

# EU Climate Action – an overview

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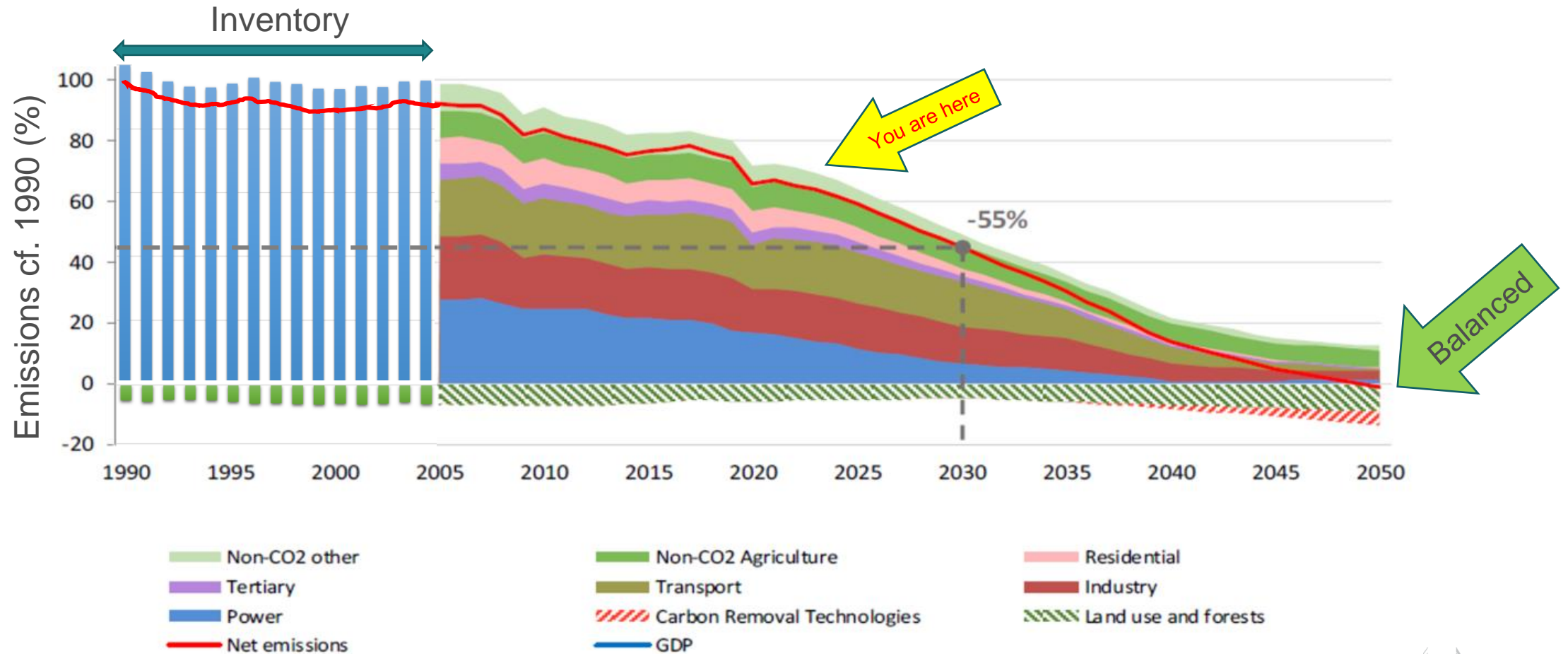
# Outline of the presentation

## Policy tools

- 1. The EU climate policy framework towards climate neutrality**
  - Climate Law
  - Effort Sharing Regulation
  - Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation
  - Taxonomy
- 2. Communication on Sustainable Carbon Cycles**
- 3. The EU Methane Strategy**
- 4. EU Climate Pact**
- 5. Climate and the EU budget**
- 6. Climate negotiations**

