WWF 2024 EU ELECTIONS CHECK
WHERE DO EUROPEAN PARTIES STAND ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE ISSUES?
MARCH 2024
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In anticipation of the 2024 EU elections, WWF reached out to European political parties to gauge their stances on environmental and climate issues, comparing their responses with our recommendations for tackling the climate and biodiversity crises. Six European parties agreed to respond to the survey. Among the ones that abstained, only the European People’s Party had published a manifesto, which allowed us to analyse their stance on certain issues.

The results reveal a strong, cross-party endorsement for furthering the EU Green Deal, and making it a top priority in the next term. On certain issues, parties show a unified and unprecedented commitment to climate and environmental objectives.

Our analysis reveals that five of the six responding parties support new legislative measures to further the Green Deal. Combating climate change is a priority for everyone, as shows the unanimous support for ending fossil fuel use, transitioning to 100% renewable energy, and adopting nature-based solutions to tackle climate change. Protecting nature is also a focal point: all parties commit to increase funding for nature conservation and enforce environmental laws such as the Water Framework Directive or the Common Fisheries Policy.

The parties unanimously agree on the need to protect nature: all parties must clarify their stances on some critical issues, including biodiversity. Five of the six parties committed to capping global warming at 1.5°C and reversing biodiversity loss. The parties express divergent views on the timeline for reaching climate neutrality, with few of them recognising the need to achieve it by 2040. Many of the parties also give vague commitments on phasing out fossil fuels and reallocating subsidies that are harming the environment.

The consensus on the importance of continuing and prioritising the Green Deal is a major step forward. However, there is a notable gap when it comes to commit to specific, actionable measures. This disconnect raises concerns that for some parties, the commitment to the EU Green Deal is merely lip service rather than genuine political will.

The next few months call for an open, science-led discussion where environmental and climate issues are considered in a connected way, as each one impacts the others. Political parties must clarify their stances on some critical policies and step up their game to ensure the EU effectively tackles the climate and biodiversity crises.

The next European Commission will have to prioritise climate and nature, while ensuring that vulnerable communities and small businesses do not carry the heaviest burdens of this much-needed transition.

However, the devil is in the details. A closer examination of the parties’ answers and the EPP’s manifesto reveals that some parties display ambiguity or even adopt positions that could potentially dilute the EU’s international commitments to capping global warming at 1.5°C and reversing biodiversity loss. The parties express divergent views on the timeline for reaching climate neutrality, with few of them recognising the need to achieve it by 2040. Many of the parties also give vague commitments on phasing out fossil fuels and reallocating subsidies that are harming the environment.

With the EU 2024 elections just around the corner, WWF aims to understand where exactly EU parties stand on environment and climate policies, and give voters clear information on what to expect from their future representatives. Given the severity of ongoing social, environmental, climate, and geopolitical challenges, these elections hold significant importance in the Union’s history. Now, more than ever, all EU political parties must demonstrate courage and ambition in taking swift action against the twin climate and biodiversity crises.

Will they prioritise the EU Green Deal as a top political agenda for the next five years? Will they work together with nature to bolster Europe’s autonomy and resilience? Will they ensure the necessary public and private investments to drive the transition while supporting vulnerable populations and key economic sectors?

Let’s find out.

INTRODUCTION

Five years ago, the European Commission launched the EU Green Deal, a bold plan to make our society and economy more resilient, achieve climate neutrality, and reverse the loss of biodiversity. If continued, expanded and enforced, the Green Deal will protect climate, nature, citizens and businesses, offering hope for a better future. However, we cannot assume that progress will seamlessly persist in the next term.

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METHODOLOGY

In December 2023, WWF identified key actions that our political leaders should implement in the next political term, to make our society and economy more resilient, and to stop the climate and biodiversity crises. A few months later, WWF EU sent a questionnaire to the ten EU political parties running for the 2024 EU elections to assess their position regarding our key proposals.

In parallel, WWF offices from 14 EU countries sent a questionnaire to national political parties and conducted their own analysis. It is important for the reader to note that the following analysis is strictly based on WWF EU’s collected answers from European political parties, focusing exclusively on the EU level.

