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Sustainable Development Transformation through European Green Deal

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Abstract

The European Union's "Green Deal" provides a path for a just transition to a more sustainable, climate-friendly future. Its objectives encompass multiple industries, including construction, biodiversity, energy, transportation, and food. The aim of the research is to look at many issues involving the worldwide emissions of carbon, as well as the efforts made by individual governments and their commitments to carbon neutrality. Reduced emissions, according to scientific estimates, are essential to protect the earth from the catastrophic and irreversible effects of climate change. In the meantime, as many international partners are not as ambitious as the EU, there is a risk of carbon leakage. According to the study's conclusions, the EU Green Deal intends to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals and transform the EU into a low-carbon, resource-efficient zone with zero net emissions by 2050. Other countries must raise their goals and reduce their emissions targets, as well as align their regulations with global environmentalist accords. The EU should be more welcoming of developing countries so that their attempts are not futile and every nation pays fairly to the sustainability of the planet.

Keywords: Zero Pollution; Clean Energy; Carbon Neutrality; Sustainable Development; Green Deal.

Introduction

With the aim of transforming the EU economy to a more sustainable economic model, the European Green Deal is the primary model of growth for Europeans. It was unveiled in December 2019. It's a 24-page document with a massive scope and a scant of depth. These initiatives demand a number of actions be performed in the upcoming years, such as passing a European Climate Law and developing and implementing bridge policies to encourage the changeover in industries including power, mobility, manufacturing, pollutants, wildlife, and nutrition. There are severe warning flags for Europe and rest of the globe that are climate change and environment deterioration. The agreement aims to accomplish three primary objectives. The first objective is to achieve emission reduction targets by 2050, the second is to disassociate prosperity from resource exploitation, and the third is to promote a green transition that is inclusive and spares no one behind. The European Green Deal intends to protect European residents' health and well-being from environmental hazards and climate change consequences by preserving, maintaining, and improving the EU's environmental capital, land, and ecosystems. In order to achieve the climate goals, up to 2% of Europe's GDP will be spent on reforesting the economy, which includes new construction, government utilities, technology development, and business transformation. The five industries that launch the majority of greenhouse gases in the European Union are transportation, industry, strength, buildings, and agriculture. Fossil gas combustion is the largest supply of GHGs throughout all industries. Despite the fact that accomplishing net-zero emissions will take a concerted effort from all sectors, some may be capable of do so earlier than others. Electricity will be the fastest enterprise to decarbonize, reaching net-zero emissions with the aid of the mid-2040s, because wind and sun power manufacturing technology at the moment are on hand at scale. Most of the people of the era vital to decarbonize the development industry is presently available. Upkeep of sizable regions of the European Union's constructing inventory, on the other hand, is a significant endeavor. Within the overdue 2040s, the building industry might acquire net-zero emissions. Through 2045, the transportation industry might be carbon impartial. Electric powered automobiles (EV’s) are presently popular; however, it's going to take ten years to construct the supply chains essential to sustain a conversion to a hundred percentage EV sales, from battery mining via EV assembly. Enterprise is the maximum expensive vicinity to decarbonize since it calls for generation this is currently in improvement. As an outcome, by means of 2050, it will likely be net-zero. However, closing emissions from waste control and heavy manufacturing ought to be mitigated. Agricultural emissions might be reduced by using employing more powerful farming strategies. However, due to the fact greater than half of agriculture emissions originate from growing animals

for food, it's far with the aid of some distance the maximum hard industry to cut without massive changes in meat intake or technological advancements.