# The EU climate policy framework towards climate neutrality

# Pathway to climate neutrality: Climate Law

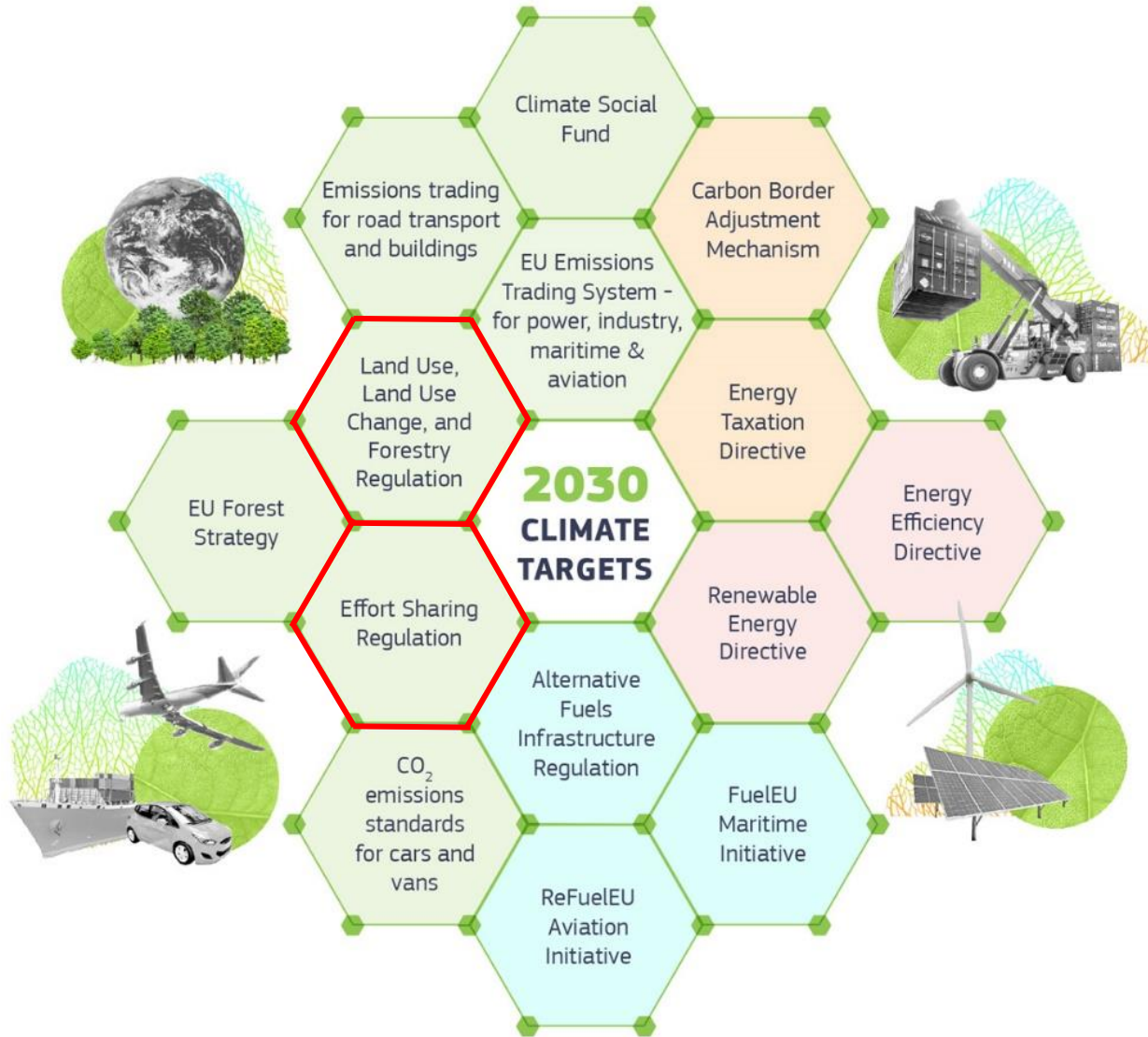


# From the Climate Law to 'Fit for 55'



- The Climate Law enshrines into legislation the EU objective to become climate-neutral by 2050.
- The 2030 Climate Target Plan raises the EU's ambition on reducing greenhouse gas emissions to at least 55% below 1990 levels by 2030.
  - “The implementation of combined food waste prevention measures could reduce up at least 10% of the climate change impact of the EU food system.” (source: the [impact assessment](#))
- In July 2021, the Commission adopted a set of proposals to make the EU's climate, energy, land use, transport and taxation policies fit for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990.

# The Fit for 55 Package – Overview



Two pieces of legislation are particularly relevant for the food-producing sector:

- The Effort Sharing Regulation
- The Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation

# New Effort Sharing Regulation

Current 2030 target



**-29 %** compared to 2005

New 2030 target



**-40%** in line with cost efficient projections at the EU level



## ESR scope maintained

- Accountability: each Member State has a binding annual greenhouse gas emission limit for the period 2021–2030
- Subsidiarity: the choice of measures to fulfil these commitments is left to the Member States.