For each question, the parties were asked to take a stance on the proposals by choosing between up to three options, representing a greater or lesser degree of commitment to policies that could help Europe address these crises. In addition, for each question, the parties had the chance to elaborate on their answers to clarify their positions. Both the answers and the written contributions have been taken into account in this analysis.

The parties received several requests from WWF to complete the party questionnaire. In cases where they had not responded to some of the questions, WWF contacted them again to give them the opportunity to do so. At the European level, three parties, EPP, ECR and ID, never replied to our emails, and the ECPM explicitly declined to participate.

WWF decided to include EPP in the results, based on its recently adopted European party manifesto and recent position papers. This was not possible for ECR or ID given that these parties have not published any manifestos for the 2024 EU elections. WWF remains open to include their responses, should these parties wish to.

1 Among the ones that abstained, only the European People’s Party had published a manifesto, which allowed us to analyse their stance on certain issues.
2 The parties agreed to respond to the survey.
3 The EPP had not responded to some of the questions, WWF contacted them again to give them the opportunity to do so. At the European level, three parties, EPP, ECR and ID, never replied to our emails, and the ECPM explicitly declined to participate.
1. All responding parties support the EU Green Deal

In the last term, the EU Green Deal emerged as a groundbreaking initiative, laying the foundation for addressing the climate and biodiversity crises head-on. It’s crucial that this vision is not only maintained but further developed, to ensure comprehensive action across all fronts.

All of the six responding European parties agree to do so. However, the European Democratic Party (EDP) seeks to foster a “more balanced” EU Green Deal, by focusing on implementation, increased coherence and involving “productive sectors” in the transition. In contrast, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party (ALDE) is prepared to enhance the EU’s legislative ambition “in case it is needed”, while prioritising the implementation of previously adopted laws.

The partisan consensus to prioritise the EU Green Deal is a step forward in tackling the climate and biodiversity crises, but now political leaders must expand its vision and ensure the inclusion of all sectors and systems in the transition. European parties should encourage their governments and the upcoming Presidency of the European Commission to make the continuation, strengthening, and implementation of the EU Green Deal a central focus of the Strategic Agenda and Political Guidelines in the next mandate.

Regarding the overall climate neutrality objective, only two parties commit to reaching net-zero emissions earlier than 2050. While the European Green Party (EGP) is aiming for 2040, the Party of the European Left (PEL) is marking 2035 as its deadline. The European Free Alliance (EFA) supports reducing Europe’s greenhouse gas emissions by at least 90% by 2040, with the wider goal of achieving climate neutrality before 2050, while maintaining a flexible and socially-fair trajectory. The ALDE Party has declined to specify a position on the 2040 climate target. The remaining parties commit to keep the established 2050 target, setting an intermediary goal of reducing Europe’s greenhouse gas emissions by at least 90% by 2040.

When asked about setting a legally binding date to phase out fossil fuels, a strong majority of responding parties agree to do so. For the exact dates, all of the parties but the EGP are refraining from committing to the target dates for phasing out coal by 2030, gas by 2035, and oil by 2040. While ALDE estimate that these deadlines are “too unrealistic”, the PEL is in favour of immediately stopping the exploitation of new fossil fuel reserves, including those in the deep-sea and in polar areas.

Remarkably, there is unanimous backing from all responding parties for transitioning towards a fully renewable energy system, signalling strong support for the development of renewable sources like solar and wind power. However, only the EGP and the PEL put forward 2040 as a deadline. Other parties’ views differ as to when this might be achievable.

Finally, when it comes to the deployment of renewables across Europe, some parties have contradicting views as their plans risk pitting climate action against nature conservation—when in fact both must go hand in hand, recognising that nature is our best ally in fighting climate impacts. The Party of the European Socialists (PES), the EDF and ALDE support exempting Member States from the requirement to conduct public consultations and environmental impact assessments for certain renewable energy projects, based on the presumption that this type of energy represents an “overriding public interest”. WWF is concerned that blanket exemptions could lead to unintended and counterproductive environmental harm by individual projects, and risk reducing the support and involvement of local communities. While the expansion of renewable energies must be accelerated, this cannot be achieved at the expense of nature and people.
3. European parties commit to strengthen our nature and society's resilience

Europe’s economy is fundamentally intertwined with the health of its natural environment. The droughts, deadly wildfires and floods experienced over the past five years have starkly highlighted our dependency on healthy ecosystems—such as rivers, lakes, oceans, and forests—not only for food and energy production, but also for carbon dioxide absorption and disaster mitigation. Consequently, the restoration of natural habitats and the reversal of biodiversity loss emerge as vital tasks to bolster our society’s and our economy’s resilience.

