



EEB

European
Environmental
Bureau

The European Green Deal from civil societies' perspective

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Structure

- ✓ **The European Green Deal** – what has it achieved?
- ✓ The moment of Decision: **EP elections in June**
- ✓ The next 5 years: **European Pact for the Future**



European Green Deal in context

Ursula von der Leyen elected on 16 July 2019

The European Green Deal was her top priority

“Our goal is to reconcile the economy with our planet, to reconcile the way we produce, the way we consume, with our planet and to make it work for our people [...] This is Europe’s man on the moon moment.”

Ursula von der Leyen.





EGD Main developments

1. Political Declaration + Communication + file by file roll out, month by month
2. The EGD was under attack during the Covid-19 crisis but EU kept convictions
3. The Russian war in Ukraine instrumentalised to attacked the EGD: EGD recognised as a peace project, strengthened for fossil fuel independence from Russia
4. Response to the Brussels Farmers' Strikes: wrong solutions to a real problem: eroding the EGD
5. EP election run up – much of the EGD is being sacrificed - despite best effort by Spanish and Belgian council presidencies, despite progressives in EP, and committed Commission staff

Has the relentless pull of the status quo interests destroyed the “man on the moon moment”?

Or can an Agenda of Hope be rekindled?

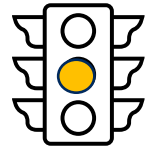


What has the EGD delivered?

The mid term
assessment 2022
was a mix of:



The **Good**



The **“Mixed/missed opportunities”**

While fair
criticism, there
was **hope**



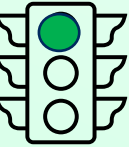
The **“Bad”**

**But in 2024 major
shift - unravelling
of the EGD...**



EGD Mid-term assessment: **The good** *(examples)*

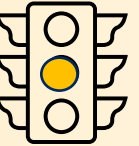
1. **Climate Neutral Europe in Climate Law** (March 2020 - June 2021)
2. ICE sales restriction in **Cars legislation for CO2** (July 2021)
3. **Zero Pollution Action Plan** (May 2021)
4. **The Circular Economy Action Plan** (March 2020 and April 2022)
5. **EU's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030** (May 2020...**but see 2024**) & **Soil Strategy** (Nov 2021)
6.



The EGD started well – good on commitments and strategies, some legal innovations, but things have turned.



The mixed / missed opportunities *(examples)*



1. **Fit for 55 package** (July and December 2021)
2. **ZPAP:** Not quite WHO, no Environmental and Outdoor Noise Directives, no light
3. **Farm to Fork Strategy** (May 2020 ...**but see 2024**)
4. **Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) proposal** (April 2022 – **weakened 2024**)
5. **The Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence proposal** (February 2022 - **weakened 2024**)
6.



EGD Mid-term assessment: **the bad?** *(examples)*

1. **Withdrawal of REACH revision** (2023)
2. **Withdrawal of Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) law** (2023)
3. **Withdrawal of Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation** (2024)
4. **Opposition to Nature Restoration Law** (2024)
5. **Withdrawal of all biodiversity measures under CAP** (2024)
6.not over yet.

Systematic undermining of anything to do with nature / agriculture + dramatic weakening across the board + change of “rules of the game!”



2024 The moment of Decision

2024: a year that will decide the future

PATRICK TEN BRINK, FAUSTINE BAS-DEFOSSEZ and CHRISTIAN SKRIVERVIK 19th December 2023

The European Green Deal faces a fork in the road—between the politics of hope and the politics of fear—as the June elections loom.



- ✓ Council conclusions on the **EU's midterm review of the 8EAP & response**
- ✓ Heads of State's **Strategic Agenda**
- ✓ **EP elections in June**



