



# Perspectives for nutrient management in Europe

Under the Farm to Fork Strategy and the Common Agricultural Policy

*PHOS4YOU Final Conference – 23 September 2021*

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# Political priorities European Commission 2019-2024

1. *A European Green Deal*
2. *An economy that works for people*
3. *A Europe fit for the digital age*
4. *Protecting our European way of life*
5. *A stronger Europe in the world*
6. *A new push for European democracy*

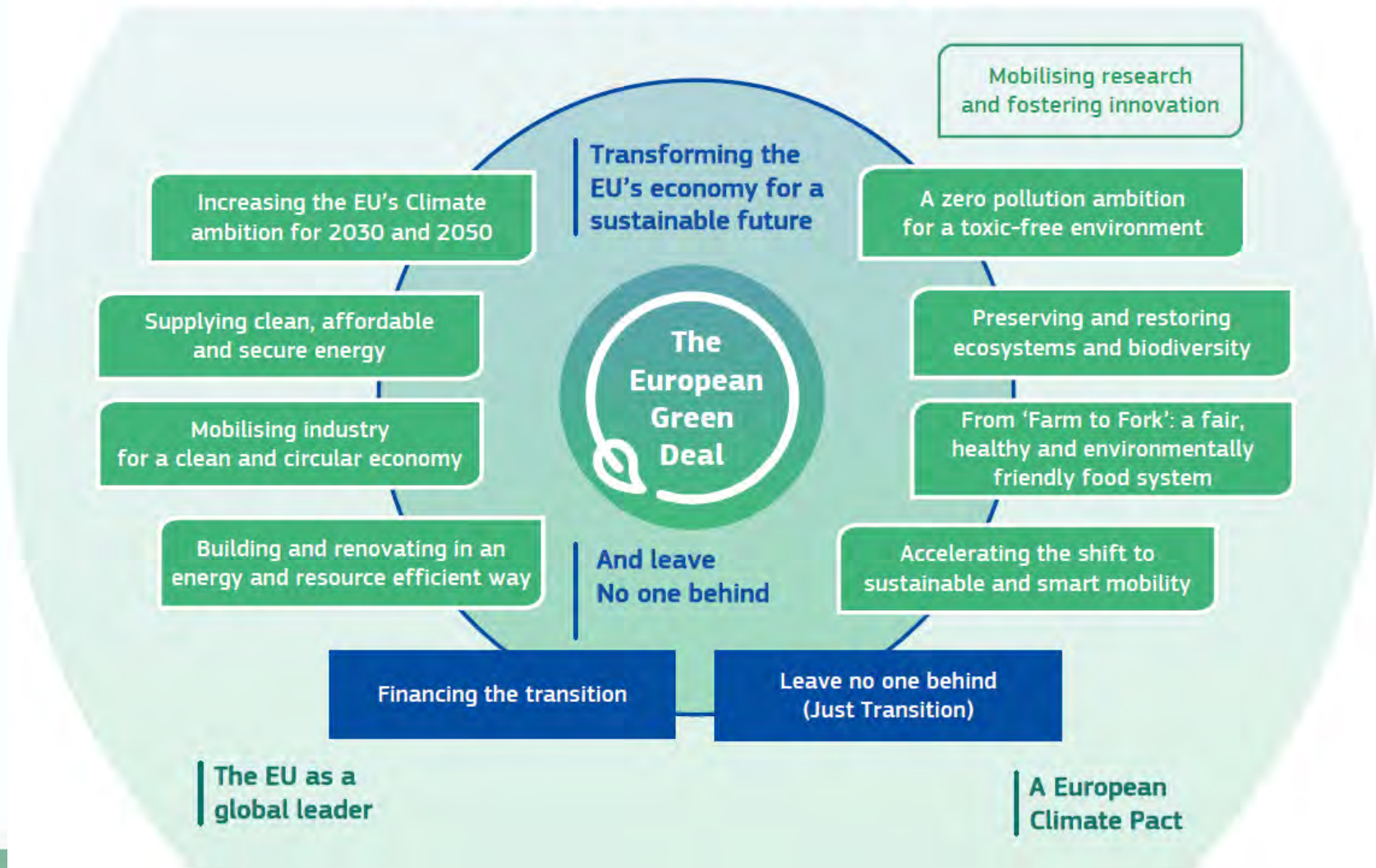


*"Making nature healthy again is key to our physical and mental wellbeing and is an ally in the fight against climate change and disease outbreaks. It is at the heart of our growth strategy, the European Green Deal, and is part of a European recovery that gives more back to the planet than it takes away."*

*Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission*



# The European Green Deal







# | Elements of the EU Biodiversity Strategy



Protect Nature



Enable Transformative  
Change



Restore Nature



EU For An Ambitious  
Global Agenda



# Action on nutrients

- “The Commission will also promote the goal of zero pollution from nitrogen and phosphorus flows from fertilisers through reducing nutrient losses by at least 50%, while ensuring that there is no deterioration in soil fertility. This will result in the reduction of use of fertilisers by at least 20%“
- How?
  - “This will be achieved by **implementing and enforcing the relevant environmental and climate legislation in full**, identifying with Member States the nutrient load reductions needed to achieve these goals, **applying balanced fertilisation and sustainable nutrient management**, and by **managing nitrogen and phosphorus better throughout their lifecycle**. “
  - “To this end, the Commission will work with Member States to develop an **Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan in 2022**. “



# Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan

- Cooperation between Commission and Member States
- 2022
- Key elements:
  - ❖ ensure more sustainable application of nutrients,
  - ❖ stimulate the markets for **recovered nutrients**,
  - ❖ address nutrient pollution at source,
  - ❖ and increase the sustainability of the livestock sector.









# Towards zero pollution

- Commission Communication: “Pathway to a Healthy Planet for All EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil’ – May 2021
- Actions:
  - **Review of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive** (Q2 – 2022)
  - **Evaluation of the Sewage Sludge Directive** (Q3 - 2021)
- [These actions will help] increase the ambition level to remove nutrients from wastewater and make treated water and sludge ready for reuse, **supporting more circular, less polluting farming**.
- This review will also support the concrete implementation of the future **integrated nutrient management action plan**, addressing holistically a long-standing environmental challenge, maximising synergies between policies and making best use of the **green architecture of the new common agricultural policy**, especially via conditionality and eco-schemes.



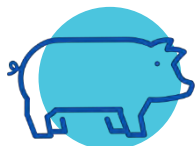


# Challenges to the EU food system

## SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY



Healthier diets  
– reduce  
overweight



Improve  
animal  
welfare



Food  
affordability

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



Tackle climate  
change



Protect the  
environment



Preserve  
biodiversity



Sustainable fish  
and seafood  
production



Reduce food  
losses and waste

## ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY



Fairer incomes  
for farmers



Just  
transition



New business & job  
opportunities





# Establish a sustainable food system that:



- **has neutral or positive environmental impact** of food production:
  - preserving and restoring the land and sea-based resources;
  - mitigate climate change and adapt to its impact;
  - reversing the loss of biodiversity;



- **ensures food security and public health:**
  - access for everyone to sufficient, nutritious, sustainable food;
  - high standards of safety and quality, plant health, animal health and welfare



- **preserves the affordability of food**, while (a.o.):
  - generating fair economic returns & fostering a competitive sector
  - promoting fair trade
  - safeguarding occupational health and safety
  - ensuring integrity of the single market



Food security and food safety are cornerstones of our food system, and will never be compromised



# “Green Deal targets” for agriculture

*set out in the Farm to Fork Strategy and EU Biodiversity Strategy*



Reduce by 50% the overall use and risk of **chemical pesticides** and reduce use by 50% of more hazardous **pesticides** by 2030



Achieve at least 25% of the EU's agricultural land under **organic farming** and a significant increase in **organic aquaculture** by 2030



Reduce sales of **antimicrobials** for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 50% by 2030



Reduce **nutrient losses** by at least 50% while ensuring no deterioration in soil fertility; this will reduce use of **fertilisers** by at least 20 % by 2030