The majority of responding parties are supporting the adoption of a “climate resilience framework”, composed of both legislative and non-legislative initiatives to integrate climate change impacts into all EU policies—with the EDP preferring to implement only non-legislative measures. Such a resilience framework would aim to promote smart investments across multiple sectors, including energy, transport, agriculture, and forestry. It would focus on implementing nature-based solutions that help cities and rural areas adapt to the rapidly changing climate, thereby safeguarding the well-being of EU citizens, farmers, fishers, and businesses. WWF strongly advises parties to make this framework one of the first legislative proposals of the next mandate, as neglecting nature increases our vulnerability and financial burdens from extreme weather.

WWF also encourages parties to enhance the protection and restoration of our ecosystems by increasing investments in nature. Answers show unanimous support from responding parties to increase funding in nature-based solutions at the EU and national level. This includes a commitment by the EGP and the PEL to bridge the “biodiversity funding gap” by investing €50 billion annually towards achieving the goals of the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. Financing nature not only brings economic benefits, but also directly supports people: farmers, foresters, landowners, fishers, coastal communities, and local collectives engaged in nature restoration activities all benefit from these investments.

Responding parties have shared their perspectives on enacting key EU environmental legislation on three critical ecosystems: freshwater, oceans, and forests. To this day, 60% of European rivers and lakes are not in a good condition. Under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), Member States have agreed to bring all fresh waterways back to good health by 2027. However, they have fallen short in implementing effective measures. In the face of this failure, all responding parties continue to support the objectives of the WFD and most of them agree to increase the pressure on national governments to bring freshwater ecosystems back to good health. Despite the urgency, however, the ALDE Party and the EDP demand more time and flexibility to achieve these objectives.

European seas would benefit from a transpartisan support for aligning all EU blue policies with climate and biodiversity standards. The PES, the PEL, the EGP, the EFA, and ALDE all commit to adopt new legislation to put the ocean at the heart of the EU Green Deal. Furthermore, the majority of the responding parties agree that the Common Fisheries Policy’s (CFP) implementation must be stepped up to finally put an end to overfishing and empower low-impact fisheries communities.

In 2023, the EU adopted a groundbreaking law to stop deforestation, a critical step in combating the climate and biodiversity crisis. Looking ahead, policymakers will have the opportunity to broaden the law’s scope to prohibit imports of products linked not only to forest destruction, but also to the degradation of other wooded ecosystems such as savannahs (e.g. the Brazilian Cerrado), grasslands and wetlands. When asked about committing to such an expansion, four European parties responded affirmatively, while the EDP and ALDE did not take a stance.

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Recent farmers’ protests have reignited discussions about the need for fairer incomes. This situation is further exacerbated by the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, which are further harming our farming sector. Simultaneously, consumers have expressed concerns about the scarcity of affordable and healthy food options. It is clear that the current food system in the EU is failing to protect farmers, consumers and the environment.

One striking finding from our questionnaire is the unanimous endorsement by responding parties for harmonising the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with the EU Green Deal. Indeed, all of them express support for revising the EU’s agricultural regulations to align with the climate and environmental goals outlined in the Farm to Fork Strategy. This underscores the current inconsistency in actions by EU policymakers and national governments, as they hastily dismantle environmental safeguards in an attempt to offer quick solutions to farmers’ concerns, but this is misguided as environmental measures are not at the root of the issues voiced by the sector. Instead, the EU must establish a 2050 vision for sustainable food systems to provide a clear direction for the CAP and ensure coherence among food related policies.