2024 EU Elections – Vote for Nature Alliance (VNA)

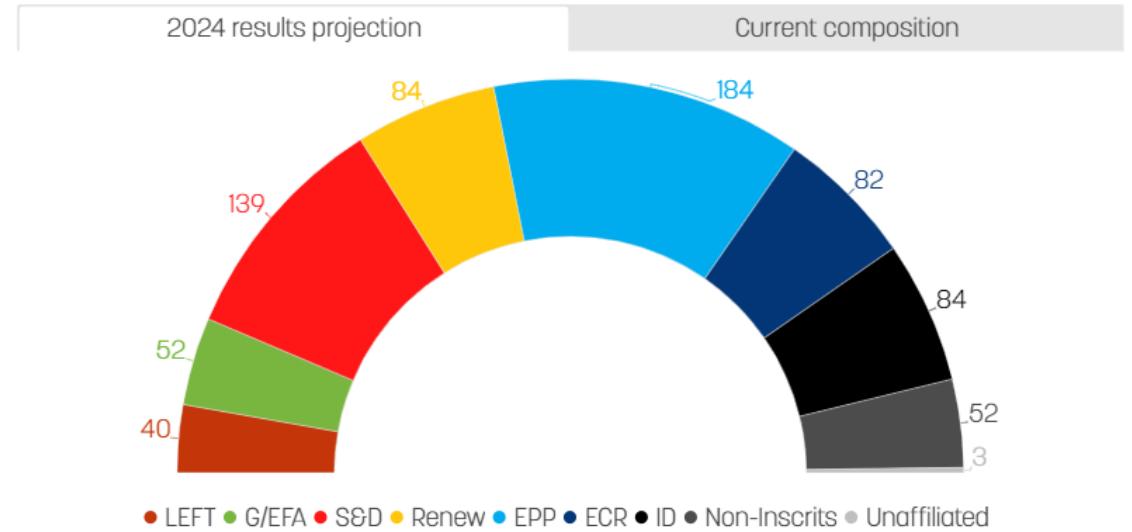
What do the parties' voting records say about them?

Latest polling projections

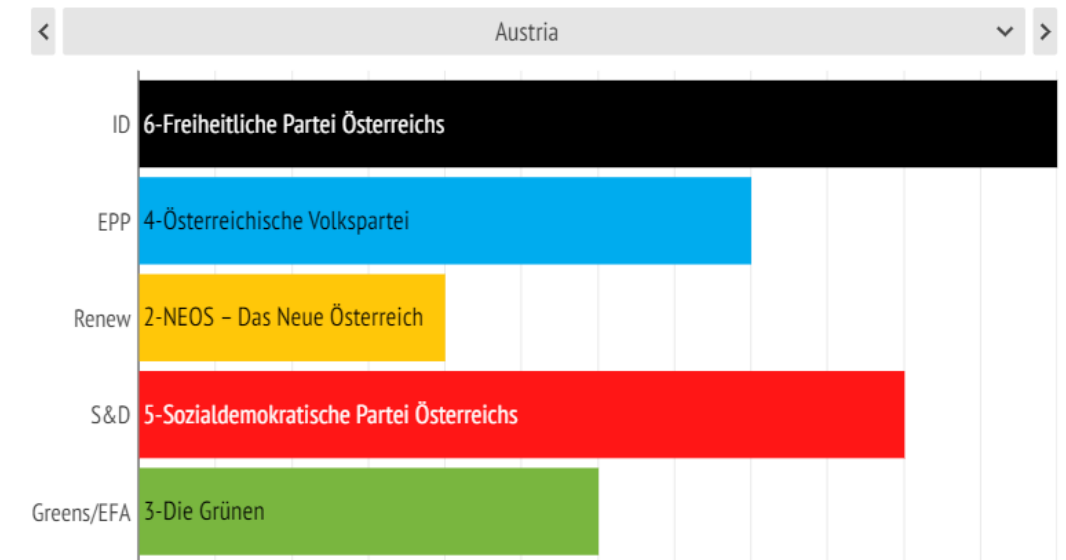
What could the next EU Parliament look like?

	Current seat repartition	April 2024 projection (EU)	April 2024 projection (Austria)
EPP	177	184	4
S&D	141	139	5
RENEW	101	84	2
GEFA	71	52	3
ID	58	84	6
ECR	67	82	-
Left	38	40	-
NI/NA	51	55	-

Seats



Seats per national party



Methodology

- Based on the individual scoring of the **voting behaviour of every Member of the European Parliament (MEP)** during the 2019-2024 legislative term.
- **3 pillars:** Climate neutral and socially just transition/ Nature positive Europe/ Circular economy and zero pollution.
- Analysis of **30 policy files:** 12 on climate, 8 nature, and 10 on pollution.
- Analysis of MEPs' votes on **124 key amendments.**
- Ranking: **Protectors** (scoring between 70-100), **Procrastinators** (scoring between 40-69) and **Prehistoric thinkers** (scoring between 0-39).



PROTECTORS



PROCRASTINATORS



PREHISTORIC THINKERS



EU Parliament Scoreboard

Ranking of EU political groups and national parties based on voting records on climate, nature and pollution legislation.