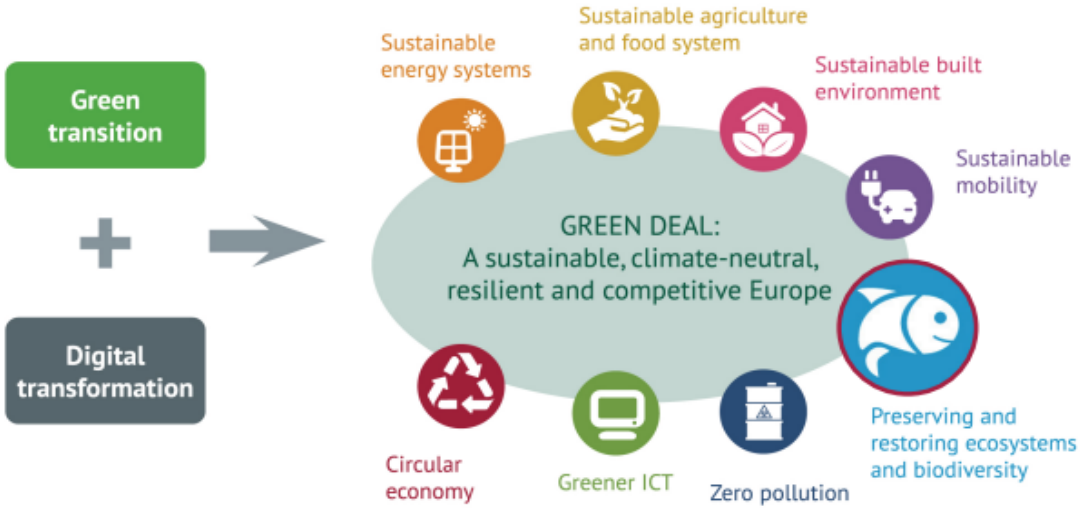

Figure 1: Green Deal and Sustainability Environment

Source: Improving biodiversity: How can digitalization help, n.d.

Literature Review

Nae and Panie (2021) conducted study on the topic Green Deal in Europe: Rebound Strategy Addressing Inequalities. The goal of this research was to make small talk on the relationship between disparities and the Green Deal, as well as to assess the Green Deal's application in the Transformation Programme and provide reform possibilities. Climate change policy, according to the study, may be seen as a prospect for economic recovery in the current pandemic scenario, but the disparate consequences on communities and regions must be recognized. Instead, the Green Deal will fall short of its participation goal. Both governmental and non-governmental investment is essential for a successful transition in EU countries. However, the management of green deals depends entirely on the absorption capacity of each country and the ability to design appropriate projects that can be funded through the means of the European Commission.

Sikora (2021) investigated the Legal and Financial Climate Change Challenges in Green Deal of Europe. In light of the examination, the EU Green Deal is essentially a fantastic prospect, but in order to be successful, it must be well-created in the constitutional system about the EU desirable strategy, such as the values of cooperation, economic development, and strict nature conservation. The transformation that is green, its financing can just only occur if EU and state players in addition to EU citizens, consent to fairly share expenses and indulge in the procedure such as once you glance at the framework in connection with newly recommended Climate Pact. The European Green Deal ought to be associated with increasing togetherness within the green change to climate neutrality.

Usman et al. (2021) conducted study on What Does the European Green Deal Mean for Africa? This article examines the EGD's implications for African nations in seven key areas: agriculture, biodiversity, energy, crucial raw resources, circular economy, new technologies, and finance. It lays out a plan for the socioeconomic, ecological, and low-carbon

future of the European Union. Its ramifications for Africa are numerous. It also suggested methods to better align policy actions with Africa's development aspirations.

Pianta and Lucchese (2020) examined a report titled Industrial Policy for a Healthy Revolution in Europe, which addressed the need to reform Europe's Green Deals. A substantial set of initiatives tackling environmental issues, and it seeks to achieve an "unbiased and open" transition. The European Green Deal has several flaws that can be discovered. A framework for a European economy after carbon is insufficient; there aren't enough means to get the job done, and there aren't enough options for carrying it out. They stated that achieving carbon neutrality in Europe's production systems will necessitate a larger variety of environment friendly industrial policies that must take into account systemic change, ecological responsibility, and the equity of policy performance in Europe. Siddi (2020) analyzed the core components of the plan, which was released in last month of 2019 year. In order to determine whether and how the plan accomplishes the Europe's environmental goal, it is placed within the larger context of international climate policy. The study suggested four major, better accessibility for evaluating the plan. Its effectiveness is determined when it continues to be a state commitment, despite the Coronavirus situation and the resulting financial ruin. As seen by recent discussions regarding governance to achieving zero net emissions by 2050, the legal power of EU authorities to monitor and manage green contract execution is critical. Furthermore, agreement with other functions regarding matters like a border removal for emissions, increased competitiveness, long - term growth would have a bearing on both the EU's execution of the Green Deal and the commitment of different other major emitters to the global challenge.

