

# Environmental policymaking in the EU

This posters focus is environmental policymaking in the European Union, especially the environmental aspects of the NextGenerationEU package, and the evolution of environmental policymaking up until today in the EC and the EU.8

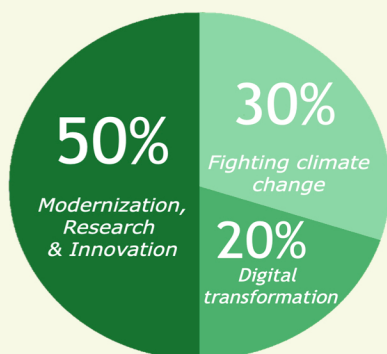


Picture from clusterfoodservice.org

## NextGenerationEU

### General:

- A temporary instrument to promote economic recovery
- Largest financial package ever (€750 billion)
- Long-term goals: make Europe greener, more digital and resilient (for future threats)
- In accordance with the EU's long-term 7-year budget («multi financial framework», 2021-2027, €1.074 billion)
- Total: €1.084 billion



### How:

- Distributed to member states through grants (€390 billion) and loans (€360 billion)
- The amount distributed is depending on:
  1. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita
  2. Unemployment levels
  3. Population
  4. Impact of the coronavirus crisis
- Part of the allocation will be calculated later on (to take into account the loss in real GDP over 2020 and cumulatively over 2020-2021)

### Condition:

- Member states need to submit Recovery and Resilience Plans to the Commission (explain what they will spend the money on)
- These plans then need to cohere the challenges identified in the European Semester and need to promote green and digital transitions

### Procedure:

- The Commission assesses the Recovery and Resilience plans and the European Council will then approve them
- The money will be given to the member states once they achieved milestones and goals they set for themselves

### Financing of the recovery measures:

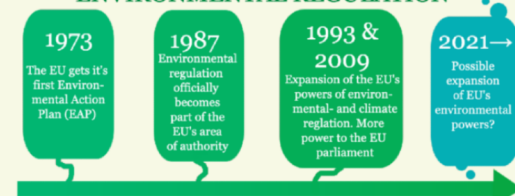
- The Commission is borrowing a maximum of 750 billion on the financial markets, on behalf of the European Union
- The EU will start repaying after the current budget, and will have paid the debt within 2058

## Evolution of EU environmental policymaking

The European Semester (ES) is a multi-annual exchange/discussion between the European Commission and Member States to achieve the EU's targets, both in terms of the Europe 2020 Strategy and of the Stability and Growth Pact.

- Each year, the European Commission (EC) analyses in detail EU Member States' economic and structural reforms programs and provides them with a set of recommendations for the following 12-18 months. During this time, EU Member States (MSs) have to align their budgetary and economic policies with the objectives and rules agreed at EU level, within the targets previously mentioned.

## EVOLUTION OF THE EU'S POWERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION



## Historical EU Periods of environmental regulation

### FIRST PERIOD (1973 - 1987)

In these years, environmental regulation and protection was certainly on the agenda of the European Community, but it did not have direct legislative competence. The EC therefore relied on legislation relating to the common market to achieve its environmental goals, such as common environmental standards in production of products. This helped to remove non-tariff barriers to trade within the community, as well as protecting air, water and soil from pollution.

### SECOND PERIOD (1987 - 1992)

The Single European Act officially made environmental legislation a competence of the European community, and introduced the Council and EU parliament to the decision making. The formalization of the ECs competence in the field allowed it to broaden the scope of their environmental goals, and the period saw a growth policy output. The period also saw a growth in emissions-regulations, indicating a move to embrace a climate perspective; not just protecting local environment.

### THIRD PERIOD (1993 - present)

The Maastricht Treaty in 1993, and later the Lisbon Treaty in 2009, further extended the EU's environmental legislation powers, as well as giving the EP parliament co-decision powers (QMV) in the policy area. The climate and energy aspects of environmental policy also became explicitly codified as a prerogative of the EU. This period saw a shift in focus from legislation, to implementation of already existing regulations.

The EU may be entering a new phase of environmental legislation with the passing of the NextGenerationEU package



### What happens next?

- The adoption of the MFF (multiannual financial framework) requires several legislative acts
- The MFF Regulation needs to be approved once again by the European Parliament and then, unanimously, by the member states represented in the Council.
- The Own Resources Decision, which is, among other things, the legal basis for the financing of Next Generation EU, must also be ratified by all member states. The ORD establishes how the EU budget comes about.
- However, it is unlikely that this process of legislation will be completed before 2021.

### Discussion question:

Why do you think the focus is put on environmental protection given that the NextGenerationEU is about recovering the economy?

Sources:

Beetsma, R., Codogno, L., van den Noord, P. (2020) Next Generation EU: Europe needs pan-European investment. Available from: <https://voeu.org/content/next-generation-eu-europe-needs-pan-european-investment>  
Cini, M., Pérez-Solís, B. (2019) European Union Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press  
European Commission. (2020) Recovery Plan. Available from: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/recovery-plan-europe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/recovery-plan-europe_en)

European Commission. (2020) Recovery plan for Europe. Available from: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/recovery-plan-europe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/recovery-plan-europe_en)  
European Commission. (2020) The 2021-2027 EU budget - What's new? Available from: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/2021-2027/whats-new\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/2021-2027/whats-new_en)  
Wallace, H., Pollack, M. A., Young, A. R. (2015) Environmental Policy-Making in the EU. Oxford: Oxford University Press  
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-recovery-plan/>



UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN