

A close-up photograph of two hands, one older and one younger, gently holding a small green seedling with three leaves. The seedling is growing out of a mound of dark soil. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The image is framed by a white border.

ETORKIZUNA
ERAIKIZ
think tank

GREEN RECOVERY GIPUZKOA
REPORT OF THE 5th MEETING

22/06/2021

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ETORKIZUNA ERAIKIZ think tank

SPACE FOR DELIBERATION ON THE NEW POLITICAL CULTURE

22 June 2021, 4 – 5:30 pm

1. Programme

Timetable	Presentation of the session and theme	Theme	Presenter/Driver
4:00 – 4:05 pm	José Ignacio Asensio	Welcome	José Ignacio Asensio
4:05 – 4:10 pm		Conclusions of first cycle and presentation of the work of the second cycle 2021-2022	Mónica Pedreira and Leire Goienetxea
4:10 – 4:40 pm		Conceptual Framework: Biodiversity, Farm to Fork and Zero Pollution	Jesús Alquézar
4:45-5:25 pm		Group reflection	Participants from the Think Tank Reflection Group
5:25-5:30 pm		Sharing: assessment and end of session	Mónica Pedreira and Leire Goienetxea

2. In attendance

- José Ignacio Asensio
- Mónica Pedreira
- Nerea Errasti
- Enrique Aymerich
- Cristina Peña
- Aitor Lizartza
- Bea Marticorena
- Jesús Alquézar (virtual)
- David Zabala
- Belén Méndez de Lijo
- Carmen Jaca
- Leire Goienetxea
- Ainhoa Arrona
- Naia Begiristain

3. Welcome and introduction

Jose Ignacio Asensio opened the session by welcoming all the participants and thanking them for their work. He explained that this is the closing session of the first cycle, in which they have held between four and five sessions. He reminded them that, *"in this first cycle, we have heard some reflections about some essential projects. Shortly, Leire Goienetxea will make a summary and an analysis of the first phase"*.

He added that, *"in this second phase we will move on to action: we will define concrete measures by which the institutions can take steps"*. He reminded them that projects from a variety of different disciplines currently make up the concepts of green recovery. And he introduced the speaker for the session: *"Today it is both a pleasure and a privilege to have Jesús Alquézar among us. In a few minutes he will tell us what is currently being done at a European level"*.

He thanked Jesús Alquézar and all the participants for the *"enormous work that is being done to allow the Think Tank to have this important position"*. He remarked that during the session they will be sharing visions from all areas of knowledge: from technology centre to universities. *"It is essential that we have a multidisciplinary and multilevel vision. This Think Tank is a working example"*.

He then handed the floor to Mónica Pedreira and Leire Goienetxea.

4. Conclusions of first cycle and presentation of the work of the second cycle 2021-2022

Mónica Pedreira reminded the participants that they had now reached their first anniversary. During this time, she said, they have worked on three key policies:

- The circular economy
- Environmental taxation
- Fighting climate change

She said, *"We have to go on working along the same lines, because we want to launch these projects. We want projects to take action, projects that drive changes in habits"*. She said there are seven levers on which they should start working:

- Clean energy
- Sustainable industry
- Renovation / efficient construction
- Sustainable mobility
- Biodiversity
- Farm-to-fork
- Zero Pollution



She said, *"We want to be able to work with all of you, who are agents operating in the province, so that this first process can act as a beacon"*. She said it was necessary to decide which policies they wanted to influence: *"we have to choose themes with a very clear purpose, which is to co-create. In the last two or three months we should have reflected, analysed experiences, and identified the centres that can act as levers to implement all the plans"*. She went on to explain that *"we want to design an experimental project to influence political action itself. New economic growth strategies cannot be based on Think Tank cycles finish after just one year"*.

Monica Pedreira said that the session will address issues such as the relationship between the economy and climate change, which may be important for the province. *"We want to move towards pollution-free spaces"*. She reminded them that, in general terms, the purpose of the second phase of the Think Tank is to decide on the points together. *"There are strengths, but as we don't have a close-up view of what each agent does, it is useful to start working together, and to start learning about national and international experiences"*.

Leire Goienetxea then took the floor and remarked that, *"the aim is to continue working on the challenges of climate change"*. She said that the session would focus on the specific actions being carried out in Gipuzkoa, both in the private area and in the area of education and research. *"But to give you some context, we first need to have a close look at what is being done in Europe"*.

5. Conceptual Framework: Biodiversity, Farm-to-Fork and Zero Pollution

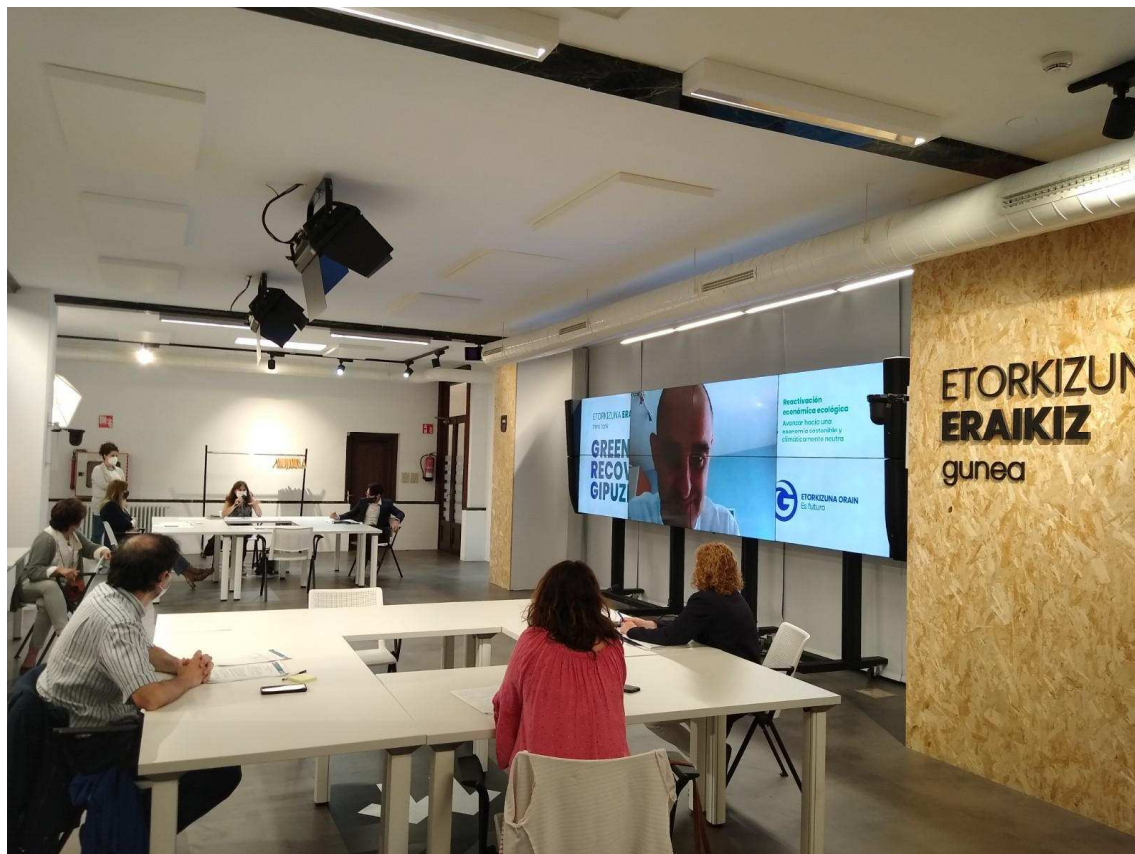
Jesús Alquézar began by recalling some aspects of the European Green Deal: *"During my talk, I will focus on biodiversity, forests and zero pollution strategies"*. He added that the European Green Deal is a response to several interrelated crises: the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and pollution.

He said that the main cause of those crises was the overexploitation of resources. If the right measures were taken, he said, these three crises could be resolved consistently. He offered some data to illustrate these crises: loss of species, victims of air pollution, use of natural resources and low levels of recycling.

He stressed that the European Green Pact aims to provide a coherent and systemic response to the crises: *"All the policies are intended to be crisis-driven"*. And he said that *"the European Green Pact is an attempt to integrate the policies needed to combat these crises"*. He added that they work on a Do No Harm principle. Although the European Green Pact already contained measures to finance implementation, creating a leverage effect through European funds, he said, the big opportunity is the Recovery and Resilience Fund, with new real funding for green investments and reforms, based

on national plans. He pointed out that one of the fundamental principles of this fund is, precisely, to do no harm: the measures cannot harm any of the environmental objectives of the Green Deal.

