

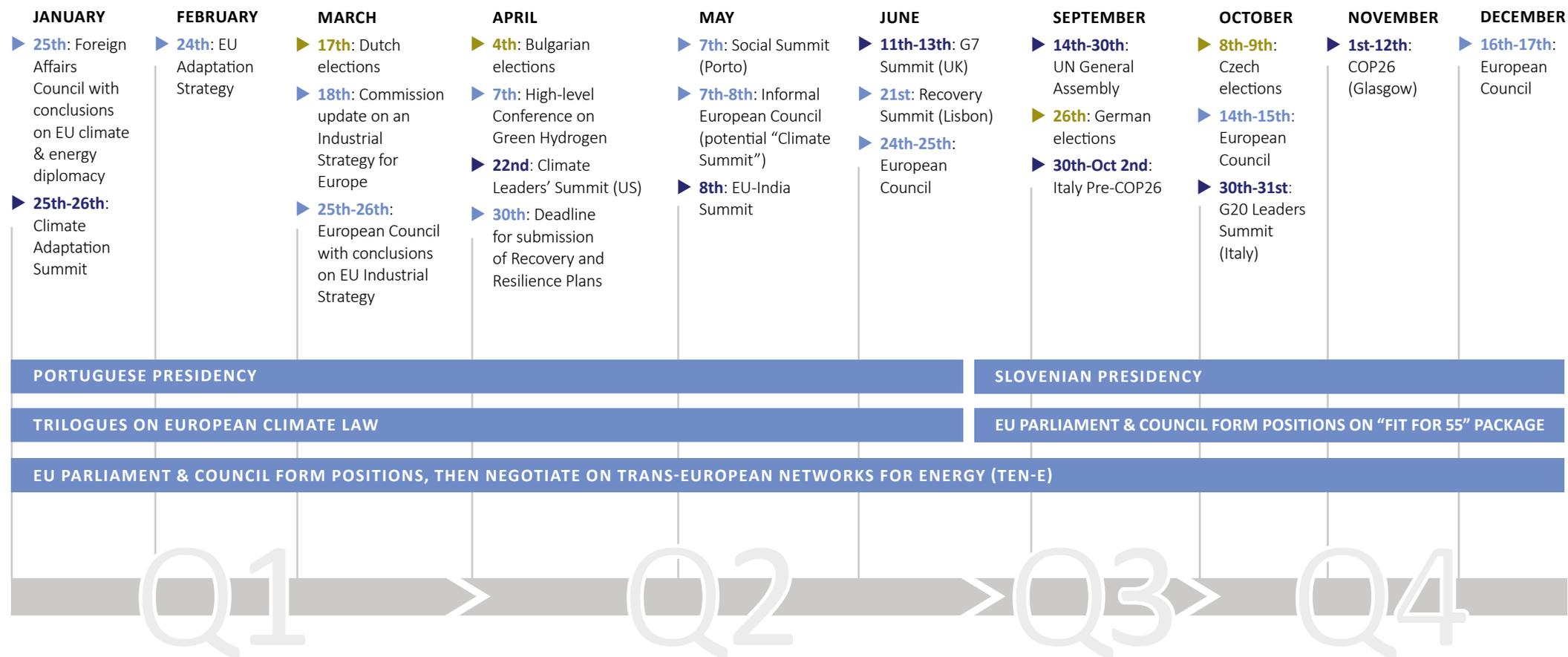
THE EU CLIMATE AGENDA IN 2021

In 2021, the EU will embark on a wide scale reform of policies which will determine the EU's ability to reach climate neutrality by 2050. Civil society actors play a central role in ensuring they are in line with the EU's climate targets.



E3G

▶ INTERNATIONAL ▶ EU ▶ NATIONAL



Q1

- ▶ Delegated Act of the EU taxonomy for sustainable activities (risk of delay)
- ▶ Renewed EU Sustainable Finance Strategy (risk of delay)
- ▶ Meeting of China and Central and Eastern Europe (17+1)

Q2

- ▶ Petersberg Summit (Germany)
- ▶ EU Green Bond Standard
- ▶ "Fit for 55" package part I

Q3

- ▶ Proposals on sustainable and smart mobility, including new emissions standards for cars, lorries and buses

Q4

- ▶ "Fit for 55" package part II
- ▶ Revision of the state aid framework for energy and environmental protection in line with the European Green Deal
- ▶ Circular economy package
- ▶ Additional proposals on sustainable and smart mobility

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021



EUROPEAN CLIMATE LAW

The European Climate Law will enshrine the EU's 2030 and 2050 climate targets into law.

It has the potential to provide the tools for a strong governance framework. Notably, the “European Climate Change Council” as proposed by the European Parliament would enhance the role of science in EU policy making while improving policy consistency, solidarity, and cost efficiency of EU climate policy. The ongoing trilogue negotiations are expected to be finalized at the latest by the ENVI Council in June. Until then, civil society can inform the negotiations of the Climate Law’s potential for providing a solid governance structure for climate ambition.



“FIT FOR 55” PACKAGE

With the “Fit for 55” package, the European Commission will propose reforms to a wide range of policies to deliver on the new 2030 climate target of “at least 55%”.

The package will revise all flagship climate and energy policies such as the Effort Sharing Regulation, the EU Emissions Trading System, as well as the Renewable Energy and the Energy Efficiency Directives. The European Council requested to issue additional guidance prior to the release of the package, potentially during an informal meeting in May. Civil society can give the domestic and EU-wide transition to climate neutrality a boost by making sure the proposals are aligned with the European Green Deal in terms of driving the EU’s transition to climate neutrality, delivering a Just Transition, and unlocking pan-European opportunities for green industries.



NATIONAL PLANNING FOR THE GREEN TRANSITION

Member States are preparing recovery plans to receive funding from the EU's €673bn recovery fund, the “Recovery and Resilience Facility”.

The plans are aimed at supporting reforms and investments in Member States to manage the socio-economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, while building a more sustainable and resilient economy. As such the plans are required to align with the European Green Deal by ensuring that 37% of investments contribute to the green transition, and that the remainder adheres to the “do no significant harm” principle. The final plans must be submitted to the European Commission by 30 April. Most governments are coordinating the development of their plans with the Commission, but many are not offering sufficient opportunities for civil society to engage with the process. After the plans have been submitted, they will be formally assessed by the Commission and approved by the Council, but the drafting phase remains the best opportunity for shaping the plans.

Throughout 2021, Member States are also developing Territorial Just Transition Plans to access the EU's €17.5bn Just Transition Fund

and prepare coal and high-carbon regions for the phase out of coal. The plans need to be consistent with the EU’s climate targets and the latest version of the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP). There is no deadline for the submission of plans, but many are expected to be finalized by mid-2021. Civil society can shape the plans and monitor their implementation.

Supported by:



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