Only the EGP and the PEL commit to phasing out the CAP’s area-based and production-based direct payments, and to redirecting these funds to empower farmers and foster resilience within a more sustainable food system. The EDP advocates for the next revision of the CAP to prioritise “food security on an equal footing with climate and environmental concerns”. The EPA wants to ensure that the CAP does not “disproportionately benefit industrial-scale mono farming” models, but the party does not support repurposing direct payments to support farmers in a transition to a more sustainable food system. The EFA supports this stance by arguing for the necessity of offering “long-term regulatory certainty for farmers”. The PES prioritises strengthening both the social and environmental sustainability of the CAP in the next revision, stating that “more funds need to flow towards small and medium sized farms and rewards should be given to those who meet environmental and biodiversity criteria”.

The EU’s Common Agricultural Policy is not the sole policy influencing how the EU produces and consumes its food. Many responding parties acknowledge the necessity of addressing market dynamics and involving food manufacturers, distributors, and consumers more actively in the green transition. The PES, the EGP, the ELP, and the EFA all endorse new legislation aimed at fostering a more sustainable food system. This entails establishing overarching principles and quantitative binding targets, including applying standards for EU products to imported ones. However, the EDP and ALDE did not provide a response to this question.

To achieve the transition, the EU must prioritise the fundamental redesign of its economy. Securing large-scale investments from both public and private sources is essential for Europe to integrate all sectors of industry and the broader population into the green transition, while tackling social inequalities and prioritising support for the most vulnerable communities. Without committing to a socially just transition and securing enough funds to do so, the EU risks falling short of its sustainability targets and compromising the wellbeing of its citizens.

WWF has put forward several recommendations for European parties to consider. A key proposal involves initiating new public investments to foster a green and social transition. Responding parties have shown unanimous support for launching additional large-scale EU investment programmes similar to the ongoing Recovery and Resilience Facility (RFF). Such programmes would support the development of clean infrastructure, ensure access to affordable and renewable energy, and help re-skilling and training the European workforce.

Another significant avenue for investment lies in repurposing fossil fuel subsidies and other forms of subsidies that are harmful to nature. Instead of allocating billions of euros to activities that harm nature and exacerbate the climate and biodiversity crises, Member States and the EU should tax and redirect harmful subsidies, while representatives of nationalist, regionalist, and autonomist parties are yet to reach a consensus on their position. This is concerning, considering the decades of public commitments to phasing out such subsidies, with policymakers making little progress in practice.

In the domain of private investments, the EU Taxonomy is crucial for channeling capital and investments towards environmentally sustainable ventures. This system is still in the process of defining “sustainable,” “intermediate,” and “unsustainable” economic activities—an utterly important step to achieve the redirection of capital and investments towards environmentally sustainable activities.

Four parties—the EDP, the EGP, the PEL, and the EFA—commit to refining the current classification into three categories using a “traffic-light” system. However, ALDE and the PES have opted not to take a stance on this matter. Instead, the Socialists have referred to previous public positions where they advocate “to increase measures to steer private investments towards the green transition, to set common targets for public bodies, enterprises, fund managers and pension funds to divest from fossil fuels and invest in green assets and to combat greenwashing by introducing EU-wide minimum standards for sustainable investment funds”.

To commit to unlocking public and private investments to achieve the transition
WHERE IS THE EPP?

Despite repeated requests, the European People’s Party (EPP) declined to respond to our questionnaire. WWF expresses deep regret that the largest political group in the European Parliament today chose not to participate in an initiative that offers a timely opportunity to promote transparency and address voters’ interests in the EU 2024 elections. This decision is particularly unfortunate considering that many of their affiliated national parties did respond to “national” questionnaires distributed by WWF offices in 14 Member States.

EU citizens deserve to know the position of the EPP as they head to the polls. This is all the more true as many of the party’s national delegations have been scuppering the EU Green Deal by either voting against or severely weakening key proposals. While both EPP Lead Candidate Ursula von der Leyen and EPP Group President Manfred Weber have claimed to champion the European Green Deal, their EPP parliamentary group tried to reject the trilogue agreement achieved on the Nature Restoration Law proposal in a last-minute attempt to kill one of the most symbolic initiative of the EU Green Deal. Such actions, for which they cooperate with anti-European and far-right groups in the Parliament, would merit to be put under public scrutiny.

This is why WWF has decided to produce an analysis of the EPP’s position based on the recently adopted EPP 2024 Party’s manifesto and its recent position papers. This analysis does not reflect formal commitments taken by the EPP, but it offers a good indication of their positions. When their position was not explicit, we applied caution, and left some policies unaddressed.

