Karla Zambrano-Gonzalez[1]

The Priority Objectives of the European Green Deal

I. Introduction

On 11 December 2019, the European Commission presented the European Green Deal (EVP), but what exactly is this Pact? And what initiatives does it cover?

It is the roadmap for a new growth strategy aimed at transforming the European Union (EU) into an equitable and prosperous society in order to respond to the challenges of climate change, biodiversity collapse and natural resource scarcity.

The EVP brings together a package of policy initiatives aimed at setting the EU on the path towards a green transition, with the ultimate goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

With regard to initiatives, the EVP stresses the need for a holistic and cross-sectoral approach in which all relevant policy areas contributing to the goal of climate neutrality. The package includes initiatives covering climate, environment, energy, transport, industry, agriculture and sustainable finance, all of which are

[1] Postdoctoral researcher and Professor of International Public and Environmental Law. University of Valencia (Spain). Research Member of the Jean Monnet Module, Project: ENVEU. Co-funded by the European Union. The views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) alone and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Executive Agency for Education and Culture (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA can be held responsible for them.

closely interlinked. It is a strategic and comprehensive plan that will profoundly transform every aspect of life as we conceive it.

II. Scope of the European Green Deal

In terms of the scope of the EVP, it is a strategy aimed at intervening in multiple sectors. Specifically in 7 sectors, namely: (i) the energy sector; (ii) industry; (iii) energy efficiency in buildings; (iv) transport; (v) sustainable food; (vi) conservation and restoration of biodiversity; and (vii) elimination of pollution in soil, water and air.

From the European Commission's official document containing the communication of the European Green Deal, we can also see that this sectoral intervention is based on two fundamental pillars: the Just Transition Mechanism and the necessary financing to change the economic model and move towards a circular and sustainable economy. The European Commission also establishes as adjacent axes the support of citizens through the European Climate Pact and the EU's leadership as a benchmark in the adoption of climate policies in the international forum.

III. The priority objectives of the European Green Deal

In summary, the priority objectives of the EVP are basically four. The first is to increase ambition in GHG mitigation; the European Commission has moved from a commitment to reduce GHG emissions from 40% to 55% and after COP27 to 57% by 2030. The second priority objective of the Pact lies in cross-sectoral action, without which decarbonisation would be difficult to achieve. The third objective is based on the Just Transition Mechanism to ensure that no Member State or group is left behind in the ecological and energy transition; and the fourth and final objective is the pillar of civil society, which is essential for moving towards sustainable development.

Organització educativa, científica i cultural de Nacions Unides
Càtedra UNESCO d'Estudis sobre el Desenvolupament, Universitat de València
Jean Monnet Chair Project No. 101048075
Strengthening European Values - SEV -
Cofinanciado por la Unión Europea
ENVEU Jean Monnet Module
Project No. 101085459