurobarometer will assess the evolution of these views in the last two years, taking into account the COVID-19 pandemic context. The results will be published and presented widely via press, web and social media channels, speeches, via COMM/Representations, EEAS/Delegations, and by other DGs, at conferences and in presentations.

In 2021, DG CLIMA will continue contributing to the development and the implementation of the **corporate communication campaign on the European Green Deal** led by DG COMM³⁷. The communication actions related to the Climate Pact will be implemented in coherence and synergy with this corporate campaign.

³⁷ The Directorate-General for Communication

Specific objective 5 – ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE: EU society (people, nature and welfare) is increasingly climate-resilient, adapted and equipped, protected and insured against the adverse impacts of climate change

DG CLIMA will submit for adoption to the College in the first quarter of 2021 **a new, more ambitious EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change**. Most of the preparatory work took place in 2020, with a broad consultation of stakeholders and the preparation of an impact assessment. The new strategy will be publicised and widely disseminated and is expected to be discussed in Council and the European Parliament.

DG CLIMA will start **implementing as from 2021 the multiple actions foreseen in the revised EU adaptation strategy**. These will concern the further mainstreaming of adaptation considerations in EU legislation and instruments, continuing to encourage resilience-building in cities, closing further adaptation-relevant knowledge gaps, influencing public and private investments, including on nature-based solutions, promoting measures in support of a ‘just’ adaptation, and financially supporting adaptation actions.

For example, the Commission announced in the Renovation Wave Communication³⁸ in October 2020 that **buildings** benefitting from renovation in Europe should not only become climate- and environment-friendly but also resilient to the impacts of climate change. DG CLIMA will work in 2021 on concrete specifications for climate resilient buildings, with a view of mainstreaming adaptation into building policy, including the future Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment, the revision of the Construction Products Regulation³⁹ and the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive⁴⁰, all scheduled for 2021.

Major studies predict that climate change will imply growing health risks for people, such as growing heat stress or the spread of new infectious diseases such as COVID-19. Together with DG SANTE⁴¹ and the European Environment Agency (the EEA in Copenhagen), DG CLIMA will co-lead the establishment of the new **European Climate and Health Observatory**, to connect and share the relevant knowledge and data more efficiently, and to inform policy-making. It will provide easy access to a wide range of publications, tools, websites and other resources related to climate change and health. The observatory will become a key measure of the forthcoming EU adaptation strategy. It will be hosted on the

³⁸ [COM\(2020\)662 final](#)

³⁹ Initiative led by the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW)

⁴⁰ Initiative led by the Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER)

⁴¹ The Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety

Climate-ADAPT portal, and its website will be launched together with the publication of the strategy in early 2021.

DG CLIMA will be strongly involved in the preparation of the **Horizon Europe Mission** led by DG RTD on “**Adaptation to Climate Change, including Societal Transformation**”⁴². The Mission aims to prepare Europe to deal with climate disruptions, accelerating the transformation by supporting 200 communities to develop solutions for transformative adaptation and scaling-up 100 deep demonstrations of resilience with emphasis on cross-border cooperation and cohesion.

Specific objective 6 - INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS: The level of ambition of other greenhouse gas emitters is increased thanks to the EU’s leading role in climate diplomacy in line with the Paris Agreement and SDG 13

DG CLIMA will continue to engage with multilateral and bilateral partners to promote, convince and support other countries to implement ambitious climate policies across the world, as well as to effectively integrate climate action as a common goal across the international agenda in 2021.

In 2021, DG CLIMA will organise and participate in numerous meetings with international partners, including both governments and non-state actors with a view to building international support **for the global transition to climate-neutral, resilient and sustainable economies**. It will **promote the green recovery efforts** from COVID-19 and the acceleration of national action and increasing ambition, in particular with major emitters, on the implementation of the Paris Agreement. This will build on the EU’s own significantly increased ambition (cf. specific objective 1), in the context of the new/enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long Term Strategies to be presented by COP26 and beyond.

DG CLIMA will continue to engage and collaborate with **multilateral and plurilateral platforms and organisations** (G20/G7, Petersberg Climate Dialogue, UN organisations, OECD, IMF, Development Finance Institutions, NGO community and academia) through the organisation of and participation in Ministerial dialogues, high level seminars and other activities to raise awareness of the EU efforts and to effectively influence political discourse on the benefits of low emission transition. In particular, as in previous years, DG CLIMA will also organise the EU participation in the Ministerial Meeting of Climate Action (MoCA), which is co-convened by the EU, China and Canada. At the same time, the G7 work under British Presidency (Summit in June) and the G20 work under Italian Presidency

⁴² DG Research and Innovation (September 2020). [Proposed Mission: A Climate Resilient Europe](#)

(Ministerial in July and Summit in November) will offer extra milestones through 2021 to cement a growing club of major economies committed to achieve net-zero emissions by mid-century, to stimulate more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), to recover greener from the pandemic and to show more solidarity for urgent climate actions in the developing world.