He reminded them that one of the objectives of the Green Deal was to change the industrial and ecological agenda and added that another fundamental aspect is social in nature: *“no one should be left behind. It is inevitable that in the transitions, there will be winners and losers. We have to help potential losers not to be trapped in a bad*



situation”.

He went on to point out that agricultural policy has been one of the main pollutants that has made our food system unsustainable. To date, he said, the Commission has presented strategies and is about to present legislative reforms, *“but to implement, funding will be needed”*. He commented that in European policies there are two basic possible outcomes: prohibition, or funding. He stressed that, *“the coronavirus crisis has led to the Recovery and Resilience Fund, a major opportunity to finance the way out of the crisis through green investments”*. The fund is based on national plans discussed and approved by the European Commission. However, he

emphasised that *"they must be consistent with the Green Deal and must include the concept of doing no harm to any of the three dimensions of the crisis I mentioned before"*.

He gave the participants some specific context on the climate and energy objectives: *"Energy accounts for 75% of emissions. We had targets for 2020 which have been met"*. These targets, he said, are insufficient to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030. He explained that there are new emissions targets. *"Right now, we are reforming the pillars of European climate and energy policies"*. On July 14, the "Fit for 55" package will be presented, which will re-establish the pillars and objectives of current energy policies. He said that there were a whole series of interrelated policies.

Regarding the biodiversity strategy, Jesús commented that it is based on different science-based projects. *"Increasing pressures on the environment, due to our forms of consumption and production, are leading to a loss of biodiversity. That is why the European Commission has launched this strategy"*. The European Union's ambition is to *"do its homework and encourage other countries to do the same"*.

He commented that this strategy aims to provide strict protection for one third of natural areas: *"economic activities can be promoted within protected areas, but efforts will be made to protect these areas as far as possible"*. He went on to say that *"one of the fundamental aspects of the economics of biodiversity is to set quantified targets. A large part of the land area of Gipuzkoa is under woodland, and there is probably no need to plant new forests"*. He explained that the EU objective of planting 300 billion trees is probably not a necessity in Gipuzkoa. However, he added, it is necessary to better preserve the current condition of forests, especially pine plantations affected by brown spot needle blight. In Bizkaia there are private initiatives to revert pine and eucalyptus plantations into biodiverse forests with autochthonous species. In planting or replanting forests, he said, ecological principles must be emphasised.

He explained that there are two main problems with forests. On the one hand, more than 30% of the forests are in poor ecological condition. This is a situation that must be reversed. He said that the poor state of forests is related to adaptation to climate change, but this is not the only cause: another is intensive management.

Secondly, he mentioned the need to create incentives for forest owners. *“The costs of changes in the nature of forests should be incentivized in some way. If we are asking for eucalyptus to be replaced by pines or oaks, which are better from the point of view of carbon sinks and for biodiversity, certain incentives need to be promoted”.*

He said that in Gipuzkoa *“we still have wonderful ecosystems where we can show young people diversity-rich forests”.* Forests, he said, can provide ecosystem services. *“Air purification, moisture absorption... we must promote and increase sustainable forest management. Forestland should be protected, restored and reforested”.*

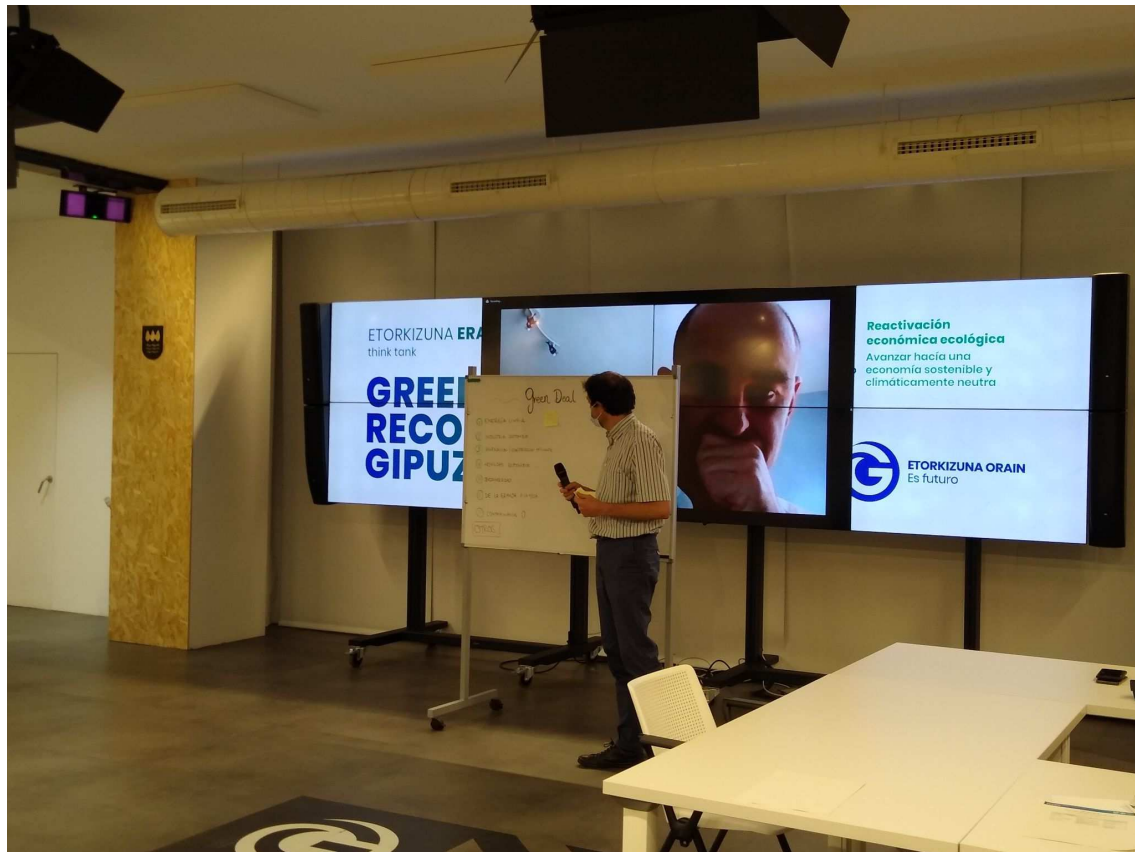
As for the zero-pollution strategy, Jesús stressed the urgency of acting against air pollution. *“This pollution directly affects our health. Cancers of all kinds, cardiovascular problems... every year around 400,000 people die in Europe due to problems linked to air pollution. We are not conscious of what we are breathing: in Spain, as in many other countries, insufficient measures are taken in this area, despite the fact that it is highly regulated at European level”.*

He discussed the Zero Pollution Action Plan. He explained that the main goal is to reduce all types of pollution —for example air pollution— to below the limit of insalubrity and unsustainability. He commented that there is a hierarchy of anti-pollution actions, which seeks to protect the health of citizens as well as the environment.

“Zero Pollution Policies take an integrated approach. “One of the most frequent problems we have is that in many European countries specific limits and measures have to be set. Quantified targets need to be set for both the biodiversity and zero pollution strategies. The main actions are to reduce emissions and other forms of pollution, to enforce legislation, to show solutions, which is also related to the renovation wave, to become more circular and to eliminate pollution”.

He went on to discuss the Stakeholder Platform launched by the European Commission: *“The idea is that all agents, organizations and citizens, work together”*. He said there is a timetable for the principal actions. *“Some are legislative, but it is important to remember that in parallel there are also actions that regulate sources of financing”*. In addition, he said, on the website of the European Environment Agency, it is possible to see the extent of the problem of air pollution in European cities: *“Poland, Germany... several areas of Europe are affected by different causes. In terms of air pollution, at an emissions level, environmental problems should be dealt with where they are being caused”*.

There are a number of more specific standards, he said: *“Air quality is not the*



only field of action. Another problem is waste management: there are several areas in Europe where uncontrolled waste disposal is going on”. Much of the population is not well informed about the implications of pollution. For this reason, he said there are several measures that can be carried out at a local level. *“Public transport, electric vehicles, traffic restrictions and the 30 km/h limit. We need to shift our energy sources,*

including natural gas, to renewable energies". He said that the Spanish recovery plan could represent an opportunity, and that going forward, there is a vast amount of work to be done.