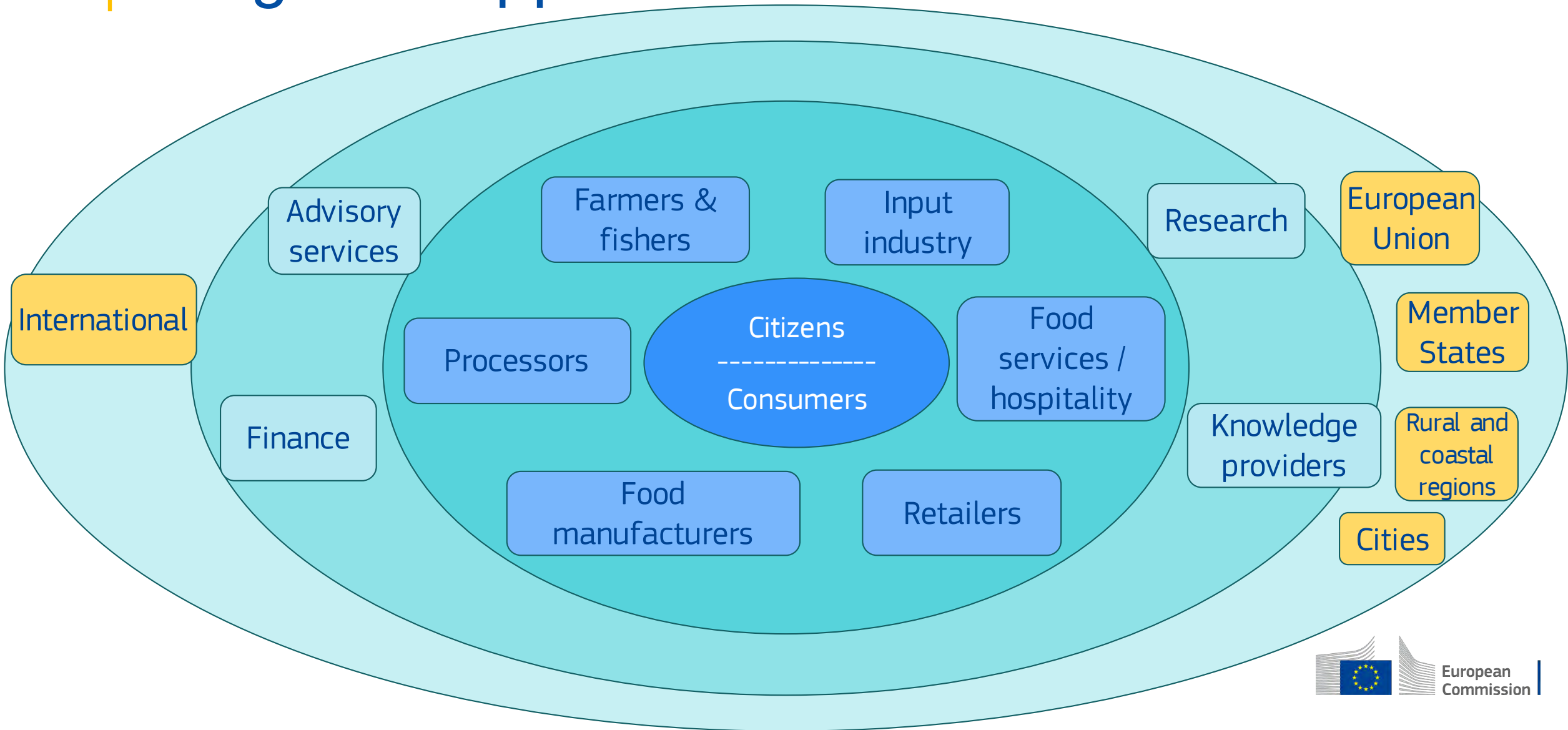


Bring back at least 10% of agricultural area **under high-diversity landscape features** by 2030



Achieve 100% access to **fast broadband internet** in rural areas by 2025

# Integrated approach from farm to fork needed





# Farm to Fork action plan, includes:

Adopt recommendations to MS on implementing the future **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**, before submission of draft **Strategic Plans** (2020)

Revision of **Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive** and enhancement of Integrated Pest Management (2022)

Proposal to revise **animal welfare** legislation (farm, transport, slaughter) (2023)

Reinforce efforts to bring fish stocks to sustainable levels via the **Common Fisheries Policy**; strengthen fisheries management in the Mediterranean



**Horizon Europe:** EUR 9 billion in R&I related to food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and environment

**Action plan for integrated nutrient management** to reduce the pollution from fertilisers (2022)

Develop an EU code (with monitoring) for **responsible business and marketing conduct** in the food chain (2021)

Proposal for a **sustainable food labelling framework** to empower consumers to make sustainable food choices (2024)

Proposal for a harmonised **mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling** to enable consumers to make healthy food choices (2022)

Proposal for **EU-level targets for food waste reduction** & Revise EU rules for date marking ('use by' and 'best before' dates)



# Actions on nutrients (1)

- “The **excess of nutrients** (especially nitrogen and phosphorus) in the environment, stemming from **excess use** and the fact that not all nutrients used in agriculture are effectively absorbed by plants, is another major source of **air**, **soil** and **water** pollution and **climate** impacts. It has reduced biodiversity in rivers, lakes, wetlands and seas. “
- “The Commission will act to **reduce nutrient losses by at least 50%**, while ensuring that there is no deterioration in soil fertility. This will reduce the use of fertilisers by at least 20% by 2030.”
- “This will be achieved by **implementing and enforcing the relevant environmental and climate legislation in full**, by identifying with Member States the nutrient load reductions needed to achieve these goals, applying **balanced fertilisation** and **sustainable nutrient management** and by **managing nitrogen and phosphorus better throughout their lifecycle**. “



# Actions on nutrients (2)

- “The Commission will develop with Member States an **integrated nutrient management action plan** to address nutrient pollution at source and increase the sustainability of the livestock sector.”
- “The Commission will also work with Member States to extend the application of **precise fertilisation techniques** and **sustainable agricultural practices**, notably in **hotspot areas of intensive livestock farming** and of recycling of organic waste into renewable fertilisers. This will be done by means of measures which Member States will include in their CAP Strategic Plans such as the Farm Sustainability Tool for nutrient management, investments, advisory services and of EU space technologies (Copernicus, Galileo)”





