



EU Sustainability Legislative Scan

April 2026
EN version



Genuine advances in sustainability

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This legislative scan reflects information and developments available up to the date of publication. While we strive to ensure accuracy and relevance, no guarantee is given as to completeness or continued accuracy, and updates may occur after this date. Readers are advised to consult official sources or contact relevant organizations for the most current information. This legislative scan is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. We accept no liability for any loss or damages arising from reliance on the information herein.



KEY CHANGES: APRIL

Developments in European ESG-policy

EUDR confirmed: simplification without reopening the rules

The European Commission has published the simplification review of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), making it clear that the regulation will not be reopened and that the existing implementation deadlines will remain in place. At the same time, the Commission is presenting a proposal for a new delegated act on the product scope which, among other things, adds soluble coffee and removes leather from the scope.

REACH regulation – Revision is off the table

The announced revision of the REACH Regulation from 2020 will not lead to a full reopening of the legislation (REACH: Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals). The European Commission is opting for smaller targeted adjustments through secondary legislation and implementing acts, with the aim of providing more legal certainty for businesses while maintaining the level of protection for people and the environment (see page 17).

AccelerateEU: Commission puts electrification at the heart of energy security and competitiveness

"AccelerateEU" includes both short-term and structural measures with longer-term effects to further reduce dependence on volatile fossil fuel markets and to make Europe more resilient to future risks through clean and European electricity. The plans will be further elaborated in the expected Electrification Action Plan that the transition to electricity should accelerate in industry, transport and the construction sector.

Developments in social issues – Gender equality and worker mobility

The European Commission has presented a gender equality strategy 2026 – 2030. It builds on last year's 'Roadmap for Women's Rights' and focuses on advancing gender equality across all economic sectors: within start-ups, engineering and representation in the financial sector. In addition, it also includes actions for the pay gap such as the implementation of the pay transparency directive.

Negotiations on adapted rules for the coordination of social security have also resumed after being blocked for 5 years. The adjustments should strengthen fair cross-border labour mobility for workers in the EU. This includes facilitating access to unemployment and long-term care benefits for people living or working in another EU country.

EU commits to greening company car fleets with new, targeted rules

The European Commission's proposal for an initiative to make company fleets more sustainable, with the aim of accelerating the deployment of zero-emission vehicles, is now being discussed in the European Parliament (Proposal on greening Corporate Fleets. See page 15). The Netherlands has already indicated that it is pre-sorted for this with the 'pseudo-eindheffing' on business petrol and diesel cars for employees. This additional tax will apply from 1 January 2027.



KEY CHANGES: APRIL

Climate policy focuses on targeted investments

Spring Memorandum 2026 & Climate and Energy Fund – steering through investments

With the Spring Memorandum 2026 and the Draft Multi-Year Programme for the Climate and Energy Fund, the government is positioning sustainability primarily as an investment issue. The focus is on energy infrastructure, industrial sustainability, early phase upscaling and CO₂-free energy, not on new generic obligations. Subsidies are granted conditionally and are more often linked to standardisation, pricing and feasibility. Grid capacity is a hard precondition for this.

For companies, predictability is increasing. Projects that demonstrably contribute to the 2030 goals and fit within the 2050 transition path, and are well integrated into the energy system, are eligible for targeted support.

Resilience of Critical Entities Act – Climate Risk Required by Law

The Critical Entities Resilience Act (Wwke), implementation of the European CER Directive (Critical Entities Resilience Directive), has been adopted. Climate change is explicitly identified as a risk to essential services. From 2026, approximately 500 organisations will be designated as critical and required to structurally analyse and mitigate climate risks. Climate adaptation thus becomes enforceable. Directors must demonstrably steer towards resilience; Climate risks must be operationally anchored, not just reported.

Government letter on Sustainable Industry: targeted support within clear preconditions

In the letter to parliament on making industry more sustainable, the government emphasises that the Industrial Accelerator Act (IAA) offers an important opportunity to make Dutch and European industry future-proof. The Netherlands will focus on three main points: rapid permitting for industrial sustainability projects, including by being more flexible with temporary nitrogen emissions; stronger European demand creation for sustainable products through standardisation, labels and obligations; and an effective cluster approach in which industrial acceleration areas contribute to cooperation and economies of scale without additional regulatory burden. Through the IAA, the government wants to improve preconditions such as energy costs, permits and infrastructure, so that sustainability pays off, investments are underway and the competitiveness and resilience of industry are strengthened.

Nature Restoration Regulation – greater spatial impact

In the progress letter on the Nature Restoration Regulation, the government outlines the national interpretation and planned actions. Spatial choices in agriculture, construction, infrastructure and industry are tested more structurally against nature objectives. Projects near vulnerable areas will be subject to stricter preconditions, which makes the granting of permits more complex. Early ecological and spatial due diligence will be crucial.