Jesús Alquézar concluded his talk by thanking all the participants and the team that organised the session. He opened the floor to any questions or queries the participants might have.

Cristina Peña thanked Jesús Alquézar for the presentation. She said his words have made her think. She is particularly interested in the subject of forests and said that some of Jesús Alquézar's explanations came as a surprise, particularly with regard to eucalyptus plantations. She asked about real recommendations for protecting forests.

Jesús Alquézar answered that the key is to value the role of biodiversity in tackling climate change. He said that the two problems are interrelated, and their solutions are also interrelated. The ideal solution for Basque forests would be to turn them into woodlands with more diverse species. But, he said, incentives should be created to bring about change, since forests often have owners. *"If we look at the scientific literature it is clear: eucalyptus is very bad for the soil and for the woodland. Our pine plantations, which were created for the paper industry, are not good either. It is a very delicate issue, because of the economic interests that lie behind it. In the Nordic countries, for example, the forests are in poor condition, despite the fact that they are often held up as an example"*. He said that countries like Finland are losing their carbon sinks by leaps and bounds.

Leire Goienetxea asked if anyone had any more questions and thanked Jesús Alquézar. She said they were now going to start the reflection in groups.

6. Presentation of group dynamics

Leire Goienetxea explained that the idea of the dynamic is to work in groups to try to determine what initiatives are being carried out in Gipuzkoa in terms of climate change. She said these might be either social initiatives or other initiatives of any kind. She added that the initiatives had to fit within the pillars of the Green Deal, which are as follows:

- Clean energy
- Sustainable industry
- Renovation / efficient construction
- Sustainable mobility
- Biodiversity
- Farm-to-fork
- Zero Pollution

Mónica Pedreira explained that at the end of the session they would share all the reflections that have been made. *“There are some policies that are being worked on more intensively. We want to do a map, to see exactly what is being done in each pillar of the Green Deal. We want to identify areas of action where we are not doing as much”.*

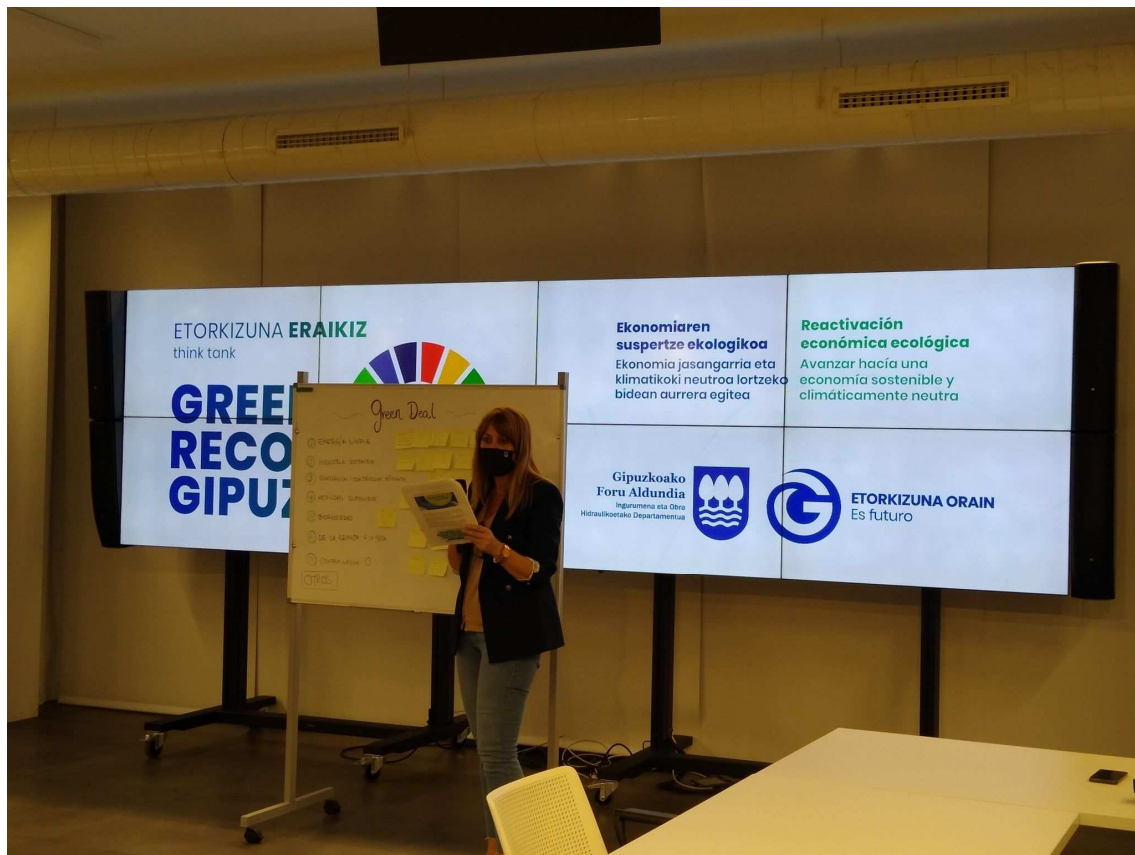
7. Results and feedback from the group dynamics

After deliberating in groups (for approximately 25 minutes), the spokespersons of each group shared the results of their reflections (which are compiled in Appendix C). Enrique Aymerich said that in terms of clean energy they have identified, *“everything related to e-mobility and initiatives centring on the energy sectors”*. He went on to explain that *“on the point of sustainable industry there are many initiatives at the research level. For example, the agri-food sector needs to be converted to make it more sustainable”*.

“We also highlighted efficient building within the group of efficient construction. In terms of sustainable mobility, we talked about transport: the promotion of public vehicles and electric buses. There are companies that are committed to all that. For example, there is an initiative called Mubil and it is a gamble. In terms of biodiversity, we believe that there is great potential in Gipuzkoa. However, there is still some way to go. In reference to the farm-to-fork issues, ecological and organic farming have been growing faster in recent years. Finally, with regard to Zero Pollution, we believe that most of the initiatives are in the legislative area”.

Bea Marticorena took the floor and explained that they have started talking about energy communities. *“In the use of industrial heat, we have taken the example of Orkli, which has launched an initiative to use this energy to heat schools, sports centres*

“With regard to efficient construction we talked about Arima, which is a passivhaus, a very rigorously constructed building. Then, in terms of sustainable mobility, we mentioned the Mugi card, bicycles, electric vehicles, Irizar, and flexible working, i.e., working from home. In the area of biodiversity, we talked about the network of green infrastructures in Gipuzkoa. In the area of farm-to-fork, we mentioned the consumption of "zero kilometre" products, and on Zero Pollution, we commented on the citizen litter campaigns”.



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example of CK Recycling. *"In the section on efficient construction we talked about public and private buildings. The network of cycle paths, e-mobility and Irizar were the examples we gave in terms of sustainable mobility. On biodiversity, we talked about the work of the aquarium and the work of research centres such as Hazi. With regard to the penultimate point, Farm-to-Fork, we talked about consumer groups, hoteliers and entrepreneurs. In Zero Pollution, we discussed the importance of the media and research".*

8. End of session

After the results of the group dynamics had been shared, Leire Goienetxea explained that *"using this small exercise that we have done now, we can create a visual map. Maybe with all this, you will be able to make a much better-focused mind map. Now we need to reflect on what three strategies can be implemented so that the Think Tank has some lines of work for the future".*

Jose Ignacio Asensio said it *"has been a fantastic exercise"*. He says they have worked *"very well"*. He is grateful for the intervention of Jesús Alquézar who *"said some very interesting things"*. He said there had been some *"enormously useful"* information, and he thanked him again for *"bringing a new perspective"*. *"We are not always aware of the global vision that Jesús Alquézar has given us. All this introduces us to some very interesting information and knowledge"*.

Finally, Jesús Alquézar once again thanks all the participants and added that he is personally very grateful.

9. Appendices

a. Working Document No. 5

THINK TANK

DELIBERATION SPACE ON THE GREEN RECOVERY

Working Document No. 5

22 June 2021

Reflection on the first cycle (July 2020 - June 2021)

During the first phase of the Green Recovery Think Tank, the deliberation group was primarily oriented towards offering a deliberation space for the Climate-Committed Citizens and Gipuzkoa 2030, 100% Circular Territory projects. In the second phase, the goal was reoriented towards the participatory evaluation of these projects and a number of exercises were conducted to establish objectives and indicators for them.