Components of Green Deal

- **Secure, affordable, and clean energy supply**

A three-pronged approach to the European Green Deal will help reduce carbon emissions and improve society's living standards. The plan will provide a reliable and cost-effective energy supply for the EU, create a market for energy in the EU that is completely digitalized, integrated, and interconnected, emphasize energy efficiency; make our buildings more energy efficient; and create a power sector primarily powered by renewable energy sources (Delivering the European Green Deal, n.d.).

Figure 2: Clean Energy Supply
Source: Delivering the European Green Deal, n.d.

- **Toxic-free environment through zero pollution**

"Zero pollution vision" strives to achieve a toxic-free environment by 2050 by reducing contamination of the land, river, and atmosphere, not deemed damaging to forest environment or public health. This translates into critical 2030 goals to advance the reduction of pollution at its source. Air quality can be improved by 55%, pollution at sea can be minimized by 50%, and microplastics can be limited by 30%. These enhancements prevent premature death from air pollution. Reduce pollution threats to biodiversity in EU ecosystems by 25%. In addition, decrease the number of people chronically bothered by traffic noise, a factor contributing to poor soil quality, by 50%. Improve soil quality by reducing the use of chemical pesticides and nutrient losses by 50%. The action plan aspires to improve the EU's economic, digital, and green leadership while fostering a healthier, more just world. It serves as a guide for integrating pollution prevention into all pertinent EU programs, accelerating the implementation of pertinent EU legislation, and locating any gaps (Zero pollution targets, n.d.).

Figure 3: Zero-pollution Action Plan

Source: European Union, 2020

- **Conservation and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity**

In order to prevent ecosystem collapse, the idea for a wilderness rejuvenation policy is an essential first step toward addressing the negative outcomes of global warming and species extinction. For our agricultural production, ability to combat environment change, health, and well-being, restoring the rivers, canals, trees, meadows, ocean life, urban settings, and the fauna they support is a crucial and affordable expenditure. (*Press corner*, n.d.). Through the biodiversity strategy, Europe's biodiversity can be put on track to recover by 2030, in the interest of people, the climate, and the environment. It attempts to increase the adaptability of our society to impending dangers like the effects of climate change, forest fires, food instability, and disease outbreaks, among other things, by defending wildlife and halting the illegal wildlife trade. The Biodiversity Strategy, a cornerstone of the European Green Deal, will assist with a green rebound following the COVID-19 epidemic (EU biodiversity strategy for 2030 — European Environment Agency, n.d.). It will ensure that by 2050, every ecosystem in the world is resilient, restored, and sufficiently protected; modifications will be made to the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans by the end of 2021 that will significantly strengthen the implementation, monitoring, and review processes; and the complete and effective participation of local communities and indigenous peoples is guaranteed by the equality principle.

Figure 4: Protection and Restoration of Ecosystem
Source: The European Commission adopts EU Biodiversity strategy 2030 ' resource library: Switch-Asia, n.d.

- **Farm to Fork Approach**

The Green Deal's core concept is the "farm-to-fork" approach. Evolving agricultural networks are a challenge, while recognizing the interconnectedness of a healthy population, a healthy society, and an environment that is as environmentally friendly as possible (Farm to Fork Strategy, n.d.). A comprehensive strategy titled the "Farm to Fork Strategy" has been developed in order to assure that the food value chain will meet the purpose of a climate neutral Union by 2050. One of the main causes of climate change and environmental degradation continues to be food systems. Several aspects of the food industry contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, air, soil, and water pollution, as well as biodiversity loss. These activities contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, air, soil, and water pollution, as well as biodiversity loss. However, consumers must also have the power to select sustainable food. Supporting an environment that is conducive to choosing sustainable, nutritious diets would benefit consumers' health and overall fitness-well-being. In addition, it would reduce healthcare-related expenses for society (Farm to fork strategy adopted – for a fair, healthy and environmentally, n.d.).