# The Land sector – Status quo

Decreasing carbon removals in forests, soils, and wood products

Stable emissions from livestock, fertiliser use, soils

Complex compliance rules under LULUCF and Effort-Sharing Regulation



# Reverse the trend

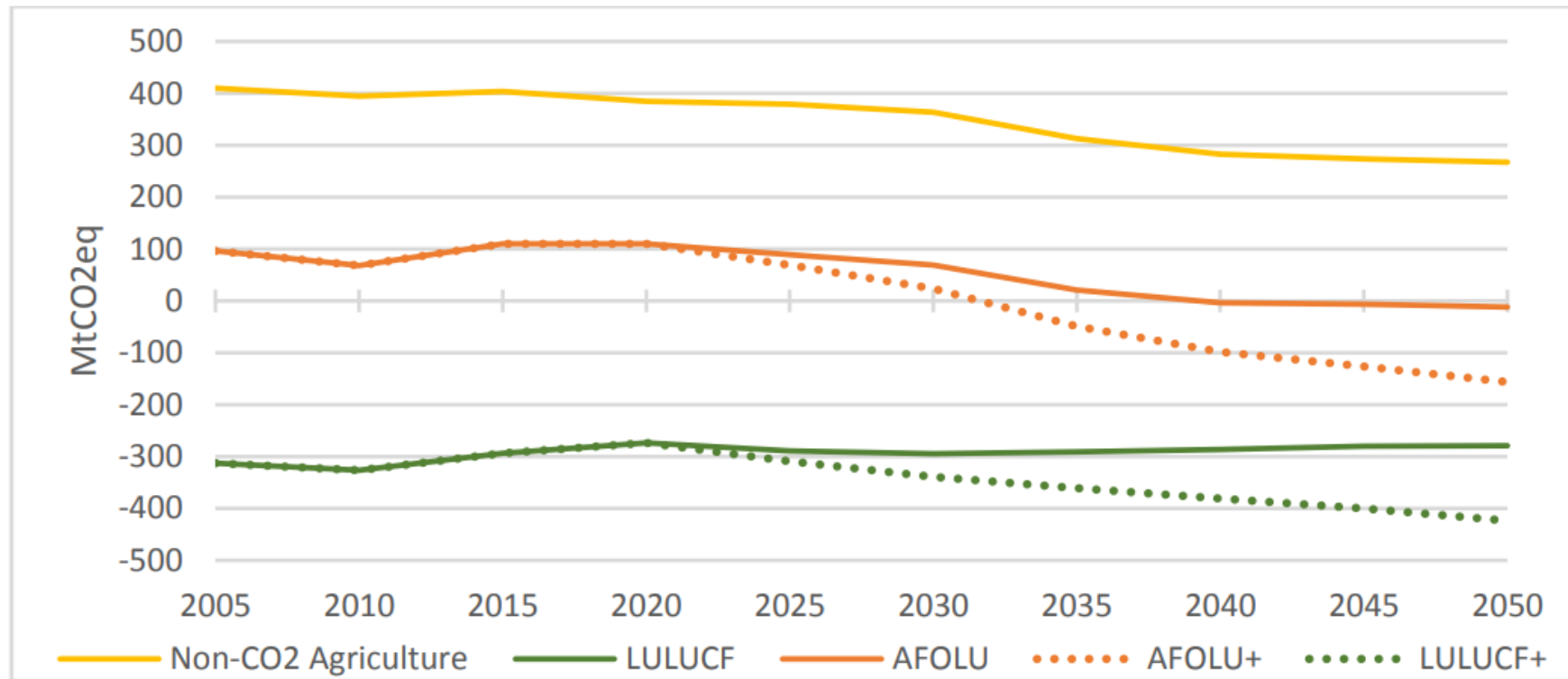
Simpler, more transparent and effective compliance rules and targets

Increase EU carbon removals to at least **310 Mt by 2030**

**Climate neutral EU land sector by 2035**

*Increased carbon removals to balance reduced agricultural emissions, including from livestock and fertiliser use*

# Towards a climate-neutral land sector



*Projected emissions and removals from the Agriculture and LULUCF sectors, EU27.*

*Source: Impact Assessment accompanying the Climate Target Plan (SWD(2020) 176 final)*

# State of play in the legislative procedure

- 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021: Commission [proposal](#) to amend the LULUCF Regulation
- 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022: European Parliament adopted its [opinion](#)
- 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022: Council reached a [general approach](#)
- Next: trilogues

# EU Taxonomy

- A classification system establishing a list of environmentally sustainable economic activities to help scale up sustainable investment
- 2020: main [Regulation](#) with six objectives: CC Mitigation, CC Adaptation, water, circular economy, pollution, biodiversity and ecosystems
  - Sustainable = substantially contributing to one objective while not significantly harming the other ones
- 2021: first [Delegated Act](#) on sustainable activities for CCM and CCA
  - Does not include agriculture
- 2022: second Delegated Act for the other four objectives (upcoming)
  - May include agriculture for its substantial contribution to biodiversity

