



# EU ACTIEPLAN

‘Verontreiniging van lucht, water en bodem naar nul’

**Route naar een gezonde planeet voor iedereen**

*Webinar Minaraad en Vleva  
6 juli 2021*

*Bavo Peeters  
Unit D1 Land Use & Management  
DG Environment*

# | We are encountering major ecological crises



**CLIMATE**



**BIODIVERSITY**



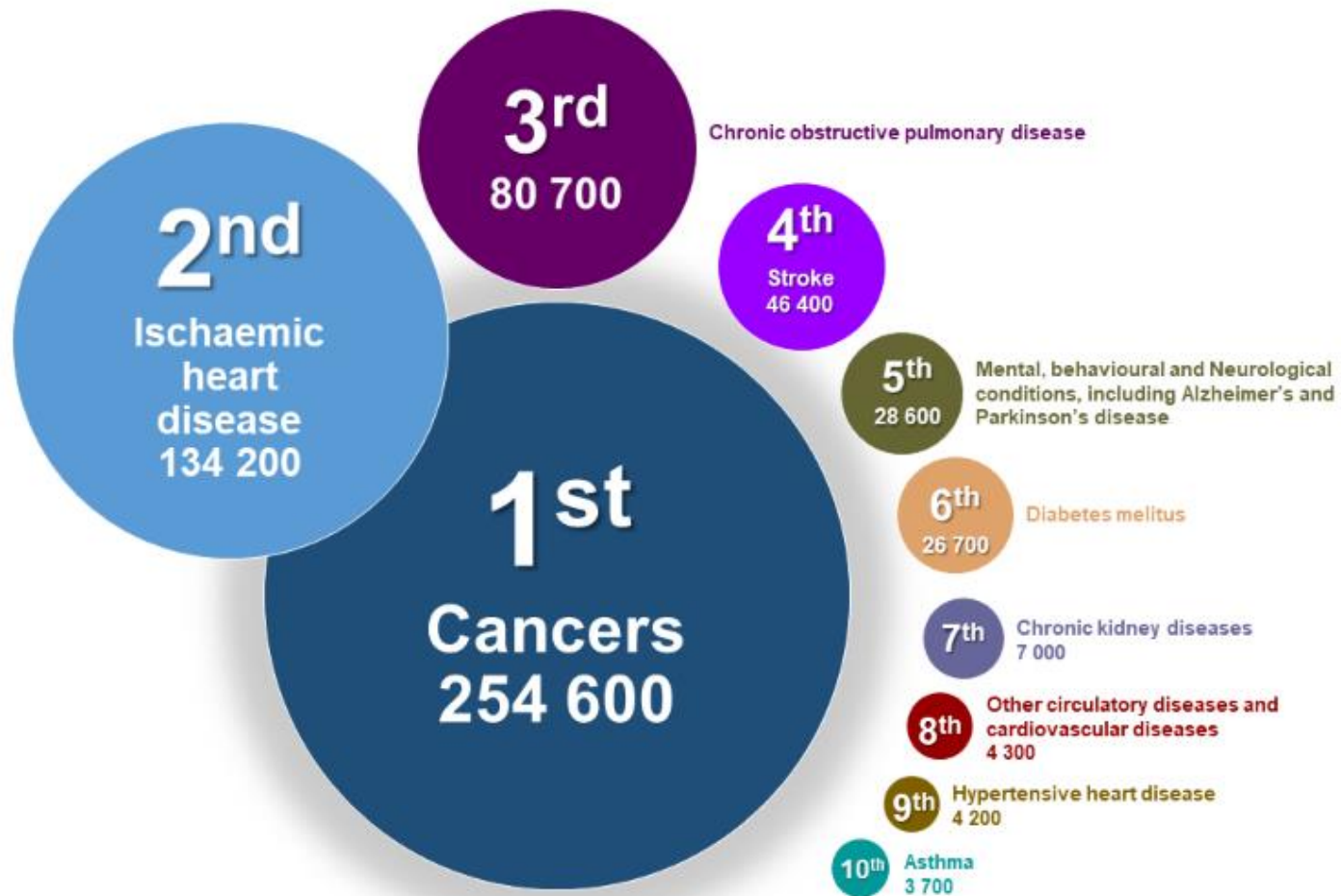
**RESOURCES**



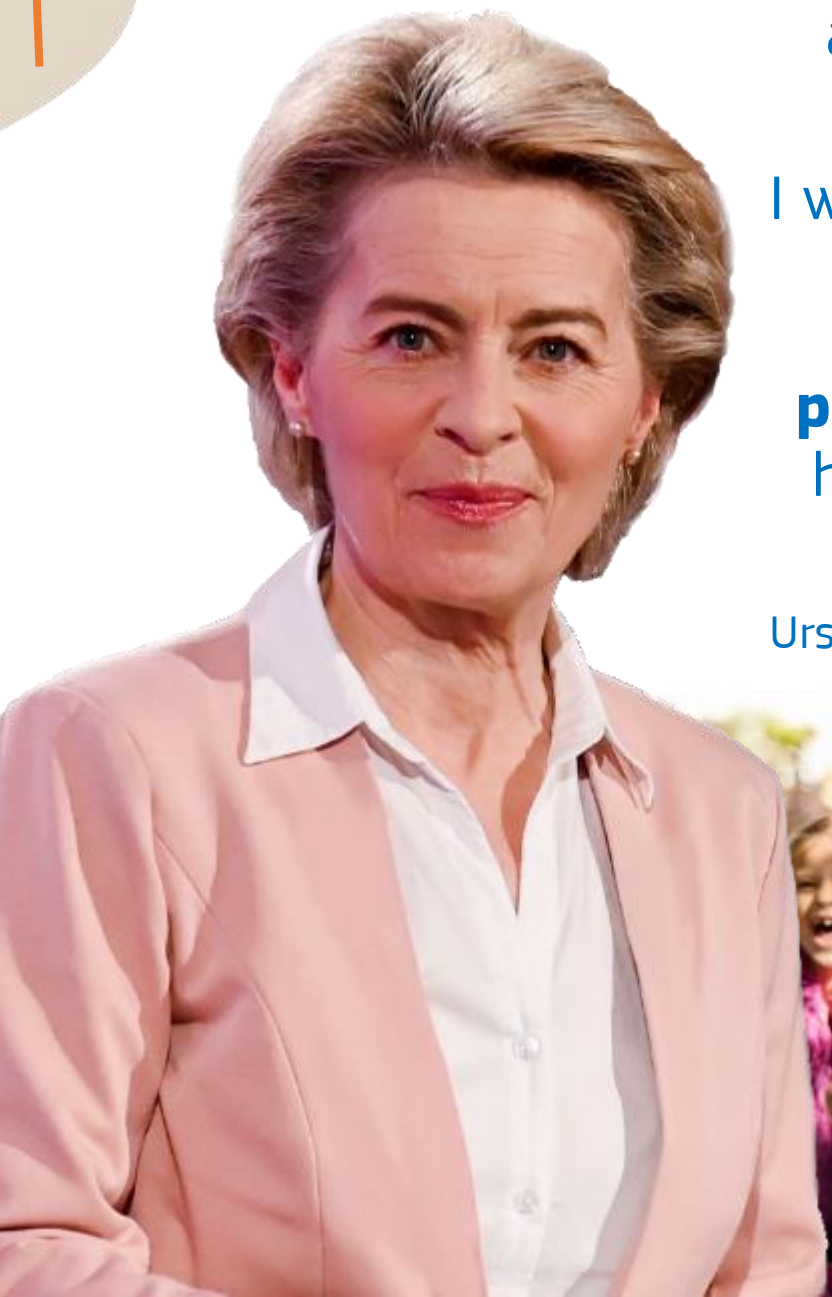
**POLLUTION**



# | Urgency to act on pollution







“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



# 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**

