



EU ACTION PLAN

‘Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil’

Pathway to a Healthy Planet for All

Venice, 6 October 2021

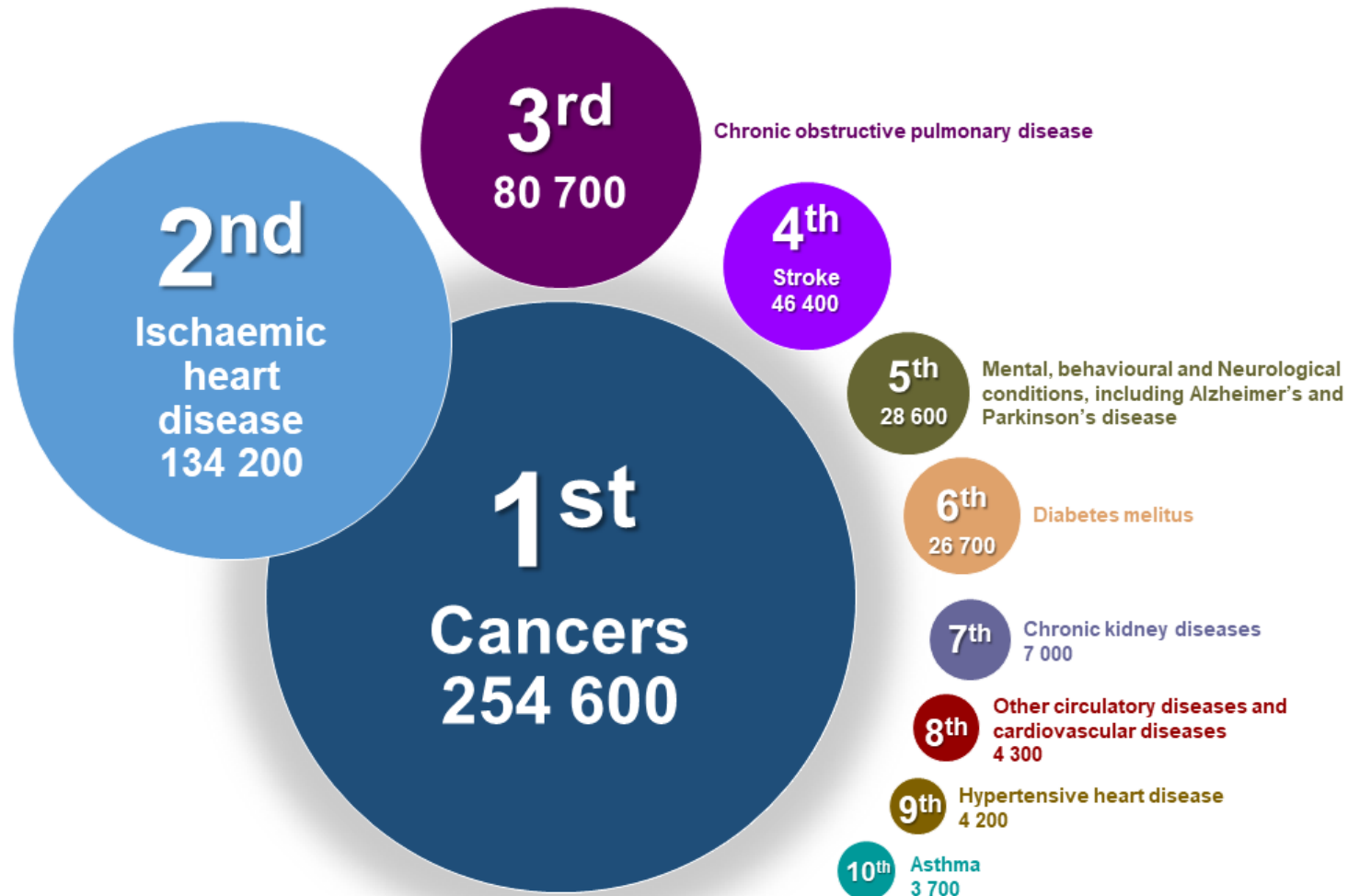


“For the **health of our citizens**, our children and grandchildren, Europe needs to move towards a **zero pollution ambition**.

I will put forward a cross-cutting **strategy to protect citizens’ health from environmental degradation and pollution**, addressing air and water quality, hazardous chemicals, industrial emissions, pesticides and endocrine disruptors.”