Advice of the Council of State on pay transparency – preparation required

The Council of State advised on the implementation of the European Pay Transparency Directive. This mandates equal pay for work of equal value and introduces transparency requirements such as salary information in recruitment and gender pay gap reports. Transposition must be done by 7 June 2026; The Netherlands is aiming for entry into force on 1 January 2027. Companies should work on objective, gender-neutral remuneration structures and robust HR and payroll systems as early as 2026.

GET IN TOUCH

Europe's sustainability landscape is moving fast. With the Green Deal and the Clean Industrial Deal as a foundation, a new wave of EU rules and directives is driving more business action, innovation and transparency. For forward-looking companies, this is a real opportunity: to build trust, strengthen your market position and create new value.

These rules are not optional. Non-compliance can bring fines, legal risks and reputational damage. But even more critical: it means losing ground in a market where sustainability is a competitive edge.

At 2BHonest we don't just track regulations, we translate them into concrete steps that fit your organization. Through our monthly updates and tailored guidance, we help you see what's coming, understand what it means, and act with confidence.

If you want to know what these changes mean for your organization and how to turn them into an advantage, get in touch with us. Together, we'll make sure you don't just keep pace with regulation, but stay ahead of it.

Our experts

Get in touch with our experts to learn more about the relevant exposures and timelines for your company.



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Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)



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Aim

CBAM is the EU's regulatory tool to prevent carbon leakage and ensure fair competition between EU producers and foreign manufacturers. It applies a carbon price to imports of emissions-intensive goods, aligning their climate costs with that of EU-made products.

Scope

The regulation applies to EU importers of specific goods such as cement, iron and steel, aluminium, fertilizers, electricity, and hydrogen. Financial obligations came into effect on January 1, 2026. Imports* up to 50 tonnes per year will not be subject to CBAM rules. The scope will expand over time, with a full replacement of free ETS allowances by 2034. National authorities and a central EU registry will oversee compliance.

Status



Definitive regime started: From 1 January 2026, CBAM transitioned from reporting-only to full operation. Importers of carbon-intensive goods must buy and surrender CBAM certificates based on embedded emissions. A 50-ton de-minimis threshold applies, and implementing acts published in December clarify registry access, verification, and calculation methods.

*Threshold does not apply to electricity and hydrogen

Circular Economy Act (CEA)



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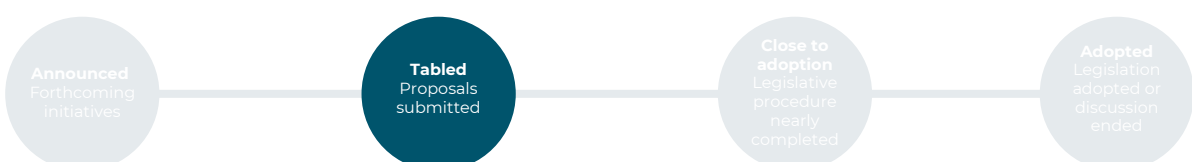
Aim

As part of the Clean Industrial Deal, a strategy designed to bolster the competitiveness and decarbonisation of Europe's industry, the CEA aims to accelerate the shift to a circular economy. Set to be adopted in 2026, the act supports sustainable production and consumption models by embedding circularity into manufacturing and supply chains. Key measures include enhancing resource efficiency and cutting CO₂-emissions, while strengthening the EU's industrial resilience and competitiveness. Obligations will be implemented through EU-wide standards, extended producer responsibility schemes, and digital tools like product passports.

Scope

The CEA applies to companies and sectors involved in material use, product design, manufacturing, and waste management. It affects producers, retailers, and public authorities, regardless of company size. Priority sectors include manufacturing, electronics, textiles, packaging, and construction.

Status



Conflict Minerals Regulation (CMR)

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Aim

The CMR aims to increase responsibility of import of metals and ores, such as tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold, into the EU. It requires EU importers to conduct due diligence, identify and address risks, report on supply-chain practices, and ensure transparency on sourcing from conflict-affected high risk areas. These obligations align with OECD guidelines and support broader sustainability goals.

Scope

The regulation applies to all companies placing physical goods on the EU market that contain the specified minerals from all conflict-affected high risk areas in the world. It covers manufacturers, importers, and distributors, regardless of company size or origin. Specific product requirements will be defined through delegated acts. Priority sectors include electronics, jewelry, automotive, and industrial processing and manufacturing.