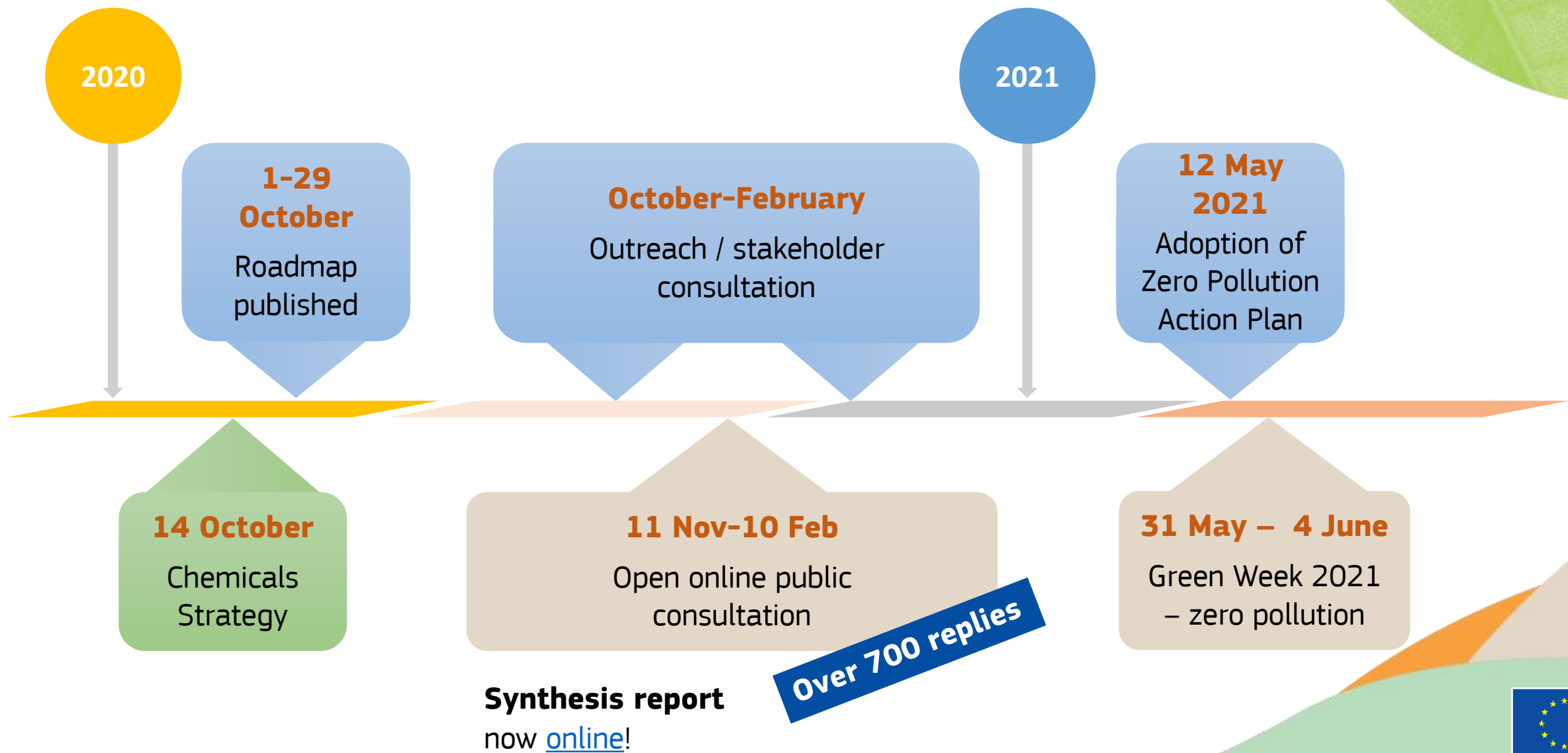
- Circular Economy
- Biodiversity
- Farm to Fork
- Common Agricultural Policy
- Climate & Energy initiatives
- Cancer Plan
- Mobility Strategy
- Renovation Wave & Bauhaus
- Industrial Strategy
- Pharmaceuticals Strategy
- Trade Policy
- Etc.