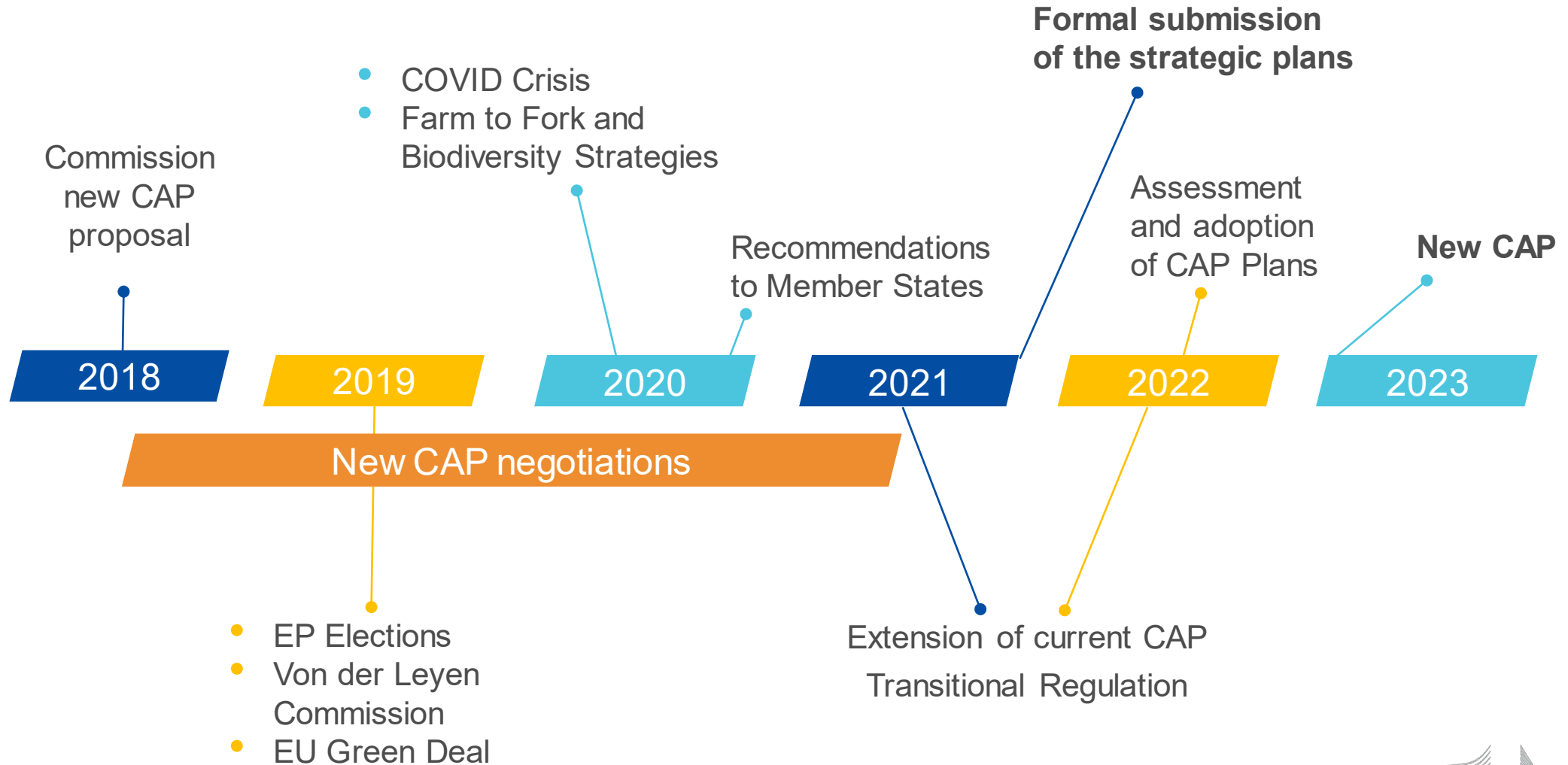
# Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)



# What is the CAP today?

- Direct income support for farmers
  - Rural development support
  - Support schemes for some agricultural sectors (wine, fruit & veg., olive oil...)
- 
- Common organisation of the market
  - Rules on unfair trading practices
  - Regulation on geographical indications
  - Rules on organic farming
  - Support for fruit & milk at school
  - Support for promotion of agricultural products
  - etc...