Status



Construction Products Regulation (CPR)

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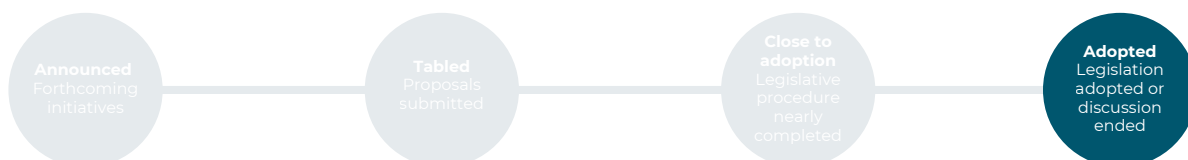
Aim

The CPR aims to ensure construction products in the EU are safe, reliable, and comparable by setting common rules and standards for how their performance is tested and reported. The revision significantly broadens the scope, while introducing new environmental, safety, and functional requirements, imposes additional manufacturer obligations (like declarations of conformity), and introduces digital product passports to improve compliance and transparency.

Scope

The regulation applies to all companies placing construction products on the EU market, including reused and 3D-printed products, and prefabricated buildings. Micro-enterprises are subject to simplified procedures but must still meet essential environmental and safety standards.

Status



Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD)

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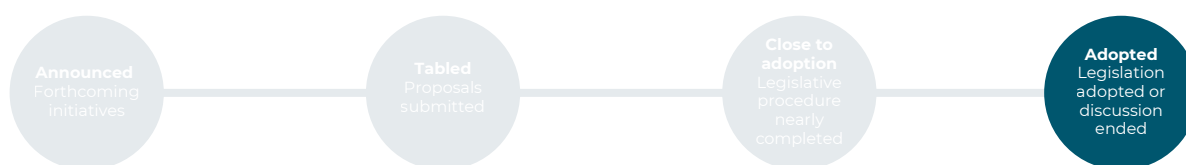
Aim

The Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) requires companies to identify, prevent, and mitigate adverse impacts on human rights and the environment throughout their operations and value chains. This includes issues such as child labour, adequate wages, freedom of association and pollution.

Scope

The CSDDD originally applies to companies with more than 1000 employees and a global turnover above €450 million, and to non-EU companies with at least €450 million turnover generated within the EU. Currently, there is a proposal for an adjusted scope (read below).

Status



Amendments: The revision of the CSDDD as part of the Omnibus Package aims to simplify the obligations and significantly reduce its scope. Under the amended directive, only very large companies with at least 5,000 employees and a global turnover of more than €1.5 billion will still be covered by the CSDDD. Companies must comply with the due diligence obligations by July 2029 at the latest.

Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)

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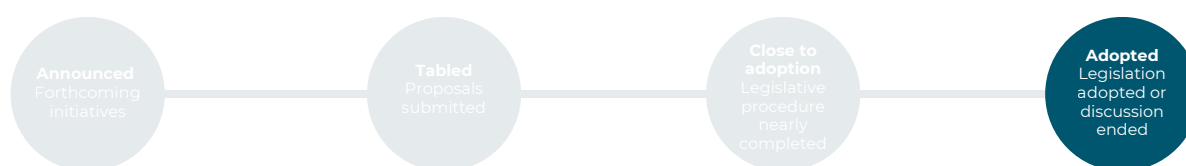
Aim

The CSRD aims to enhance and standardize sustainability reporting across the EU. It requires companies to disclose how sustainability affect their business and how their activities impact people and the environment, ensuring reliable and comparable information for investors and stakeholders.

Scope

Originally, a company is in scope of the CSRD if it meets two of the following three criteria: more than 1000 employees, over €50 million in annual turnover and/or over €25 million in total assets. Currently, there is a proposal for an adjusted scope (read below). Micro-enterprises are excluded, while SMEs benefit from simplified standards (VSME).

Status



Amendments: The revision of the CSRD under the Omnibus Package aims to simplify reporting, narrow the scope, and delay deadlines. The omission of data for wave 1 ('quick-fix') and a two-year postponement for waves 2 and 3 ('stop-the-clock') have been adopted. Scope will apply to companies with more than 1,000 employees and turnover above €450 million, with exemptions for financial holdings and transition relief for 2024-wave companies during 2025-26.

Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA)

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Aim

The CRMA aims to secure the EU's access to a safe, resilient, and sustainable supply of critical and strategic raw materials (CRMs and SRMs), such as lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements. By 2030, the EU should extract 10%, process 40%, and recycle 25% of its annual consumption of SRMs. The regulation also aims to streamline permitting procedures for strategic projects and limit dependency on any single third country to a maximum of 65% per raw material.

Scope

The CRMA applies to companies involved in the extraction, processing, trade or recycling of SRMs, which are essential to sectors like renewable energy, digital technologies, defence, aerospace, healthcare, and transport. Projects may be designated as 'strategic' if they contribute to EU supply goals and meet sustainability and feasibility criteria.