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

| Urgency to act on pollution



Source: EEA – Healthy environment, healthy lives (2018) based on WHO (2016)

The **European Green Deal** *zero pollution actions*



Many Green Deal actions already contribute to the Zero Pollution ambition

- **Circular Economy** (e.g. microplastics)
- **Biodiversity and Farm to Fork** (e.g. nutrients, pesticides)
- **CAP** (e.g. pesticides and fertilisers)
- **Climate & Energy initiatives** including Adaptation
- **Cancer Plan** (e.g. air pollution)
- **Mobility Strategy**
- **Renovation Wave & Bauhaus**
- **Industrial Strategy**
- **Pharmaceuticals Strategy**
- **Trade Policy Review & Multilateralism**
- etc.

The European Green Deal

zero pollution actions

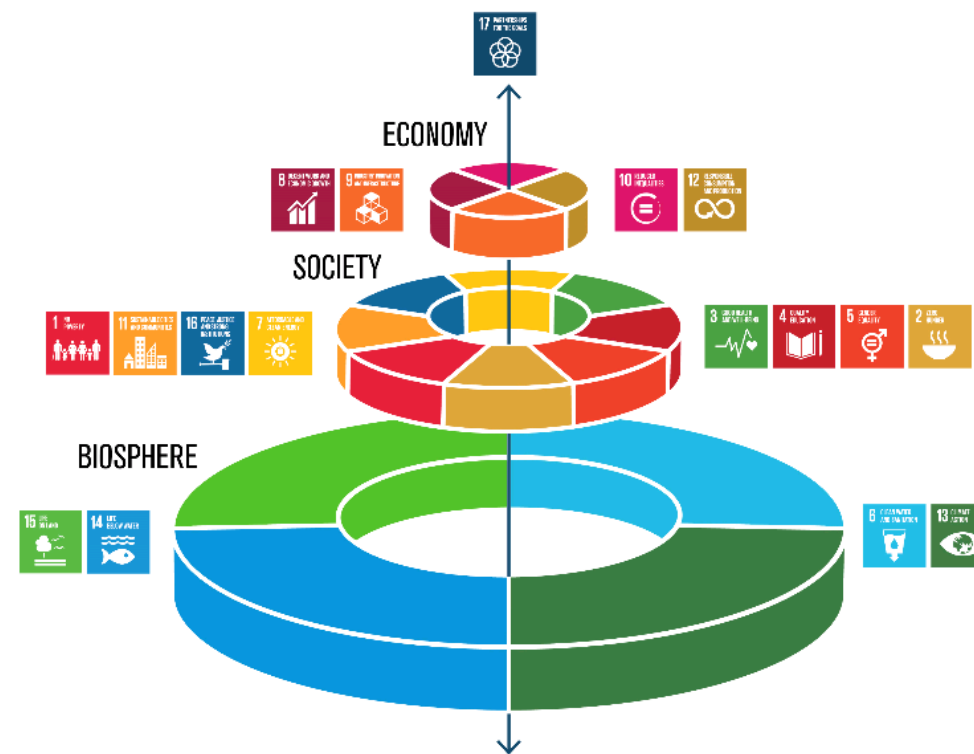
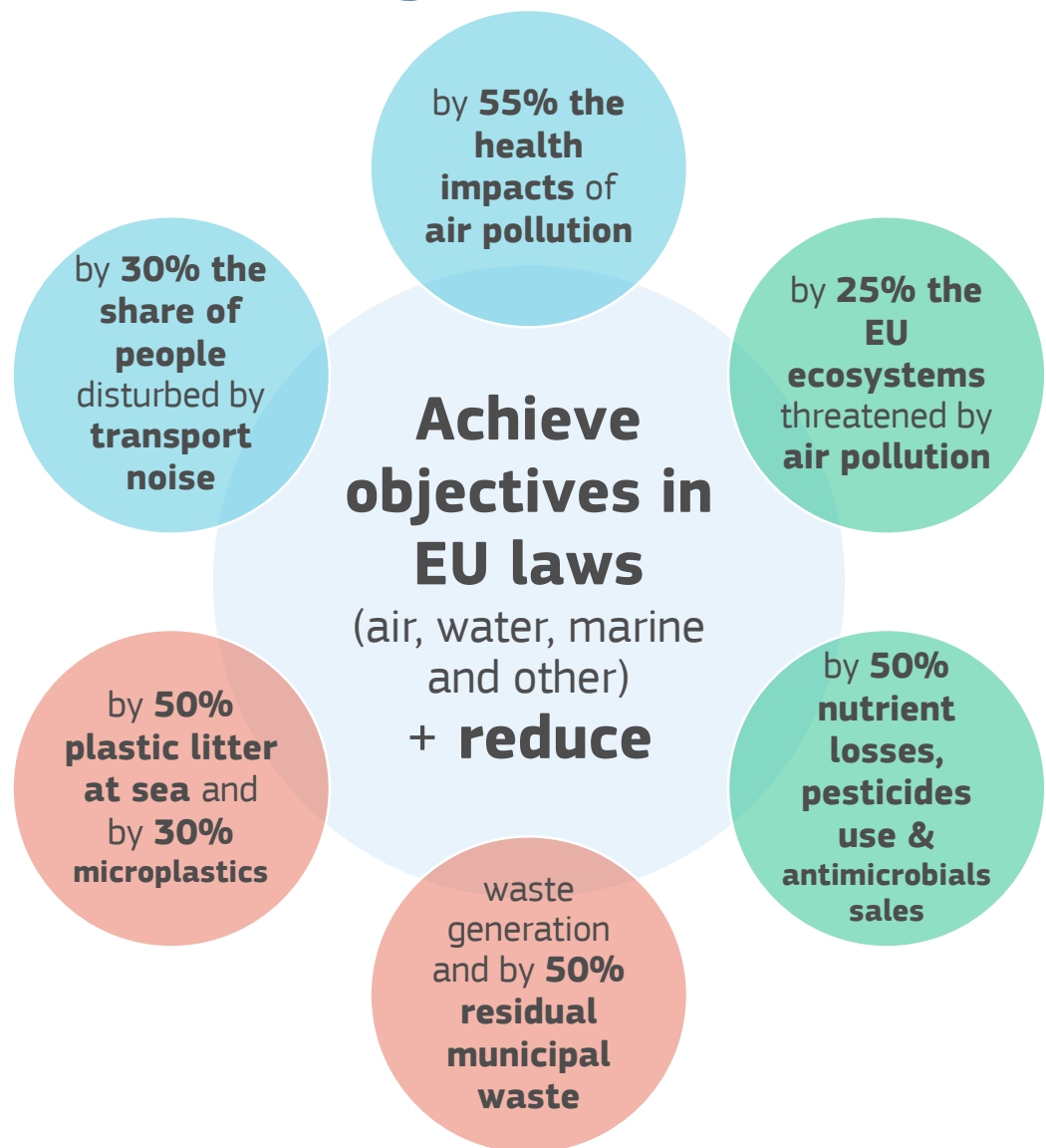


- Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability
- Zero Pollution Action Plan for Air, Water & Soil

Many Green Deal actions already contribute to the Zero Pollution ambition

- **Circular Economy** (e.g. microplastics)
- **Biodiversity** (e.g. Farm to Fork (e.g. pesticides)
- **CAP** (e.g. pesticides/fertilisers)
- **Climate & Energy** (e.g. Adaptation)
- **Cancer Plan** (e.g. air pollution)
- **Mobility Strategy**
- **Renovation Wave** (e.g. buildings)
- **Industrial Strategy**
- **Pharmaceutical Strategy**
- **Trade Policy Review & Multilateralism**

2030 targets complementing SDGs

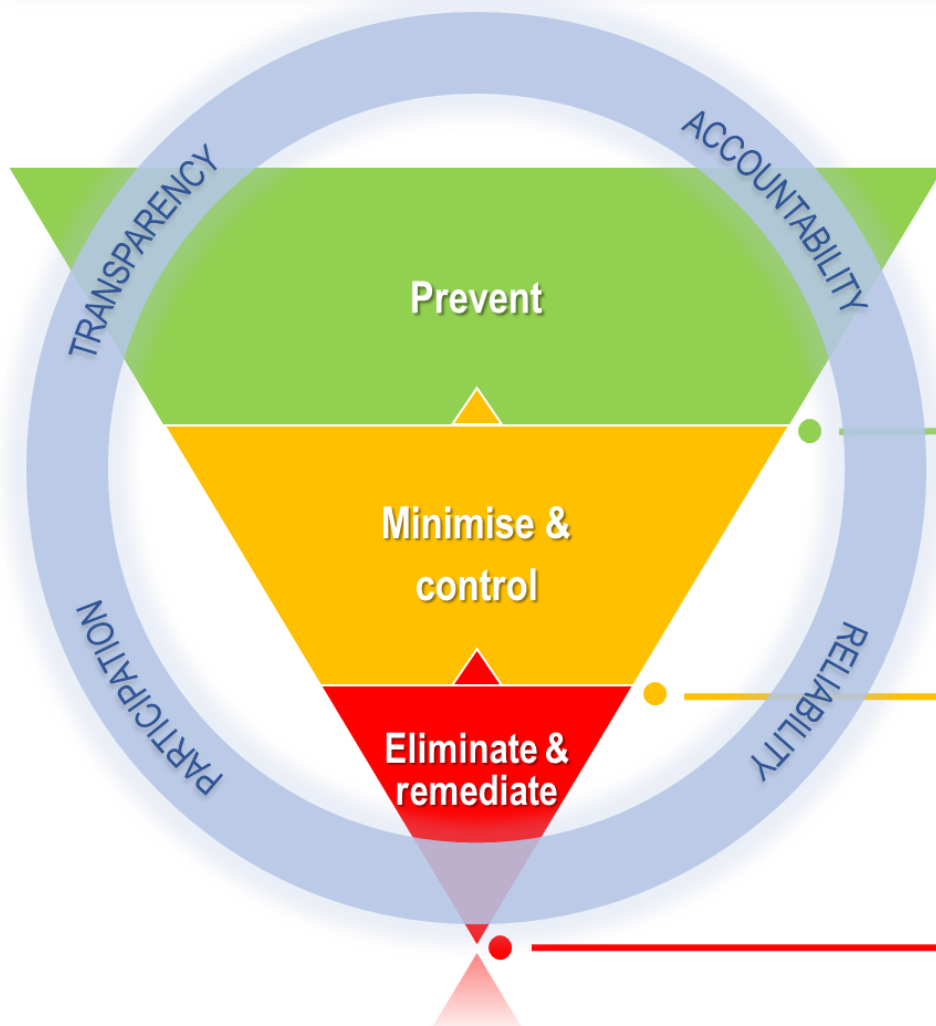


Graphics by Jerker Lokrantz/Azote



Hierarchy of action on pollution

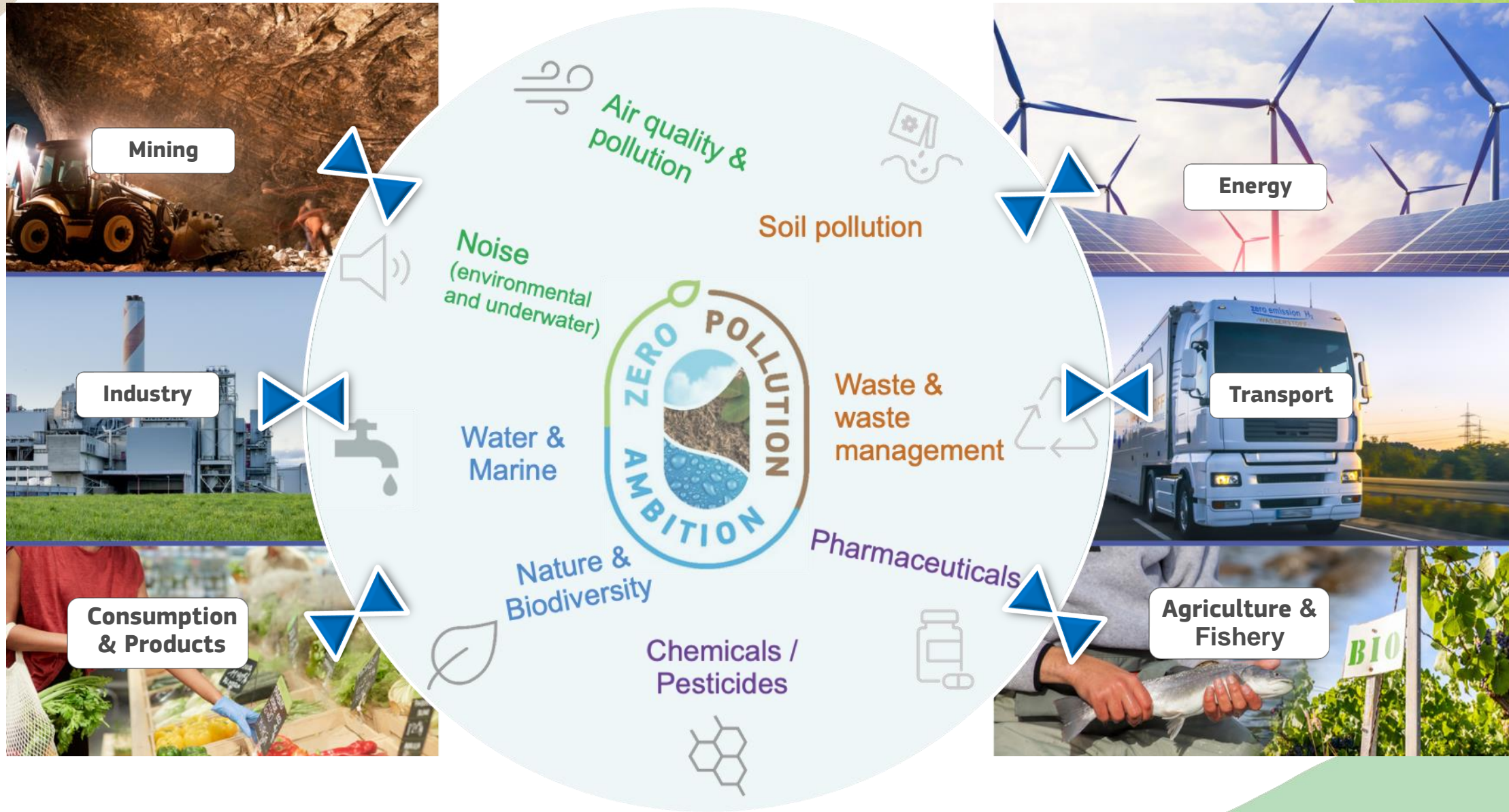
Union policy on the environment shall be based on the **precautionary principle** and on the principles that **preventive action** should be taken, that environmental damage should as a priority be **rectified at source** and on the **polluter pays principle**.



| PROTECT HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT | ENCOURAGE INNOVATION |
|---|--|
| Prevent pollution in all stages of a clean and circular economy from extraction of natural resources, to production, service provision and consumption as at end-of-life. | Promote clean, 'zero pollution' production processes, safe and sustainable products and services by design as well as innovative tools, technologies, and behavioral change. |
| Minimise releases and exposure of humans and the environment to pollution through management, technological measures and information about releases. | Promote modern and smart production processes, safe and sustainable product uses, services and business models, and digital solutions for tracking and reducing pollution. |
| Eliminate and remediate, as far as possible, existing pollution of water and soils and apply measures to return to a 'good status'. | Promote zero pollution recycling, waste management, decontamination and remediation. |



Zero Pollution policies – towards an integrated approach



| Timetable (key actions)

First Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook (2022)

- Revision of **Air Quality Directive**
- Revision of the **Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive**
- Revision of **water pollutants list** (Environmental Quality Standards and Groundwater Directives)
- Revision of the **Mercury Regulation**
- Implementation Report of **Environmental Noise Directive**
- Establish EU priority watch list for **soil**

Second Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook (2024)

- Recommendations on implementation of **polluter pays principle**

2021

2022

2023

2024

Launch of the Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform (2021)