# EU Taxonomy – process

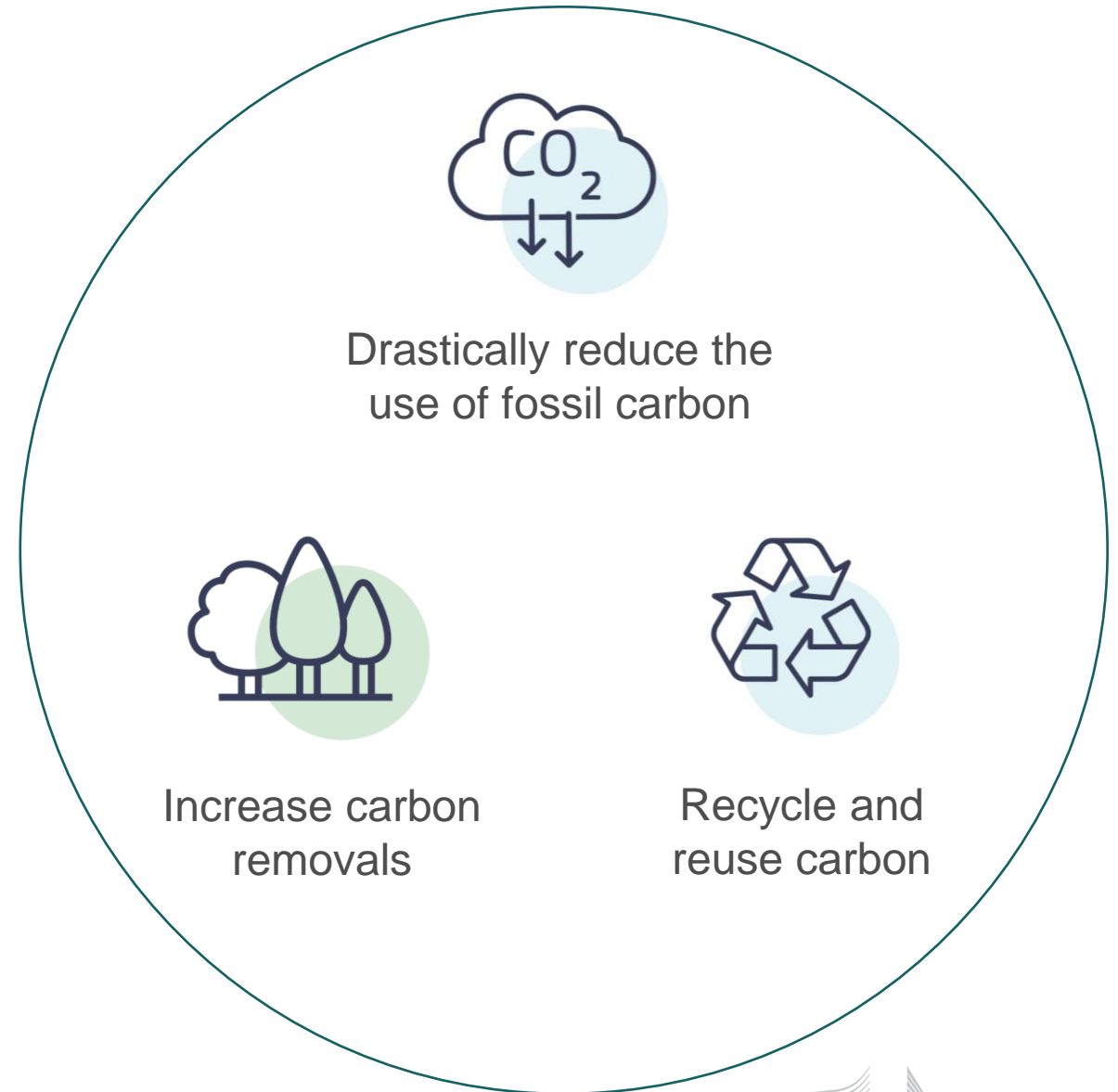
- 2018-2020: Commission gave mandate to a Technical Expert Group (TEG) to support the development of technical criteria for the EU taxonomy. In March 2020, it adopted a [final report](#) with a [technical annex](#).
- 2020-2022: Commission is advised by a permanent Expert Group called [Platform on Sustainable Finance](#) ([57 members and 11 observers](#) from industry, academia, civil society, financial sector) to assist in the further development of the taxonomy.
- After receiving the [recommendations from the PSF](#), the Commission:
  - Is preparing the next Taxonomy Delegated Act (any deviation from PSF recommendations to be justified)
  - Will publish it for stakeholders' feedback (6 weeks)

# Communication on Sustainable carbon cycles

COM(2021) 800 final

# Sustainable carbon cycles

To achieve **climate neutrality** at the latest by 2050 and **negative emissions** thereafter, the EU needs to increase carbon removals and establish **sustainable carbon cycles**.