These projects already have the necessary deliberation and evaluation mechanisms for their evolution and internal work. It is therefore time to conclude this first cycle and reflect on the new cycle with a redefined objective.

Proposal for the cycle June 2021 - June 2022

The proposed objective for this new cycle is for the Think Tank to be the **meeting point for reflection on climate change** from the perspective of green recovery, to address the remaining future challenges in this area and to reflect on them. To this end, we will focus in this session on identifying the challenges that are not already being solved in parallel. That is, we will focus on action and on developing projects around **issues that form part of the Green Deal and the European strategy, with the aim of adding them to the province's working agenda over the coming years.**

In this way, the deliberation group will reflect and deliberate to create this **deliberation agenda which will be addressed from September 2021 in bimonthly meetings.**

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE PROCESS: GREEN DEAL AND KEY FACTORS¹

In order to be able to address this, it is necessary to understand the fundamentals of the great European Green Deal. We therefore set out some of the rationale and areas of action of the Green Deal below, which we believe may be useful for reflection and deliberation at the next session on 22 June.

**Excerpt from the document Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions of 11 December 2019.*



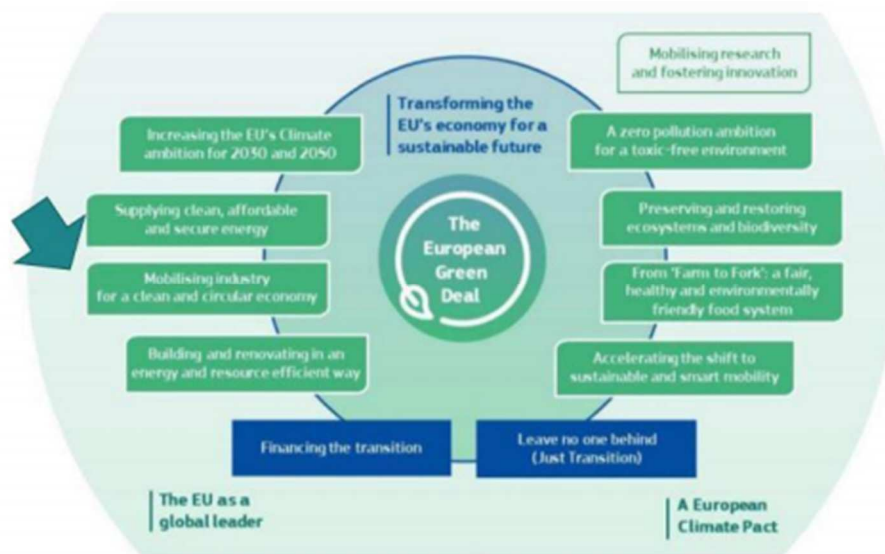
One of the European Commission's priorities for the coming years is to advance the Green Deal with the aim of reversing climate change and curbing its effects. The plan includes 50 concrete actions to combat climate change and aims to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.

The goal is for Europe to have a clean, zero-emission economy and to protect our natural habitat in order to improve the well-being of people and businesses and to

¹ The conceptual framework for the activity of Etorkizuna Eraikiz Think Tank's Green Recovery deliberation group during the period June 2021-June 2022, as summarised in this working document, is based on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions in the framework of the European Green Deal (Brussels, 11 December 2019).

take the lead on global climate action. It aims to transform the EU into a fully sustainable economy.

The European Green Pact includes a series of actions to promote the efficient use of resources, covering all sectors of the economy. It places special emphasis on those that produce the most emissions, such as transport, energy and industry. These actions seek to initiate a transition towards a clean, circular economy, reduce pollution and emissions and protect biodiversity. It aims to reduce emissions by 50% or 55% by 2030.



Areas in which work is being done

Clean energy

Energy production and usage accounts for more than 75% of greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union, and the goal is therefore to decarbonise this sector and prioritise the use of clean and renewable energies through the modernisation of infrastructures and the promotion of energy and ecological efficiency.

Sustainable industry

Only 12% of the materials used in industry come from recycling and it accounts for 20% of the EU's emissions. The European Commission's Industrial Strategy, included in the Green Deal, states that companies will receive aid to modernize their processes and stimulation will be given to circular production and zero generation of emissions. Developments in the textile, electronics, plastics and construction sectors will be key.

Renovation and efficient construction

The renovation of buildings to improve energy efficiency will also be important in achieving Green Deal targets, since they currently account for 40% of energy consumption. To this end, a renovation initiative will be proposed to develop new possibilities and invest in the energy efficiency of buildings.

Sustainable mobility

Transport accounts for 25% of EU emissions, so the European Commission is proposing and promoting the use of cleaner, more efficient and healthier public and private transport. The aim is to reduce emissions from cars, shipping and aviation by cutting fossil fuel subsidies and investing in the development of alternatives.

Biodiversity

The European Green Pact will also promote measures to protect biodiversity and ecosystems, improve the quality of oceans and forests and develop the "green city" concept to increase biodiversity in urban spaces.

Farm-to-fork

This strategy will operate in the agricultural and fisheries sectors, reducing the use of pesticides and developing new innovative techniques for processes in farms and in relation to fisheries, with the aim of ensuring quality and sustainable food, curbing climate change, protecting the environment and increasing organic farming and livestock.

Ending pollution

Ending emissions is one of the objectives of this European Green Pact, but in addition to clean air, it also includes measures to achieve clean and plastic-free seas and oceans and improve the quality of life of all citizens.

More information:

https://ec.europa.eu/spain/news/20191212_Europe-climate-neutral-2050_es

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal>

b. Working Document No. 6

THINK TANK**DELIBERATION SPACE ON THE GREEN RECOVERY**

Working Document No. 6

22 June 2021

The session of the Green Recovery think tank held on 22 June 2021 served to close the first cycle of deliberation and launch the second cycle, which will aim to provide a meeting point for reflection on climate change from the perspective of green recovery, to address and reflect on the future challenges that remain in this area.

At the latest session, the discussion group focused on identifying the challenges that are not already being solved in parallel. In other words, the focus was on action and on developing projects around issues that form part of the Green Deal and the European strategy with the aim of adding them to the province's working agenda in the coming years.

This session therefore focused on identifying the initiatives already implemented to combat climate change and classifying them within the 7 priority strategies of the Green Deal: Clean Energy, Sustainable Industry, Renovation and Efficient Construction, Sustainable Mobility, Farm-to-Fork, Biodiversity, and Zero Pollution.

The session centred on two key moments. The first was the expert contribution by Jesús Alquezar, a socio-economic analyst at the European Commission, who gave some context on the work that the European Commission is carrying out in several of the priority strategies of the Green Deal. The second moment was when the participants conducted an identification exercise through group dynamics, to try to answer two questions:

- What initiatives are being advanced in the territory to combat climate change?
List all the initiatives you know of, be they public or private, social or institutional, economic or educational.
- Within which area of the Green Deal would you class these initiatives?

The aim of this dynamic was to draw up a map with a classification of the initiatives in the 7 Green Deal strategies in order to visually identify those areas of the Green Deal that are being worked the least in the province. After compiling the responses of the participants, the map is as follows.



This map was sent to the participants, who were asked to reflect individually on the issues that they believe should be prioritised for this second cycle of the Think Tank.

After receiving and analysing these contributions, the focus was placed on five themes that the deliberation group will address in upcoming sessions:

- **Farm-to-Fork**
- **Biodiversity**
- **Zero Pollution**
- **Sustainable industry (how to achieve it): Zero Defect/Zero Waste/Zero Impact Factory**
- **Clean energy**

c. Presentation by Jesús Alquézar



Contents

1 - The European Green Deal

2- Biodiversity

3- Forest Strategy

4- Zero Pollution



The four environmental crises



- **Four environmental crises:**

- Climate crisis
- Biodiversity
- Over-exploitation of resources
- Pollution

→ **Interrelated**



We need urgent action to tackle environmental degradation

Climate Change



Global warming is a reality that has accelerated in recent decades

Overexploitation of resources



We have **tripled the extraction of resources** since 1970

Biodiversity



Severe degradation of ecosystems (40% marine - 75% terrestrial).