The EU as a global leader

A European Climate Pact



# Preparation



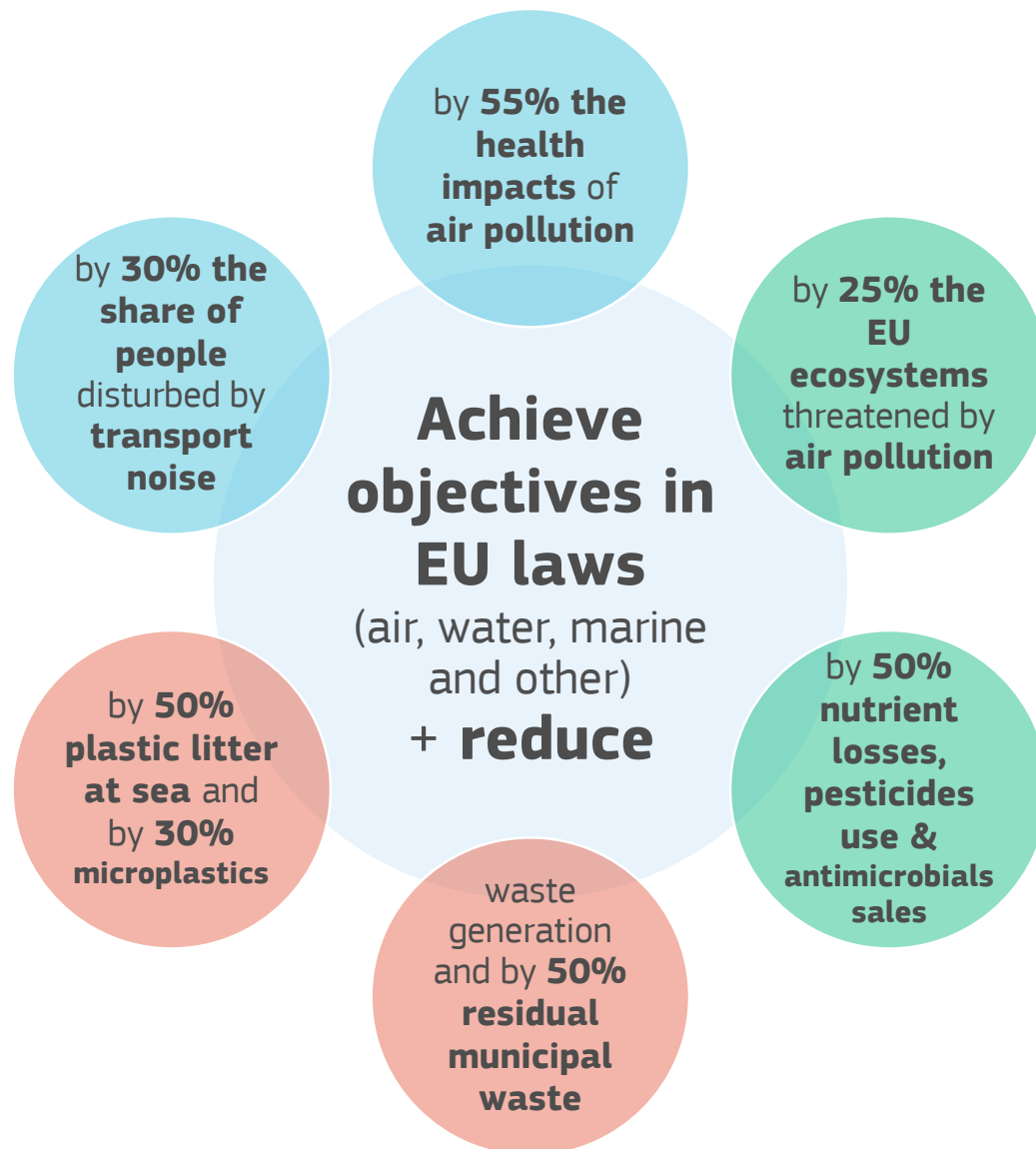




# The **zero pollution vision** for 2050

“Air, water and soil pollution is reduced to **levels no longer considered harmful to health and natural ecosystems** and that **respect the boundaries our planet can cope with**, thus creating a toxic-free environment.”

