

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 15/2021

European climate law: Council and Parliament reach provisional agreement

The Council's and the European Parliament's negotiators reached a provisional political agreement setting into law the objective of a climate-neutral EU by 2050, and a collective, net greenhouse gas emissions reduction target (emissions after deduction of removals) of at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/04/21/european-climate-law-council-and-parliament-reach-provisional-agreement/pdf>

Road safety: 4,000 fewer people lost their lives on EU roads in 2020

The European Commission published preliminary figures on road fatalities for 2020. An estimated 18,800 people were killed in a road crash last year, an unprecedented annual fall of 17% on 2019. This means almost 4,000 fewer people lost their lives on EU roads in 2020 compared to 2019. Lower traffic volumes, as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic, had a clear, though unmeasurable, impact on the number of road fatalities: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1767

Sustainable finance package

The European Commission adopted on 21 April 2021 an ambitious and comprehensive package of measures to help improve the flow of money towards sustainable activities across the European Union. By enabling investors to re-orient investments towards more sustainable technologies and businesses, these measures will be instrumental in making Europe climate neutral by 2050. They aim at making the EU a global leader in setting standards for sustainable finance: https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/210421-sustainable-finance-communication_de

Proposal for a regulation laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence

The Commission is proposing the first ever legal framework on artificial intelligence (AI), which addresses the risks of AI and positions Europe to play a leading role globally: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_21_1866