One million **species at risk**

Pollution



Waste generation to increase 70% by 2050

Only **12% of materials are recycled** in the EU

5



What is the European Green Pact?



- **Coherent and systemic** approach
- Project **that integrates the different policies**
- It sets out a coordinated European response to the main challenges
- It promotes an ambitious economic and industrial, ecological and social agenda
- **"Do no harm"** principle

"aspiration (of a generation) to live on a natural, healthy continent"

"The European Green Deal is the EU's growth strategy"
– President von der Leyen

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7

- The European Green Deal: Financing

- **Green Deal Investment Plan**, which includes a **Just Transition Fund**.
 - €1 trillion over 10 years, combining public and private financing.
 - 25% of EU budget for climate transition, 30% from InvestEU + EIB.
 - *Just Transition Fund*: €40 billion, to generate at least €89–107 billion in investments + InvestEU + EIB.
- **Recovery and Resilience Fund** (€312.5 million in grants and €360 million in loans)
 - Based on national plans (with EU recommendations)
 - Consistent with Green Deal (min 37%) and digitalisation targets (min 20%)
 - Including "Do no harm"
 - With a reform and investment plan.
 - If after 2 years there are still resources left, there will be more calls for applications

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Where we are...



Climate and energy targets

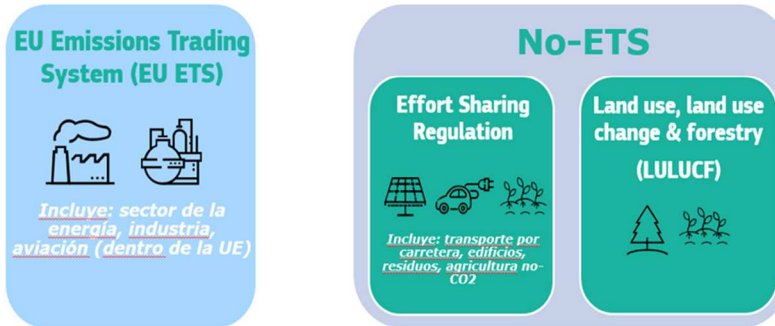
Objetivos climáticos y energéticos de la UE





Pillars of European climate policies

Políticas climáticas UE 2030 - Pilares



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Green Deal Actions

- Already adopted:
 - Proposed Climate Law (climate neutrality by 2050)
 - New climate target for 2030 (at least 55% reduction in GHG emissions compared to 1990)
 - New Circular Economy Action Plan
 - **Biodiversity Strategy**
 - **"Farm to Fork" strategy**
 - Renovation Wave
 - Energy Systems Integration Strategy
 - Hydrogen Strategy
 - Methane Strategy
 - Offshore Energy Strategy
 - **Zero Pollution Action Plan**
- Under preparation
 - **Forest Strategy (2021)**

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Green Deal Actions

... And above all: "Fit for 55 package"

- Review of climate and energy legislation to meet the new 2030 target:
 - Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)
 - Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR)
 - Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry Regulations (LULUCF)
 - Renewable Energy Directive (RED II)
 - Energy Efficiency Directive (EED)
 - CO2 Emissions from Cars and Trucks
 - ETS in Aviation
 - Border Carbon Adjustment
 - Energy Taxation Directive

By July 14 2021

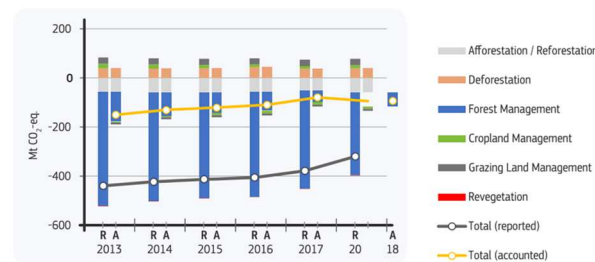
13



Hot issues...

- **Bioenergy, LULUCF and forests:**

Figure 8 Reported (R) and preliminary accounted (A) emissions and removals under the Kyoto Protocol, second commitment period, EU-27²⁰⁰³



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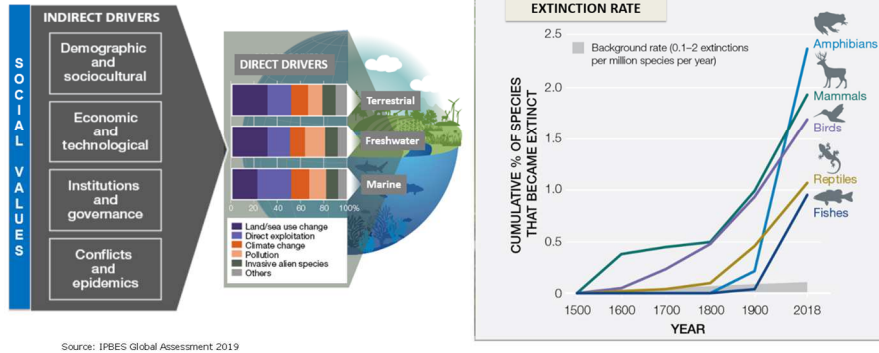
Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity

- The IPBES's Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services estimates that around **one million species of animals and plants are at risk of extinction in the coming decades**: more than ever before in human history.
- The five direct drivers of change in nature with the most significant impacts are, in descending order: (1) **Changes in land and sea use**; (2) **Direct exploitation of organisms**; (3) **Climate Change**; (4) **Pollution**; (5) **Invasive species**





The global biodiversity crisis (IPBES, 2019)



Source: IPBES Global Assessment 2019

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Natural capital is the basis for sustainable development

- Major threats to humanity: **climate change and loss of biodiversity**
- Nearly half of the world's GDP is linked to nature
- Strong links between biodiversity loss, climate change and pandemics
- Biodiversity protection and restoration at heart of EU recovery plan



Graphics by Jerker Lokrantz/Kozte

18



Elements of the EU Biodiversity Strategy



A. Protect nature



C. Enable transformative change



B. Restore nature



D. Global solidarity and EU support for an ambitious global programme

19



A. Protect nature



- Protect 30% of EU land and sea areas
 - EU-wide objective, taking into account the specific situation of the Member States
 - Extent of the Natura 2000 network and nationally designated areas
 - Integration of wildlife corridors and construction of a coherent climate-change-resilient network
- Strictly protect one third of these areas:
 - Areas of high biodiversity value and important for climate change mitigation and adaptation, considering **all primary and "sub-natural" forests in the EU**

20



B. Restore nature

• EU restoration plan and commitments for 2030:

- Legally binding targets proposed in 2021
- No deterioration of habitats and protected species by 2030
- Achieve good conservation status for at least 30% of the habitats and species protected by the Habitats Directive
- Organic farming >25%
- Landscape elements in agricultural areas > 10%
- Reduce pesticide use and risks by 50%
- Reduce fertilizer-related pollution by 50% and fertilizer use by 20%
- Plant an additional three billion trees while respecting ecological principles
- Reverse decline in pollinators
- Clean up contaminated soils
- Restore ecological continuity of 25,000 km of rivers
- New platform for urban "greening" and new "green cities agreement"
- Halve the "red list" of species threatened by invasive species
- Reduce damage to the seabed and bycatch

21



Focus on forests

The Union must increase the quantity, quality and resilience of its forests, particularly against fire, drought, harmful organisms, disease and other threats that are likely to multiply with climate change.

→ Plant three billion trees by 2030, respecting ecological principles

- Planting trees is particularly beneficial in cities and combines well with agroforestry activities in rural areas
- The Commission will develop guidelines on biodiversity-friendly reforestation practices and close-to-nature forestry

22



Emphasis on forests

- Forest management
 - Strict protection of all remaining **primary forests and "sub-natural" forests** (the Commission is currently working on a common definition)
 - Coverage of all forests under public management and an increased number of private forests through **management plans**
 - **Pursues intensification of the development of biodiversity-friendly forestry practices, such as close-to-nature forestry**

23



Forests and energy

- Revised Renewable Energy Directive, which should include reinforced sustainability criteria
- Mitigation of climate and environmental risks resulting from increasing use of certain sources for bioenergy production
- Dramatic reduction in energy use of whole trees and cultures that could be used for food, whether produced in the EU or imported.