# Timeline reform CAP



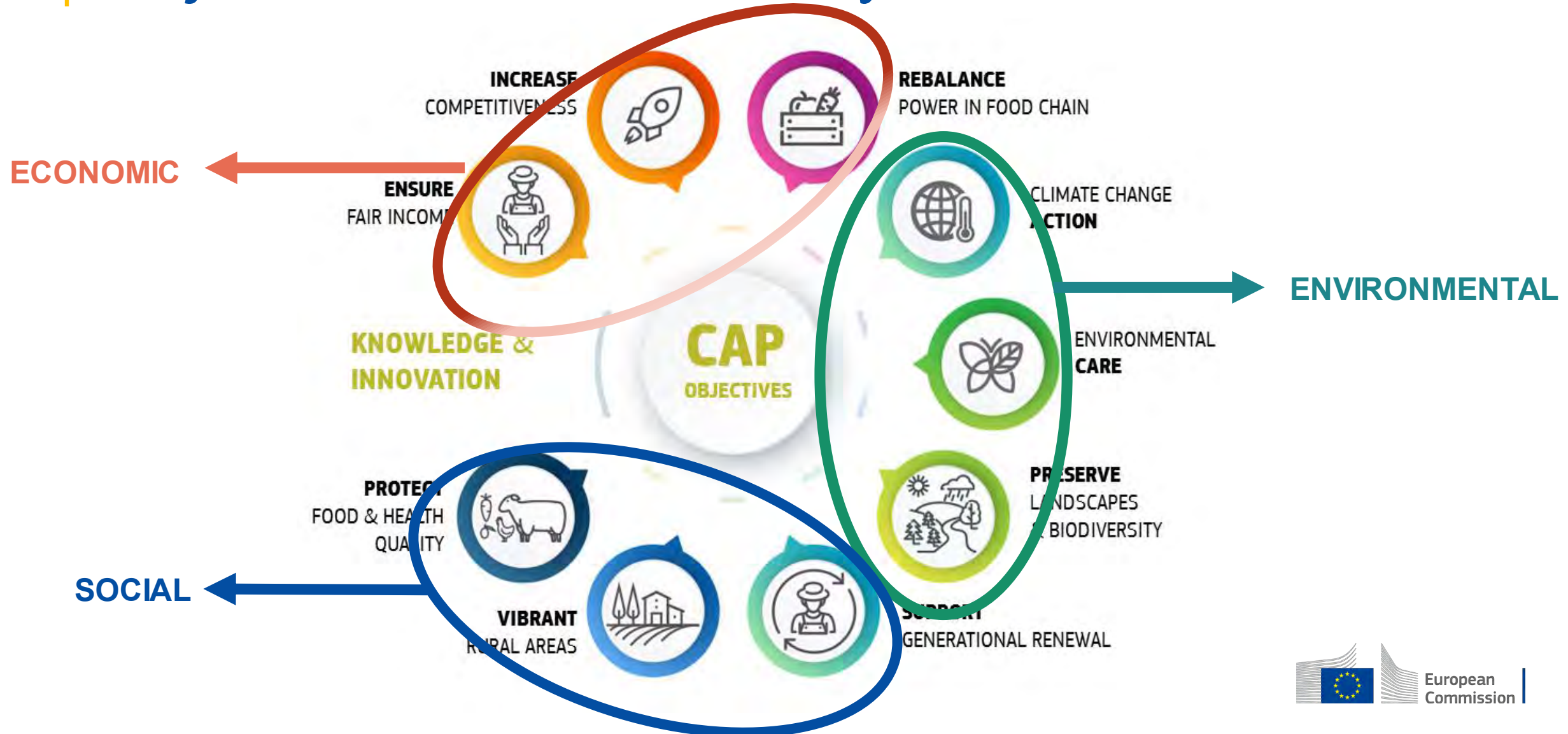


# CAP Strategic Plans – a new way of working

- **Single strategic plan** for all interventions
- **Strategic approach** based on needs assessment
- **Structured dialogue** with Member States
- CAP Plan will be **approved by the Commission**
- Need to **ensure the commonality** while recognising the specificities of each Member State
- Must be **ambitious**