# Carbon farming



A **green business model** rewarding land managers for improved land management practices, resulting in carbon sequestration in ecosystems and reducing the release of carbon to the atmosphere.

## Benefits of carbon farming:



Increased carbon removals



Additional income for land managers



More biodiversity and nature



Increased climate resilience of farm and forest land



# Carbon farming - examples



**Afforestation and reforestation**  
according to ecological principles



Targeted conversion of **cropland to fallow**, or of set-aside areas to **permanent grassland**



Use of **conservation tillage, catch crops, cover crops** and increasing **landscape features**



**Agroforestry**  
and other forms of mixed farming



Restoration, rewetting and conservation of **peatlands and wetlands**



**Blue carbon:** coastal wetlands, regenerative aquaculture, marine permaculture

# Carbon farming

## Challenges

### By 2028:

- Access to verified emission and removal data for all land managers

### By 2030:

- Contribute to reaching LULUCF target of 310 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq net removals



# Study on the polluter-pays principle in agriculture

*Report 2021 /16 from the European Court of Auditors on CAP and climate:*

*“In line with the EU’s increased climate ambition for 2030, the Commission should assess the potential to apply the polluter-pays principle to emissions from agricultural activities, and reward farmers for long-term carbon removals”*

- *Project starting in September 2022*
- *Study on design options for applying the PPP to GHG emissions from the agricultural sector and for rewarding farmers for long-term carbon removals*
- *Stakeholder activities: expert roundtable, public workshop, online survey*

# Next step: A regulatory framework for the certification of carbon removals

Set robust criteria to identify high-quality carbon removals tailored to different types

- Quantification
- Additionality
- Long-term sequestration
- Sustainability

Establish a governance framework to ensure a transparent certification process

- Reliable rules and procedures
- Third-party validation and verification
- Robust registries