National Parties

EU Political Groups

Legislative Files

EN

Methodology



EU Political Groups

Overall Score

Climate

Nature

Pollution

Sort by: **Descending**

Greens/European Free Alliance ⁽²¹⁾



92/100

The Left ⁽¹⁹⁾



84/100

Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats ⁽³⁴⁾



70/100

Renew Europe ⁽⁴¹⁾



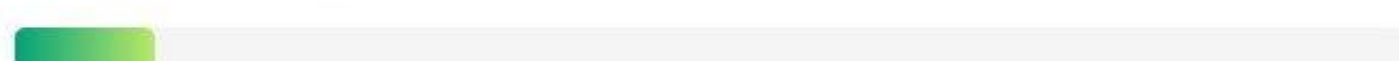
56/100

European People's Party ⁽⁴⁶⁾



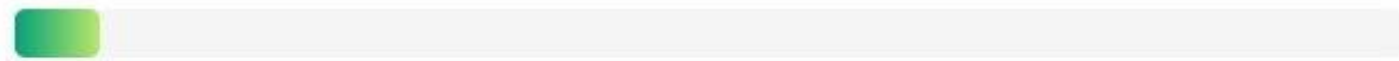
25/100

European Conservatives and Reformists ⁽²²⁾



10/100




Identity and Democracy ⁽⁸⁾



6/100

AUSTRIA

The Austrian Greens and Social Democrats score highly, while Renew's NEOS party performed slightly better than the Renew group average. All three of these parties were however much stronger in standing up for essential environmental action compared to the two lowest-scoring parties: the conservative ÖVP and the far-right FPÖ.

NATIONAL PARTY	OVERALL SCORE	EU Group	Climate ¹	Nature ²	Pollution ³	# MEPs		
Die Grünen - Die Grüne Alternative		97	Greens/EFA	97	96	99	3	 PROTECTORS
Sozialdemokratische Partei Österreichs		78	S&D	80	80	74	6	
NEOS – Das Neue Österreich		60	Renew	80	68	28	1	 PROCRASTINATORS
Österreichische Volkspartei		20	EPP	18	17	24	9	 PREHISTORIC THINKERS
Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs		12	ID	13	3	18	3	

1 - Climate-neutral and socially just transition

2 - Nature positive

3 - Zero pollution and circular economy

0 independent MEPs



Decisions that affect the future...

EU leaders may miss a rendezvous with history

PATRICK TEN BRINK 12th April 2024

The emerging strategic agenda for the next EU mandate reveals an ecological step backwards Europe cannot afford to take.



HANS BÖCKLER STIF
ADVERTISEMENT

STUDY

No. 91 • January 2024 • Hans-Böckler-Stiftung

COMPARING L WORKING COI GERMANY OU' THE UNITED S

Jan Pietsch

ABSTRACT

This paper compares living and working conditions year 2022 with a focus on economic, social and an indicator of corruption are cited, eight out of 10 the indicators. Subjective indicators based on polls or surveys in general, are explicitly avoided. A special one instead of mean values if data allow. Graphical is irregularly. The methodology, which focuses on an approach, provides much more detailed information. studies. This paper is, to the knowledge of the author, the best of living conditions in the U.S. and Germany. That Germany scores 23 and the U.S. only 6. The analysis of two different types of capitalism. It can capture for the living conditions of the majority of its impact of institutions and the type of the welfare state

There is a risk in the Strategic Agenda that EU leaders may miss a rendezvous with history.

Remember that the **European Court of Human Rights** rules that insufficient action on climate change is undermining a human right

– the same can be said for pollution and biodiversity and across all countries...

This ruling gives us hope

And in these times of crisis we need an agenda of hope



EEB's (draft) vision of needs for the next legislative cycle

European Pact for the Future

A green and social deal for a one-planet economy

A commitment to a new social-ecological contract that fosters hope, opens opportunities, creates wellbeing for all, catalyses competitiveness on sustainability across industry and drives the needed transformative system change for a sustainable future

- 1. Live Well, within Planetary Boundaries & in Peace and Solidarity**
- 2. Chart an ecological, social & economic transformation path to 2030, 2040 & 2050**
- 3. Promote a Just Transition for an Ecological Transformation**
- 4. Implement our commitments through investments, governance and rule of law**

The European Pact for the Future will be launched on 13th of May 2024: <https://eeb.org/>



European Pact for the Future

A Green and Social Deal for a One-Planet Economy – 22 April consultation draft*

Live Well, within Planetary Boundaries & in Peace and Solidarity

- 1. Have the *European Pact for the Future - A Green and Social Deal for a One-Planet Economy* - guide the next 5-year legislative cycle**

Flagship Action: Continue to prioritise a transformative green and just transition towards climate neutrality, zero pollution and thriving nature in the next political cycle from the Strategic Agenda onwards.

