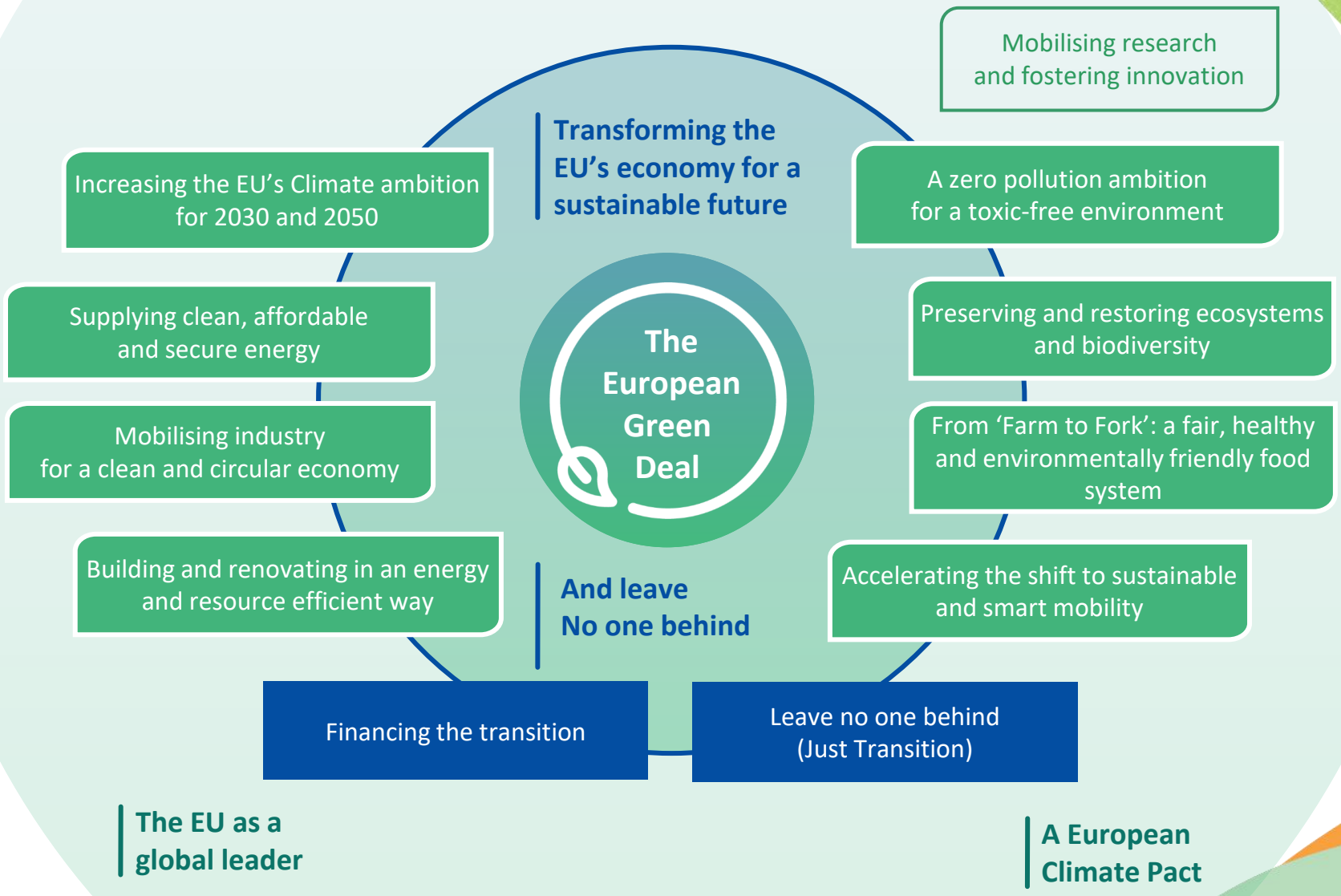
Water policy and the European Green Deal