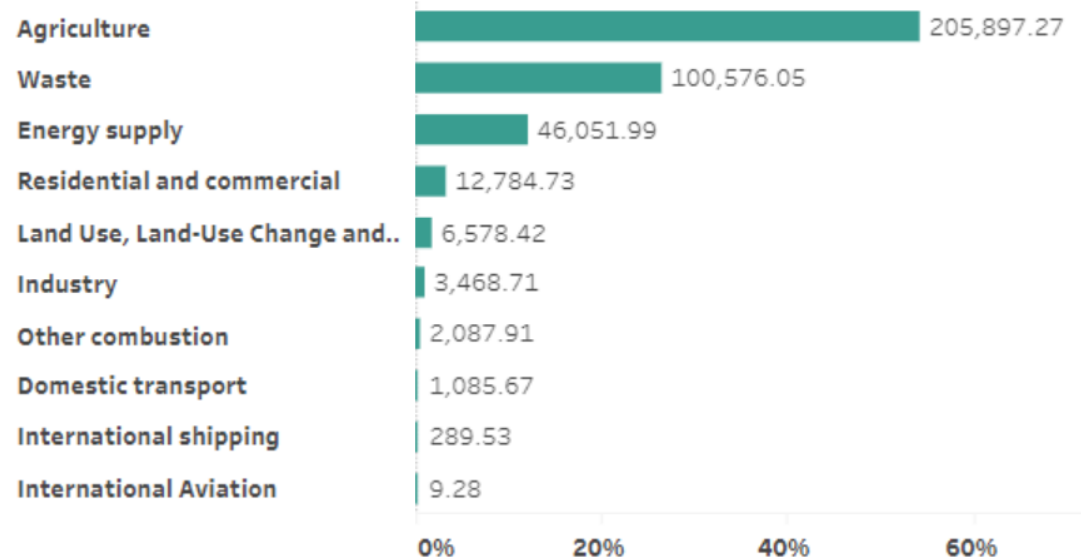
# The Methane Strategy

An EU strategy to reduce methane emissions COM(2020) 663 final

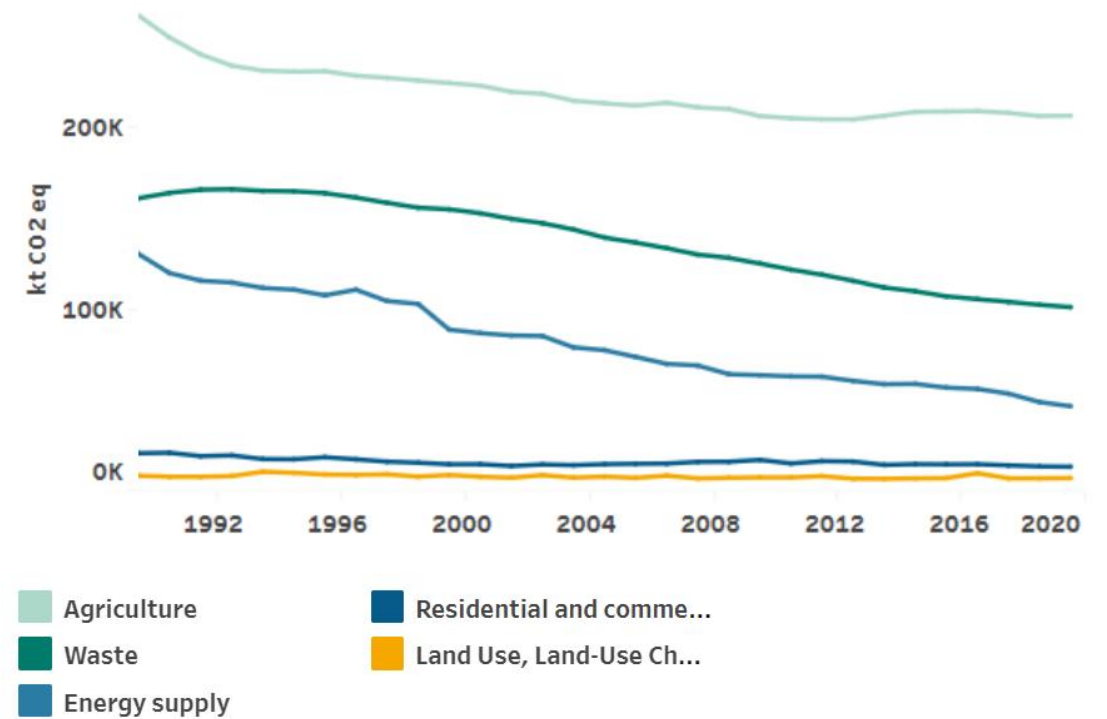
# Methane emissions in the EU

## Sectoral shares in EU-27 in 2020

(absolute and %)



## Trends by aggregated sectors in EU-27



EEA greenhouse gases - data viewer ([link](#))

# Cross-sectoral actions

## Reporting

- More accurate measurement and reporting methodologies for methane emissions [...] will contribute to a better understanding of the problem and better inform subsequent mitigation measures.

*Objective: “make Tier 3 methane reporting by energy, chemical and agricultural companies more widespread across the EU”*

- Challenge in the **agricultural sector**: high number of actors involved
  - temporary objective: apply Tier 2 approaches & improve disaggregation of emission factors
  - final objective: achieve Tier 3

# Cross-sectoral actions

## Establishing an international methane emissions observatory

- tasked with collecting, reconciling, verifying and publishing anthropogenic methane emissions data at a global level
- Initially covering oil and fossil gas sectors, to be extended to agriculture once comparably reliable methodologies are established
- ✓ Launched at G20 Summit on the eve of the COP26 in Glasgow



# Cross-sectoral actions

## Satellite detection, Copernicus and aerial monitoring

- ✓ Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service: satellites + ground measurement stations to monitor atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations and detect leaks

## Review of relevant environmental and climate legislation

- ✓ [Proposal](#) to expand the scope of the **Industrial Emission Directive** to cover largest cattle, pig and poultry farms and more focus on methane
- ✓ Fit for 55 review of **Effort Sharing Regulation**

