

EU environmental law (sectors)

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Areas of action

- Climate change
- Atmospheric pollution
- Pollution of water resources
- Nature conservation / habitats
- Waste Management
- Chemicals
- IPPC
- EIA
- Public Participation



Climate Change

- EU15 signed up Kyoto Protocol 1st commitment period
- EU28 signed up up Kyoto Protocol 2st commitment period
- EU28 signed up the Paris Agreement
- EU Emission Trading System
- Effort Sharing Decision

Climate Change

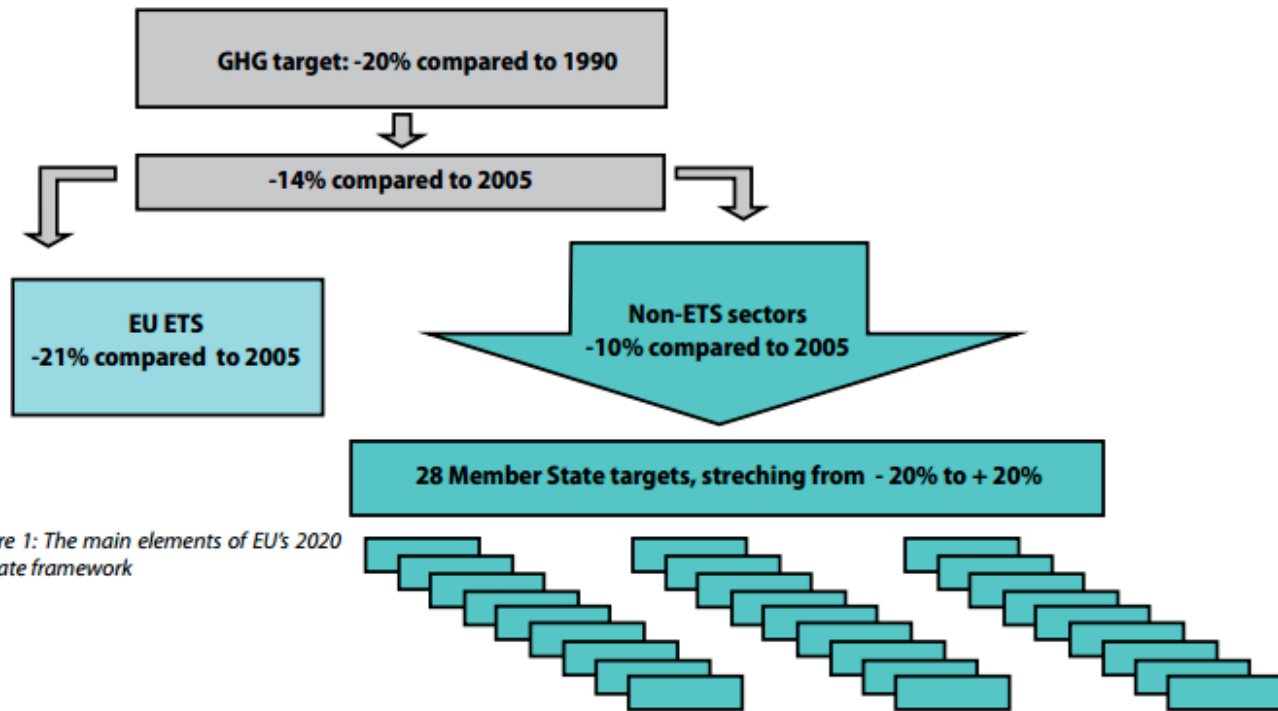


Figure 1: The main elements of EU's 2020 climate framework

SOURCE: CARBONWATCH 2014

Climate Change

- 2009: Package 2020 (at least 20% of GHG emission reduction compared to 1990)
- 2014: EU Climate & Energy Framework 2030 (at least 40% of GHG emission reduction compared to 1990)
- 2016: Clean Energy
- 2018: Road to low carbon economy (-80%, 2050)
- 2019: The Green Deal
- 2020: Long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategy of the EU and its Member States

Climate Change

- 20% increase in energy efficiency by 2020;
- 20% reduction in GHG emissions compared to 1990 levels by 2020;
- 20% share of the energy from renewable sources in the total energy consumption in EU by 2020