- 2. Strengthen an enlarging EU**

Flagship action: Roll out the green and just transition in candidate countries with due legal, administrative and financial support, and reform EU governance to ensure decision-making is not undermined by EU growth.

- 3. Make the safe and sustainable choice the easy choice**

Flagship action: Through legislation, incentives and information make the safe and sustainable choices the easy choice for all citizens whether it is mobility, housing, energy, food or other necessary consumables allocating the necessary resources to develop and implement related legislation and revise sustainable public and corporate procurement policy to champion and catalyse the market transformation.



European Pact for the Future

A Green and Social Deal for a One-Planet Economy – 22 April consultation draft*

Chart an ecological, social & economic transformation path to 2030, 2040 & 2050

4. Fully address the linked triple planetary climate, biodiversity and pollution crises

Flagship action: Table an Action Plan for 2030 to 2050 to address areas of insufficient progress (in accordance with Art. 5 (2) of the 8EAP regulation), informed by the mid-term review of the 8EAP, EEA indicator report, science and evidence across Europe and the world.

5. Seize the Circular Economy (CE) opportunities and shift to a Wellbeing Economy

Flagship actions: Fast track the CE by resource use & material footprint reduction targets and resource efficiency measures. Embrace an agenda of a Wellbeing Economy & Healthy People

6. Engage all sectors to drive system change for resilience & competitiveness on sustainability

Flagship actions: Ramp up investment in skills, training, job creation and research in key sectors of the green and climate neutral economy, supported by due infrastructure to facilitate competitiveness on sustainability to help vanguard sustainable companies prosper. Design and launch sustainable food systems policy package – a key to constructive system change in a failing policy context for a sector in need. Strengthen chemicals legislation and implementation to support human health and avoid a toxic supply chain and economy.

* These may still change in light of ongoing consultation



European Pact for the Future

A Green and Social Deal for a One-Planet Economy – 22 April consultation draft*

Promote a Just Transition for an Ecological Transformation

7. Ensure a just transition with a new social contract to leave no one behind

Flagship action: Commit to an EU-wide strategy to address inequalities and end poverty, systematically social proof policies to take account of gender, economic and other inequalities.

8. Strengthen democracy by giving a voice to youth and others too often forgotten

Flagship action: Implement a European Civil Society Strategy and civic dialogue, with a focus on younger generations and marginalised groups, and innovations in participatory democracy.

9. Embrace global responsibilities and drive partnerships to face common challenges

Flagship action: Take responsibility for and scale back Europe's negative international externalities, lead in global diplomacy for multilateral solutions and green-deal type partnerships and systematically push for the respect for the international rule of law in all conflicts to avoid the erosion of a rules-based order essential for peace.

* These may still change in light of ongoing consultation



European Pact for the Future

A Green and Social Deal for a One-Planet Economy - **22 April consultation draft***

Implement our commitments through investments, governance & rule of law

10. Implement & enforce EU legislation to protect the rule of law and our health

Flagship Action: Set up an Implementation and Enforcement Action plan, with strong focus on upholding the rule of law in Member States, and across the EU.

11. Make EU economies drivers of system change: an investment pact for the future

Flagship action : Commit to an Investment Pact for the Green Deal transition, so all are on board – people and businesses.

12. Strengthen EU governance and trust in the European Project

Flagship action: Appoint a Commission Vice president for the European Green Deal & Social Investments, a VP for Just Transition & Wellbeing.

** These may still change in light of ongoing consultation*



What do you want for the next 5 years?

What do you think is needed and how that can be achieved?

And don't forget: the European Elections in June will decide the EP, which will be a major influence on the programme of the next Commission President... so go out to vote!

<https://euelections.eeb.org/>

These are times of multiple crises, opportunities and challenges, and our choices today will define our common future.

Enter

Useful materials

- Scoreboard links:

EU elections EEB webpage hosting the scoreboard: <https://euelections.eeb.org/>

Detailed methodology: <https://caneurope.org/eu-parliament-scoreboard-methodology/>

Scoreboard PDF report: https://caneurope.org/content/uploads/2024/04/EU-Parliament-Scoreboard_2024.pdf

<https://euelections.eeb.org/>



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