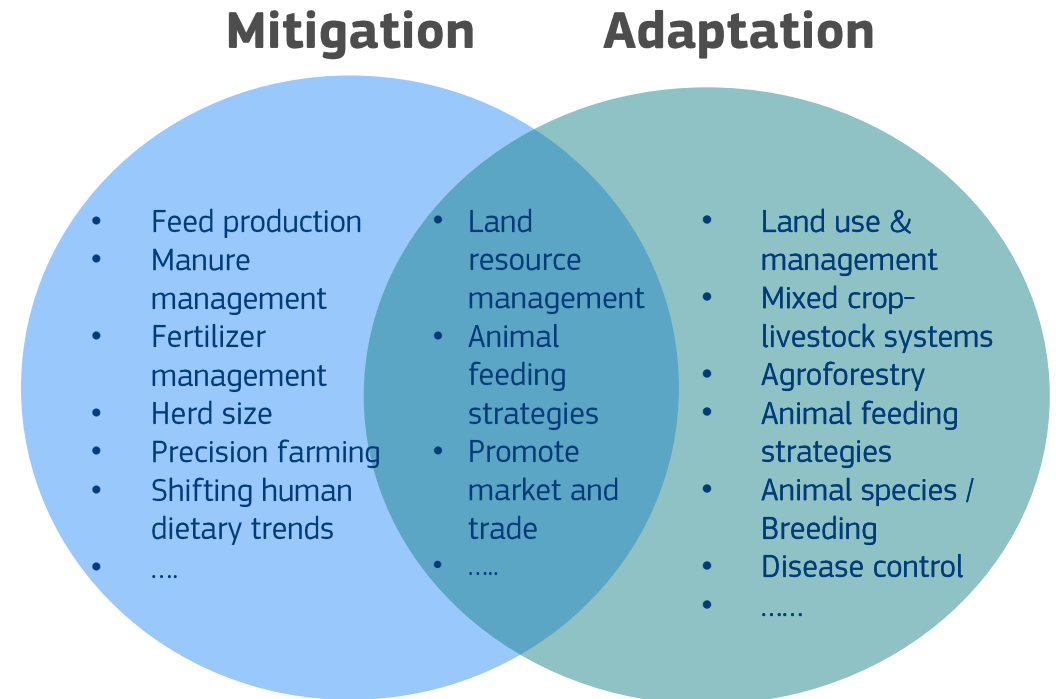
# Cross-sectoral actions

## Opportunities in biogas production

- Non-recyclable human and agricultural waste (i.e. manure) and residue streams can be utilised in anaerobic digesters to produce biogas or in biorefineries to produce bio-materials and intermediate bio-chemicals
- ✓ [Biomethane Action Plan](#) (accompanying the [REPower EU Plan](#))
- ✓ [2022 LIFE call](#) for proposal encourages projects which address production of biogas and biomethane from waste and residue streams
- ✓ Upcoming guidance for the revision of National Energy and Climate Plans will focus on REPower EU Plan, including Biomethane production

# Promising mitigation practices for the agricultural sector

- **breeding**, herd health and animal welfare
- improving **animal diets** (mix of feed materials), feed additives, and feeding techniques
- valorising waste and residue streams from agriculture and waste sectors through **anaerobic digestion**
- **manure** management (use in fertilisers and biogas generation)
- societal shift to **more balanced diets**