Climate Change

- Target for GHG emission reduction in EU by 40% (55%) compared with 1990, by 2030;
- Target for 32% share of renewable energies in EU end-use energy, by 2030;
- Energy efficiency improvement – EU indicative target of 32,5 % by 2030

Climate Change

- Target: By 2050, Europe aims to become the world's first climate-neutral continent.
- Target: By 2050, Europe aims to be a climate-resilient society.
- First climate action initiatives under the **Green Deal** include:
- European Climate Law to enshrine the 2050 climate-neutrality objective into EU law , EU Regulation 2018/1999 and COM (2020) 80
- European Climate Pact to engage citizens and all parts of society in climate action
- 2030 Climate Target Plan to further reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030
- New EU Strategy on Climate Adaptation to make Europe a climate-resilient society by 2050

Climate Change

- Revised Emissions trading Directive (cap & trade), 2018/410/EU
- Renewables energies Directives, 2018/2001/EU
- Energy efficiency Directive, 2018/2002/EU
- Geological storage of carbon dioxide Directive, 2009/31/EU
- Transport sector:
 - Directive on specification of petrol, diesel and gas-oil and introducing a mechanism to monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
 - Directive on emission performance standards for new passenger cars

Climate Change

EU's commitment to reaching climate neutrality by 2050 and the intermediate target of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels

Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 (European Climate Law)
COM/2020/80 final (political agreement CON and EWO

April 2021)

Air quality

Framework Directive on air quality assessment and management (96/62/EC) + Framework directive for ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (2008/50/EC) + Directive on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants (2016/2284/EU)

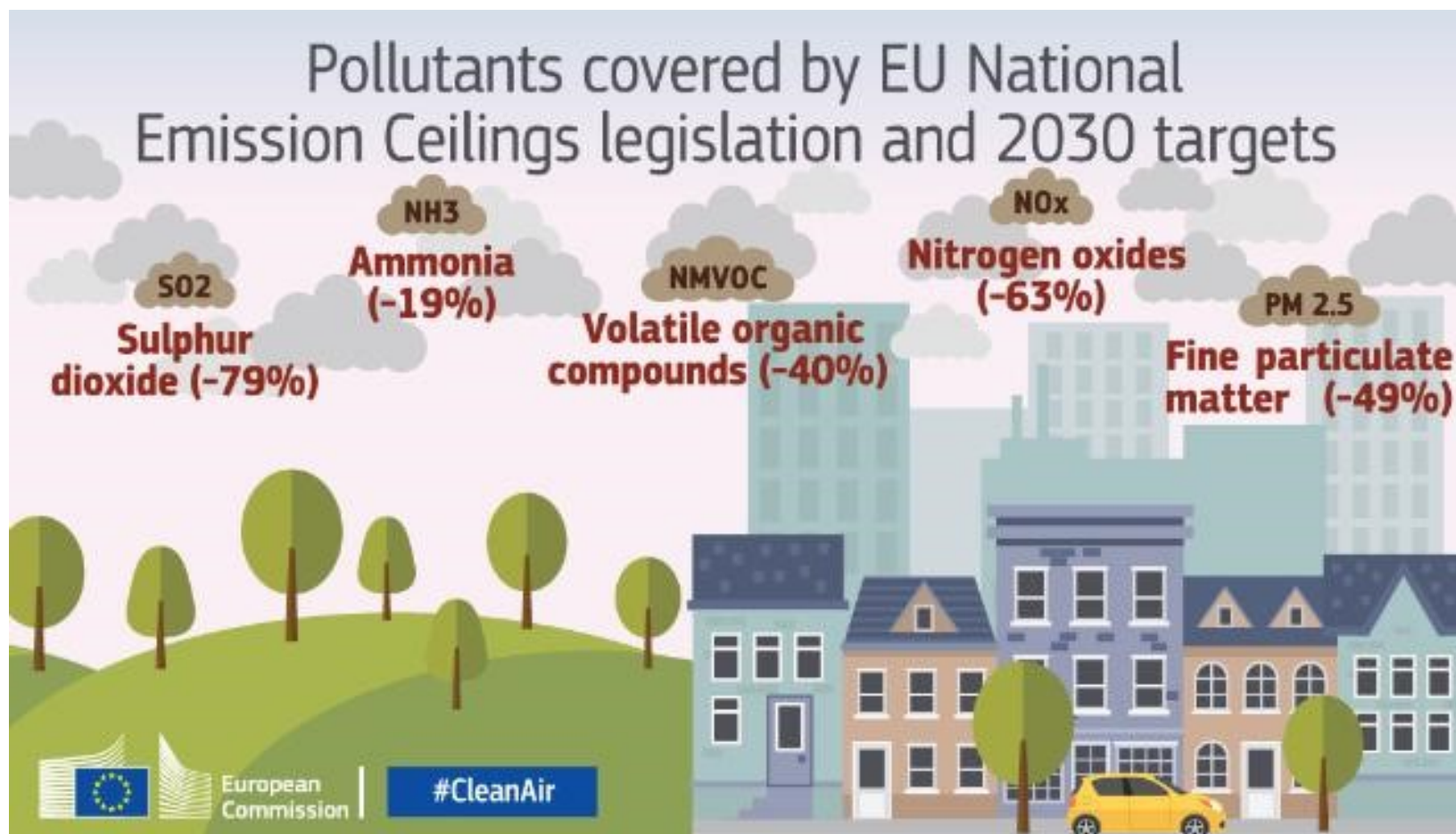
- Establishment of and compliance with air quality standards for specific pollutants
- MS Action plans if standards exceeded
- Monitoring requirements
- Alert thresholds
- Information and reporting requirements