Figure 5: Farm to Fork Strategy
Source*:* Join the EU Farm-to-fork code of conduct launch event, n.d.

- **Eco-friendly building and renovation**

We need to construct better new buildings and remodel those already in place to make them more environmentally friendly, since the majority of these would continue to exist for many years. (Priority topics, n.d.).

Figure 6: Eco-friendly Building
Source: Sustainable buildings,2022

In order to advance energy efficiency in the industry and meet goals, the plan, remodeling of both government and private infrastructure has been highlighted as a critical step. (Renovation wave, n.d.). By 2030, refurbishment rates should have doubled, and it should be made sure that these increases improve resource and energy efficiency. Accordingly, 35 million buildings might be rebuilt by 2030, resulting in the creation of up to 160,000 new green jobs in the construction industry (Priority topics, n.d.).

Therefore, the European Green Deal should incorporate the following seven guiding principles:

Figure 7: Seven Guiding Principles
Source: Buildings should be at the heart of the European Green Deal, n.d.

- **Clean, circular economies: mobilizing industry**

The green economy roadmap will feature "sustainable products" like a means of encouraging the circular design of all products based on a standardized approach. Recycling will be followed by decreasing and reusing waste. It will encourage new business models and establish minimal standards to stop products from being released onto the EU market that are damaging to the environment. Although the circular economy action plan will serve as a roadmap for all sectors, it will pay particular attention to resource-intensive industries including plastics,

electronics, construction, and textiles. Additional measures will be included to encourage companies to offer reusable, robust, and repairable products and to let customers make that decision (Mobilizing Industry for a clean and circular economy, n.d.).

- **2030 and 2050 climate ambitions for the EU**

EU commitments by 2030, cut environmental emissions by a minimum of 55% which is recommended by the Commission. By 2050, the EU aims to achieve climate neutrality in an aggressive and economical way; increase green jobs, ensuring the EU maintains its record of reducing greenhouse gases while growing its economy. Inspire international partners to maintain global temperature increases below 1.5°C and stop the worst consequences of environmental issues. (2030 climate target plan, 2022).

- **Transforming mobility into a sustainable and smart system**

The EU Green Deal includes the Smart and Mobility Strategy, which seeks to reduce transportation emissions by 90% by the year 2050 (Towards a net zero mobility future! - changing transport, n.d.). In terms of sustainability, the strategy identifies five key initiatives, including utilization of minimal carbon and alternative energies, zero-emission vehicles, ships, and airplanes by 2030, as well as the development of zero-emission ports and airports, healthy and sustainable intercity and urban mobility, environmentally friendly freight transportation, and enhanced user incentives and carbon pricing. The actions taken in the "smart area," which encompasses the innovation and digitalization of the transportation industry, must result in a more automated and interconnected multimodal mobility system, and the use of data and artificial intelligence is encouraged to foster innovation. The European Commission is dedicated to strengthening the single market, ensuring fair and just mobility for all, and enhancing transport safety and security across all modes in order to create a resilient transportation system (Pamela, 2020).

Projects Scheduled as Part of the Green Deal

The European emphasizes the necessity of a comprehensive perspective in its European Green Deal, in which those European declarations and laws help to achieve the Green Deal's goals. The policy areas addressed by the Commission message were climate, ecosystem, power, mobility, agribusiness, and green finance. All of these issues are strongly interconnected. The Green Deal will also review all policies that pertain to climate neutrality and, if necessary, revise them accordingly.

- **Climate Law in Europe**

According to the proposed European climate law, all sectors of society and economy must contribute to achieving zero emissions by 2050, and an assessment framework is outlined for progress towards this goal. A revised, 55% net reduction in EU emissions is also suggested for 2030 as compared to 1990. EU leaders supported the upcoming EU emissions reduction target agreed upon by the Commission during the December

2020 European Council and demanded a swift adoption of the climate commandment. A bundle of proposals designed toward revising and updating climate and energy associated rules will observe up the climate regulation to ensure that it conforms to the general 2030 goal agreed to via way of means of the Commission.