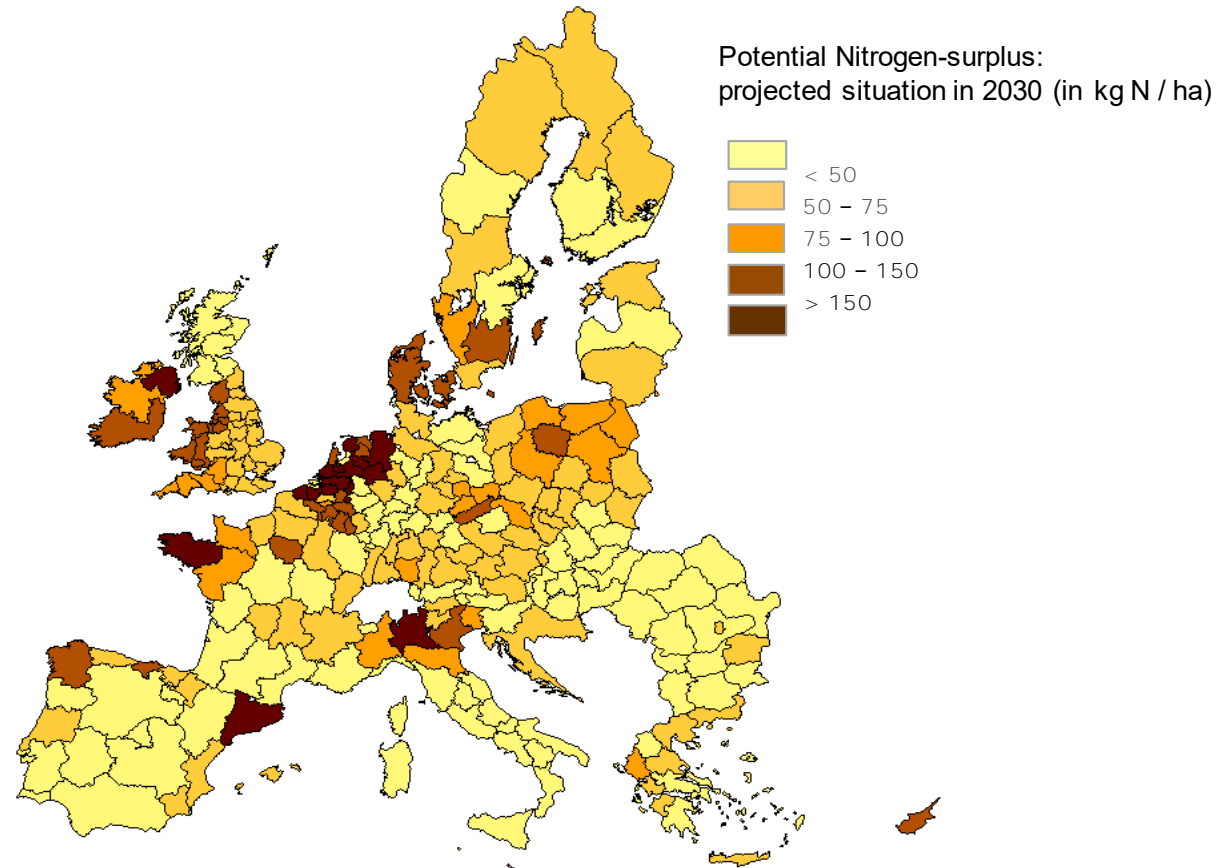


# Objectives & sustainability dimensions



# Targeted measures on the basis of evidence

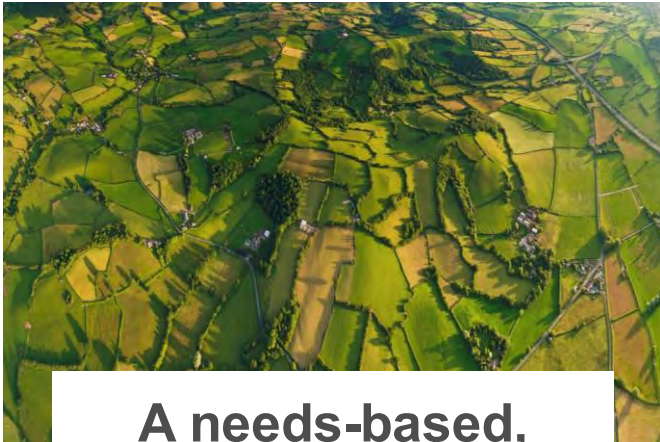
Projected pressure on the environment due to potential nitrogen surplus in 2030: different impact across the EU



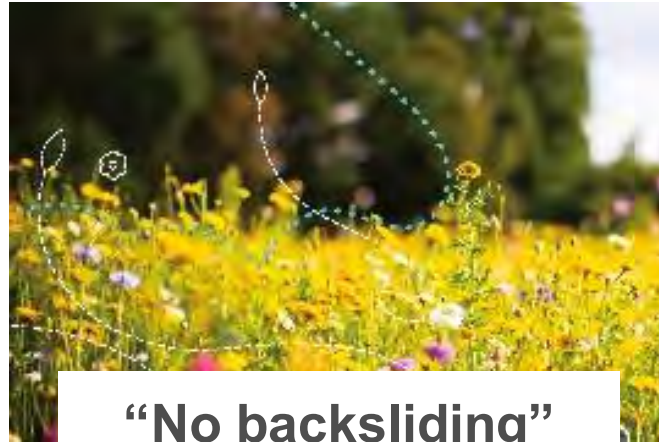
Source: JRC based on the CAPRI model baseline as presented in the DG AGRI 2017 outlook report.



