


What is the EU doing on Climate Change, what can it do more?




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Commissions proposals

-  Preventing dangerous climate change is a key priority for the European Union. Europe is working hard to cut its greenhouse gas emissions substantially while encouraging other nations and regions to do likewise.

Key EU targets for 2020

-  **20% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared with 1990**
-  **20% of total energy consumption from renewable energy**
-  **20% increase in energy efficiency**

Key EU targets for 2030

- 🌍 At least **40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions** compared with 1990
- 🌍 At least **32%** of total energy consumption from **renewable energy**
- 🌍 At least **32.5%** increase in **energy efficiency**


Long-term goal

-  By 2050, the EU aims to **cut its emissions substantially – by 80-95%** compared to 1990 levels as part of the efforts required by developed countries as a group.
-  Turning Europe into a highly energy efficient and low-carbon economy will also **boost the economy**, create jobs and strengthen Europe's competitiveness.

Adapting to climate change

- The European Commission has adopted an **EU Adaptation Strategy** and wants all its Member States to adopt national plans to cope with the inevitable impacts of climate change by 2017. A number of Member States have already developed **adaptation strategies**.
- For example, this includes measures such as:
 - using less water
 - adapting building regulations
 - building flood defences
 - developing crops that cope better in drought conditions

Action towards climate targets

 The EU is pursuing its climate targets through a combination of **financial support** and **regulation**.



It's all about money

- 🌐 At least 20% of the EU's **budget for 2014 to 2020** - €180 billion - should be spent on protecting the climate. This is on top of funding from individual EU countries.
- 🌐 The EU finances **low-carbon energy demonstration projects** from the sale of emission certificates. This includes technologies to trap carbon dioxide from power stations and other industrial installations and store it in the ground, so-called **carbon capture and storage (CCS)**.