DG CLIMA is leading the **EU international negotiations** in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the UNFCCC, originally scheduled to take place in November 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is currently scheduled to take place from 1-12 November 2021 in Glasgow, United Kingdom. In this context, DG CLIMA will coordinate the preparation of, and **lead the EU negotiations** at the UNFCCC summit, working in close cooperation with the rotating Council Presidencies and the EU Member States. DG CLIMA will continue to represent the Commission in the Working Party of the Council on International Environmental Issues - Climate Change. It will ensure timely submissions and active participation in the negotiating sessions and associated international discussions. The COP26 will provide the EU with a unique and global communication opportunity and a way **to inspire EU partners**, using the EU's participation and presence at the conference as a window to showcase the EU's commitment to become climate-neutral by 2050. At COP26, DG CLIMA **will organise side events** to stimulate the debate on key thematic areas, engage observers and facilitate dialogue with party delegates and other participants.

Bilateral relations and climate cooperation with advanced and emerging economies (G20) will be strengthened through strategic dialogues and external policy instruments, including the partnership and cooperation agreements and the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument. Enlargement and neighbourhood countries as well as Africa will be given special attention in line with the geographical priorities identified in the European Green Deal and the 2020 Strategy for Africa. DG CLIMA will manage and coordinate the **Strategic Partnerships for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPIPA)** project activities. In line with the agreed approach, DG CLIMA will pursue **Green Alliances** as appropriate with selected, leading economies who have demonstrated commitment to the highest ambition (i.e. especially climate neutrality by a date certain)⁴³, in full cooperation with other relevant commission services, the EEAS and the EU member States. In 2021, collaboration will be intensified, in view of accelerating the transition to net-zero emissions, with China, Japan, the USA, the **EU neighbourhood**⁴⁴ and

⁴³ Some major economies have signaled the intention to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 (Canada, Japan, South Africa and South Korea) and by 2060 (China). Also, the forthcoming US administration is expected to re-join the Paris Agreement and announce a long-term strategy for climate neutrality by 2050.

⁴⁴ Pre-Accession countries and the Neighbourhood East and South countries

Russia as well as with G20 partners in Africa and Latin America. Furthermore, DG CLIMA will engage with DGs INTPA and NEAR to ensure that climate action is mainstreamed in all development spending and reflected in countries' programming documents for the 2021-27 period as well as working to thoroughly integrate climate through all policy issues.

In addition to continuing and scaling up its regular climate diplomacy efforts with EEAS, the EU delegations and the Member States in line with the team Europe approach, DG CLIMA will further work on the correlations between climate action objectives and **trade policies**. It will contribute to the Union's trade policy development and will participate in the Free Trade Agreement negotiations on the Trade and Sustainable Development Chapters. It will support the efforts of DG TRADE⁴⁵ to improve the World Trade Organisation's action on climate and low-emission transitions. The DG will develop targeted communication material around the **carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM)**, an initiative to be prepared by DG TAXUD⁴⁶ to counteract the risk of carbon leakage by putting a carbon price on imports of certain goods from outside the EU with lower levels of climate ambition.

DG CLIMA will also participate in negotiations and meetings taking place in the context of the **Montreal Protocol, the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)**:

- Two meetings of the **Montreal Protocol** are programmed for 2021. Several key issues will be addressed: the replenishment of the Multilateral Fund, which assists developing countries implementation of the Protocol's requirements, assessing the phaseout of CFC-11 (an ozone depleting substance) and reflecting on the future role of the Protocol's institutions to address adequately the phasedown of HFCs. The EU and the Member States will coordinate and be fully engaged in these negotiations;
- Two sessions of **IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee** are scheduled in 2021. At the first one technical and operational carbon intensity measures are expected to be adopted. Technical guidelines needs to be adopted. These are actually developed by a working group co-chaired by the EC with China and Japan. In addition, discussions on medium-term measures (including market-based instruments) as well as preparatory work to revise the initial IMO GHG reduction Strategy are expected to start this year.