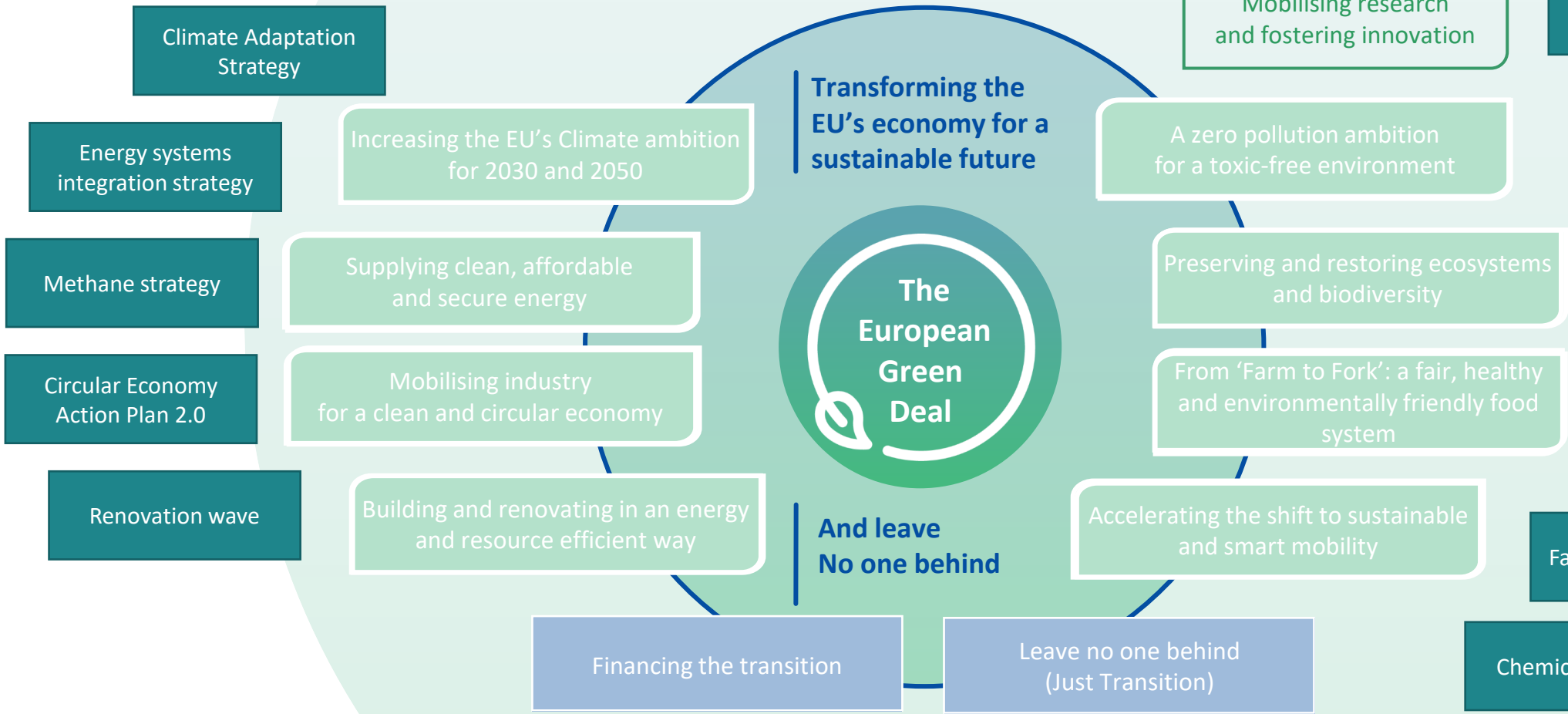
Water reuse and other policy initiatives

DG ENV Unit C1. Clean Water

The European Green Deal



The European Green Deal



Climate Adaptation Strategy

Energy systems integration strategy

Methane strategy

Circular Economy Action Plan 2.0

Renovation wave

Mobilising research and fostering innovation

Horizon2020 + ICT4Water

Strategic Approach to Pharma in the environment

Zero Pollution Action Plan for air, water & soil

Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan

Plastics Strategy

Biodiversity Strategy

Farm to Fork Strategy

Chemicals Strategy

What’s new in EU water policy

Evaluation, implementation, follow-up

European Commission

Circular Economy Action Plan – 2020

- Key product value chains – Food, water, nutrients
  - *“The new Water Reuse Regulation will encourage circular approaches to water reuse in agriculture. The Commission will facilitate water reuse and efficiency, including in industrial processes.”*
  - *“The Commission will also consider reviewing directives on wastewater treatment and sewage sludge […] “*
- Circularity in production processes
  - *“Review of the Industrial Emissions Directive, including the integration of circular economy practices in upcoming Best Available Techniques reference documents”*

Water Reuse Regulation - 2020/741

State of play:

- In force since June 2020 – rules to apply as of 26 June 2023

Aim:

- To address water scarcity and drought, while safeguarding public health and the environment
- Great potential for reuse in the EU - from 1.1 bn m3/year in 2015 up to an estimated 6 bn m3/ year in 2025

Costs and benefits:

- estimated investments ≤ EUR 700 m for treating over 6.6 bn m^3 water /year at a cost of ≤ EUR 0.5/m^3
- estimated 5% - 10% reduction in water scarcity

European Commission

Main provisions

- The Regulation introduces **minimum requirements** for water reuse in agricultural irrigation:

  1) Parametric values for quality of reclaimed water & monitoring requirements (Annex I) – addressing HEALTH risks

  2) Key risk management elements (Annex II) – addressing ENVIRONMENTAL risks & potential additional health risks

- Introduces requirements to develop **a risk management plan** for each water reuse project to ensure safety (both health and environment)
- Introduces a **system of permits** and compliance checks
- Fosters **transparency** and access to information

Policy outlook

- Robust application of the new rules:
  - Technical guidance to be developed
  - Keeping parameters up to date in light of scientific advances
  - Foster and encourage water reuse for other applications, e.g. industrial water reuse, public green areas, sports fields
  - Evaluation by 25 June 2028

Revision of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)

- Effective directive – tangible impacts
- Simple and targeted instruments
- Carrot & stick approach that worked
- Benefits >>> costs

UWWTD Evaluation

Impact assessment

- Assess options to address areas of improvement:
  - Remaining pollution
  - Contaminants of emerging concern
  - Energy use, sludge management
  - Governance: planning, monitoring, reporting
  - Coherence

- Aligning the Directive with new ambitions:
  - Green Deal
  - Zero Pollution Action Plan
  - Circular Economy Action Plan
  - Energy Systems Integration Strategy
  - Climate Adaptation Strategy

Proposal for legislative changes or non-legislative solutions

Negotiations with co-legislator

Please take part in public consultation early 2021

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-urbanwaste/evaluation/index_en.htm

Topics and timeline

Storm water overflows, runoff	Small agglomerations	Individual systems	Nutrients	Sensitive areas	Contaminants of emerging concern
Sludge management	Industrial discharges	Energy use/production + carbon footprint	Monitoring	Reporting and information to the public	Governance, including EPR

- Proposal - early 2022
- Consultation workshops – dates tbd:
  1. On reporting
  2. On cost & benefits
  3. On sludge and waste water in the circular economy
  4. Integrated urban water management

Evaluation of the Sewage Sludge Directive (86/278/EC)

- Roadmap published for feedback until 25 August 2020
- Support study ongoing – due Q3 2021:
  - It will include a stakeholder consultation:
    - ✓ open public consultation – published on 20 Nov 2020*
    - ✓ targeted consultation - ongoing
- Exploratory study to run in parallel to analyse specific issues:
  - ✓ To identify and prioritise pollutants (and their source) posing risks, both linked to sludge use and to sludge treatment
  - ✓ To assess and compare the benefits, efficiency, cost-effectiveness of various recycling/recovery uses and disposal routes of sludge in the EU;
- Findings to inform the Commission on whether to progress with an Impact Assessment for a proposal to revise the SSD (2023).

* https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12328-Evaluation-of-the-Sewage-Sludge-Directive-86-278-EEC

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Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU)

- An **evaluation of the IED was completed in 2020**
  - Concluding that **it largely works well**
  - **Improvements could be made** in its design and implementation
  - Several IED sectors still contribute significant overall pressures on the environment

IED evaluation findings

Works well

- BREF process
- Permitting
- Reduced distortion of competition
- Reducing industry emissions (especially to air)
- Cost-effectiveness
- Promotion of BAT

Works less well

- Emerging techniques
- Clarification of legal requirements
- GHG emissions / decarbonisation
- Reducing resource use / supporting circular economy
- Availability of data
- Implementation of BAT conclusions in permits
- Access to information
- Public participation in the permitting procedure and access to justice

Topics and timeline

1
The environment is polluted (zero pollution ambition and non toxic environment)

2
Climate crisis is happening (carbon neutrality at EU level)

3
Natural resources are being depleted (circular economy)

4
State-of-the-art techniques cannot respond in a satisfactory manner (deploy breakthrough technologies)

5
Public access to information (empower citizens, etc.)

6
Excessive burden may affect efficiency of policy (ensure proportionality of EU law)

Timeline

- The **impact assessment to examine revisions to the IED** was launched in 2020
- Open Public Consultation (OPC) **– open until mid-March 2021**
- Targeted Stakeholders' Survey (until April 2021) + interviews, focus groups - **Q1/Q2 2021**
- Final stakeholder workshop – **Q2 2021**
- Adoption of Commission legislative proposals – **Q4 2021/ Q1 2022**

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