Air quality

- Ambient air quality
- Stationary source emissions
- VOC (volatile organic compounds)
- Transport and environment



Air quality



Air quality

Specific Directives on:

- National emission ceilings for specific pollutants
- IPPC, large combustion plants, waste incineration plants
- Emissions of volatile organic compounds
- Vehicle emissions, fuel quality standards

Water quality

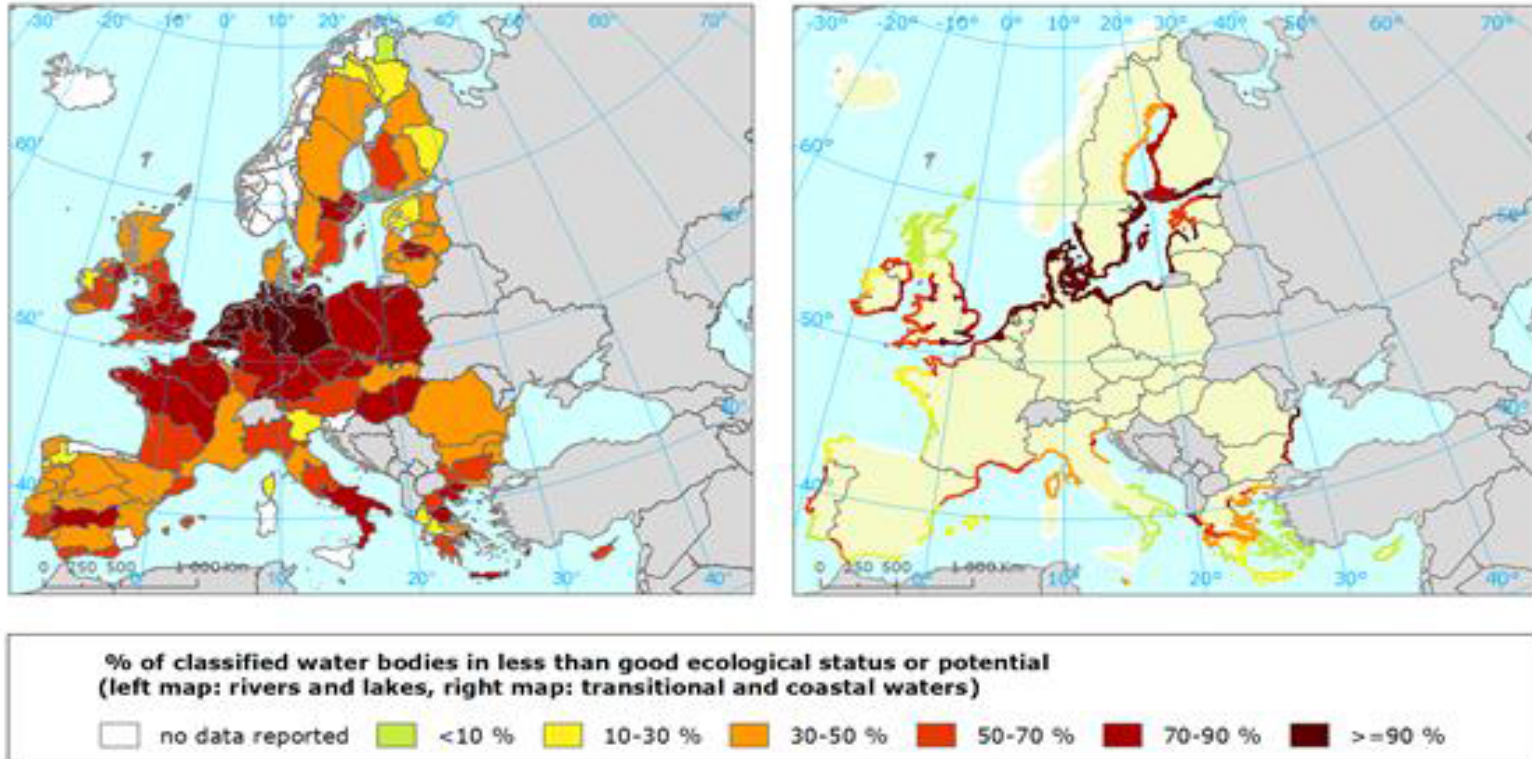
- Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC):
 - Overall framework for water policy
 - Based on integrated river basin management
 - MS to establish river basin management plans and programmes of measures to achieve « good water status » by 2015
 - Combined approach (environmental quality standards and source controls)