⁴⁵ The Directorate-General for Trade

⁴⁶ The Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union

- Preparations for the 2022 41st **ICAO Assembly** will start in 2021 focusing on the following key topics: the long-term aspirational goal; the use of Eligible Fuels and the agreement of methodologies and rules for the use of Lower Carbon Aviation Fuels; and finally, the review of CORSIA.

The DG will continue bilateral dialogues and participate in multilateral meetings on **international carbon markets**. It will support cooperation between carbon markets under the **Florence process**, where ETS-operating countries including China discuss issues of common interest, including the preparation, organisation, delivery and follow-up of the annual meeting (on-line or live). It will further cooperate bilaterally on carbon markets with selected partners (i.e. New Zealand, California, Mexico, Canada and China) and will finalise the implementation of the agreement linking the emissions trading systems of the EU and Switzerland. Since the UK has decided to create its own emissions trading system, similar to the EU ETS, there will likely be discussions or possibly start of negotiations if and possibly how the two systems may be linked. Since the Northern Ireland electricity generation is part of the EU ETS, close collaboration with the UK authorities will in any case be needed. Moreover, the DG will carefully transfer the data related to the UK out of the EU ETS into the UK's own emissions trading system.

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

In 2021, DG CLIMA will implement corporate strategies and will develop and implement actions at local level in areas such as gender equality, digitalisation, collaborative working and sustainability, contributing to the general objective of ‘A modern, high-performing and sustainable European Commission’. Considering the high political priority of climate action policies and the limited resources available in the DG, DG CLIMA will continue putting effort in implementing and encouraging measures leading to synergies and efficiency gains.

A. Human resource management

DG CLIMA’s political agenda for the year 2021 remains very heavy and **proper staffing is, more than ever, critical** to enable the DG to deliver on its main objectives in a timely manner. The human resources reinforcements received in January and July 2020 have helped with starting to address a number of urgencies and to mitigate the imbalance between staff and workload. However, at the same time, new initiatives and demanding deadlines continue to emerge in view of the political decisions, thus putting increasing pressure on the DG. At the core of its **local HR strategy**, the DG will continue ensuring the optimal deployment of its human resources, building effective talent pools and aligning the available resources with the strategic and specific objectives notably through a review of its structure. These elements will be further developed and formalised, in line with the new corporate HR strategy, in a local HR Strategy that DG CLIMA will adopt in the first quarter 2021.

In the field of **equal opportunities**, building on corporate initiatives such as the Female Talent Development Program, DG CLIMA will support women aspiring to take up future management positions and encourage them to follow the adequate learning and development paths. As such, the DG aims to achieve the new target of first-time appointment of women to middle management positions⁴⁷, which for DG CLIMA, for the period 2020-2022 is set at one additional female appointment.

In the field of **staff engagement**, DG CLIMA’s workforce continues to be affected by the heavy workload and the difficulties to recover from the continuous pressure, while upholding the high productivity level. In addition, the COVID-19 situation has forced the whole Commission to adopt new ways of working in record-breaking time. In this respect, considering all efforts required to adapt to the new situation, DG CLIMA’s staff has shown a high level of versatility, resilience and commitment, with consequences on their wellbeing and the work-life balance. The DG will adapt to the extent possible to this situation and will

⁴⁷ As set out in the Commission Decision SEC(2020) 146 of 1 April 2020

design and develop its new working practices within the frame of the new HR corporate strategy.

In the field of **learning and development**, efforts will continue in 2021 to help staff develop skills and knowledge that match the needs of the DG with a view of creating a pool of talent to ensure the best possible compatibility between staff competencies and service needs, and with attention to new distance collaboration and digital skills.

In the field of **internal communication**, the DG will continue direct and efficient communication to and with CLIMA staff on policy developments, priorities, corporate actions, staffing, logistics and trainings. The DG will continue its transparent, inclusive and participatory process on the new structure and the new ways of working. The DG will also further develop and implement its communication channels (weekly internal newsletter, Intranet, online lunchtime conferences and events and regular debriefing sessions by management to staff). As the climate dimension is increasingly integrated in other EU policy areas, DG CLIMA will further communicate its actions across the Commission collaborating with “Commission en direct” and providing support to corporate communication activities, such as EMAS for a climate-neutral Commission.

Objective: DG CLIMA 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:

Output	Indicator	Target
Local HR Strategy for DG CLIMA	Strategy approved by DG and corporate services	Q1 2021
Implementation of local actions to foster work engagement through new working practices	Staff satisfaction survey	Q4 2021
Implementation of the 2021 Learning and Development Plan	Local training initiatives implemented	Q4 2021
	Awareness raised to corporate training offers identified in the plan via newsletters	All courses identified and mentioned in AMC3 newsletters by Q4 2021
Programme of internal communication actions such as: - Lunchtime conferences - Debriefing breakfasts with Senior Management	Series of presentations organised and participation rate	On average, 50 participants for lunchtime conferences and 120 participants for debriefs with Senior Management

B. Sound financial management

DG CLIMA aims to ensure **sound and efficient management of its financial resources** and to maintain effective internal control, risk management and accounting systems.

The **internal control framework**⁴⁸ 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.

DG CLIMA has established an internal control system tailored to its particular characteristics and circumstances. 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'.

The DG is committed to ensuring that the control procedures in place also give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions. Since the beginning of 2020, DG CLIMA has been using the Public Procurement Management Tool (PPMT), which formalises the procedures of handling the public procurement files enhancing the sound financial management in the DG. In addition, DG CLIMA will adopt all corporate innovations and IT tools related to financial management (e.g. qualified electronic signature, e-procurement etc).

In 2021, following the delegation of the management of the Innovation Fund, the climate strand of the LIFE programme and cluster 5 of the Horizon Europe programme to the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA), DG CLIMA will regularly monitor if the executive agency acts in compliance with the legal framework and within their mandate.

To ensure the safeguarding of assets and information in the EU ETS, DG CLIMA performs regular risk assessments on its Information Systems. DG CLIMA and DIGIT jointly developed and will in 2021 continue to implement the Union Registry Security Plan of 2019 that includes 12 security measures. Implementation remains challenging and resource intense, as new specific measures that go beyond the Commission's catalogue of measures must be jointly designed and implemented. Implementation is further challenged by the need for segregation of certain tasks, requiring a different organisational mode in the IT sector. Cyberattacks against public institutions are becoming more common over the years. The attractiveness of the Union Registry as a target is not only linked to the EUA asset price (which has increased 5-6 times since 2017), but also to the visibility of the Union Registry, which grows in parallel to the key role this information system and EU ETS play within the Green Deal.

⁴⁸ [Communication C\(2017\)2373 - Revision of the Internal Control Framework](#)

These growing demands translate to the need of specialised profiles and segregation of duties which, in turn, translate to additional human and financial resources requests. As a result, continuing with the implementation of the security plan and enhancing the security in general will constitute the majority of the new IT investments in 2021. Other chapters will focus on improving the performance of the operations, after having finalised the adaptations for EU ETS Phase 4, Swiss Linking, Northern Ireland protocol and the UK exit.

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
Effective controls: safeguarded assets and information	Degree of implementation of the 12 security measures in the Union Registry ⁴⁹	80%
Efficient controls	Timely execution of payment	At least 97% of payments made within the time limits, as those defined by the financial regulation
Economical controls	Overall estimated cost of controls	Maintain the cost of controls (as a percentage of the budget managed) below or equal to 2019 levels (i.e. 4.2%)
Open recommendations from European Court of Auditors (ECA) and Internal Audit Service (IAS)	Number of recommendations from ECA and IAS overdue for more than 6 months	None

C. Fraud risk management

To enhance fraud risk management, DG CLIMA will implement its anti-fraud strategy through the following actions in 2021, thereby contributing to the Commission’s own 2019 Anti-Fraud Strategy:

⁴⁹ Expressed as a percentage, representing the average of the degree of implementation of the 12 measures

1. Dissemination of anti-fraud measures and raising 'fraud awareness' within DG CLIMA
2. Developing and communicating Fraud Indicators / "Red Flags"
3. Following up on fraud cases (if any)

In addition, DG CLIMA will finalise its updated anti-fraud strategy⁵⁰ in line with the 2019 Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy. A survey was carried out, addressed to the management of the DG and related to the prevention and detection of fraud. The results provided inputs to the new strategy.

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)⁵¹ aimed at the prevention, detection and correction⁵² of fraud

Main outputs in 2021:

Output	Indicator	Target
Adoption of the revised anti-fraud strategy and implementation of the actions with target date 2021	% of implementation of actions planned for 2021 in the anti-fraud strategy	100% implementation of actions planned for 2021
Awareness trainings organised for target population as identified in DG CLIMA's anti-fraud strategy	% of target population having attended training sessions on anti-fraud	100% of target population

D. Digital transformation and information management

Digital transformation was boosted by the COVID-19 pandemic with paperless processes becoming the norm from March 2020, when most of the Commission staff started teleworking. Another consequence of this situation is the increased need for video conferencing and collaborative working IT tools. In 2021, DG CLIMA will further promote and roll out the use of Microsoft Teams and other Office 365 applications as well as the different videoconference and collaboration tools (such as Webex, Skype for Business and Commission wikis). The IT sector will further deploy the new toolsets for online collaborative editing, conference note-taking, content creation etc. and will promote their use across the different units in the DG.