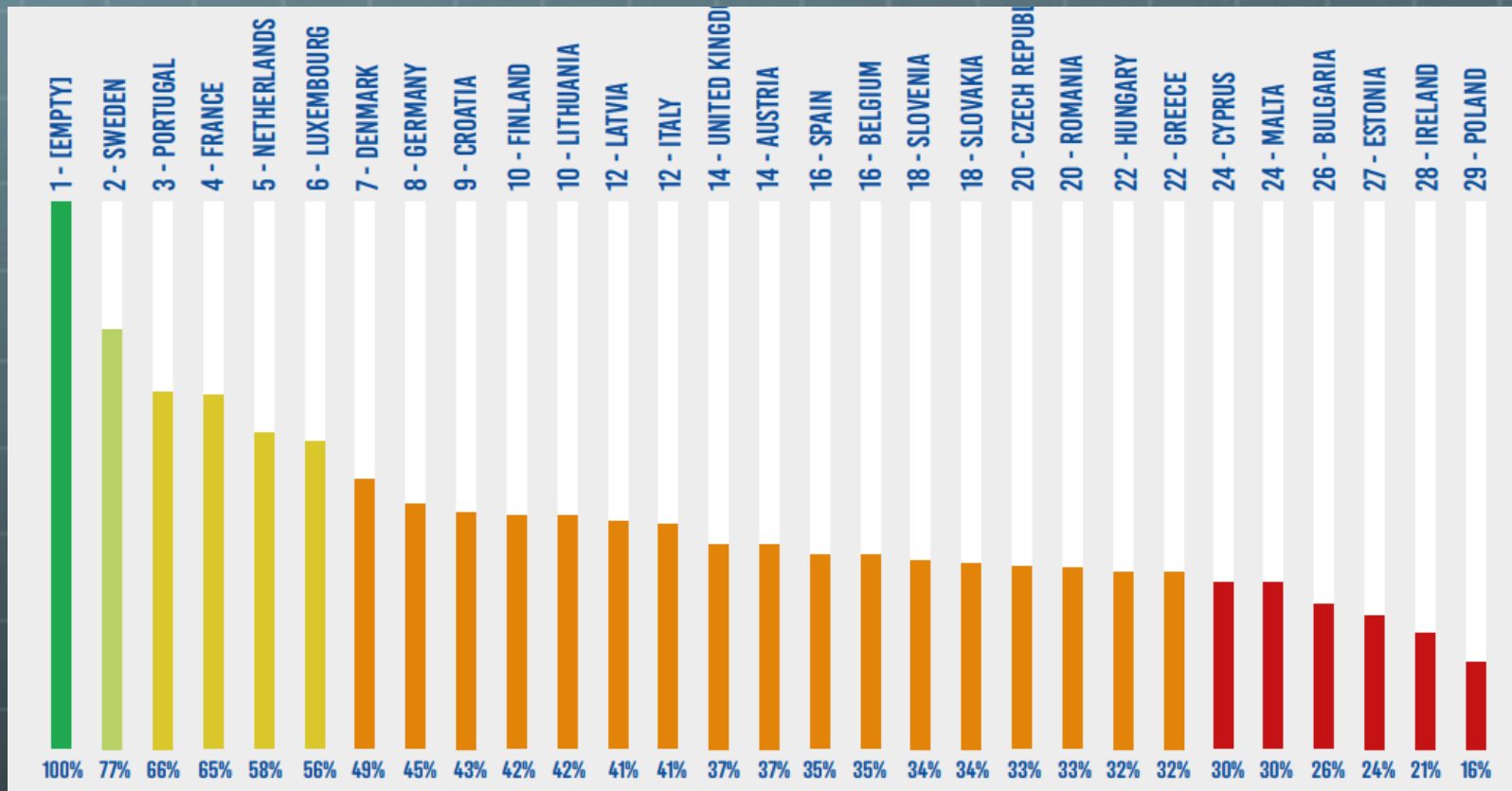
Regulation

- 🌐 The **EU's emissions trading system**
- 🌐 EU countries are required to support **renewable energy** sources such as wind, solar and biomass (?) to reach the green energy targets
- 🌐 Energy efficiency in buildings and equipment (household)
- 🌐 Car manufacturers have to reduce CO₂ emissions from **new cars and vans**.

Examples of concrete politics

-  **The Renewable Energy Directive of 2018** stipulates that renewable energies will account for 32% of the European Union's energy budget from 2030.
-  For the first time, the EU has taken a step in the direction of **phasing out specific bio-fuels** which contribute to deforestation through EU legislation.

And now: The reality-check



Why didn't we get it done?

- 🌐 Member States are driven by domestic interests (car industry, mining industry, ...)
- 🌐 Lobbyism against climate measures focusses on Member States
- 🌐 Non compliance of Member States with European decisions – lengthy procedures by Commission
- 🌐 Watering down decisions - Comitology

Necessary structural changes

 Reform of Comitology

 Implementation in Member States

 Lobby-Control

 Unanimity in taxation

Comitology

- 🌐 So called technical details are decided in exclusive circles of government representatives and experts (revolving door-problem)
- 🌐 Too many concrete measures are shifted to comitology – especially when the Council does not come to an agreement. The EP is excluded.




Implementation into national laws and practice

- 🌐 The control of national implementations has been weakened in the last 10 years.
- 🌐 Especially in the field of environmental laws the Commission is reluctant to measures.
- 🌐 Complainants (i.e. European citizens) are not treated adequately. – the famous pilot project!
- 🌐 Is it enough to name and shame???

Lobbyism

- 🌐 Lobbyists focus more and more on the Council – there is no transparency.
- 🌐 Revolving doors
- 🌐 Example from last year: Exxon Mobile was funding climate change denial groups
- 🌐 Full transparency is the tool!

Remove unanimity in taxation?

-  Proposal from the Commission
-  Defended by Austria because of the nuclear ban that then could be questioned.
-  We need a differentiated tool!



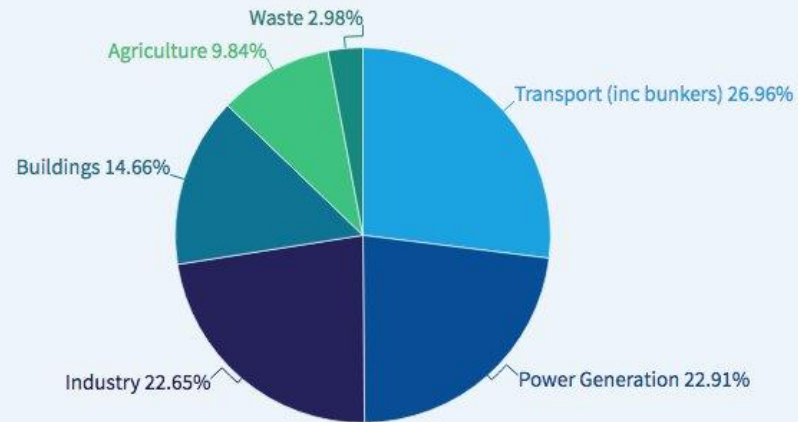
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Example: Transport

- 🌐 Transport contributes about 25 % to GHG
- 🌐 Transport rates are still growing
- 🌐 Mobility is the „holy cow“ in the climate debate
- 🌐 No taxation on fuels for shipping and aviation
- 🌐 No harmonized road pricing
- 🌐 **We have to stop subsidising climate change!**