Status



Proposed amendments: Transfer the duty to identify large CRM users from Member States to the EC, which would notify companies, require supply chain risk assessments for board review, and possibly set mitigation measures. Expand recyclability rules for permanent magnets to include e.g. hard drives, loudspeakers, and drones. For certain CRMs, factor waste into minimum share requirements.

Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)

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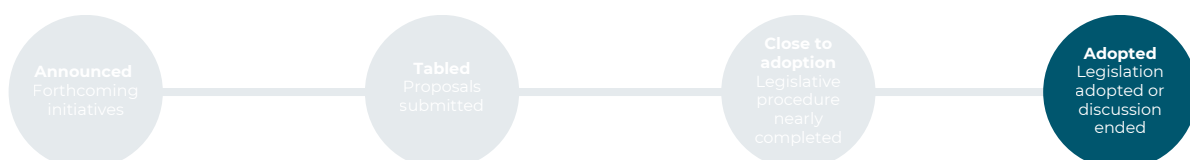
Aim

The ESPR aims to make products more sustainable by setting performance and information requirements. It covers aspects like durability, reusability, upgradability, and recyclability, and includes measures to reduce environmental impacts throughout the product lifecycle. The Regulation also introduces digital product passports to enhance transparency and traceability, supporting the EU's circular economy goals.

Scope

The regulation applies to all companies that place physical goods on the EU market — whether they are manufacturers, importers, or distributors — regardless of company size or origin. Specific product requirements will be defined through delegated acts, with priority given to high-impact sectors such as textiles, electronics, furniture, and plastics.

Status



Ecolabel Regulation



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Aim

The regulation on ecolabels establishes the legal framework for awarding the EU Ecolabel, a voluntary mark identifying products and services with reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle. It aims to promote sustainable production and consumption, support the circular economy, and helps consumers make environmentally conscious choices. The 2025–2029 work plan expands this mission by simplifying certification procedures, improving digital tools, and linking the label to public procurement and financial incentives. Although voluntary, the EU Ecolabel is a valuable tool for companies seeking to demonstrate environmental performance and differentiate themselves in the EU market.

Scope

The regulation applies to a wide range of sectors, including textiles, cosmetics, cleaning products, paper, furniture, electronics, and services such as tourist accommodations. Products must meet strict ecological criteria related to durability, ecodesign, upgradeability, and reparability to qualify for the label.

Status



Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition (ECGT)



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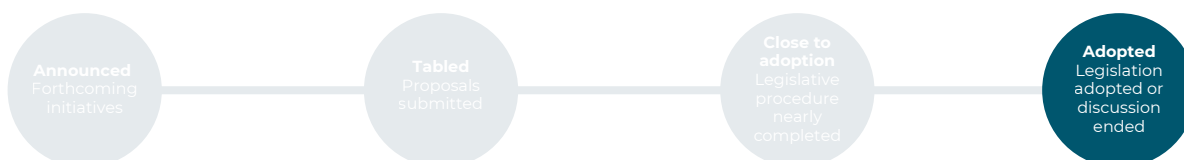
Aim

The ECGT directive aims to help consumers make informed, sustainable choices. It introduces rules requiring clear information on product durability, reparability, and environmental impact, and bans misleading green claims and premature obsolescence. New tools include reparability scores, guarantee labels, and transparency on software updates.

Scope

The directive applies to all businesses selling goods or services to consumers in the EU. It covers manufacturers, retailers, and service providers, regardless of company size or sector. Requirements are implemented through amendments to existing consumer law and apply at the point of sale. Priority sectors include electronics, textiles, automotive, and home goods.

Status



Energy Efficiency Directive (EED)



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Aim

The revised EED aims to cut energy use, reduce emissions, and support climate neutrality by 2050. It builds on the 2018 update — which set a 32.5% energy efficiency target — by introducing a binding EU-level target to reduce final energy consumption by 11.7% by 2030, compared to 2020 projections. The directive imposes stricter obligations for public buildings and large energy users, including annual renovation rates, improved district heating systems, and support for vulnerable consumers. New tools like one-stop shops and energy partnerships help implement the “energy efficiency first” principle.

Scope

The directive applies to all EU Member States and sectors with significant energy use - such as public infrastructure, energy production, manufacturing, and building renovation. It involves public authorities, energy providers, and large consumers, regardless of company size. Obligations are implemented through national plans and EU-wide benchmarks.

Status



Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)



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Aim

The EPBD aims to accelerate renovations, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and boost renewable energy use in buildings. It requires all new buildings to be zero-emission by 2030, sets minimum energy performance standards, and introduces renovation passports and a Smart Readiness Indicator. Member States must upgrade the worst-performing buildings by 2030 and 2033. The revision reinforces these goals by making zero-emission buildings the new standard and embedding lifecycle emissions and solar energy requirements into building policy.

