



EU climate governance fit for net zero?

Input to hearing by the Committee of the Regions

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Recent publications on EU climate governance

SCIENTIFIC OPINION PAPER // FEBRUARY 2022

Making EU climate governance fit for net zero

An analysis of the current landscape of relevant EU climate policy processes and recommendations for alignment with the climate neutrality objective

German Environment Agency
Umwelt Bundesamt

SUMMARY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2022

CHARTING A PATH TO NET ZERO:

AN ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL LONG-TERM STRATEGIES IN THE EU

NET ZERO 2050 | eco logic

NET ZERO

SECTOR INFO, NEW TECH, ADJUSTING FINANCIAL FLOWS, SUPPORT FROM THE EU COMMISSION, SAVING NATURE, LIFESTYLE CHANGE, SCIENCE-BASED PATHWAYS, ENSURE A JUST TRANSITION, CIVIL SOCIETY INPUT, NEW LAWS

EU Member States must act now to implement their collective duty to help achieve climate neutrality in the EU by 2050 as enshrined in the EU Climate Law. Robust strategic planning is required to ensure that short-term decisions align with long-term climate goals, and therefore the Governance Regulation asked EU countries to produce national long-term strategies (LTSs) by January 2020 in addition to producing short-term plans with specific policies (NECPs).

This briefing summarises findings from an [assessment of the 22 strategies](#) available as of March 2022; at the time, five countries had not yet submitted their LTS. The analysis looked at two distinct qualities of strategies: the vision of a low-emission future represented in the pathways and projections of the LTS as well as the preparation and use of the strategy as a tool to guide policy decisions, in other words its relevance in national climate policy.

CHARTING A PATH TO NET ZERO; SUMMARY REPORT / 1

eco logic

Policy consistency: What it means, how to measure it, and links with other processes