# 2030 targets complementing SDGs



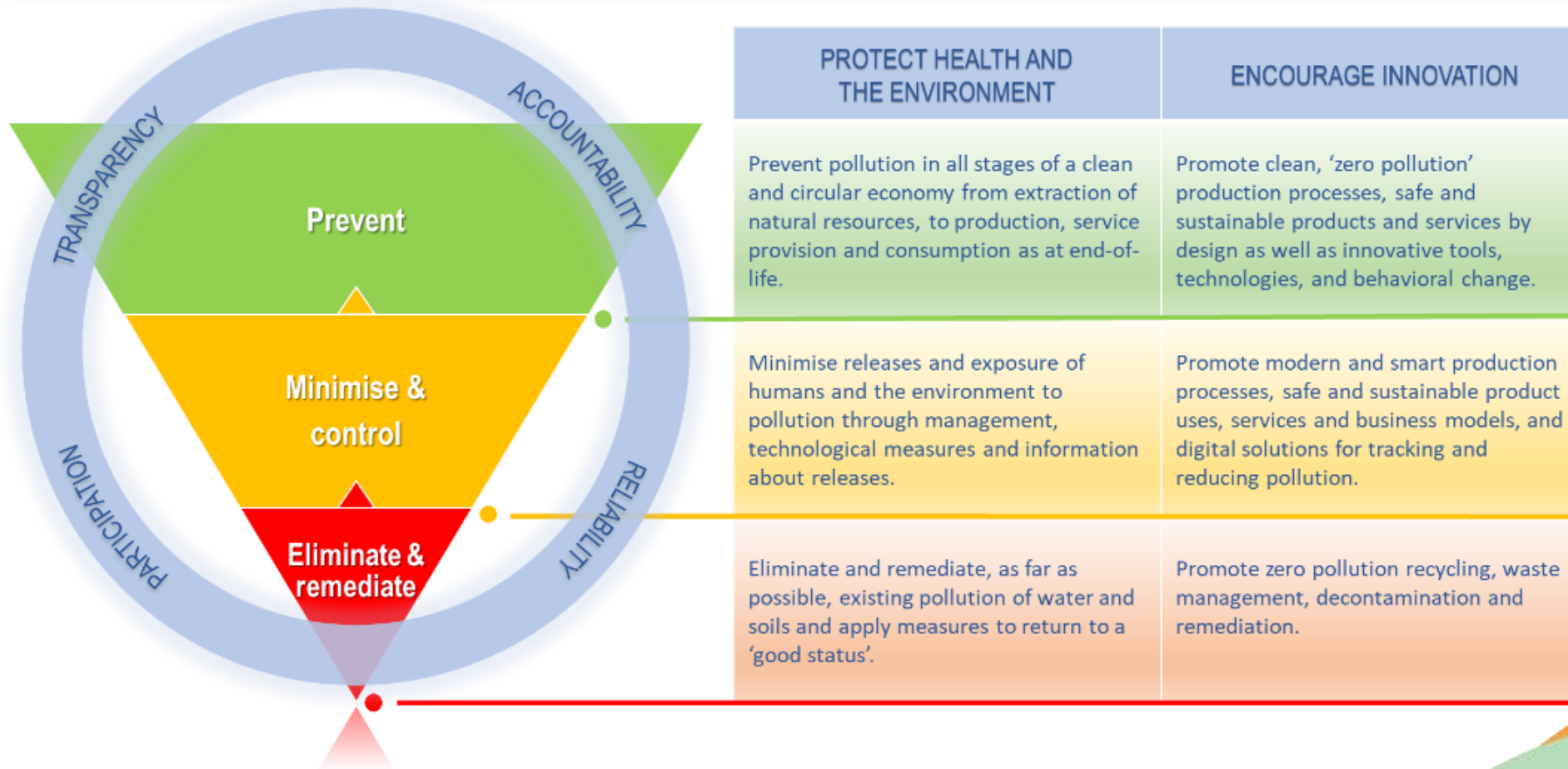
Graphics by Jerker Lokrantz/Azote



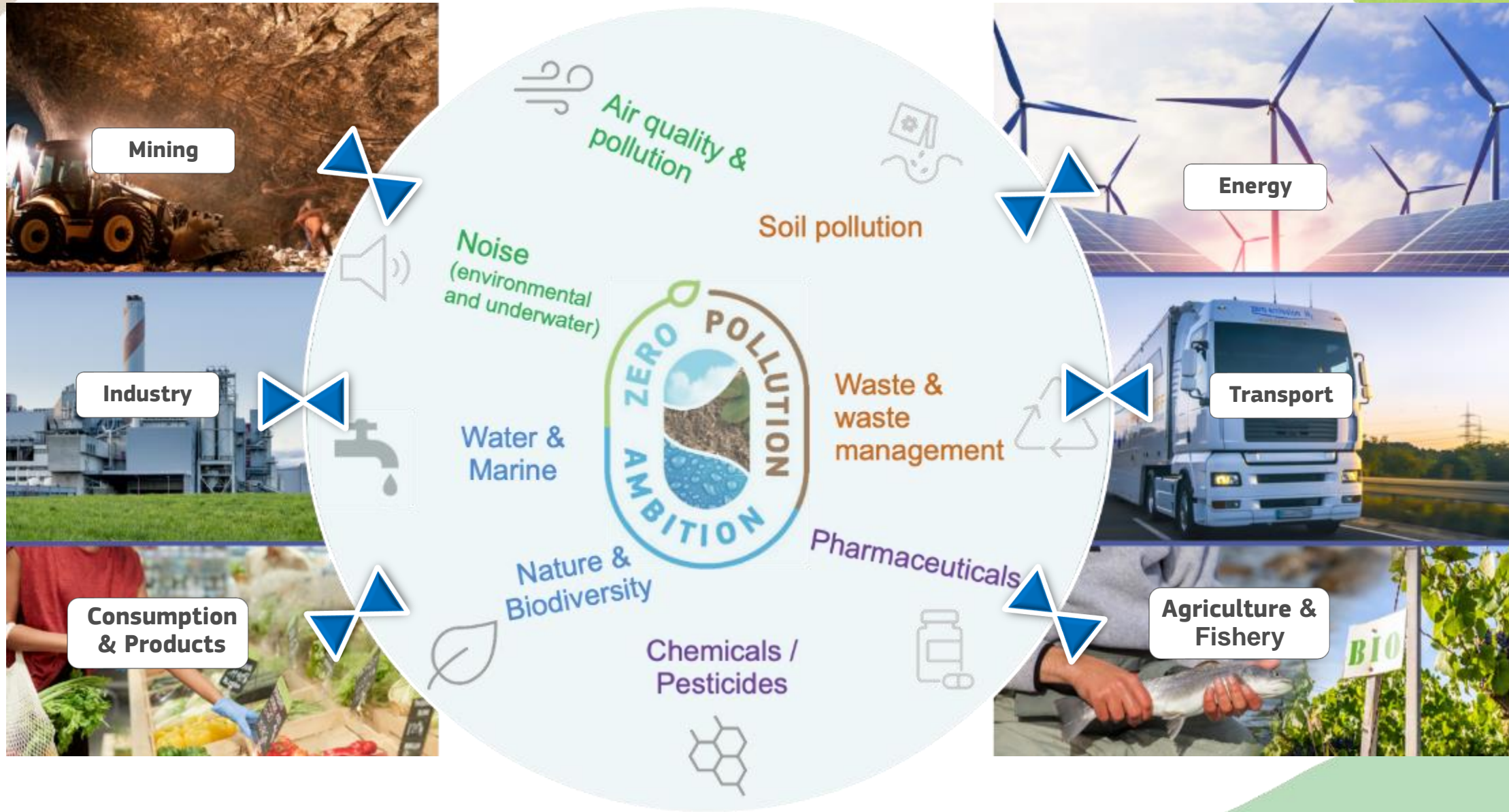