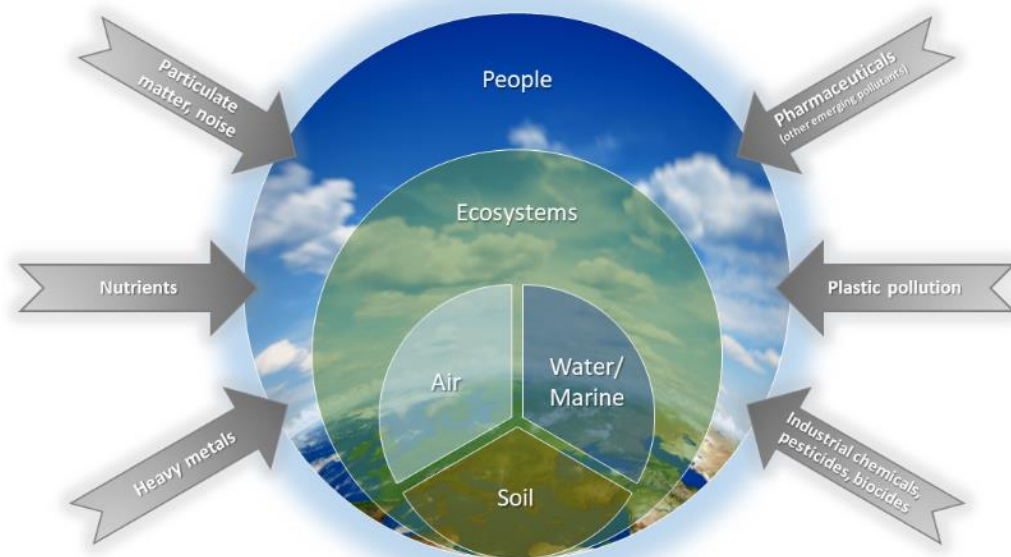
- New emission limit values for motor vehicles (**EURO7**)
- Revision of the **Industrial Emissions Directive** and EU Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (or early 2022)
- Revision of the **Environmental Crime Directive**
- Launch global initiatives, e.g. on **lead batteries recycling**

EEA's European Environment & Health Atlas (2023)

- Review of **Marine Strategy Framework Directive**
- Review of **Bathing Water Directive**
- Fitness Check of **Environment Liability Directive**
- Assess pathways and policy options for **indoor air quality**
- Dedicated nutrient (ammonia) actions contributing to the **Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan**
- Zero pollution contribution to **European Green Deal Dataspace**



| Zero Pollution Monitoring & Outlook (SWD(2021) 141)



Zero Pollution Outlook (JRC lead)

- Clean Air Outlook complemented by Clean Water/Marine Outlook and Clean Soil Outlook
- Strategic foresight dimension

Zero Pollution Monitoring (EEA lead)

- Integrated monitoring of pollution building on existing air, noise, water, marine & soil
- Focus on targets, impacts, pressures and effectiveness of measures
- Spotlight on pollutants of emerging concern (e.g. light, ultrafine particles, etc.)
- Develop and incorporate more integrated assessments (e.g. Exposome, human biomonitoring, environmental footprint)
- Thematic report on emerging research or use of Copernicus
- Contribution to 8th Environment Action Programme and Environment Implementation Review



| Digital solutions (SWD(2021) 140)



Energy
networks



Precision
farming



Mobility and
transport



Smart
buildings



Green data
spaces



The power of
data

Showcasing case studies / best practices on

- Less air pollution through digitising energy and transport sector
- Less pesticide and nutrient pollution through precision farming
- Less chemical pollution in products through better data for consumers
- Less pollution from mining and waste due to digitally enabled circular economy
- Less water pollution through 'digital water process'



| Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform



European Commission



European Committee
of the Regions



Who?

- Bringing together stakeholders and experts from different policy areas

What?

- mainstream the zero pollution agenda, help create co-ownership, promote collaboration and foster integrated solutions and actions that maximise synergies

How?

- share good practices on cross-cutting topics such as financing for zero pollution innovation and jobs, boosting sustainable production and consumption as well as creating thematic hubs (e.g. air, digital, soil)
- Create synergies with European Climate Pact, Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform, Green City Accord, Business@Biodiversity, Chemicals Roundtable, etc.



Business@
Biodiversity



Key actions in the Zero Pollution Action Plan

➡ Improve human health:

- ✓ *reduce air and noise pollution*
- ✓ *reduce health inequalities*
- ✓ *support urban zero pollution action*



➡ Boost change across society:

- ✓ *Showcase zero pollution solutions for buildings*
- ✓ *Create living labs for green digital solutions*



➡ Protect natural ecosystems and biodiversity:

- ✓ *Reduce water and soil pollution*
- ✓ *Promote zero pollution across regions*



➡ Implement and enforce pollution laws more strictly



➡ Minimise the EU's external pollution footprint and promote change globally



➡ Promote digital solutions for zero pollution



➡ Stimulate knowledge and innovation



➡ Reduce pollution from production and consumption:

- ✓ *Reduce pollution from industrial installations*
- ✓ *Encourage the least polluting options for consumers*
- ✓ *reduce pollution from agriculture*



| Improving health and well-being



Key actions

- Improving air quality (revising Directive to address new WHO guidelines)
- Addressing indoor air quality (assess pathways and policy options)
- Reducing noise (report on Noise Directive and address sources)
- Ensuring clean water (implement Drinking Water Directive and evaluate Bathing Water Directive)
- Depolluting soils
- Safe and sustainable consumer products (through Chemicals Strategy)