24



C. Enable transformative change

- Governance framework
- Unlocking financing
- Corporate commitment
- Knowledge and education
- Promotion of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)

25



D. An ambitious global programme

- **EU position for the post-2020 biodiversity reference framework:**
 - Goals for 2050 in line with the UN vision: *"living in harmony with nature"*
 - Ambitious global goals for 2030
 - Improved implementation methods: finance, capacity, research, know-how and technology
 - Stronger implementation, monitoring and review
 - Equitable and fair sharing of benefits of the use of genetic resources linked to biodiversity
 - Broad public and private participation

26



New EU strategy for forests

- Announced in the communication on the *European Green Deal*
- Estimated adoption date: July 2020
- Announced in the EU Biodiversity Strategy
- Inclusion of multifunctional role of forests





Main objectives

- Objective: Ensure that forests can meet all their **environmental, social and economic functions and services**
- To achieve this, it is important to ensure the **growth, health, diversity and resilience** of our forests, which contribute significantly to a reinforced biodiversity and climate ambition, secured livelihoods and support for the forest bioeconomy
- Taking into account the latest Council conclusions, concerning the need to **promote and enhance sustainable forest management**, including **protection, restoration and (re)forestation**, the strategy will propose actions to ensure that EU forests are preserved and managed sustainably, including by providing guidelines on close-to-nature forestry

29



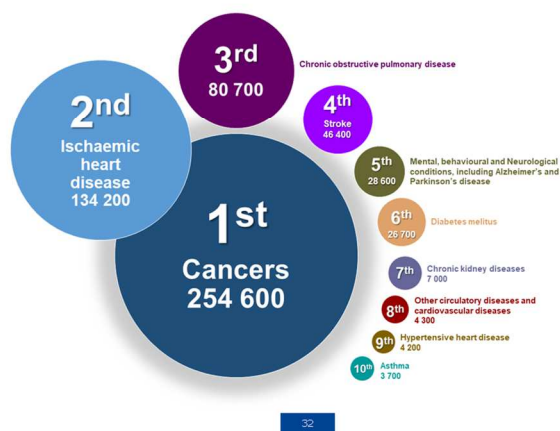
Three billion trees

- The strategy will include a **roadmap to plant at least three billion new trees in the EU by 2030**, respecting ecological principles.
- This will create new employment opportunities (e.g. in seed selection, cultivation and planting, and for ensuring their development)
- Planting trees is particularly beneficial in cities and combines well in rural areas with agroforestry activities, landscape features and increased carbon sequestration
- Planting trees should complement and not replace other actions to combat climate change, reduce air pollution and restore biodiversity.

30



The urgent need to act against air pollution



Source: EEA – Healthy environment, healthy lives (2018) based on WHO (2016)



Vision of Zero Pollution by 2050



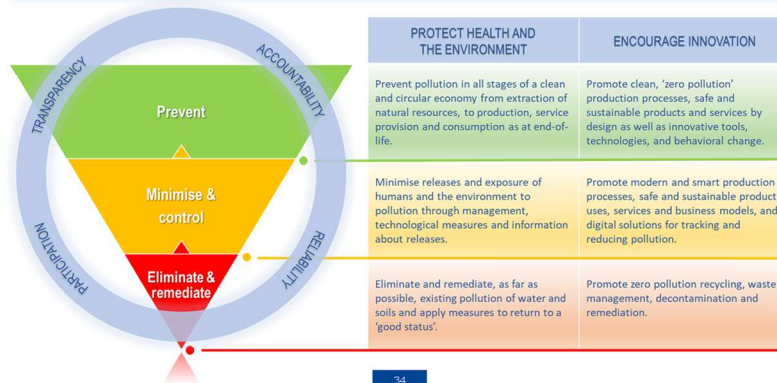
*"Air, water and land pollution is reduced to **levels not considered dangerous for our health and for the natural ecosystems**, and that **respect the limits within which our planet can survive**, thus creating a non-toxic environment."*

33



Hierarchy of anti-pollution actions

Union policy on the environment shall be based on the **precautionary principle** and on the principles that **preventive action** should be taken, that environmental damage should as a priority be **rectified at source** and on the **polluter pays principle**.



34



Zero Pollution Policies: towards an integrated approach



6 Zero Pollution targets for 2030

Achieving the goals of EU laws

(air, water, marine and others)

and by 2030 **reduce**

the health
impact of air
pollution by
55%

people
disturbed by
transport
noise by
30%

EU
ecosystems
threatened by
air pollution
by 25%


nutrient losses,
pesticide use
and sales of
antimicrobial
products by
50%

dumping at
sea by 50%
and
microplastic
s by 30%

production of
refuse and
municipal
waste by
50%



9 main actions for Zero Pollution

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 
1. Reduce health inequalities | 
2. Support urban zero pollution actions | 
3. Promote zero pollution across regions |
| 
4. Facilitate zero pollution options | 
5. Enforce zero pollution together | 
6. Showcase zero pollution solutions for buildings |
| 
7. Create living labs for green digital solutions and zero pollution | 
8. Minimise the EU's external pollution footprint | 
9. Consolidate knowledge of EU zero pollution centres |

37



➔ **Improve human health:**

- ✓ reduce air and noise pollution
- ✓ reduce health inequalities
- ✓ support urban zero pollution action



➔ **Boost change across society:**

- ✓ Showcase zero pollution solutions for buildings
- ✓ Create living labs for green digital solutions



➔ **Protect natural ecosystems and biodiversity:**

- ✓ Reduce water and soil pollution
- ✓ Promote zero pollution across regions



➔ **Implement and enforce pollution laws more strictly**



➔ **Minimise the EU's external pollution footprint and promote change globally**



➔ **Promote digital solutions for zero pollution**



➔ **Stimulate knowledge and innovation**



➔ **Reduce pollution from production and consumption:**

- ✓ Reduce pollution from industrial installations
- ✓ Encourage the least polluting options for consumers
- ✓ reduce pollution from agriculture



Platform of stakeholders for Zero Pollution



European Commission



European Committee
of the Regions

- **Who?**
 - Bringing together the stakeholders with experts from different areas
- **What?**
 - Promote the Zero Pollution agenda, help create co-ownership, promote collaboration and foster integrated solutions and actions that maximize synergies
- **How?**
 - Share best practice in cross-cutting issues, such as financing of Zero Pollution innovation and employment, promote sustainable production and consumption, and create theme hubs (air, digital, soil, etc.)
 - Create synergies with the European Climate Pact, the Circular Economy Platform, the Green Cities Agreement, *Business@Biodiversity*, the Chemicals Roundtable, etc.



39



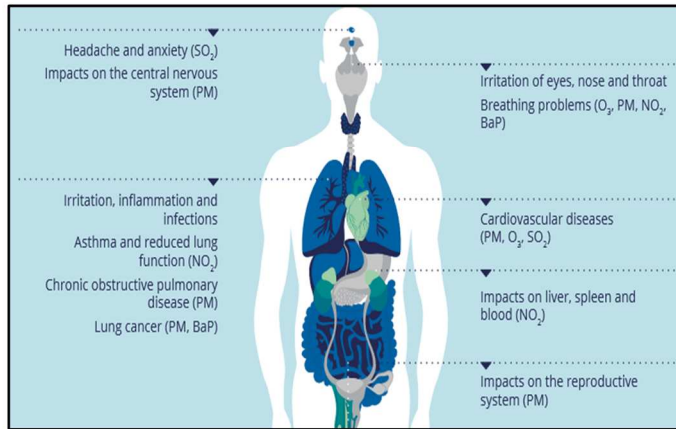
Calendar (main actions)



40



Air Pollution: why is it a problem?



Source(s): Healthy lives, healthy environment (EEA, 2020)

41

Health impacts:

- > 400,000 premature deaths each year (23,000 estimated in Spain)
- 17% of cancer deaths are due to air pollution

Economic impacts:

- More than €20 billion per year in "direct costs"
- And between 330 and 940 billion euro per year in "indirect costs"

Environmental Impacts:

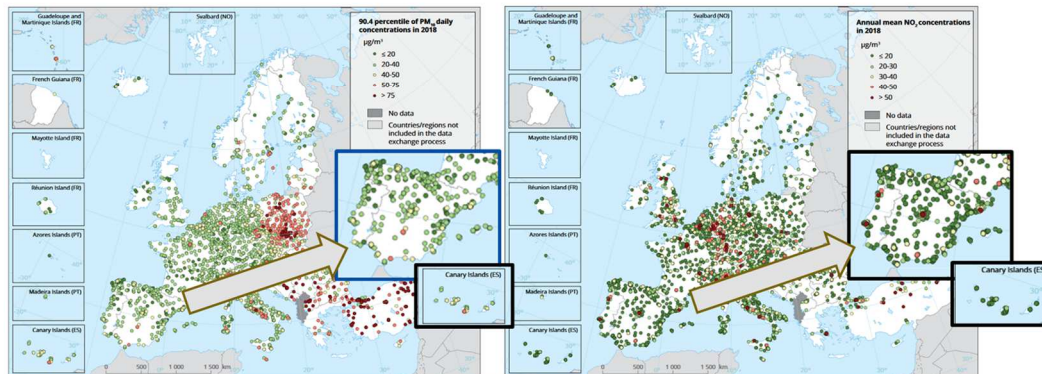
- Eutrophication limits exceeded in 62% of the ecosystems



Air Pollution: where is it a problem?