Scope

The directive applies to all buildings — residential, commercial, and public — across the EU. It involves developers, building owners, and public authorities, regardless of company size. Requirements are implemented through national renovation plans and technical assistance schemes. Priority sectors include construction, energy, public infrastructure, and smart building technologies.

Status



EU Battery Regulation (EUBR)



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Aim

The new Batteries Regulation revised the EU Battery Directive, aiming to improve sustainability across the battery lifecycle. It sets rules for carbon footprint, recycled content, performance, and safe removability, and introduces a digital battery passport. The regulation includes due diligence for raw materials and targets for collection and recycling.

Scope

The regulation applies to all batteries placed on the EU market, covering producers, importers, and distributors. It affects sectors like electronics, transport, energy, and manufacturing, regardless of company size. Requirements are phased in from 2024, with specific targets for collection, recovery, and product design. Priority sectors include electric mobility, consumer electronics, and energy storage.

Status



EU Emission Trading System Directive (EU-ETS)



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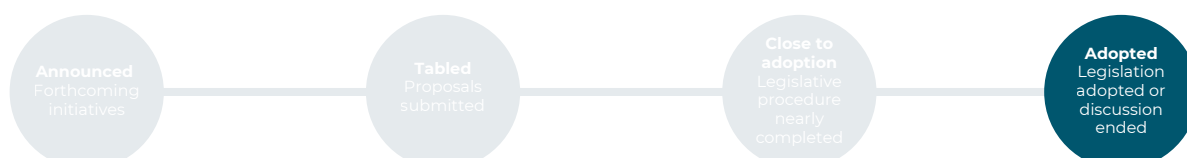
Aim

The EU-ETS aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 62% by 2030 by setting a cap on GHG emissions from key sectors and allowing companies to trade emission allowances within that cap. Its revision introduces stricter caps, revises rules on free allowances, and extends emissions trading to maritime transport, buildings, and road fuels. Key measures include a new ETS II, a Social Climate Fund, and alignment with the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.

Scope

The directive applies to sectors with significant GHG emissions—such as energy, industry, transport, and buildings—with priority given to high-emitting activities like power generation, heavy industry, shipping, aviation, and fuel distribution. It covers, among others, operators of installations, fuel distributors, and public authorities, with obligations determined based on emissions rather than company size. These obligations are implemented through national systems and EU-wide rules. Notably, approximately 40% of all emissions within the EU fall under the scope of the Emissions Trading System (ETS).

Status



EU Taxonomy

E S G



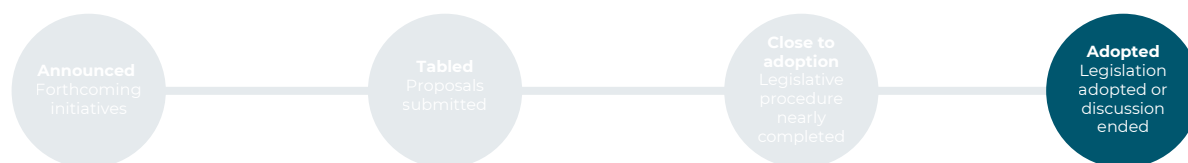
Aim

The EU Taxonomy Regulation establishes a unified classification system to identify which economic activities are sustainable. Its goal is to guide investors, companies, and policymakers by providing clear sustainability criteria, helping to prevent greenwashing and support the transition to a climate-neutral economy. To be considered sustainable under the taxonomy, an activity must make a substantial contribution to at least one of six environmental objectives — climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, sustainable use of water and marine resources, transition to a circular economy, pollution prevention, and biodiversity protection — without significantly harming any of the others. Additionally, all activities must comply with minimum social safeguards, including respect for human and labour rights.

Scope

The regulation applies to companies subject to the CSRD (page 6), i.e. those exceeding the employee and monetary threshold. Financial institutions and investors offering sustainable products are also required to disclose on the EU Taxonomy.

Status



Amendments: The simplification amendments adopted in January 2026 introduce materiality thresholds and streamlined reporting templates for the 2025 cycle, reducing administrative burden while maintaining alignment with the EU's broader sustainability framework. Companies may apply the revised rules immediately or opt to use the previous reporting requirements for one additional year.

European Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)

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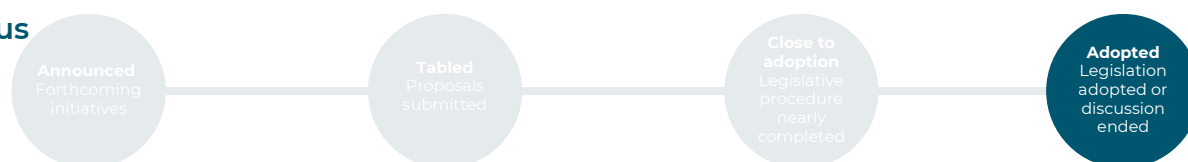
Aim

The regulation applies to operators and traders who place listed commodities – cattle, wood, palm oil, soy, cocoa, coffee and rubber – on the EU market or export them. The regulation was originally supposed to apply to large and medium-sized enterprises from 30 December 2025, and to small or micro-enterprises from 30 June 2026. Following the formal approval of the amendment, this timeline has now been postponed by one year. The regulation will apply from 30 December 2026 for large companies and from 30 June 2027 for small and micro-enterprises.