Water quality

Specific Directives on:

- Drinking water quality
- Urban waste water treatment
- Nitrates from agricultural sources
- Bathing water
- Groundwater
- Flood risk

Water quality



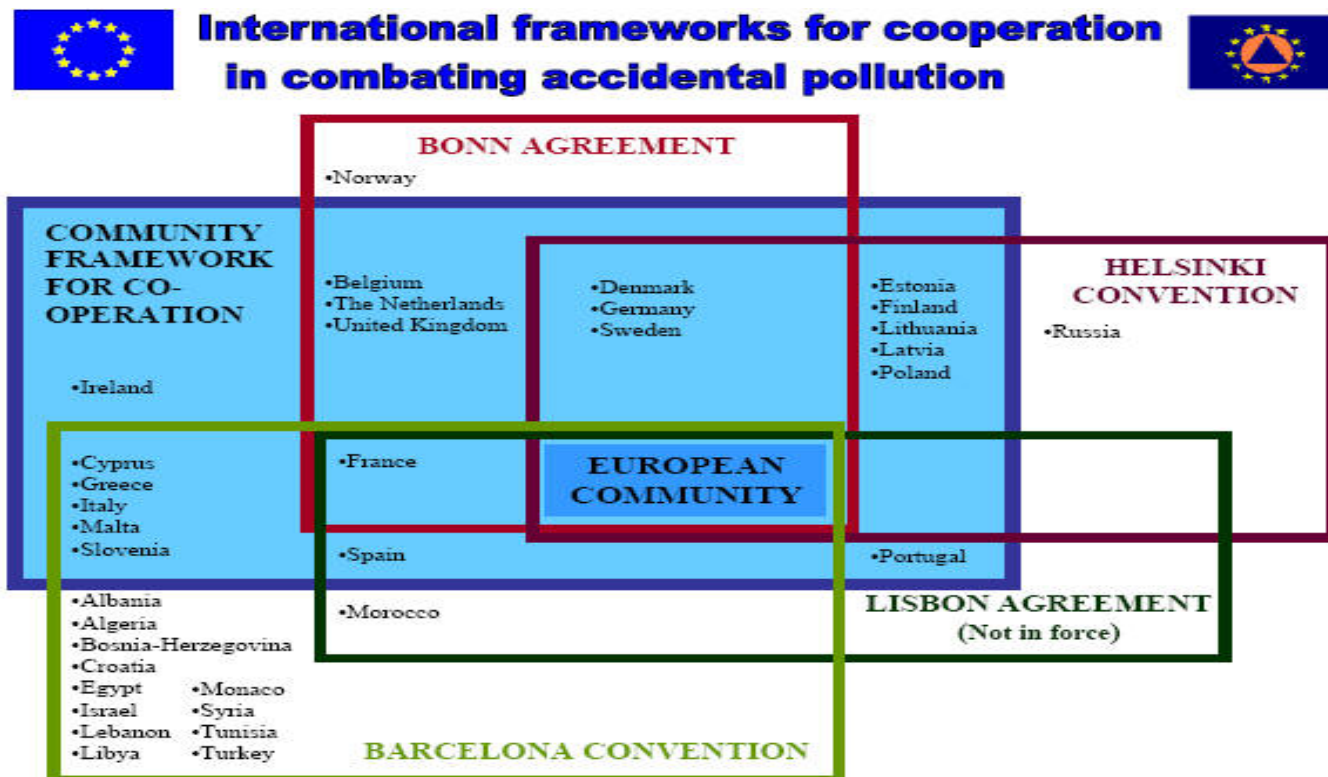
- **Figure 7.2:** Proportion of classified surface water bodies in different River Basin Districts in less than good ecological status or potential for rivers and lakes (left panel) and for coastal and transitional waters (right panel) (percentage, based on number of classified water bodies).
- **Source:** EEA
- **Font:** COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT , COM(2012) 670 final, p. 21

