

# EERA Weekly EU Policy Update

## EU AGENDA AND NEWS ON EU CLIMATE, ENERGY, R&I POLICY

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### 1. Institutional agenda

EU Meetings of the week		
European Parliament		
4 June	ITRE Committee	Voting session for 5 MFF files where ITRE is the lead committee. The list of files is available <a href="#">here</a>
4-5 June	ENVI Committee	Agenda not available
Council of the EU		
3 June	Working party on Energy	Agenda not available



## 2. News of the week

### **European Commission announces new proposals for the EU budget and recovery fund**

The President of the Commission Ursula Von der Leyen has disclosed the Commission's new proposal for the economic recovery of Europe, announcing the Next Generation EU financing programme. This will invest €750 billion, divided into grants and loans, to increase the money spent on the EU budget and reinforce the areas most hit by the pandemic. In addition to Next Generation EU, President Von der Leyen has also presented the new EU budget proposal. The Commission envisions a €1.1 trillion total budget, with figures lower than the ones included in the previous proposal. Horizon Europe's financing under the EU budget was cut to around €81 billion, but €13.5 billion from Next Generation EU will be added; in total, research will receive €94.4 billion under the Commission proposal.

The proposal now needs to pass the scrutiny of the European Council, which will gather on 19 June.

The Communication on the Budget is available [here](#). The Communication on Next Generation EU is available [here](#). Extra information on the Next Generation EU financing [here](#).

### **25% of the money spent by Next Generation EU will be dedicated to sustainable actions – Euractiv**

To make sure that investments under Next Generation EU will be in line with the EU objectives, the Commission has pledged to allocate 25% of the total sum to efforts in fighting climate change. Requests to use the funds made available will be scrutinised by the European Commission and the Council of the EU, to ensure consistency with the EU goals.

More info [here](#)

### **Commission increases Just Transition Fund grants by 5 times – Euractiv**

As part of the efforts under the scope of Next Generation EU, the Commission has decided to increase the money available through the Just Transition Fund, from €7.5 to €44 in current prices. The Fund aims at combining forces with the European Investment Bank, creating a total of €150 billion in investments over the next 7 years to mitigate the effects of the green transition on EU regions.

More info [here](#)

### **Commission aiming at new tax revenues to finance Next Generation EU and the EU budget – Euractiv**

To finance its objectives, the European Commission has hinted to the possibility of introducing new taxes. This would increase the own resources of the EU, avoiding an additional expenditure from the Member States. The possible measures would include a carbon border adjustment tax, an expansion of the Emission Trading System, a plastic tax, and a digital tax.

More info [here](#)



## Science, Research and Innovation Performance (SRIP) Report 2020 published – European Commission

The document, a biannual publication on the future of R&I in the EU, underlines 11 policy areas where the EU can act to boost green and digital developments. The focus should be put on three key concepts: “R&I for a Safe and Just Space for Humanity”, “R&I for Global Leadership” and “R&I for Economic and Societal Impact”.

The report looks into the status of R&I in Europe, noting the huge disparities in R&D investment among the Member States, the spatial concentration of investments (half of all research money in the EU is concentrated in 10 per cent of the EU’s regions) and the variations in technological capacity. At the same time, it is important to underline the leading role of European R&I in open science, climate research patents, and start-up support systems.

Read the report [here](#)

## Members of the European Parliament discuss 2030 emissions target – Euractiv

During the last meeting of the EU Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), members discussed the 2030 target proposals for the first time. While members from the S&D and the Greens proposed increasing the target to a 65% emission cut by 2030, other groups appeared to be more sceptical and spoke against an additional increase in the target.

Currently, discussions in the Parliament revolve around a possible target of 50% to be set by the EU, with some members agreeing that a proposal pushing the target over 55% might not receive enough support from the members of the EP.

More information [here](#)

## 3. Other events

Other Events and Conferences			
Organisation	Title	Date and Time	Venue/Location
CEPS	<b>Next Generation Eu: in Conversation with Gert-Jan Koopman</b>	<b>2 June</b> 2020, 16:00 to 17:00, registrations open <a href="#">here</a>	Online
Jacques Delors Institute	<b>A European Border Carbon Adjustment proposal</b>	<b>3 June</b> 2020, 10:00 to 11:30, registrations open <a href="#">here</a>	Online
EUROBAT	<b>"Battery Innovation Roadmap 2030"</b>	<b>5 June</b> 2020, 10:00 to 11:30, registrations open <a href="#">here</a>	Online
European Commission and Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office	<b>Citizen Finance:</b> people investing in their cities' sustainable future	<b>9 June</b> 2020, 10:00 to 11:30, registrations open <a href="#">here</a>	Online