Scope

The EUDR aims to prevent deforestation and forest degradation by ensuring that listed commodities are deforestation-free (not linked to land cleared after 31 December 2020), legally produced in their country of origin, and fully traceable, including geolocation data of production plots. Under the proposed amendment, compliance is simplified by assigning the due diligence obligations solely to the first operator placing products on the EU market. Traders and downstream operators no longer need to submit separate declarations, while micro- and small enterprises from low-risk countries may submit a single simplified declaration. Companies therefore gain additional time to prepare traceability systems, but should closely monitor the simplification assessments scheduled for April 2026.

Status



Forced Labour Regulation (FLR)



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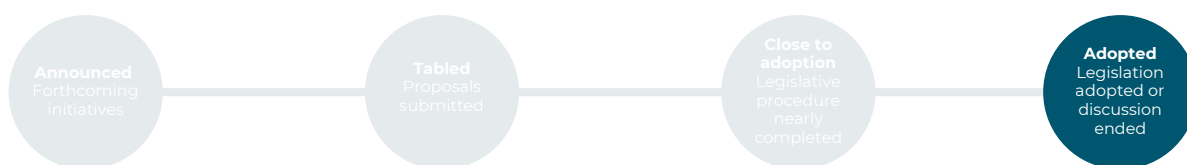
Aim

The regulation aims to eliminate forced labour, including child labour, from supply chains by banning such products from the EU market. It applies to all goods, regardless of origin, sector, or sales channel, including components and online sales. If suspected, forced labour will be investigated and proven products must be withdrawn, intercepted at borders, and either donated, recycled, or destroyed.

Scope

The regulation applies to all companies offering products on the EU market, whether through production, import, export, or online sales, and without exemptions based on size or turnover. For products from high-risk areas, the burden proof is reversed: companies must demonstrate that no forced labour was involved.

Status



Green Claims Directive (GCD)



E S G

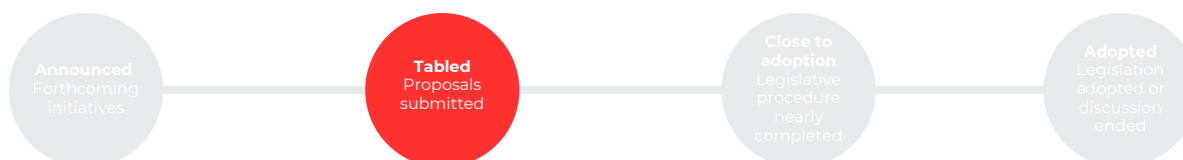
Aim

The Green Claims Directive aims to combat greenwashing by requiring companies to substantiate voluntary environmental claims, such as “climate neutral” or “sustainably produced”, with recognized scientific evidence and state-of-the-art technical knowledge. Claims must be accurate, transparent, and verifiable, and cannot rely solely on compliance with minimum legal standards.

Scope

The directive applies to all companies, regardless of size or turnover, that communicate explicit environmental claims to EU consumers through packaging, marketing, website, or labels. This includes both EU and non-EU businesses offering products on the EU market. New environmental labels from private entities must be pre-approved by national authorities, and misleading or unsubstantiated claims may be subject to enforcement actions.

Status



BLOCKED: On 20 June 2025, the Commission announced that it intends to withdraw the proposal. The third trilogue, scheduled for 23 June 2025, was cancelled. The 2026 Commission Work Programme, adopted on 21 October 2025, lists the proposal as pending. Because there has been no action on the file for nine months, it is considered blocked.

Greening Corporate Fleets



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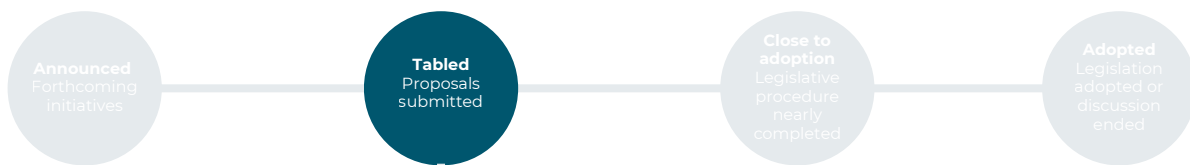
Aim

As part of the Clean Industrial Deal, a strategy designed to bolster the competitiveness and decarbonisation of Europe's industry, the legislative proposal on greening corporate fleets aims to accelerate the adoption of zero-emission vehicles among corporate fleet owners. It complements existing CO₂ standards by targeting the demand side, encouraging businesses to transition to cleaner fleets through incentives, infrastructure support, and regulatory reforms. The initiative, to be presented by the end of 2025, sets benchmarks for fleet electrification and promotes investment in charging infrastructure, with the goal of reducing transport emissions, improving urban air quality, and boosting the competitiveness of the European automotive industry.