Transport is still growing

Transport in 2016 is Europe's biggest climate problem



● Transport (inc bunkers) ● Power Generation ● Industry ● Buildings ● Agriculture ● Waste

Data source: [EEA Approximated EU greenhouse gas inventory 2016](#)

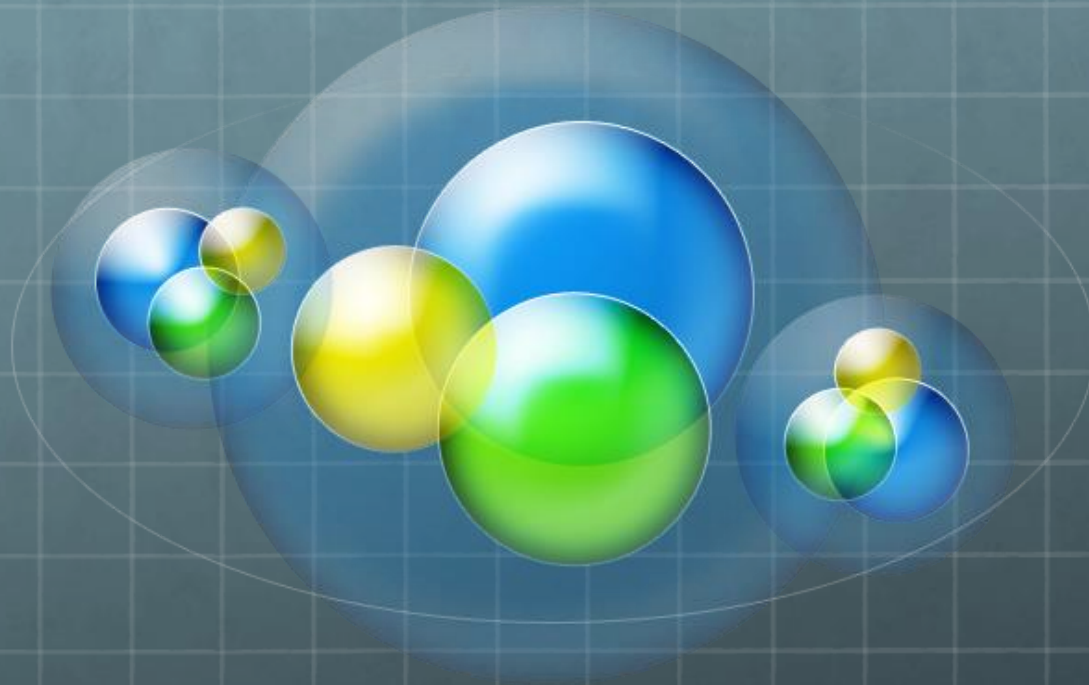
Notes: 2015 emissions shares are used as a proxy to split the 2016 'Energy Industries' (IPCC sector 1.A.1) emissions into 'Power Generation' (IPCC sector 1.A.1.a) and 'Industry' (IPCC sectors 1.A.1.b, 1.A.1.c, 1.A.2. 2), as these splits are not available until official reports are released in spring 2018.

Shipping

- 🌐 Shipping still runs largely on dirty heavy fuel oil, cheap and untaxed, emits large quantities of sulphur and other pollutants, as well as greenhouse gases.
- 🌐 is exempted from energy taxes under the EU's Energy Tax Directive (ETD) and herewith subsidised.
- 🌐 T&E described it as 'a perverse incentive for climate pollution' and recommended including shipping in the EU emissions trading system (ETS) to end this historical anachronism.

Sustainable cities



- 🌍 Focus on walking and cycling
- 🌍 Invest in public transport
- 🌍 Forget about E-Cars and selfdriving cars!
- 🌍 Reform urban planning
- 🌍 Give a fair choice!
- 🌍 Car use has begun in cities and should end in cities!



What needs to be done?

First steps



Stop subsidising climate warming!

-  55 billion € of public subsidies from EU and Member States per year have to be reorientated to the ecological (and social responsible) transition.
-  The money is urgently needed for a smooth transition!

Adjust Taxation

- 🌐 Abolish unfair taxation-systems in transport
 - 🌐 Taxation on Kerosene and fuels for maritime transport
- 🌐 Reform ETS
 - 🌐 there are too much allowances on the market!
 - 🌐 A fair price for carbon!
- 🌐 From taxation of work to taxation of pollution

European Funds

-  For all funds of the Union:
climate proof for EU-
subsidies,
-  Member States should
follow this path.

Thanks for the attention

And get active!