- **The 2030 EU Biodiversity Strategy**

In May 2020, the Council adopted its biodiversity policy proposal for 2030. The goal of the policy is to replenish Europe's biodiversity before 2030, which will affect mankind, the nature, and the wider globe. By enhancing organic farming, reducing pesticide use, and greening, this proposal proposes reinforcing nature reserves in Europe and restoring degraded ecosystems. The Environment board approved the objectives of the Europe's 2030 ecological plan in October 2020, accepting wildlife recommendations. States agreed that efforts must be stepped up in response to the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss and nature destruction. In addition, they called for a coherent implementation of EU measures in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry, as well as the integration of biodiversity objectives into these sectors.

- **Access To Clean, Affordable and Reliable Energy**

Decarbonization of the power sector is an important step closer to a climate-impartial EU, electricity uses as well as manufacturing account for 75% of European greenhouse gas emissions. Their discussion focused on the EU's energy system integration strategy, which increased energy efficiency and reduced heat losses in Europe. Following the presentation of the Commission's sustainable energy policies, EU energy ministers in December 2020 agreed resolutions on offshore renewable energy and hydrogen.

- **Sustainable Chemicals Strategy for the EU**

The EU chemicals plan for sustainability, submitted by the Commission, was approved by the Council in March 2021. Chemical substances are essential to modern living and economic development, but they are also harmful to people and the environment. A strategy for European chemicals policy is a crucial component of the plan for the Europe and zero-pollution efforts. The EU's chemicals policy outlines a long-term picture, in which EU and member states aspire to better protect human health, enhance the competitiveness of industry, and support toxic-free environments.

- **Sustainable and Smart Mobility System**

Net-zero pollutants communities urge the mobility sector to become more efficient and sustainable. In order for achieving Europe’s environment equality by 2050 the sector's emissions will need to be reduced by 90%. The ruling body recently took several legislative and non-legislative initiatives aimed at starting the European Rail Year in 2021, revised road pricing for heavy-duty vehicles, funded it under the Connecting Europe Facility and supports the decarbonization of transportation in Europe Green deal goal.

- **Wave of Renovations**

One-third of the sources of Europe's carbon dioxide emissions are the construction industry, which is one of Europe's largest energy consumers. The renovation wave strategy aims to increase renovation efforts in all

parts of the EU, so that the building sector can effectively contribute to the 2050 climate neutrality goal of the EU while promoting a just and fair shift towards sustainability. Ministers from the European Union approved conclusions on the renovation wave strategy, which considers social inclusion, economic recovery, and the transition to a green economy in June 2021. Ministers approved the strategy's objective of doubling energy-related renovation rates in the EU by 2030. It is vital to decarbonizes the buildings sector, recover the economy, and combat energy poverty by spurring renovations.

- **Tactics for Forest Management**

The European woodland initiative till 2030, which was published by the Commission in July 2021, is among the key components of the Europe's plan. The Europe's ecological agenda is one of the keys to reaching its pledge to about 55% lower environmental emissions in 2030 by implementing the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. The Council lauded the forest strategy in its conclusions adopted in November 2021. Forests are critical for individual well-being and are an important element of the Europe's transform to an ecological economy that is regenerative and environmentally friendly. The Forum further emphasized the importance of striking the right stability between the ecological, sociological, and economical aspects of justifiable land management, as well as appreciating and safeguarding the diversity of natural vegetation management approaches found in individual cities and territories. Encourage alternative forest sectors such as outdoor recreation through promoting nature conservation, giving economic rewards for woodland licensees that follow green initiatives, boosting vegetation growth and species richness, especially installing 3 billion young plants via 2030 and encouraging the use of financial support under the common agricultural policy are among the proposed measures.

