

A European Green Deal

Norwegian perspectives and contributions

1. High ambitions, a collective effort and urgent action are needed to speed up the transition to a sustainable, climate neutral and environmentally friendly future, which enhances the health and well-being of citizens.
2. Fighting climate change and promoting climate neutral growth is a defining task. Norway fully supports the European Commission's comprehensive vision for a *European Green Deal*, and we want to contribute to its implementation.

Shared values

3. Our common point of departure is a strong and unequivocal commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.
4. Based on shared values and commitments, we want to make full use of our cooperation with the EU to further the ambitious agenda of the *European Green Deal*. Our cooperation extends beyond Europe and is part of a common effort to strengthen multilateralism and promote climate-friendly policies, including in developing countries.
5. Norway will contribute to developing ambitious common rules and standards in a wide range of areas; promote sustainable mobility; produce and provide clean and affordable energy; develop and share climate-friendly technologies; promote an inclusive green transition throughout Europe; and cooperate with the EU at the international level to encourage the sustainable use of oceans and forests. The green transition should be based on a scientific, fact-based and cost-effective approach.

Common rules and standards

6. Norway and the EU enjoys a particularly close relationship. We share a common regulatory framework within the Single Market and Schengen and we cooperate extensively as likeminded partners in foreign and security policy.
7. The Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA) is the cornerstone of our cooperation. It extends Single Market rules to Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, and establishes common rules on competition and state aid. The Agreement also enables close cooperation in areas that fall outside the four freedoms, such as the environment, research, consumer protection and health.
8. Given our shared values and high degree of integration, Norway and the EU have a strong common interest in promoting European competitiveness and a level playing field with high standards for the protection of workers, consumers and the environment.
9. Substantial parts of the legislative proposals that are anticipated in the Commission Communication on the European Green Deal will fall within the scope of the EEA Agreement. Norway will contribute to the development of these initiatives.

10. We will continue to be a progressive partner in developing common rules and standards in a wide range of areas, including the circular economy, food safety, transport, emissions trading, integrated markets, energy efficiency, renewable energy, offshore wind, plastics, batteries and chemicals, as well as sustainable finance, public procurement and state aid.
11. Given Norway's close integration with the EU, we are also eager to engage in a dialogue on the proposed Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.

Ambitious climate commitments

12. Norway is a committed participant in the informal Green Growth Group, consistently calling for stronger European climate action.
13. We are contributing to the concerted European efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions, in particular through our participation in the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and in the cooperation on emissions reductions in sectors that fall outside the ETS for the period 2021-2030. We believe a consistently high price of carbon across time, sectors and jurisdictions is the most effective tool to cut emissions.
14. On 7 February 2020, the Norwegian government submitted a revised Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. Our new and enhanced target is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50%, and towards 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. We encourage the EU to increase its 2030 climate target to reduce emissions by 55%.
15. The Nordic Prime Ministers have adopted a new strategic vision for Nordic cooperation, with the aim of ensuring a green, competitive and socially sustainable region. Many of the planned regional initiatives will directly support the implementation of the European Green Deal.

Sustainable mobility

16. Our ambition is to halve greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector by 2030, compared to 2005. In 2019, more than 42 % of Norway's new passenger cars were battery electric. The ambition of the Norwegian parliament is that by 2025 all new passenger cars sold should be zero-emission vehicles.
17. By 2030, our ambition is to reduce emissions from domestic shipping and fisheries by half, through the promotion of low- and zero-emission solutions for all types of vessels.
18. Technological development, ambitious European legislation on emission standards, and active national and local policies to promote a cleaner transport sector are pivotal in order to succeed.

Clean energy

19. Market based solutions and efficient energy markets are essential for ensuring the availability of clean and affordable energy in Europe. A well-functioning ETS, which provides credible long-term incentives for market actors, is crucial for ensuring a successful climate policy.

20. An energy-efficient economy is vital if we are to reach our shared goals. New technology and digitalisation provide opportunities for energy efficiency measures in buildings and industry, demand-side flexibility, and for local energy production to play a part in the green transition.
21. Norway has decades of experience from its large renewable energy sector, which has mainly been built on hydropower. The share of renewables in Norway's total energy consumption currently exceeds 70 %, while the share of renewables in electricity production is around 98 %. The Norwegian electricity market was deregulated in the early 1990s, and is part of the successfully integrated Nordic electricity market. Over the decades, electricity market integration has provided substantial benefits to the Nordic economies, and this experience could serve as inspiration in the discussions in the EU in the time ahead.
22. Norway will remain a large and reliable supplier of natural gas, which can be an affordable and flexible source of energy when reducing emissions from coal-based power generation, or balancing intermittent renewable energy production, for instance solar and wind power. When combined with carbon capture and storage (CCS), natural gas can also be a sustainable long-term energy source.
23. Once technology has been developed and costs have been reduced, hydrogen could provide a long-term solution for decarbonising the energy sector. Large-scale production of clean hydrogen requires natural gas with CCS or large volumes of renewables. A hydrogen value chain could make use of existing gas infrastructure, thus reducing the need for new investments in infrastructure.

Green technology

24. Our ambitions can only be achieved if we intensify our joint efforts to develop competitive, zero-emission technologies to the benefit of the economy, our society and citizens. A broad, knowledge-based approach is needed.
25. We welcome the emphasis placed on green technologies by Horizon Europe. This gives great potential for even closer cooperation between Norwegian researchers, businesses and municipalities and their partners from EU Member States.
26. Our advanced maritime sector is an important driver of technological progress. In particular, it has been developing solutions for electric ferries and low-emission propulsion systems. Government support schemes and green public procurement have supported this work, and we are eager to share the lessons learned with European partners.
27. Norway is playing a leading role in developing CCS technologies, and we welcome the importance given to CCS by the European Commission. The Norwegian Government's ambition is to develop a cost-effective solution for full-scale CCS in Norway, provided that it leads to technology development internationally. The project includes transportation of CO₂ from industrial sites and storage in a large offshore reservoir. The storage site will have extra capacity for additional CO₂ volumes, which will allow the infrastructure to be shared by CCS projects in Europe. It will be difficult for Norway to achieve these ambitions without significant financial support from external sources, including EU programs. The storage site in the Norwegian project will have capacity for additional CO₂-volumes, thus facilitating other European CCS-projects.

A just and inclusive green transition

28. All countries must mobilise resources to enable the green transition, whether in the form of investments, human resources, innovation, technology development, demonstration projects and pilots, or efforts to strengthen social and economic cohesion.
29. Through the EEA and Norway Grants scheme, Norway contributes to reducing social and economic disparities in Europe. A substantial share of the funding under the scheme is allocated to efforts to protect the environment and develop innovative green and blue economies in the beneficiary states.
30. Any further Norwegian contributions to reducing economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area should underpin the core objectives of the European Green Deal.
31. At the global level, Norway will continue to work closely with the EU to promote an ambitious implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

Oslo, 3 March 2020