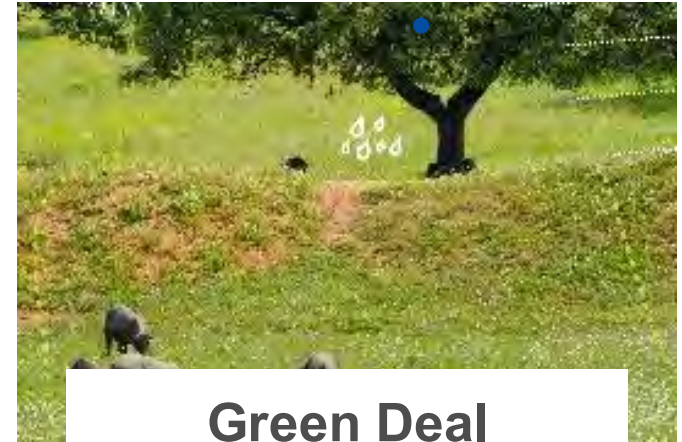
# A higher environmental ambition



**A needs-based,  
targeted approach  
to addressing  
environmental &  
climate objectives**

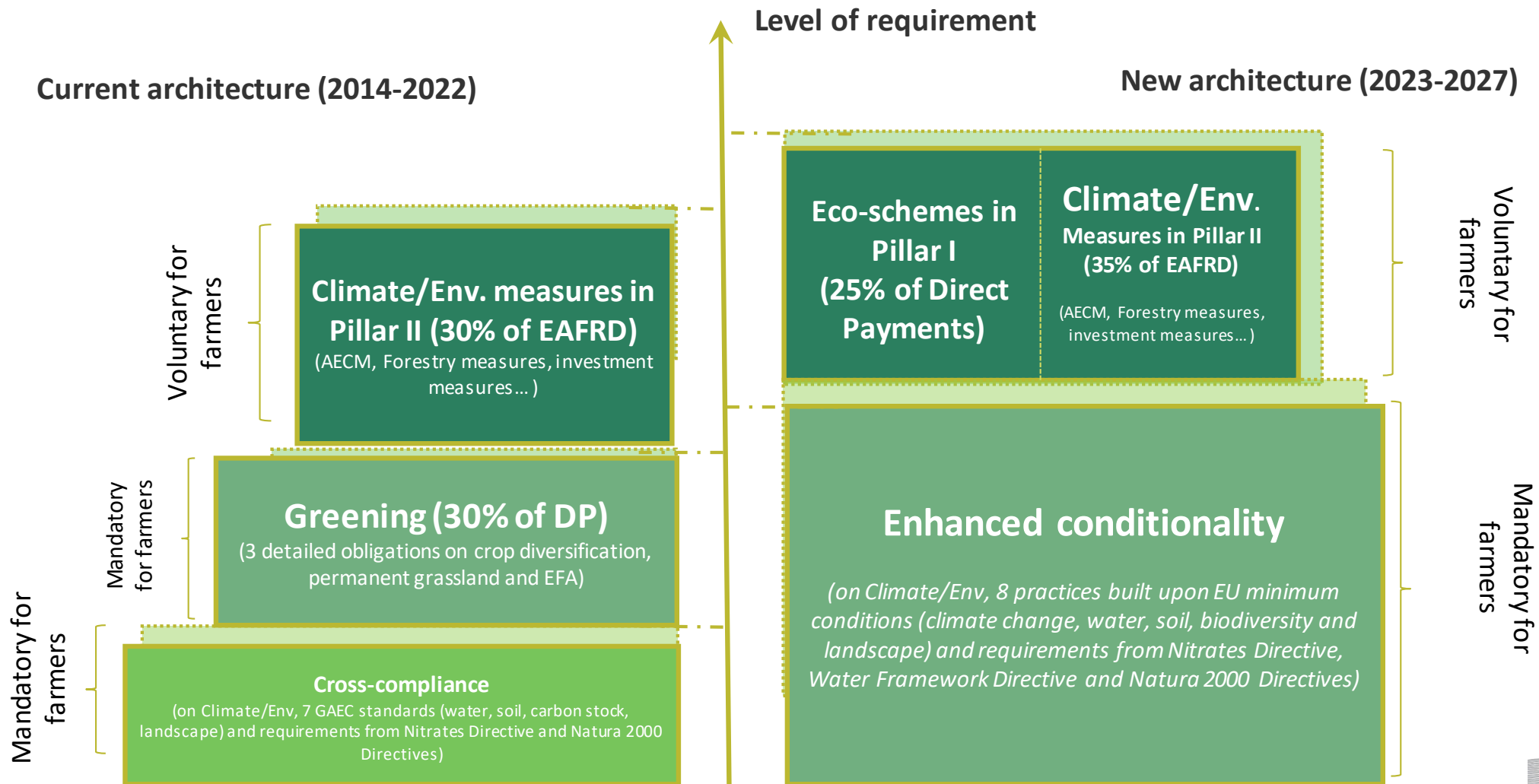


**“No backsliding”  
clause**



**Green Deal  
Alignment**

# The new Green architecture



# Conditionality for support

Water Framework Directive: « as regards mandatory requirements to control diffuse sources of pollution by phosphates »

## Environment and climate

### SMR \*

- Birds and Habitats Directives
- **Water Framework Directive**
- Nitrates Directive

### GAEC \*

- Standards on:
- climate change
  - water
  - soil
  - biodiversity and landscapes
- ~~▪ Farm tool for nutrients (Fast)~~