# Hierarchy of action on pollution

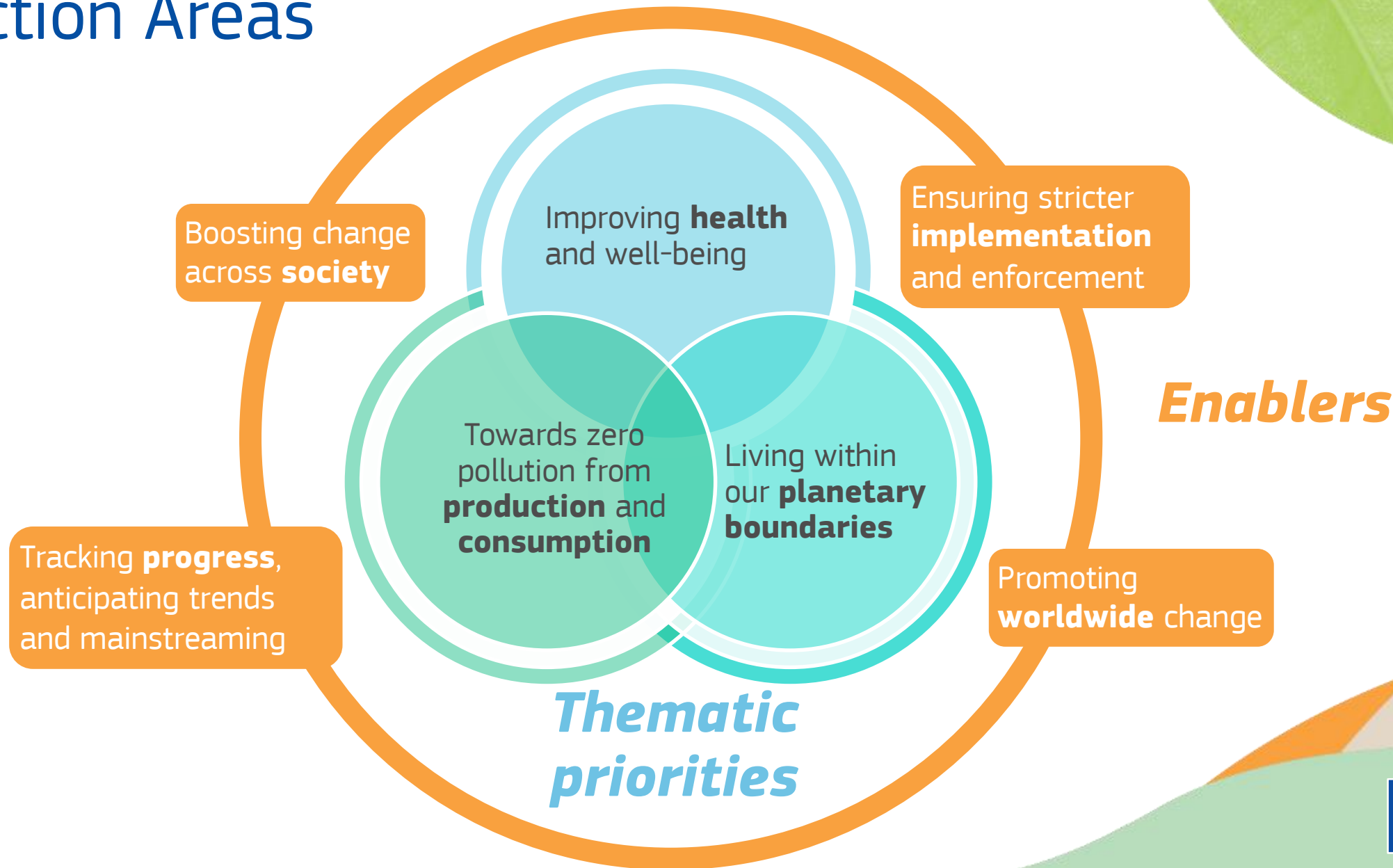
Union policy on the environment shall be based on the **precautionary principle** and on the principles that **preventive action** should be taken, that environmental damage should as a priority be **rectified at source** and on the **polluter pays principle**.