Scope

The initiative applies to all corporate fleets, including cars, vans and trucks operated by companies and public entities. It affects businesses of all sizes and sectors, with actions implemented through national and local measures. Priority sectors include transport, retail, public services, and urban mobility.

Status



Tabled (APRIL 2026): Discussions in European Parliament and European Council have started based on the proposal by the European Commission.

Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR)



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Aim

The Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR) aims to reverse biodiversity loss and restore degraded ecosystems across the EU. The regulation sets legally binding targets: by 2030, at least 20% of land and sea areas must be restored, and by 2050 all ecosystems in need of restoration. The focus is on restoring wetlands, forests, rivers, and urban green spaces, with specific targets for pollinators and river connectivity. The NRR was adopted in 2024; Member States will develop national restoration plans in 2025–2026 and begin structural monitoring and public reporting from 2026, with nature objectives in the Netherlands already being more explicitly integrated into spatial planning and permitting processes.

Scope

The law applies to all EU countries and covers ecosystems across sectors such as agriculture, forestry, urban planning, and marine management. It involves national governments, landowners, and stakeholders in planning and implementation. Obligations apply regardless of company size or sector, focusing on ecosystem condition rather than economic thresholds. Priority areas include farmland, forests, rivers, peatlands, and urban ecosystems.

Status



Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA)



E

Aim

The NZIA is a central pillar of the Green Deal Industrial Plan, aiming to scale up clean technology manufacturing across the EU. It seeks to boost the EU's capacity to produce technologies that support the clean energy transition and emit extremely low, zero, or negative greenhouse gases. The Act sets benchmarks for strategic net-zero technologies to meet at least 40% of annual deployment needs by 2030, while streamlining permitting and supporting investment, innovation, and market access. Key measures include support for CO₂ storage, public procurement reforms, and skills development, aligning with EU climate and industrial competitiveness goals.

Scope

The regulation applies to companies and public bodies involved in manufacturing or deploying net-zero technologies. It affects sectors like energy, transport, industry, and construction, regardless of company size. Obligations are implemented via national authorities and EU coordination. Priority sectors include solar, wind, hydrogen, batteries, and carbon capture.

Status



Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)



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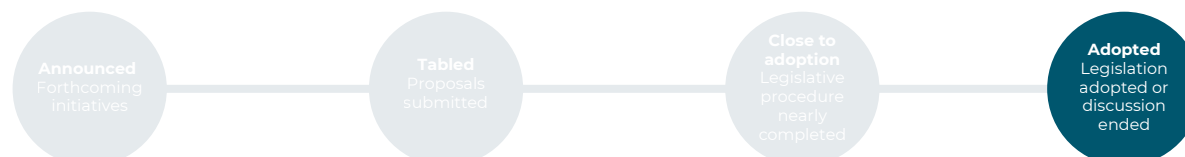
Aim

The PPWR replaces the previous directive to establish a harmonised EU framework for packaging sustainability. It introduces strict rules on recyclability, reuse, waste prevention, substance restrictions, and labelling. A key pillar of the PPWR is Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), which makes producers financially and operationally responsible for the entire lifecycle of packaging, particularly its collection, sorting, and recycling. EPR schemes under the PPWR include eco-modulated fees that reward better design and recyclability, reinforcing the “polluter pays” principle. Its revision from January 2025 adjusts requirements and targets regarding the aforementioned parameters as well as introduces requirements for Member States around packaging waste generation, deposit and return systems and recycling.

Scope

The regulation applies to all companies placing packaging on the EU market, regardless of size or sector. Manufacturers, importers, distributors, and waste operators must comply with new design, documentation, and labelling standards. The PPWR enters into force in August 2026 and will be directly applicable across all Member States.

Status



Regulation on registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH)

E S



Aim

The REACH regulation aims to ensure the protection for human health and the environment from the risks posed by chemicals. It shifts the responsibility for chemical safety from public authorities to industry, requiring manufacturers and importers to assess and manage the risks associated with the substances they produce or use. Key objectives include promoting safer use of chemicals, encouraging substitution of hazardous substances, enhancing transparency and communication in the supply chain and supporting innovation and competitiveness in the EU chemicals sector.