⁵⁰ Cf. action 11 of the 2019 CAFS action plan

⁵¹ Communication from the Commission 'Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy: enhanced action to protect the EU budget', [COM\(2019\)196](#) – 'the CAFS Communication' – and the accompanying action plan, [SWD\(2019\) 170](#) – 'the CAFS Action Plan'.

⁵² Correction of fraud is an umbrella term, which notably refers to the recovery of amounts unduly spent and to administrative sanctions.

In the area of the 11 EC Digital Strategy principles, during 2021, DG CLIMA will continue to prioritise its resources on the two principles concerned with “security and privacy”. Both “Privacy by design” and “Security by design” principles underpin every measure included in the challenging implementation of the **Union Registry security plan**, aimed at increasing the resilience against cyberattacks of the prime system enabling the EU Emission Trading Scheme. The constantly increasing security risks have called for increased allocations, limiting DG CLIMA’s ability to progress on the remaining principles. In the other areas, the emphasis will, to the extent possible, be set on data and user centricity, aligning the local datawarehouse and data analytics developments with the corporate tools and enablers outlined in the DataStrategy@EC initiative.

In the field of **data, information and knowledge management**, DG CLIMA will continue to focus its actions on ensuring that good and sufficient data are available for its policy development and that legislation can work effectively. The Data Strategy@EC action plan and the “Data governance and data policies at the European Commission” define key Commission-wide principles and pilot implementation actions. In 2021, DG CLIMA will progress further in implementing these principles for the eight key data assets identified, focusing on updating metadata for the corporate data inventory and improving the documentation of data-related processes.

In 2021, DG CLIMA will continue to open more files to other DGs in the **document management system ARES** and will further implement the Sensitive Non Classified (SNC) information policy and its own “special handling” instructions in the sensitive EU ETS area. Further awareness raising and trainings will be organised.

DG CLIMA will also pursue its effort to adopt more **electronic workflows**, not only to achieve a paperless way of working but also because the situation of generalised social distancing and large-scale teleworking has shown how such transformation is key to ensure business continuity (with a specific focus on electronic workflows for financial transactions).

In the context of (personal) data protection, DG CLIMA will continue to implement the Commission's **Data Protection Action Plan**⁵³. It will assess the compliance of processes with general principles in particular as regards lawfulness, data minimisation and storage limitation. The DG will continue to implement actions such as awareness raising of staff through dedicated trainings, continuous updates of the dedicated intranet pages, the model templates and the procedures in case of data breaches and the inclusion of data protection on the agenda of management meetings. In 2021, DG CLIMA will also prepare two new data processing operations, one concerning the Regulation on CO2 emissions from cars and

⁵³ COM(2018)7432 final

vans⁵⁴, and the other one concerning the Climate Pact, to be recorded and published in the public registry of the Data Protection Officer.

Objective: DG CLIMA 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:		
Output	Indicator	Target
Compliance with the digital solutions modernisation plan	Percentage of compliance established by scoring the 3 most important IT systems against the 11 principles	At least 70%
Improved implementation of corporate principles for data governance	Percentage to which these principles have been implemented for CLIMA key data assets	60%
Review of existing ARES files to identify those that can be usefully shared with other DGs	Number of ARES files made accessible to other DGs	88%
Awareness-raising and training session on SNC information and on DG CLIMA special handling policy	Number of trainings organised	3 Awareness-raising and training sessions on SNC information and on DG CLIMA special handling policy
Use of electronic workflows for financial transactions	Percentage of CLIMA financial transactions in paperless mode	93%
Proactive dissemination of up-to-date information on personal data protection	Number of trainings organised for specific groups and information on DG CLIMA intranet	2 trainings for managers and newcomers, bilateral trainings on specific topics when needed + totally revamped intranet dedicated pages

E. Sound environmental management

DG CLIMA will continue contributing actively to the **Commission’s objective to becoming a climate-neutral organisation by 2030**. In 2021, as a follow-up to the feasibility and scoping study commissioned in 2020, DG CLIMA will participate in a focus group preparing the Commission’s action plan in this respect, such as the elaboration of a new **Commission-wide policy** on reducing emissions from business trips, meetings and events, of internal guidance on implementing the action plan, including on green procurement to support implementation of the European Green Deal Communication’s objective that “Public authorities, including the EU institutions, should lead by example and ensure that their procurement is green.”