## Public, animal and plant health

### SMR \*

- ~~▪ Animal Identification & Registration~~
- Pesticides authorization Regulation
- **Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides (SUD)**
- Hormones ban Directive
- General Food Law
- ~~▪ Notification of diseases~~

## Animal welfare

### SMR \*

- Directives for the protection of:
- Calves
  - Pigs
  - Animals kept for farming purposes

## Farm advisory services (embedded in AKIS)

Conditionality  
EU legislation on biodiversity, water, air and use of pesticides  
Antimicrobial resistance  
Risk management  
Innovation support  
**Support to Nutrient management**

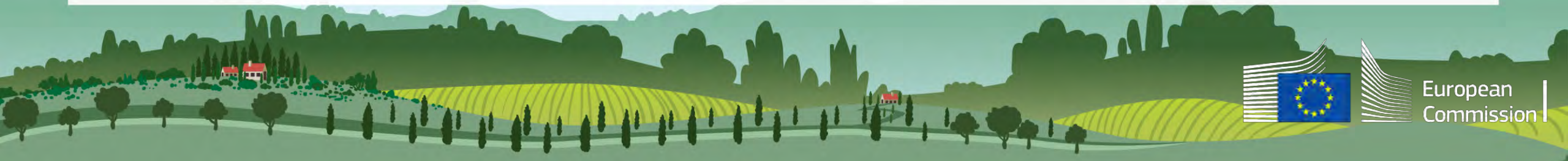
SMR \* Statutory Management Requirements  
GAEC \* Good Agricultural Environmental Conditions  
~~abe~~: deletion after trilogues



### Use of the Farm Sustainability Tool for nutrients. FaST

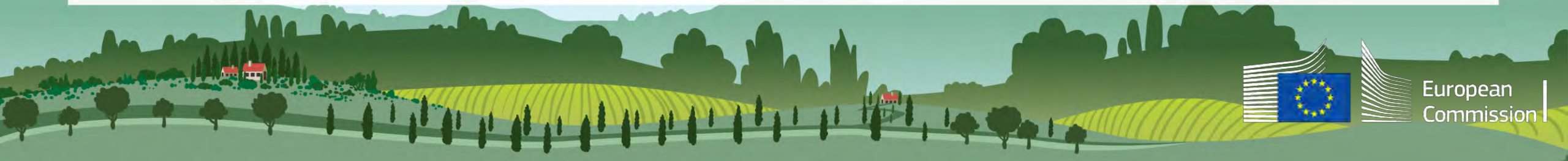
Recital 24 and Article 13 of the CAP proposal after political agreement

- To support the agronomic and the environmental performance of farms, information on nutrient management will be provided using an electronic Farm Sustainability Tool made available by MS to farmers.
- FaST focuses on nitrogen and phosphate which are the nutrients that from an environmental perspective can pose particular challenges and therefore deserve particular attention.



### Use of the Farm Sustainability Tool for nutrients. FaST

- Main elements:
  - a balance of the main nutrients at field scale,
  - the legal requirements on nutrients,
  - soil data, based on available information and analyses,
  - IACS data relevant for nutrient management.
- The Commission may provide support to the MS in the design of FaST:
  - Results of the pilot project for the implementation of the FaST in 8 MS-9PAs (<https://fastplatform.eu/>)
    - 1st Phase January 2020 / May 2021, 2nd Phase June 2021 / May 2022
  - Study for the development of methodologies for the assessment of nutrient requirements
    - December 2020 / November 2021
- Member States can: Develop their own systems; Use existing systems; Customise or adapt the system developed with the help of the Commission



# Main types of practices under eco-schemes (indicative)



CLIMATE CHANGE  
ACTION

## 1. PRACTICES ESTABLISHED IN EU POLICIES

- Organic farming: conversion and maintenance
- Integrated Pest Management practices (SUD directive)



NATURAL  
RESSOURCES

## 2. OTHER types of PRACTICES

- Agro-ecology
- Husbandry & Animal Welfare plans
- Agro-forestry
- Landscape features
- High nature value (HNV) farming
- Precision farming
- Nutrient management
- Protecting water resources
- Practices beneficial for soil
- Related to GHG



PRESERVE  
LANDSCAPES &  
BIODIVERSITY



ANIMAL WELFARE  
& AMR



European  
Commission



# Knowledge, research & innovation

- Advancing research, knowledge-sharing, and innovation is essential for a smart and sustainable agricultural sector
- Knowledge and innovation are a **cross-cutting objective** of all CAP strategic plans
- **EUR 9 billion** under Horizon Europe (2021-2027) dedicated to food, environment, agriculture, bioeconomy
- **European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI)** key to stronger agricultural knowledge and innovation systems
  - Dedicated **Research Mission in the area of Soil Health and Food** together with the European Innovation Partnership (EIP AGRI) to promote the wide-spread uptake of practices for pesticide and nutrient reduction.
- The **Farm Advisory System** key tool in sharing new knowledge and ideas



# Thank you

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