The EPP’s drive to deregulate Europe puts their commitment to implement the EU Green Deal in jeopardy

The EPP manifesto acknowledges the EU Green Deal as their hallmark, and commits to further implementation, albeit with a narrow focus on the decarbonisation of European industries. The manifesto contains a few constructive proposals such as a “moving away from fossil fuels, by developing a roadmap towards a resilient energy system with the phasing out of fossil fuels together with Member States”.

However, the EPP also perpetuates the misconception that the EU burdens businesses with excessive regulations, particularly in the fields of climate and nature conservation. This false narrative not only fuels anti-European sentiments but has also already been disproven by many studies. Instead of providing clarity on the necessity of these regulations, the EPP opts to resist potential bans on polluting practices.

Additionally, it advocates for unnecessary reviews of longstanding environmental targets, such as the EU Nature Directives, the backbone of nature conservation in Europe, in a thinly veiled attempt to weaken them or offer more flexibility to Member States.

EPP’s proposal to implement arbitrary principles, like the notion of terminating two laws for every new one enacted, lacks a thorough understanding of the costs and benefits associated with current legislation, as well as the consequences of inaction. This approach is inherently irresponsible.

The EPP is calling for stepping up investments in the green and just transition

In a positive development, the EPP aligns with other major democratic parties by calling for a “strong EU financial arm to back up our net-zero industrial and green ambitions for Europe to be able to compete globally, and to make sure this economic transformation leaves no one behind”.

According to their manifesto, investments could be greater flexibility in distributing these funds nationally, offering scant environmental benefits for the annual disbursement of over 40 billion euros to farmers, much of which ends up in the hands of large-scale industrial holdings.

While the EPP briefly acknowledges the need for fair prices for farmers and consumer concerns, it fails to offer concrete measures to achieve these objectives. Their manifesto primarily focuses on reducing regulatory burdens or shifting blame onto large carnivores, which does little to address underlying issues.

Regarding fisheries, the EPP proposes revising the Common Fisheries Policy but neglects to emphasise the crucial role of effective implementation, an area where Member States have consistently fallen short.

6 Several sources indicate EPP’s support to the continuation of the European Green Deal agenda: “The Green Deal for us is not a new ideology as advocated by the Greens or the socialists, it is the hallmark of the more prosperous, innovative, competitive and sustainable Europe that the EPP envisions”; “We want to further develop the Green Deal”; and “as we enter the next phase of the European Green Deal, the phase of implementation, we will keep supporting European industry throughout the transition”. I. The core aim is to support every sector in building its business model for the decarbonisation of industry.

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GLOSSARY

ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party
CAP: Common Agricultural Policy
EDP: European Democratic Party
EFA: European Free Alliance
EGP: European Green Party
EPP: European People’s Party

European parties: registered European political parties, operating transnationally in Europe and regulated and funded by Regulation 1141/2014 on the statute and funding of European and European political foundations. Despite their apparent political ties, these are not to be confused with political groups in the European Parliament.

National parties: political parties operating at a national level.

PEL: Party of the European Left
PES: Party of European Socialists

Responding parties: European parties that have responded to WWF’s survey (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party, European Democratic Party, European Free Alliance, European Green Party, Party of the European Left, Party of European Socialists).

OUR MISSION IS TO STOP THE DEGRADATION OF THE PLANET’S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND TO BUILD A FUTURE IN WHICH PEOPLE LIVE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

For more information:
Alejandra Morales
Campaign manager
amorales@wwf.eu

Florian Martinez-Buathier
Policy officer
fmartinez@wwf.eu

Camille Gilissen
Communications officer
cgilissen@wwf.eu
ANNEX: EU PARTIES’ ANSWERS TO WWF’S EU ELECTIONS CHECK
WWF’S PARTY QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE 2024 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTION

RESPONSES FROM:
THE PARTY OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS
1. Maintaining and strengthening the European Green Deal

In 2019, the EU launched the European Green Deal, a comprehensive agenda to tackle climate change and environmental degradation, and make the EU’s economy more resource-efficient and competitive. The European Green Deal includes policies on climate, energy, biodiversity, agriculture, circular economy, transport and finance. However, several commitments are yet to be turned into reality (e.g. transition to sustainable food systems), and some actions taken do not match the initial ambition (e.g. the overall EU emissions reduction agreed by 2030). If elected, your party can help the EU transition to a greener and more just model by ensuring the European Green Deal is fully put into action.