# Zero pollution policies: an integrated approach



# | Action Areas





# 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
- 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.”***





## | 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'



# Promoting worldwide change for zero pollution



## Flagship 8. Minimising the EU's external pollution footprint

### Key actions

- Strengthen engagement at **multilateral level** (e.g. UN, UNEP, WHO, FAO) to strengthen health & environment agenda (e.g. **One Health Approach, Pharmaceuticals in the environment** and **Anti-Microbial Resistance**)
- Promote actions under existing international agreements on chemicals and waste, i.e. **Basel** (waste), **Rotterdam** (Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides), **Stockholm** (Persistent Organic Pollutants) and **Minamata** (Mercury) Conventions
- Promote **Global Agreement on Plastics**
- Promote **regional cooperation** to combat air, water and sea pollution (e.g. UNECE conventions, Regional Seas conventions)
- Protect the **Arctic** and advance international cooperation on black carbon policies

***“Pollution does not stop at borders.”***



# Promoting worldwide change for zero pollution - continued



## Flagship 8. Minimising the EU's external pollution footprint

### Key actions

- Green Deal Diplomacy: engage with **international partners**, particularly G20, enlargement partners and neighbours
- Better **integrate the zero pollution ambition into all sectors of EU external cooperation** programmes (e.g. health, energy, WASH, mobility, urban, etc.)
- Working with **EIB and other IFIs to promote to mobilize private** capital for environmentally sustainable investments that support zero pollution goals, including through the **International Platform for Sustainable Finance**.
- Encourage partner countries to improve their policy and regulatory frameworks, i.e. **polluter pay principle, green budgeting** and environmental taxes

***“Pollution does not stop at borders.”***



# Promoting worldwide change for zero pollution - continued



**Flagship 8.  
Minimising the EU's  
external pollution  
footprint**

## Key actions

- Reduce the EU's external pollution footprint by **restricting the export of products and wastes that have harmful, toxic impacts in third countries.**
- 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**

***"Pollution does not stop at borders."***





# Flagships – integrated initiatives



**1. Reducing health inequalities through zero pollution**



**2. Supporting urban zero pollution action**



**3. Promoting zero pollution across regions**




**4. Facilitating zero pollution choices**



**5. Enforcing zero pollution together**




**6. Showcasing zero pollution solutions for buildings**



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



**8. Minimising the EU's external pollution footprint**



**9. Consolidating the EU's Knowledge Centres for zero pollution**



# | 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**

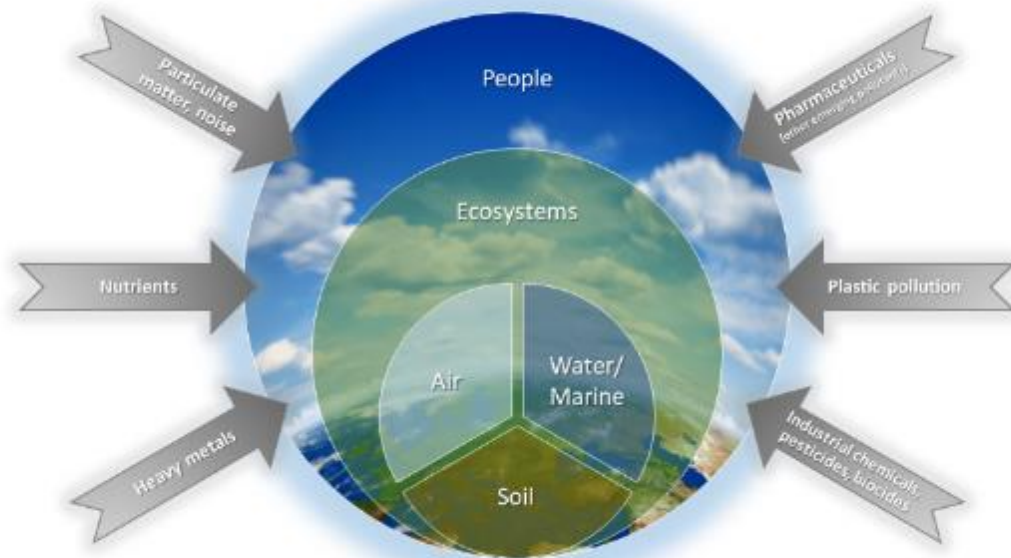
## EEA's European Environment & Health Atlas (2023)

- 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 8<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme and Environment Implementation Review



# 10 Action areas for digital solutions

(SWD(2021) 140)





# | 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, 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.



# Thank you

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