PM₁₀ exceedances are often linked to fuel combustion (i.e. heating, transport).

NO₂ exceedances are often linked to traffic, in more than 100 cities in EU.



Source(s): EEA Air Quality in Europe (2020)

42



Air Pollution: who and what causes it?

Multiple sources ...

PM_{2.5}: Households (54%), Energy and Industry (21%), Transport (13%),...

NO_x: Transportation (47%), Energy (15%), Industry (15%), Households (8%), ...

SO_x: Energy (47%), Industry (33%), Households (15%), Transport (3%), ...

NH₃: Agriculture (93%), ...

Source(s): EEA Air Quality in Europe (2020)

... and origin at all scales

- Cross-border pollution
- National precedents
- City level
- Peaks around roads

Because of this combination, European air quality policy has to address **all sectors** and **all scales**

43



What are we doing about air pollution?



Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) Directives

Maximum concentrations of air polluting substances (PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, SO₂, NO₂, O₃ + 8 more)

SETTING OBJECTIVES FOR GOOD AIR QUALITY

REDUCING EMISSIONS OF POLLUTANTS

National Emission reduction Commitments (NEC) Directive

National emission totals (SO₂, NO_x, NMVOC, PM_{2.5}, NH₃)

Source-specific emission standards

- IED Directive
- MCP Directive
- Eco-design Directive
- Energy efficiency
- Euro and fuel standards

European Green Deal & Zero Pollution Ambition

44



What needs to be improved?

- **Implementation:** Need to continue implementing existing legislation
- **Financing:** Specific allocations for air quality of up to €2 billion (2014-2020), and indirect contributions (>€28 billion)
 - <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/stories/s/Tracking-cohesion-policy-air-quality-investments/7ddu-4fki/>
- **Application:** As of 3 June 2021, there are still 31 cases of infringements for 18 member states (+1 against the UK) related to misapplication.
- **Information:** Eurobarometer polls show 54% do not feel they are well informed about air quality problems

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What can be done at a local level?



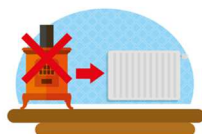
Reliable, affordable and clean **public transport** such as electric buses and trams and new Euro VI



Extensive and safe **cycling networks**, abundant bike-parking facilities with easy access to public transport



Traffic restrictions such as low-emission zones, reduced speed limits and congestion charges



Promoting substitution of old, dirty **stoves and boilers** with clean models, and banning **dirty fuels** for household heating/cooking



City or district heating, using heat from existing industry or renewable energy sources



Boosting **energy efficiency** by refurbishing buildings

46



Spanish Recovery Plan: An Opportunity

The plan contains good examples of air quality investments:

- **Investments in sustainable mobility:**
 - Incentive plan for the installation of **charging points**, purchase of **electric or hydrogen vehicles** and innovation in electro-mobility, charging and green hydrogen
 - Measures to improve air quality and reliability of **train services**
 - Sustainable long-distance mobility: Investments **in modernisation of trains** and facilitation of modal shift
- **Urban Agenda:**
 - **Support for residential renovations to improve energy efficiency**
 - Energy rehabilitation programme for buildings



47



Spanish Recovery Plan: An Opportunity

- **Environmental and Digital Transformation of the fishing and agri-food system:**
 - Investments in precision farming, energy efficiency and circular economy in agriculture and livestock sector
- **Deployment and integration of renewable energy sources:**
 - Development of innovative renewable energies, which are integrated into buildings and production processes
 - Sustainable energy on the islands
 - Renewable Hydrogen



48



**Questions?
Reactions?**



Thank you very much

d. Results of group dynamics

1. Clean energy

- Energy cooperatives

- e-mobility

- H2 / Biomethane

- Energy communities:

- Ekiola
- Elikor

- District heating

- Local consumption industries / centres:

- Example: Orkli

- Energy heaters

- Example: Barcelona City Council

- Companies such as GOIENER and similar (renewable energies)

- Participation in programs to reduce consumption, such as at universities

- Renewable energies (Natur Klima)

- Training and research in renewable energies

- Climatón

2. Sustainable industry

- Ekolber

- Ekorec

- Ekoras

- Ternua

- Small initiatives

- Paper industry

- Agri-food sector

- Circular Economy Classroom

- Network of Technology Centres

- Circular energy by Naturklima

- GK Recycling

- European sustainable industry projects

- GK Green Fashion

- Examples: Emaús, Campezo, Moyúa.

- Financial institutions

- Creation of new companies (NK - MU)

- Blupoint: recovery of marine waste → recycling

3. Renovation / efficient construction

- Renovation and efficient construction
- Rehabilitation of public and private buildings
- Ethical governance: San Sebastian City Council
- Future Environmental Management Act (bids 40%)
- Hotel Arima
- Naturklima Building
- Energy rehabilitation of buildings
- Most legislated sector
- Alianza

4. Sustainable mobility

- Cycle paths
- Bicycle rental
- Public transport
- e-mobility (Irizar)
- Example-setting
- Electric vehicle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BM ● Kutxa ● Real Sociedad ● Irizar (waste)

- Companies:
 - Labour flexibilization: teleworking

- Mugi Card
- Bicycle rental

- Sustainable transport
- Local industry: Irizar
- Mubil Initiative

5. **Biodiversity**

- Aquarium
- Kutxa
- Mater Museoa
- Zumaia Flysch
- Research (AZTI)

- Green infrastructure network
- Removal of weirs

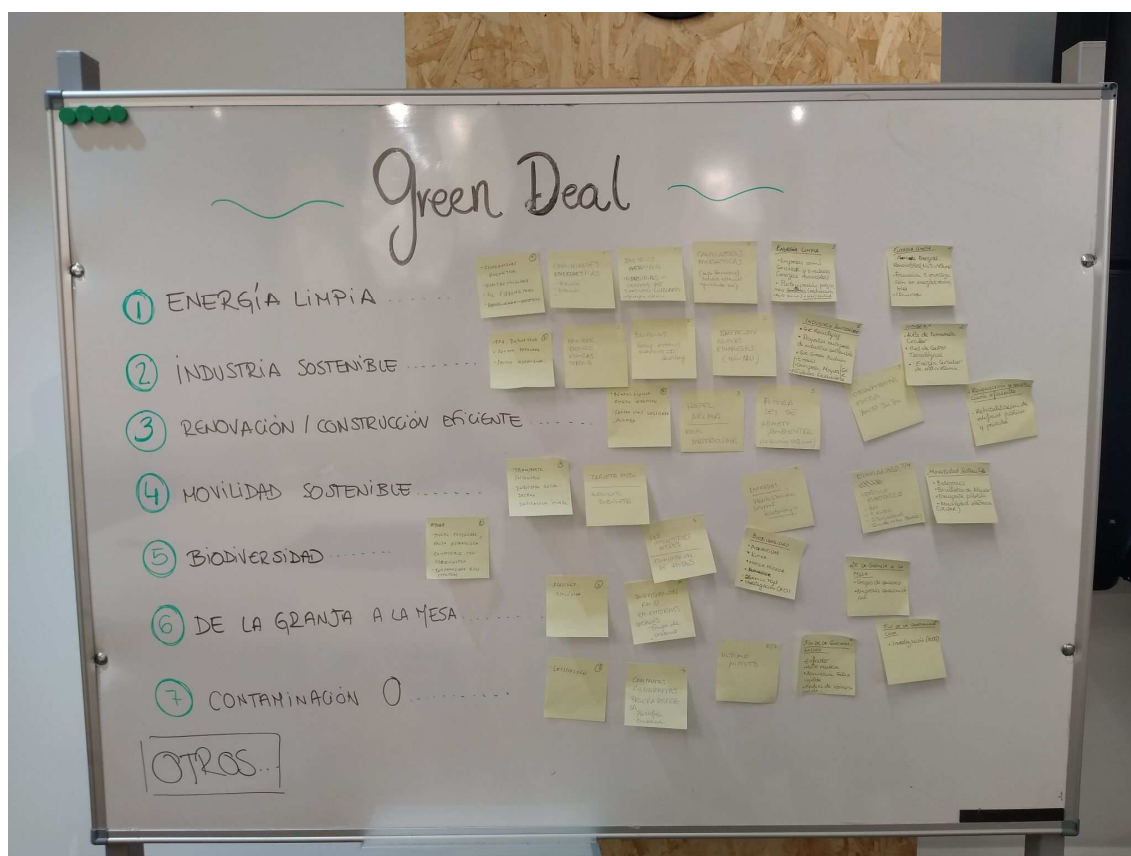
- A lot of potential / lack of strategy
- Compatible with bioeconomy
- Permeability