⁵⁴ [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/631](#)

DG CLIMA is fully committed to implementing itself the measures of this forthcoming corporate greening and climate neutrality action plan. With regard to the likely increase in **teleworking** also after the COVID-19 pandemic, and in view of its rebound effects⁵⁵, CLIMA will support Commission efforts to study the climate impact of Commission staff teleworking from home, aiming to reduce its climate footprint. For **events and meetings**, DG CLIMA will apply the Commission’s Guidelines on organising sustainable Commission meetings and events and will follow DG SCIC’s tips for greener events. CLIMA will build on its good track record (e.g. being the incumbent and four-time winner of the Commission’s VeloMai competition) to continue to actively encourage **sustainable commuting**.

Objective: DG CLIMA 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:

Output	Indicator	Target
Analysis of DG CLIMA missions trends to assess the potential for reducing CO2 emissions (e.g. optimising the number of participants, promoting more sustainable travelling options, promoting videoconferencing / virtual events as an alternative)	Analysis completed CLIMA travel policy written and communicated to staff, in line with corporate policy	Q4 2021
Staff awareness actions on reducing GHG emissions regarding staff commuting, on green purchases amongst service’s staff (e.g. green office supplies’) and on waste reduction and sorting	Number of participants Number of trainings Number of newsletter	1 lunchtime conference on “The Greening the Commission Communication – what does it mean for CLIMA staff?” 1 training targeted at staff procuring office supplies 1 training targeted at staff organising meetings

⁵⁵ [“A systematic review of the energy and climate impacts of teleworking”](#), A. Hook et al. 2020-04-17: *“Despite the generally positive verdict on teleworking as an energy-saving practice, there are numerous uncertainties and ambiguities about its actual or potential benefits. These relate to the extent to which teleworking may lead to unpredictable increases in non-work travel and home energy use that may outweigh the gains from reduced work travel. **The available evidence suggests that economy-wide energy savings are typically modest, and in many circumstances could be negative or non-existent.**”*

[IEA article “Working from home can save energy and reduce emissions. But how much?”](#) (2020):

*“The longer term impacts on energy and emissions of a trend towards greater working from home are uncertain. [...] **Habitual home working could lead to people living farther from their place of work, potentially offsetting the demand reductions in energy for commuting.**”*

		At least 3 newsletter articles (or some “tips” to be sent to all staff) Promotion of EU mobility week and VeloMai Corporate events
Implementation of the EC Guidelines for sustainable meetings and events; and of tips for Greener events followed (e.g. reduce / eliminate single-use plastics, gadgets / gifts, plant-based catering etc.)	% of meetings and events organised by DG CLIMA to which the guidelines are applied	100%
Participation in the end-of-year energy saving action, by closing down DG/service’s buildings during the end-of-year holiday period	CLIMA participating in the action in closing its building	-1% in total energy consumption (compared with the previous year)
‘BEST’ initiative for ‘Building Energy Savings Together’		Reduction of energy and consumption (compared with previous year)


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





The **reorganisation of the DG** envisaged for 2021 will be operated notably with a view to better align resources available with the new Commission priorities, the increased political focus on climate policy and the ‘new normal’ of virtual and collaborative ways of working. While ensuring a transparent, inclusive and participatory process for all staff, it will also be an opportunity to achieve further synergies and efficiency gains.

The **concentration of climate-related programmes** such as LIFE, the Innovation Fund and cluster 5 of Horizon Europe (‘Climate, energy and mobility’) in the new European Climate, Environment and Infrastructure Executive Agency (CINEA) should lead to implementation synergies and cross-fertilisation of feedback into policy making.

In addition, DG CLIMA will further roll-out its **paperless policy**, in particular concerning electronic workflows for financial transactions to be validated via the Qualified Electronic Signature (QES). The DG will further integrate and implement e-Procurement modules.

ANNEX 1: Performance tables

Initiatives that are part of the Commission Work Programme 2021 are marked with the following icon . The interinstitutional studies database contains complete and up-to-date information concerning DG CLIMA planned evaluations and studies.