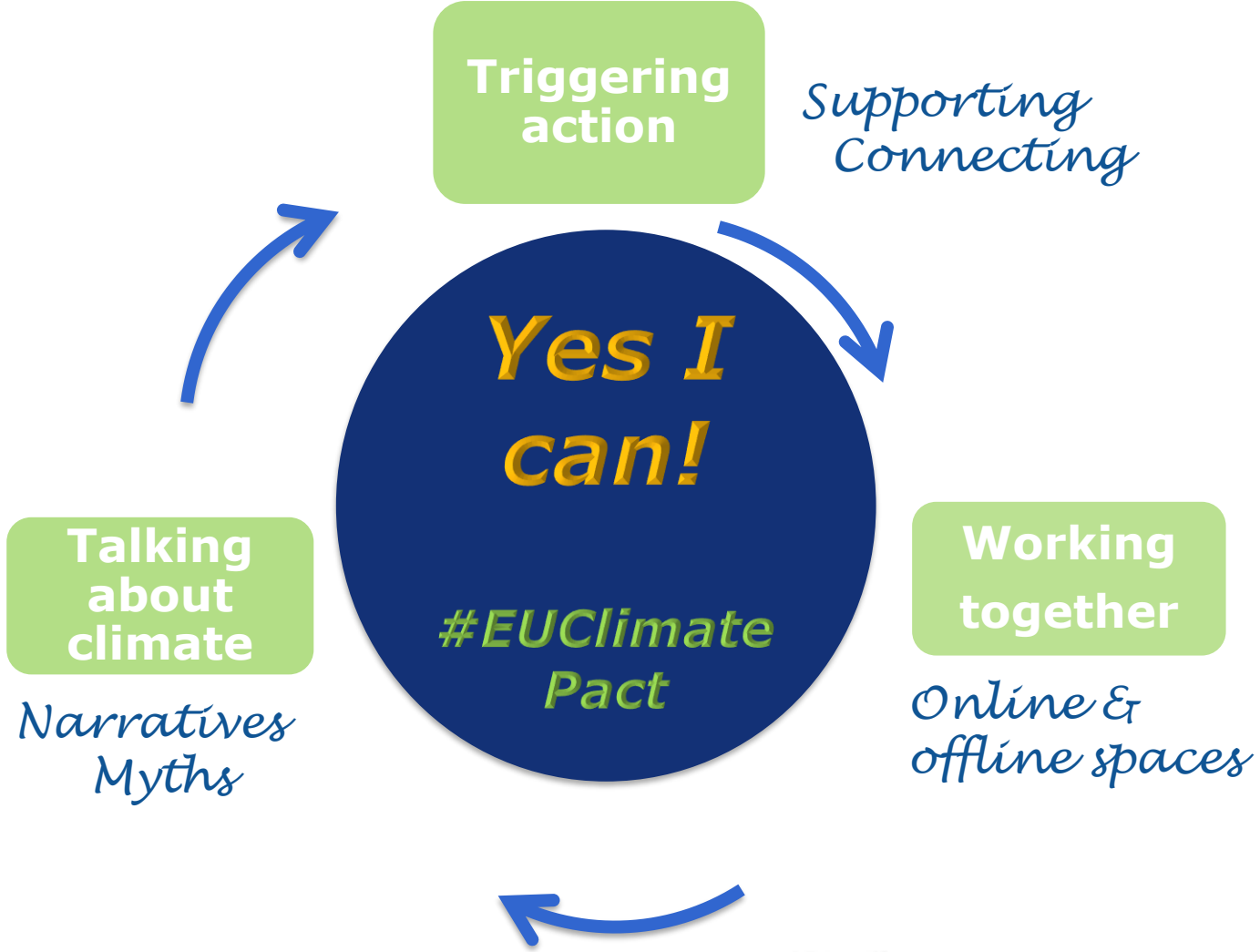


# Actions for the agriculture sector

- ✓ setting up an expert group on methane emissions
- develop an inventory of best practices, available technologies and innovative technologies (upcoming)
- propose a [digital carbon-navigator template](#) (upcoming)
- ✓ encourage methane-reduction measures and carbon farming measures in CAP Strategic Plans

# EU Climate Pact

**"To give everyone a voice and a space to design climate actions; share information; launch new and support existing activities; showcase solutions that others can follow"**



# EU Climate Pact: Who?

**Public administrations**  
regions, cities,  
local authorities

**Multipliers**  
organisations &  
networks with  
existing climate  
actions

**Youth**  
organisations &  
networks

**Civil society**  
local community,  
grassroots  
organisations,  
activists

**Citizens**  
consumers,  
households

**Education**  
schools

**Academia**  
scientific, research  
and innovation  
organisations  
& networks

**Businesses**  
Non and for-profit,  
social innovators,  
trade unions,  
investors,  
philanthropies

**Media**

# Climate and the EU budget

- **Long-term budget (2021-2027) of €1.074 trillion**
- **Next Generation EU**, temporary recovery instrument of **€750 billion**
- **At least 30% of EU budget 2020-2027** will be spent on climate-related action, the highest share of the largest European budget ever
- **Member States develop own individual Recovery and Resilience plans**, each of which will include **minimum 37% climate expenditure**



# LIFE programme



- EU's **financial instrument** supporting environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects
- Budget for the upcoming funding period **2021-2027 5.45 billion**
- Divided into two sub-programmes: **environment** and **climate action**
- **LIFE climate action** supports projects in the development of innovative ways to respond to the challenges of climate change in the EU and has **two priority areas** :
  - ★ Climate change mitigation and adaptation
  - ★ Clean energy transition
- In 2020 the Commission has approved an **investment package of more than €280 million** for 120 new LIFE programme projects
- Link: [https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en)





# Climate negotiations

- The EU and all its member countries are among the 197 Parties of the UN convention to fight climate change ([UNFCCC](#)).
- Global Climate Action Agenda:
  - Outside of the formal intergovernmental negotiations, countries, cities and regions, businesses and civil society members across the world are already taking action for the climate.
  - The EU and its member countries play an active role in promoting and sponsoring specific initiatives.
  - Tracking initiatives by non-state actors: The [Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action](#) (NAZCA) set up by the UNFCCC allows non-state actors to register their climate commitments.
  - Link: [Global Climate Action Agenda \(europa.eu\)](#)

# Links

- European Green Deal: [link](#)
- Climate Law: [link](#)
- Legislative proposal on a new Regulation for Land use, forestry, and agriculture: [link](#)
- Sustainable Carbon Cycles communication: [link](#)
- Carbon Farming: [link](#)
- Farm to Fork strategy: [link](#)
- Common Agricultural Policy: [link](#)

# Thank you



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