Scope

The regulation applies to all chemical substances manufactured, imported, or used in the EU with some specific exemptions such as medical products and food and feed. It affects a wide range of stakeholders and sectors such as industry, agriculture, and retail, regardless of company size.

Status



BLOCKED (april 2026): The announced revision of the REACH Regulation from 2020 will not lead to a full reopening of the legislation (REACH: Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals). The European Commission is opting for smaller targeted adjustments through secondary legislation and implementing acts, with the aim of providing more legal certainty for businesses while maintaining the level of protection for people and the environment.

Renewable Energy Directive (RED)

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Aim

The RED aims to accelerate the EU's clean energy transition and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Its revision in 2023 included a new binding target of 42.5% renewable energy by 2030, with sector-specific goals for transport, buildings, industry, and heating. Key measures include faster permitting, stronger sustainability rules for biofuels, and support for hydrogen and innovative technologies.

Scope

The directive applies to all EU Member States and sectors involved in energy production and consumption. It affects energy providers, industrial users, transport operators, and building developers, regardless of company size. Obligations are implemented through national plans and local coordination. Priority sectors include energy, transport, construction, and industry.

Status



Right to Repair Directive (R2RD)

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Aim

The directive on common rules promoting the repair of goods aims to make repairs easier, cheaper, and more accessible for consumers. It prioritizes repair over replacement, extends liability periods after repair, and requires manufacturers to provide spare parts and repair information. New tools include a EU-wide online repair platform and rules supporting independent and community-led repair initiatives. Obligations are implemented through national laws and supported by EU-wide tools.

Scope

The directive applies to products with reparability requirements under EU law, covering manufacturers, sellers, and repairers. Priority sectors include household electronics, transport devices, and consumer goods, regardless of company size.

Status



Single-Use Plastics Directive (SUPD)

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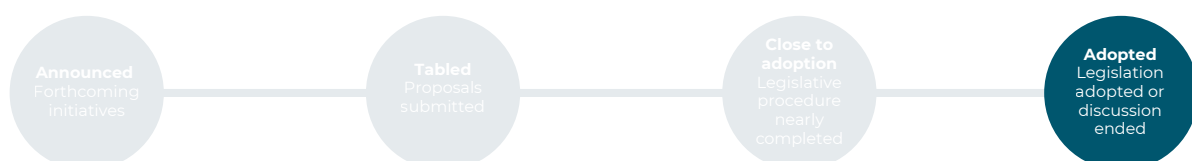
Aim

The Directive on Single-Use Plastics and fishing gear aims to reduce marine litter by targeting the most common plastic items found on EU beaches. It bans certain products, sets design and labeling rules, and requires producers to cover cleanup and waste management costs. Measures include separate collection targets and extended responsibility for fishing gear. These actions support cleaner oceans and the EU's circular economy goals. Obligations are implemented through national laws and EU-wide guidelines.

Scope

The directive applies to producers, retailers, and users of single-use plastic items and fishing gear across the EU. Priority sectors include packaging, fishing, and consumer goods, regardless of company size.

Status



Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWTD)



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Aim

The UWTD aims to protect human health and the environment by improving EU water quality and making wastewater management more sustainable. Building on the original directive's goal of reducing pollution from urban wastewater, the revision expands collection to smaller agglomerations, enforces stricter nutrient removal, and introduces advanced treatment for micro-pollutants. It also includes an Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for pharmaceuticals and cosmetics and sets a binding energy neutrality target, supported by enhanced monitoring, public information provisions, and digital transparency tools.

Scope

The directive applies to all urban areas with over 1,000 inhabitants and sectors contributing to wastewater pollution. It involves municipalities, wastewater operators, and producers of pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. Requirements apply regardless of company size or origin. Specific obligations will be implemented through national plans and delegated acts. Priority sectors include utilities, healthcare, textiles, and industrial manufacturing.

Status



Waste Framework Directive (WFD)



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Aim

The WFD aims to promote waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and recovery through a five-step waste hierarchy. It also introduces key principles like extended producer responsibility (EPR) and the polluter pays principle. The WFD's revision targets food and textile waste by setting binding targets for food waste reduction and introducing EPR for textiles. Key measures include separate collection, improved sorting and recycling, better consumer information, and provisions to stop the practice of waste exports disguised as exports for reuse. These actions aim to improve climate goals, resource efficiency, and public health.

Scope

The directive applies to all types of waste, including household, industrial, and hazardous waste, with specific provisions for each. It affects companies and public authorities regardless of size, with obligations implemented through national plans and EU coordination. Priority sectors include food processing, retail, textiles, and waste management.

Status



Revision: The law was signed on 10 September 2025 and entered into force on 16 October 2025. Member States have 20 months to transpose it into national laws and 30 months to establish EPR schemes for textile and footwear products.