Goal of Achieving Carbon Neutrality By 2050

The future of Europe is dependent on a healthy planet. The EU has stated that they would become environmentally safe in 2050. Reaching this goal will need a cost-effective, fair, and socially balanced restructuring of Europe's society and economy. The European Commission's European Green Deal message outlines policy actions aimed at assisting the EU in meeting its 2050 carbon neutrality target. Following the Commission's proposal, the Council examines legislative and other efforts under the European Green Deal. Through the EU board assembly in December 2019, European members alluded to the Report's EGD debate and upheld the EU's pledge to playing a renowned role in global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by actively supporting the EU's goal of weather uniformity by 2050 in the findings. A treaty that is enforceable by all members will be passed requiring "net-zero emissions" in 2050. A measure will both enact the funding and turn the democratic pledge into a statutory liability. The Paris Agreement's 2050 climate neutrality goal has been embraced by the Union, making it the first significant contributor to do so. When a nation's outputs are balanced by the removal and absorption of carbon emissions from the environment, it

has reached environmental balance. It is often referred to as a condition of no pollutants at all. More carbon sinks, such as forests, may be created to boost absorption, while technologies like carbon capture and storage can be used to remove carbon.

Significance of the Deal

The two countries that emit the most carbon pollution worldwide are China and the America, followed by the EU with 28 member nations. As a result, the declaration was praised as a big step forward, even if it will require more efforts from other countries to have a meaningful influence. European leaders pledged and reaffirmed in December 2019 that the EU would become climate neutral by 2050. This establishes a distinct objective for the following years. Both the European Parliament and the Council of the Europe union are notified of the Commission's proposals and activities under the Green Deal. EU officials meet in various forms of the EU Council to discuss legislative and non-legislative initiatives. In most scenarios, legislative proposals aim to become legislation through standard parliamentary branch, allowing the board and hence the European Parliament to collectively determine the topic.

Relevance and Lessons for Other Countries

It had been growing in recent months that countries should commit to net-zero emissions by 2050. A special UN General Assembly meeting was held on the sidelines of the session in September to encourage countries to do so. The Union has already agreed to the 2050 carbon balance target, making it the latest leading contributor to do so, joining more than 60 other nations that have scaled up their climate actions. Furthermore, the EU is the only major emitter that retains the 1990 emission reduction baseline, which was mandated by the Kyoto Protocol across all industrialized nations. Under the 2015 Paris Agreement, baselines have been established for 2005 or indeed beyond in the majority of other nations.

Accomplishments

The EU has shown greater efficiency in reducing emissions than other developed countries. As far as emissions reductions go, it appears that it will hit the 20% ambition in 2020, much faster than the certain industrialized nation outside the Union. The Canadian government observed a 4% decrease from concentrations in 2005. According to Japanese data, the projection from 2013 has fallen nearly 8%.

Issues & Challenges

Scientific assessments indicate that emission reductions would be needed for the world to be saved from catastrophic and irreversible effects of climate change even though the Green Deal is important. No indication has yet been received that other large emitter, including big developing countries like China and India, are considering immediate

escalation of climate action. As long as many overseas partners are not as proactive, there is a chance of carbon dumping, especially in the European Union. The output of the EU is either moved to nations with lower emissions ambitions or imported instead of EU products with higher carbon emissions. As long as this danger persists, no drop in carbon pollution will occur. The EU and its industry would have a difficult time fulfilling the Paris agreements' tough climate goals.

Future Vision

There is a need for additional nations to increase their goals and decrease plans as well as to align their policies with international environmental treaties.

The European Union should assist emerging economies more to ensure that its endeavors are not in vain and that each country makes an equal contribution to protecting the environment.

Conclusion

By 2050, the plan seeks to transform the union into a reduced, efficient means territory with net zero pollutants, helping it to fulfill the Sustainable Development Goals. Building, farming, power, connectivity, and sewage treatment are some of the key sectors targeted for reform in Europe. Even though the strategy addresses regional sustainability challenges, the importance of the European union in governance, commerce, funding, and technical progress will have a wide-reaching effect on the strategy. In the global North and South, there has been an increase in expectations of how this renewed thinking can contribute to steady growth. Through improved relations between nations, more partnership, and tighter participation, it will be possible to achieve better climate goals as well as greater social inclusion while also addressing many of the anticipated concerns during implementation.

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