General objective: A European Green Deal		
Specific objective 1: Climate neutrality to be achieved by 2050 through a well-functioning EU carbon market and a fair regulatory framework for the EU and its Member States to reduce emissions		Related to spending programme(s) LIFE Regulation
Main outputs in 2021:		
New policy initiatives		
Output	Indicator	Target
 Fit for 55 package - Revision of the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS), including maritime, aviation and CORSIA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updating the EU Emissions Trading System, including maritime (PLAN/2020/8684) Revision of the EU Emission Trading System Directive concerning aviation (PLAN/2019/5485) 	Adoption by the Commission, including :	Q2 2021
	Publication of the impact assessment concerning the update of the EU ETS including maritime	Q2 2021
	Publication of the Impact assessment concerning aviation	Q2 2021
 Fit for 55 package - Updating Member State emissions reduction targets (Effort Sharing Regulation) in line with the 2030 climate target plan (PLAN/2020/8680)	Adoption by the Commission, including publication of the impact assessment	Q2 2021
 Fit for 55 package - Land use, land use change and forestry – review of EU rules (PLAN/2020/8682)	Adoption by the Commission, including publication of the impact assessment	Q2 2021
 Fit for 55 package - Revision of the CO2 emission standards for cars and vans (PLAN/2020/8689)	Adoption by the Commission, including publication of the impact assessment	Q2 2021
Review of EU rules on fluorinated greenhouse gases (PLAN/2020/7308)		Q4 2021
Review of the Fuel Quality Directive	Adoption by the Commission, including publication of the impact assessment	Q2 2021

Communication on an EU Forest Strategy (PLAN/2020/8551)	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2021
Communication on Carbon Removal Certification (CRC)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2021
Carbon farming initiative	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2021
Climate Law COM(2020)563 and COM(2020)80	Adoption by the co-legislators	Q1 2021
Commission proposal to amend the EU MRV shipping Regulation COM(2019)38	Adoption by the co-legislators	Q2 2021
Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction		
Output	Indicator	Target
Ozone layer protection – revision of EU rules (PLAN/2020/6630)	Adoption by the Commission, including publication of the impact assessment	Q4 2021
Evaluations and fitness checks		
Output	Indicator	Target
Evaluation of the F-gas Regulation (PLAN/2020/6373)	Evaluation Staff Working Document published	Q4 2021
Evaluation of article 7a of the Fuel Quality Directive	Evaluation Staff Working Document published	Q2 2021
Public consultations		
Output	Indicator	Target
Open public consultation on the update of the EU Emissions Trading System, including maritime (PLAN/2020/8684)	Results of the consultation presented in the synopsis report (annexed to the impact assessment)	Q2 2021
Open public consultation on the update of Member State emissions reduction targets (Effort Sharing Regulation) in line with the 2030 climate target plan (PLAN/2020/8680)	Results of the consultation presented in the synopsis report (annexed to the impact assessment)	Q2 2021
Open public consultation on Land use, land use change and forestry – review of EU rules (PLAN/2020/8682)	Results of the consultation presented in the synopsis report (annexed to the impact assessment)	Q2 2021
Open public consultation on the revision of the CO2 emission standards for cars and vans (PLAN/2020/8689)	Results of the consultation presented in the synopsis report (annexed to the impact assessment)	Q2 2021
Open public consultation on the review of EU rules on fluorinated greenhouse gases (PLAN/2020/7308)	Results of the consultation presented in the synopsis report (annexed to the impact assessment)	Q4 2021
EU Forest Strategy (PLAN/2020/8551)	Completion	Q2 2021
Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
EU ETS Phase 4 Aviation Allocation	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2021

Decision – 2021-2023 (PLAN/2020/9570)		
Implementing and Delegated Acts to ensure the proper functioning of the CO2 emission standards framework for light and heavy duty vehicles.	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2021
Procurement Contracts	Contracts signed	17 contracts by 31/12/2021

General objective: A EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

Specific objective 2: EU climate legislation is monitored through the Energy Union Governance and mainstreamed in the European Semester process

Related to spending programme(s)
LIFE Regulation

Main outputs in 2021:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
Contribution to the Commission assessment of national recovery and resilience plans	Qualitative and timely contribution	Q2 2021
Implementing regulation on the Member States' reporting of information foreseen in the Governance of the Energy Union (PLAN/2018/4711)	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2021

Public consultations

Public consultation on Implementing regulation on the Member States' reporting of information foreseen in the Governance of the Energy Union (PLAN/2018/4711)	Completion	Q2 2021
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Enforcement actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Infringement proceedings for non-communication of transposition of Directive 2018/410 (Phase 4 EU ETS)	Completion	Q3 2021
Conformity check for transposition of Directive 2018/410 (Phase 4 EU ETS)	Completion	Q3 2021

