

Vorschläge für die konkrete und dringend notwendige Einbindung der Schwerpunkte Klima, Natur und Soziales in die Strategische Agenda 2024 – 2029

1. EU leaders should **highlight political support for the European Green Deal** and its continuation, supporting its steadfast implementation, and express support for additional policy initiatives, including legislation, to speed up the green and just transition.
2. The EU should continue to **stress the international climate and environmental agreements** which it led, notably the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Agreement and SDG 2030 Agenda. These are guiding international frameworks that EU countries are committed to implementing.
3. Clear **language must include the need to protect and restore nature as a necessary condition to address the climate crisis**, recognising the importance of biodiversity for nature-based solutions, both for mitigation and adaptation. By better protecting, restoring and managing nature, we can reduce rising temperatures, better retain water, and increase the resilience of crops and abundance of fish - while decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and storing increased levels of carbon.
4. Include clear focus on **health, water and air quality**, considering continued high pollution levels; air pollution for example remains the largest environmental health risk in Europe, and exposure to fine particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide levels above WHO recommendations caused an estimated 253,000 and 52,000 premature deaths, respectively, in 2021.
5. Stress the importance of **additional public and private finance to successfully achieve the green and just transition, and promote competitive sustainability**. Additional public funding is more needed than ever to mobilise and boost public and private financing of Europe's resilience and competitive sustainability. Political parties' manifestos all recognise this need. The only area where the draft outline currently recognise more investments are needed is for defence and security (and vaguely for 'competitiveness') - it should be made clear that this cannot come at a risk of other investment priorities.
6. Stressing the need to keep **polluters responsible and phase out of environmentally harmful subsidies** in a socially just manner.
7. **Emphasis should be placed on smart implementation to reduce administrative burdens nationally - and EU laws should be fully implemented to achieve a level playing field**. The EU should be, harnessing the power of digitalisation, clear and accessible guidance, active stakeholder engagement, targeted incentives and harmonisation. EU and national public administrations must be equipped to seriously address implementation, compliance and enforcement - with the aim to ensure climate and environmental legislation delivers its promises.
8. Calls to focus on food security should be refocused to **place emphasis on a just and sustainable transition for farmers**, ensuring a resilient future for farmers, support to rural economies, and contributing to the health and well-being of EU citizens. Environmental stewardship and economic prosperity should be seen as complementary to one another. Leaders should call for a **European vision for sustainable food systems** to provide a clear direction and ensure coherence among food related policies.
9. The third header on "Free and Democratic Europe" should include commitments to ensure better implementation/enforcement and compliance with existing EU (environmental) legislation; improving citizen participation and deliberation and better protection of civil society; and improving transparency of EU decision making across all institutions.