Does your party commit to upholding the European Green Deal in the next five years, by making its implementation a top priority, as well as supporting additional and stronger EU climate and environmental legislation in order to meet the commitments made under the European Green Deal?

Please select one of the answers below:

☑ Yes, we will uphold the European Green Deal as one of the main political priorities, including by supporting additional and stronger EU climate and environmental legislation

☐ Yes, we will uphold the European Green Deal as one of the main political priorities, but we will only support the implementation of existing EU climate and environmental legislation

☐ No, we will not maintain the European Green Deal as one of the main political priorities

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
2. **Achieving climate neutrality**

With the European Green Deal, the EU has enshrined into the [European Climate Law](https://www.greendal.eu/en) its goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, with intermediary targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and by 2040. The first intermediary legal target is already set to cut the EU's 'net emissions' (emissions after deduction of carbon removals such as forests and other landscapes) by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. However, there is no legal target for the second intermediary target for 2040 yet. According to the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change's [recent advice](https://www.esab-climate-change.org) on the 2040 target, the EU has already, under certain ethical principles, exhausted its fair share of the global emissions budget. WWF’s position is that the EU should aim to reach climate neutrality - i.e. a 100% reduction in net GHG emissions - by 2040, instead of 2050.

**What level of reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 does your party commit to enshrine into EU law?**

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ At least 100% (i.e. reach climate neutrality by 2040)

☒ At least 90%

☐ Less than 90%, or no legally binding 2040 target at all

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
3. Ending fossil fuel use

The geopolitical and subsequent energy crisis that is ongoing in Europe underscores the staggering cost of our dependence on fossil fuels. Fossil energy is not only increasingly expensive for the most vulnerable households, but it is also polluting and unsustainable. The EU must rapidly transition away from fossil fuels use in order to become a climate-neutral economy and avoid the worst impacts of climate change. At the moment, there is no legally binding approach to phase-out fossil fuels. It is crucial for the EU to set legally binding targets for the complete phase-out of coal by 2030, gas by 2035, and oil by 2040.

Does your party commit to setting near-term and legally binding target dates for ending coal, gas and oil use, in that order?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we commit to setting legally binding target dates for the complete phase-out of coal by 2030, gas by 2035, and oil by 2040

☒ Yes, we commit to setting legally binding target dates for the complete phase-out of coal, gas and oil use, but think the target dates of 2030, 2035 and 2040 are too strict

☐ No, we do not commit to setting legally binding target dates for ending coal, gas and oil use

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

The 2024 PES Manifesto ‘The Europe we want: social, democratic, sustainable’ states:

*We will continue to invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency, to be climate neutral by 2050 at the latest, by achieving strong EU 2040 climate targets.*
4. Transitioning towards sustainable food systems

The impact of our current food system can be felt in our daily lives. People are increasingly struggling to access healthy and sustainable food. Also, our food system is contributing significantly to biodiversity loss, the depletion of natural resources and climate change. This is why policymakers need to define legally binding principles and objectives to improve our food system, for all actors from food processing, to distribution and consumption. The EU has made a step in this direction by presenting, as part of the Farm to Fork Strategy, the idea of an overarching regulation on sustainable food systems. However, this is yet to be presented as a legislative proposal that can be negotiated by the European Parliament and Member States. WWF is calling on the Commission and political parties to support the swift publication of the proposal- with standards for European products also applying to imported ones. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to support the publication of this new law and to actively help foster a sustainable, fair and healthy model for food producers and consumers in Europe.

1 The Farm to Fork Strategy is at the heart of the European Green Deal aiming to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly.

Does your party support the adoption of new legislation setting comprehensive and science-based quantitative targets, in order to enhance sustainability throughout the entire food supply chain?