Water quality (marine)

- Marine Strategy, Directive 2008/56/EC
- Assessing the ecological status of waters and impact of human activities
- Determination of *good ecological status* of MS waters based on the criteria established by the Commission
- Defining objectives and indicators
- Establishment of programs of specific measures and coordinated control programs (strategic planning, programs of measures, monitoring)

Water quality (marine)

- Regions and sub-regions: Baltic, North East Atlantic, Black Sea, Mediterranean ...



Nature protection / habitats

- Directive Wild Birds 1979 (2009/147/EU) : general system of protection + protection zones
- Directive Habitats 1992 (92/43/EC): general system of special protection areas
- International actions (CITES, Ramsar, Biodiversity Convention, etc.)

Nature protection / habitats

- Protecting key species and habitats
- Preserving and restoring biodiversity in EU unprotected rural areas
- Preserving and restoring biodiversity in the EU unprotected marine environment
- Enhancing compatibility of regional and territorial development with biodiversity
- Reducing the impact of invasive alien species

Waste prevention and management

- Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC):
 - Definition of waste, waste recovery and disposal
 - General principles of waste management: autosufficiency & proximity + hierarchy
 - Producer responsibility/polluter pays
 - Permit system for recovery and disposal operations
 - Monitoring of waste transport
 - National waste management plans

Waste prevention and management

- waste management hierarchy



<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/framework>



Waste prevention and management

- Directives for specific types of waste: Hazardous waste, Batteries and accumulators, Packaging and packaging waste, Waste oils, End of life vehicles , Waste electrical and electronic equipment , Mining waste
- Directives establishing environmental standards for specific forms of waste disposal: Waste incineration, Landfills, Regulation on transfrontier shipments of waste

Management of chemicals

- Regulation on Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH):
 - Registration requirement for all substances produced and imported in EU
 - Industry to gather and submit information on health and environmental hazards
 - Evaluation of risks through systematic procedure
 - Most hazardous chemicals only to be used subject to authorization

Integrated environmental permit

- Directive on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) (96/61/EC and 2008/1/EC):
 - Harmonized list of activities subject to IPPC permit
 - Emission limit values based on best available techniques (BAT)
 - Public information and participation
 - Monitoring and enforcement requirements

Environmental impact assessment

- Directive on EIA « projects » (85/337, 97/11, 2003/35 & 2009/31, 2011/92) and « Plans & programmes » (2001/42):
 - All public/private projects likely to have significant effect on environment subject to EIA
 - MS may not issue permit before EIA performed
 - Harmonized list of projects subject to EIA throughout EU
 - Other projects to be determined by MS
 - EIA must be made public before permit is issued

Public participation in decision-making

- Directive on public participation in environmental decision-making (2003/35/EC) - Aarhus Convention
 - Public participation required in:
 - procedures for establishment of plans and programmes relating to the environment
 - EIA procedures
 - IPPC permit procedures
 - Public shall be given early and effective participation and be entitled to express comments and opinions
 - Public must be informed of decision taken and the reasons on which it is based