Considerations on the implementation of the EU Climate Law

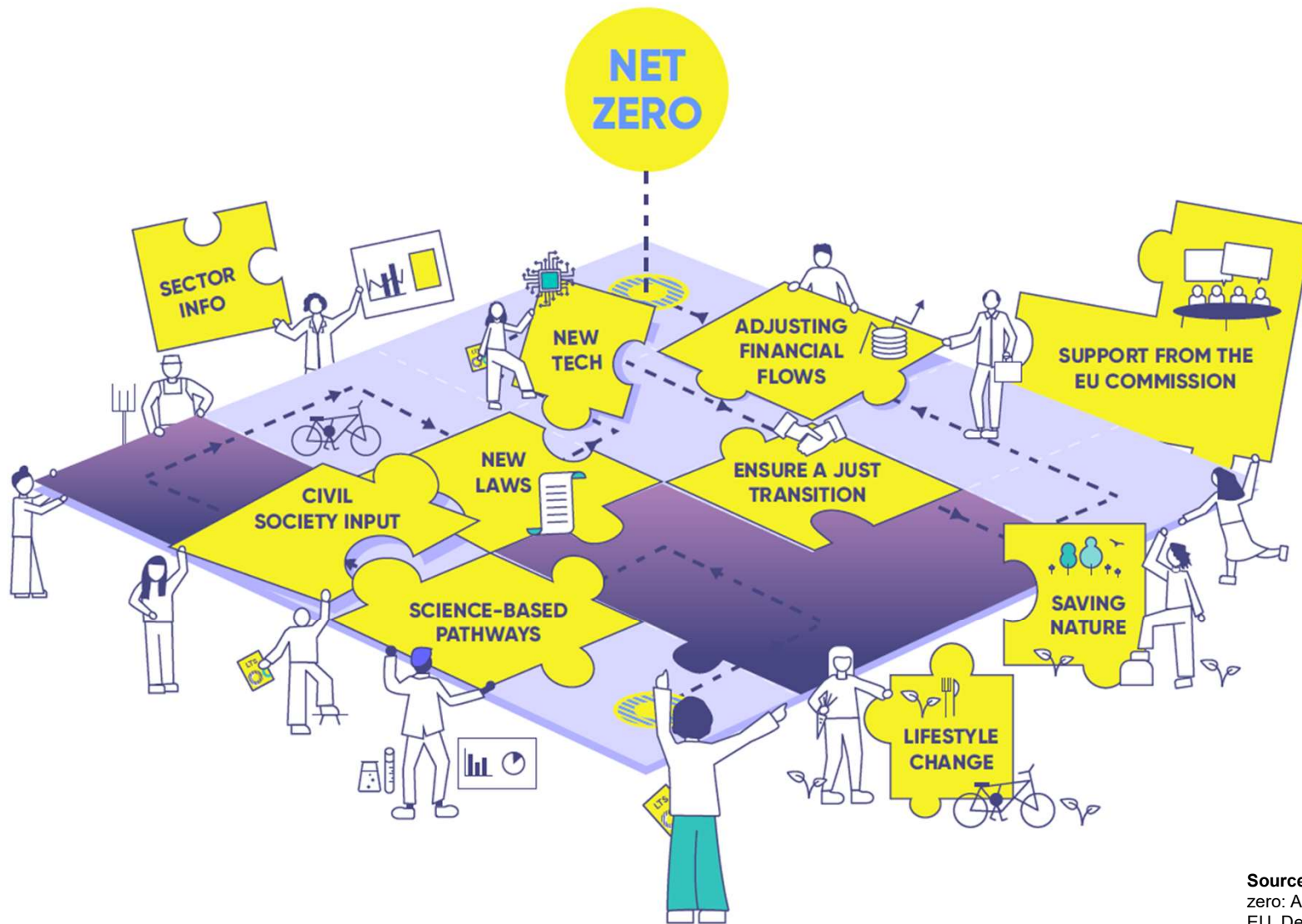
Policy paper
02 May 2023

Nick Evans
Matthias Duwe
Eike Velten

Key insights and recommendations

- New power tools for climate mainstreaming!** The European Climate Law (EURL) requires the European Commission to assess the consistency of existing EU and national policies with the 2050 climate neutrality goal. The first assessment is due by the end of September 2023.
- A comprehensive look at the European Green Deal:** The spirit of the legislators implies that the consistency assessment should take a 'whole economy' perspective, identifying gaps and contradictions in EU policymaking—even if the law is not specific on this.
- Bring forward the 2050 modelling update:** Information on the pathway to net zero is crucial input to assessing policy consistency, but the latest update from 2020 is outdated. The next iteration must be brought forward so that the assessments can be based on the most up-to-date information.
- Develop a framework of net zero indicators:** The Commission should put in place an integrated methodology across EU climate monitoring processes to anticipate and measure structural changes needed for the transition. This could also be used for the EURL consistency assessments.
- Open the process for input:** The Commission should enhance transparency, communicate on the suggested methodology for the assessments, and provide opportunities for consultation and input.
- Assessments every two years:** There are many connections with other relevant processes, but the sequencing needs to be improved. The next set of updates to national planning (NECPs) and the next EU policy package would benefit from fresh insights from the consistency assessments—a second assessment in 2026 is too late for this.

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Source: Ecologic Institute (2022): Charting a path to net zero: An assessment of national long-term strategies in the EU. Design by Noble Studio <https://www.ecologic.eu/18646>

#1: Climate governance framework has been improved significantly

EU level:

- ▶ Governance Regulation PLUS EU Climate Law have **integrated the long-term dimension**

New tools (e.g., NECPs), new mechanisms (integrated reporting, net zero progress, policy consistency,...), one new institution (EU Advisory Board)

National level:

- ▶ **Member States are making improvements** on their own (e.g., climate framework laws, scientific advisory bodies, transition trackers)

Setting up better governance systems takes time and capacity...

#2: ...„limited visibility“: weaknesses in the system

Remaining weaknesses risk creating badly informed policy

- ▶ **Implementation gaps**
 - Lack of quality in first set of NECPs, LTSs, ...
 - Public participation gaps – Multi-level energy and climate dialogues?
- ▶ **Diversity among Member States – national ownership?**
 - Minimum standards not high enough – many weak systems
- ▶ **Structural problems!** Long-term dimension neglected
 - e.g., sequence of NECPs before LTSs. All attention on NECPs
 - No EU LTS update in the laws...
- ▶ **Blind spots.** Also in Brussels.
 - COM not interested in long-term strategies
 - No assessment framework for progress towards net zero
 - Coordination among the many sectoral and thematic strategies?

#3: key improvements going forward

Revise the Governance Regulation such that the information basis for targeted policymaking is enhanced, including the following:

- ▶ **NECPs + LTSs as integrated process**, to be treated en par
- ▶ Update the **EU LTS**. Regularly!
- ▶ Devise **transition tracker** methodology with “net zero indicators” (for planning, reporting, progress monitoring) – **Semester link!**
- ▶ Strengthen follow-up to country-specific **recommendations**
- ▶ Enhance **public participation** (specifics for MLECDs?)
- ▶ Strengthen national systems (**ownership**) in targeted fashion
- ▶ High-level political attention to long-term dimension (**Council**)
- ▶ **Dialogue** on best practices on long-term strategies – intra-EU
- ▶ Add focus on value of **LTS also for regional and local level**
- ▶ Invest in **capacity** (for DG CLIMA, for modelling, data, ...)

Analysis of multilevel energy and climate dialogues

Additional research coming from the
4i-TRACTION project

www.4i-traction.eu



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Thank you for your attention!

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