6. Farm-to-fork

- Organic farming
- Empowering "kilometre zero" in local environments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer groups
- Consumer groups
- Consumer companies

7. Zero Pollution

- Research (AZTI)
- Surfrider
- Mater Museoa
- Felix Ugalde Association
- Media and Communication
- Último minute (food bank for close-to expiry foodstuffs)
- Citizen campaigns: litter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastifish • Zumaiena
- Legislation



ETORKIZUNA ERAIKIZ
Orain berriz



Ekonomiaren
sustentza ekologikoa
Ekonomia berria eta
 Klimatikoki neutroa lortzeko
bideen kuratza egitea

Reactivación
económica ecológica
Avanzar hacia una
economía sostenible y
climáticamente neutra

Gipuzkoako
Euzko Aldundia
Euzko Legebiltzariaren
Batzarburua



ETORKIZUNA ORAIN
Es futuro

① ENERGÍA LIMPIA

• COOPERATIVAS
ENERGÉTICAS

• ELECTROMOVILIDAD

• H₂ / BIOMETANO

• ~~RETA EN EL SECTOR~~

①

COMUNIDADES
ENERGÉTICAS

- EKiola

- Ezihor.

-

-

DISTRICT
HEATING

INDUSTRIAS -
CENTROS DE
CONSUMO CERCANO
ejemplo ORKUI

1

CALEFACCIONES
ENERGÉTICAS

(Ayto Barcelona)
Nosotros estamos
generando una

• Empresas como
GOENER y similares
(energías renovables)

• Participación progra-
mas ~~sociales~~ (reducción
de consumo) universidad

~~Renovables~~ Energías
Renovables (Naturales)

- Formación e investiga-
ción en energías renova-
bles

- Climatización

ETORKIZUNA ERAIKIZ
think tank

**GREEN
RECOVERY
GIPUZKOA**

Ekonomiaren
sustertze ekologikoa
Ekonomia jasangarria eta
klimatikoki neutroa lortzeko
bidean aurrera egitea

Reactivación
económica ecológica
Avanzar hacia una
economía sostenible y
climáticamente neutra

Gipuzkoako
Foru Aldundia
Parlamento foral
Marquessado de Guipúzcoa



ETORKIZUNA ORAIN
Es futuro

② INDUSTRIA SOSTENIBLE

EROLBER
EKO REC
EKO RAS
TERMINA.

INDUSTRIA

- Aula de Economía Circular
- Red de Centros Tecnológicos.
- Energía Circular de NATURKLIMA.

- P.E.Q. INICIAZUN ②
- SECTOR PAPELERO
- SECTOR AGROALIMENT.

INDUSTRIA SOSTENIBLE

- GK Reciclyng.
- Proyectos europeos de industria sostenible
- GK Green Fashion
- Enais
- Campero, Moyua | GK R.
- Entidades Financieras

REACCION
NUEVAS
EMPRESAS
(NIC-MU)

BLUPOINT

Recup. recursos
marinos ⇒
Reciclag.



③ RENOVACIÓN / CONSTRUCCIÓN EFICIENTE

- Renovación y construcción eficiente
- Rehabilitación de edificios públicos y privados

ORDENAMTA
ETCA
AND Su Sn

FUTURA
LEY DE
ADMON.
AMBIENTAL
(licitaciones 40% uot)

HOTEL
ARIMA
EDIF.
MATRIKLIMA

• REHABILITACIÓN
ENERG. EDIFICIO

• SECTOR MÁS LEGISLADO
• AVANZA

ETORKIZUNA ERAIKIZ
tharik tonak



Ekonomiaren
suspertze ekologikoa
Ekonomia jasangarria eta
klimatikoki neutroa lortzeko
bidetako aurrera egitea

Reactivación
económica ecológica
Avanzar hacia una
economía sostenible y
climáticamente neutra

Gipuzkoako
Foru Aldundia
Ingurumen eta Osoa
Integrazioaren Departamentua



ETORKIZUNA ORAIN
Es futuro

④ MOVILIDAD SOSTENIBLE

Movilidad Sostenible

- Bidegorris
- Bicicletas de Alquiler
- Transporte pública
- Movilidad eléctrica (IRIZAR)

EMPLAZAMIENTO, 24

~~XXXX~~

VEHICULO
ELECTRICO

- BM.
- F. Kutxe
- R. Sociedad
- Guion Inter (Rendix)

4

EMPRESAS

Flexibilización
laboral.
teletrabajo

TARJETA MUGI

ALQUILER
BICICLETA

TRANSPORTE
SOSTENIBLE

INDUSTRIA LOCAL:
IAIZAN

INICIATIVAS "MUGI"

ETORKIZUNA ERAIKIZ
think tank



**Ekonomiaren
suspertze ekologikoa**
Ekonomia jasangarria eta
klimatikoki neutroa lortzeko
bidean aurrera egitea

**Reactivación
económica ecológica**
Avanzar hacia una
economía sostenible y
climáticamente neutra

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Foru Aldundia
Ingurumen eta Ozeano
Hidrokarbonato Departamentuak



ETORKIZUNA ORAIN
Es futuro

① BIODIVERSIDAD

BIODIVERSIDAD

- AQUARIUM
- KUTXA
- MATER MUSEOA.
- ~~SUPERDEA~~
- Dimaia teys
- Investigación CAJI

5

RED.
INFRAESTRUCT.
VERDES

ELIMINACIÓN
DE AUDES

BIOTOP

⑤

- MUCHO POTENCIAL /
FALTA ESTRATEGIA
- COMPATIBLE CON
BIOECONOMIA
- PERMEABILIZADO R20J
(SALMON)



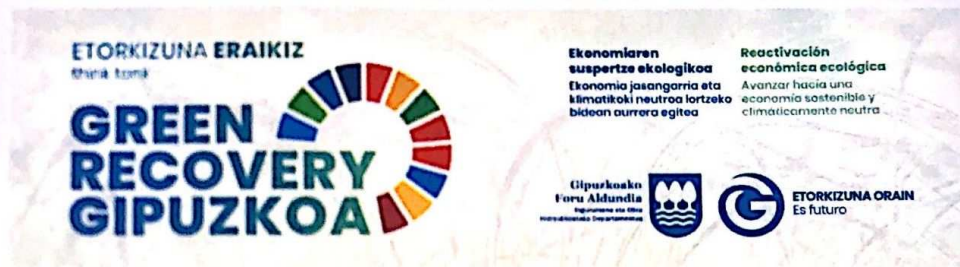
⑥ DE LA GRANJA A LA MESA

• AGRICULT.
13704567CA

⑥

POTENCIARON
KM 0.
EN ENTORROS
LOCALES
- Grupos de
consumo

→ DE LA GRANJA A LA MESA
• Grupos de consumo.
• Empresas consumidoras.



⑦ FIN DE LA CONTAMINACIÓN (CONTAMINACIÓN CEROS).

FIN DE LA CONTAMINACIÓN² LION

- Investigación (Arzt)

FIN DE LA CONTAMINACIÓN⁴

- Sufrider
- Matter museoa
- Asociación Felix Ugalde
- Medios de comunicación.

ULTIMO MINUTO

• LEGISLACION

5/7

⑦

CAMPANAS CIVILDADANAS BASURA DISPERSA

- plastifish.
- Imaiena

7