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Integration of climate transitions into the European Semester (Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy, country reports and country-specific recommendations)	Delivery	Q4 2021
Report on the Functioning of the	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2021

European Carbon Market in 2021		
2021 Annual Report on CO2 Emissions from Maritime Transport	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2021
Sixth report on the State of the Energy Union	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2021
Annual Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on progress of clean energy competitiveness for the year 2021 (PLAN/2020/9524)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2021
Climate Action Progress Report 2021	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2021
Procurement contracts	Contracts signed	2 contracts by 31/12/2021

General objective: A EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

Specific objective 3: Climate-related spending mainstreamed in the EU budget and in private funds to finance the green and just transition and invest in particular in low carbon and other climate innovations

Related to spending programme(s)
LIFE Regulation and EU budget, ETS funds outside the EU budget

Main outputs in 2021:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
LIFE Multiannual Work Programme for 2021-2024	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2021
Horizon Europe – Cluster 5 - Work Programme for 2021/22	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2021
Commission Decision concerning the blending of the Innovation Fund with InvestEU	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2021
Updated delegated act for climate mitigation and adaptation taxonomy	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2021

External communication actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Webinars concerning the application process for the Innovation Fund	Number of webinars	4 webinars
	Number of attendees	400 attendees per webinar (physical and/or online)
	Number of posts on social media	12 posts on social media
Cleantech financing conference	Number of conferences	2 conferences
	Number of attendees	400 attendees per conference (physical and/or online)
	Number of posts on social media	6 posts on social media

	media	
Knowledge sharing event on NER300 and Innovation Fund	Number of attendees	200 attendees (physical and/or online)
	Number of posts on social media	3 posts on social media

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
2 disbursement decisions under the Modernisation Fund	Decision adopted	July 2021 and December 2021
Award decisions on 2020 LIFE climate action calls for proposals (traditional and integrated projects)	Decisions adopted	Q4 2021
Award decision on LIFE 2020 Call for Proposals from NGOs	Decision adopted	Q3 2021
Award decision on the Innovation Fund 2020 call for proposals	Decision adopted	Q4 2021
Financial agreements under the financial instruments	Operations signed	3 by 31/12/2021
Procurement contracts	Contract signed	5 contracts by 31/12/2021

General objective: A EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

Specific objective 4: A voice and a space is given to citizens, cities, regions and all stakeholders to design and implement climate actions, share information, launch grassroots activities and showcase solutions that others can follow through the Climate Pact and the EU Covenant of Mayors

*Related to spending programme(s)
LIFE Regulation*

Main outputs in 2021:

External communication actions

Output/ Result	Indicator	Target
Special Eurobarometer survey on the perception of climate change	Publication	Q2 2021

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Climate Pact's online platform	Platform is online	Q1 2021
Pledges recorded on the Climate Pact's platform	First pledges recorded	Q1 2021
Climate Pact Ambassadors	First Ambassadors nominated	Q1 2021
Procurement contracts	Contracts signed	3 contracts by 31/12/2021


General objective: A EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

Specific objective 5: EU society (people, nature and welfare) is increasingly climate-resilient, adapted and equipped, protected and insured against the adverse impacts of climate change

Related to spending programme(s)
LIFE Regulation

Main outputs in 2021:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
New EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change  ⁵⁶	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2021

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Launch of the pilot Observatory	Number of page visits	Q1 2021
Implementation of the actions as foreseen in the new Adaptation Strategy	Actions implemented on time	Q4 2021
Procurement contracts	Contracts signed	4 contracts by 31/12/2021

General objective: A EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

Specific objective: The level of ambition of other GHG emitters is increased thanks to the EU's leading role in climate diplomacy in line with the Paris Agreement and SDG 13

Related to spending programme(s)
International conventions and agreements

Main outputs in 2021:

External communication actions

Output/ Result	Indicator	Target
Side events hosted under the EU pavilion at COP26	Number of side events hosted	90
	Number of attendees	An average of 40 participants per event (physical and/or online)

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Lead the EU negotiations at COP26	Completion	Q4 2021
Participation in UNFCCC meetings (2 meetings)	Completion	Q4 2021

⁵⁶ As part of the [Commission Work programme 2020](#)

Participation in Montreal Protocol meetings (2 meetings)	Completion	Q4 2021
Preparation, organisation, delivery and follow-up of the annual Florence meeting	Completion	Q3 2021
Ministerial of Climate Action (MoCA) process	Completion	Q3 2021
Procurement contracts	Contracts signed	5 contracts by 31/12/2021