☑ Yes, we support the adoption of legislation on sustainable food systems, setting overarching principles and quantitative binding targets to involve more strongly food manufacturers, distributors, and consumers, in the green transition

☐ Yes, we support the adoption of legislation on sustainable food systems, but it should be limited to set general principles and objectives - without quantitative binding targets

☐ No, we do not support the adoption of any new legislation on sustainable food systems

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
5. Reforming the Common Agricultural Policy

The relationship between European farmers, climate change and biodiversity loss is intricate. On the one hand, our agricultural practices significantly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and nature loss; on the other hand, farmers find themselves increasingly vulnerable to the repercussions of the climate change and biodiversity crises. In 2025, the European Commission is due to make a legislative proposal to design a new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the period after 2027. It will be the first opportunity to align the CAP with the vision of the Farm to Fork Strategy, and redirect the CAP’s direct payments to financially support farmers in the transition to a more sustainable food system. If elected, your party will be able to empower farmers and help them build resilience while reducing the environmental impact of the EU’s agriculture production.

Does your party support revising the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal, and redirect support for farmers towards their transition to agro-ecological practices?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we commit to revising the CAP in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and European Green Deal, and we support phasing out its direct payments and instead redirect EU public funds to support farmers in the transition to a more sustainable food system

☐ Yes, we commit to revising the CAP in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal, but we do not support phasing out its direct payments

☐ No, we do not support revising the CAP in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

It is our political family that at the last CAP strategic reform introduced, for the first time in 60 years, social conditionality. Social conditionality is essential for safe guarding social standards and rights. Our political family’s priority for the future is to keep underpinning both the green spirit of the CAP in order to meet the Green Deal’s goals, and the red heart of the CAP, to increase social rights across the sector as well as the role of women and young farmers.

Furthermore, the PES Malaga resolution states: ‘European agriculture, fishing and aquaculture must become green and sustainable, in line with the Farm to Fork Strategy. More funds need to flow towards small and medium sized farms and rewards should be given to those who meet environmental and biodiversity criteria’

The 2024 PES Manifesto ‘The Europe we want: social, democratic, sustainable’ states:

- We need to strengthen the EU’s common agricultural policy to support farmers, especially young, women, and small-scale farmers, and agricultural workers.
- We want to support farmers’ incomes and jobs, while protecting them from unfair competition from third countries and price speculation and enabling fair prices in the value chain.
- We want to secure that farmers are able to provide healthy and affordable food for all and improve food production by embracing sustainable farming and fishing. Our fight for the Green Deal is also a fight to improve the lives of farmers.
6. Adopting a climate resilience framework

Nature is crucial for building resilience to climate change, with healthy ecosystems like floodplains, free-flowing rivers, resilient forests and agricultural landscapes serving as defences against floods, droughts and wildfires. Neglecting nature increases our vulnerability and financial burdens from extreme weather, with the EU already facing over €12 billion in annual losses. As a matter of security, the EU needs a new climate resilience framework with both legislative and non-legislative measures, integrating climate change impacts into all policies. This framework would encourage smart investments in various sectors (energy, transport, agriculture or forests), focusing on nature-based solutions instead of grey infrastructure - which in many cases only increases vulnerability to climate change impacts in the long run. It would support cities and rural areas to cope with the rapidly changing climate, and would help protect EU citizens, including farmers, fishers and businesses. Examples include wetland restoration so that they can absorb and filter water and store it in the ground, rather than building new dams, heightening dykes or implementing large-scale water transfers to manage water. It also means extracting only the amount of water we need for agro-ecological farming and cultures adapted to a changing climate, and for drinking water in the most water-stressed areas.

Does your party support the adoption of a new framework consisting of legislative and non-legislative measures to promote climate resilience, with the aim of strengthening the adaptability of European ecosystems to protect our society from climate-related hazards?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support the adoption of new legislative and non-legislative measures on climate resilience which prioritise the deployment and upscaling of nature-based solutions

☐ Yes, we support the adoption of new non-legislative measures on climate resilience which prioritise the deployment and upscaling of nature-based solutions, but do not support new legislative measures

☐ No, we believe the EU already has sufficient legislative and non-legislative measures to support climate adaptation and/or nature-based solutions

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
7. Increasing investments in nature and people

To mitigate climate change and adapt our society and economy to its shocks, it is crucial that we protect and restore our ecosystems. This necessitates a redirection of environmentally harmful subsidies towards investments in nature, accompanied by financial support for farmers, foresters, landowners, fishers, coastal communities, and local collectives engaged in nature restoration activities. A study commissioned by the European Commission conservatively estimates that at least €48 billion are required annually between 2021 and 2030 to deliver the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. It is estimated that in 2021, only €27 billion was invested by the EU and its Member States. Bridging the funding gap at both EU and national levels is imperative to address the biodiversity loss crisis; it’s also an opportunity to empower those on the front lines of nature restoration, enhance our resilience to climate disasters, and support sustainable food production. Finally, financing nature is an investment, not a cost, as investing 1€ in nature restoration brings 8€ in return in economic benefits.