Flagships

1. Reducing health inequalities through zero pollution
2. Supporting urban zero pollution action

Cross-cutting priorities

- Implementation
- International action

Other Green Deal actions (examples)

- Sustainable & Smart Mobility Strategy
- Climate action



| Living within our planetary boundaries

Key actions

- Regulating priority pollutants for surface and ground waters
- Evaluating the Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- Reducing pollution and increasing circularity and energy efficiency of Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (taking account evaluation of Sludge Directive)
- Soil restoration through nature restoration law, EU priority watch list, soil passport, register and enhancing LUCAS soil survey

Cross-cutting priorities

- Implementation in particular of Water Framework Directive
- International action

Other Green Deal actions (examples)

- Biodiversity & Farm to Fork strategy
- Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan
- Pharmaceuticals Strategy



Flagship 3.
**Promoting zero
pollution across regions**



Towards zero pollution from production and consumption



Flagship 4. Facilitating zero pollution choices

Key actions

- Reducing pollution from industrial installations and promoting breakthrough technologies (revising Industrial Emissions Directive and European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register)
- Revision of Mercury Regulation
- Promoting the polluter pays principle (Fitness Check and Recommendations)

Cross-cutting priorities

- Implementation in particular of Water Framework Directive
- International action

Other Green Deal actions (examples)

- Circular Economy Action Plan
- Sustainable Product Policy
- Chemicals Strategy



Ensuring stricter implementation and enforcement



Flagship 5. Enforcing zero pollution together

Key actions

- promote enhanced collaboration between national authorities and develop new joint actions across the compliance chain
- bring together environmental and other enforcement authorities to exchange best practices and devise cross-sectorial compliance actions
- improve the horizontal legal framework by strengthening the Environmental Crime Directive
- evaluate Environmental Liability Directive
- consider developing standardised provisions on compliance assurance for new legislative proposals
- monitor the proportionate and dissuasive application of penalty clauses in force
- encourage the application of existing inspections and other compliance checks and penalty clauses
- promote the use of cutting-edge technologies to boost national capacities for monitoring and compliance verification.

“Civil society has an important role as a compliance watchdog.”



| Boosting change across society for zero pollution



Flagships

6. Showcasing zero pollution solutions for buildings

7. Living Labs for green digital solutions and smart zero pollution

Key actions

- Promote investment and financing working with IFIs
- Use Multi-Annual Financial Framework and NextGenerationEU
- Implement Sustainable Taxonomy and Sustainable Corporate Reporting
- Foster research and innovation
- Digital solutions for zero pollution
- Earth observation, Copernicus and Destination Earth
- Improve information for citizens
- Develop skills, education and training
- Working with Cities and Regions

“Everyone has a role to play.”



| Promoting worldwide change for zero pollution



Flagship 8. Minimising the EU's external pollution footprint

Key actions

- Working with enlargement partners and neighbours
- Strengthen engagement at multilateral level with UN, WHO and others to achieve SDGs, strengthen health & environment agenda and promote actions under existing international agreements on chemicals and waste
- Promote Global Agreement on Plastics
- Advance international cooperation on black carbon policies
- Support global initiatives
 - on the export of end-of-life and used vehicles
 - to better monitor and manage international trade for waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and waste batteries
 - to end informal recycling of used lead acid batteries
- Due diligence and sustainable corporate governance

“Pollution does not stop at borders.”



Clean Air milestones 2020-2023 (indicative)



| EU funding for zero pollution

Key funding possibilities 2021-2027

For concrete implementation measures:

- Structural Funds: ERDF/CF, EAFRD
- Connecting Europe Facility – transport, energy
- Next Generation EU with National Recovery and Resilience Plans
- Just Transition Fund
- Invest EU

For Research and Innovation: Horizon Europe

For demonstration/pilot or governance/awareness projects for environment/climate/energy, and for the implementation of Plans and Programmes (e.g. Air Quality Plans): LIFE

Examples:

- LIFE Integrated Projects for clean air
- Operational Programmes
- In 2014-2020 over EUR45bn of EU funding contributed to cleaner air, as a direct objective or as a co-benefit. In 2021-2027 this is expected to be even more.

“Many EU funding programmes support Zero Pollution.”