Does your party support increasing EU and national investments in nature, to at least €50 billion annually?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we support increasing EU and national investments in nature, to at least €50 billion annually
☒ Yes, we support increasing EU and national investments in nature compared to today, but do not commit to any specific figure
☐ No, we do not support increasing EU and national investments in nature compared to today

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
8. Implementing the United Nations Global Biodiversity Framework

Worldwide, 75% of land surface and 66% of the ocean area is impacted by human activities. This phenomenon deeply affects not only the diverse species that call these ecosystems home, but also the wellbeing of future generations. Indeed, it reduces these areas' capacity to act as carbon sinks and protect against the impacts of climate change. The EU committed in its Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 to establishing a coherent and effectively managed protected area network. The network should cover at least 30% of the EU land and 30% of the EU sea area, and include at least one-third of strictly protected areas by 2030. Furthermore, at global level, the UN Global Biodiversity Framework sets an objective of effectively protecting 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of coastal and marine areas by 2030. To achieve these objectives, the EU is relying on a voluntary mechanism, which, so far, hasn't been very effective. Currently, only a handful of EU Member States have submitted national pledges, although the deadline was the end of 2022. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to review the Biodiversity Strategy and turn these voluntary pledges into legally binding targets, helping protect these precious ecosystems and the life forms they sustain.

Does your party commit to protecting natural areas and achieve the targets set under the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the Global Biodiversity Framework, by turning voluntary pledges into legally binding targets for all EU Member States?

Please select one of the answers below:

☑️ Yes, we support the establishment of legally binding targets for EU Member States to achieve the 2030 objectives on protected areas

☐ No, we believe voluntary pledges for EU Member States are sufficient to achieve the 2030 objectives on protected areas

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
9. Redirecting fossil fuel and other environmentally harmful subsidies

Subsidies to environmentally harmful practices, such as fossil fuels and industrial agricultural practices, contribute to overexploitation of natural resources, biodiversity loss, and increased greenhouse gas emissions. They entail enormous human and financial hidden costs, while also representing a missed opportunity for funding the European Green Deal. Redirecting these subsidies is crucial, as it would promote sustainability, and foster the transition to a more environmentally responsible economy. To tackle this problem, the EU and its Member States have made repeated non-binding commitments to phase out public subsidies for fossil fuels, and for other nature-damaging activities. However, there is currently no legal framework to support these commitments. As a result, only minimal progress has been achieved. Redirecting all harmful subsidies towards the green transition, with a focus on supporting vulnerable households and key economic sectors in that transition, would be a key step in funding these crucial efforts.

Does your party commit to redirecting fossil fuel and other environmentally harmful EU and national subsidies towards the green transition, with a priority focus on helping vulnerable people and key economic sectors?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support the adoption and implementation of legal measures to phase out fossil fuel and environmentally harmful EU and national subsidies, and believe these subsidies should - as a priority – be reoriented towards the green transition, with a focus on helping vulnerable people and key stakeholders

☐ Yes, we support the aim of phasing out fossil fuel and environmentally harmful subsidies, and believe these subsidies should - as a priority - be reoriented towards the achievement of the green transition, with a focus on helping vulnerable people and key stakeholders in the green transition; however, we do not believe additional legal measures are required to achieve this aim

☐ No, we do not support the aim of phasing out fossil fuel and environmentally harmful subsidies

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
Green finance is a powerful tool to achieve a greener economy, as it directs capital and investment towards environmentally sustainable activities. A first necessary step is to define what constitutes such ‘environmentally sustainable activities’. The EU has made significant progress in this area by creating the EU Taxonomy in 2021. However, this classification system is incomplete, as there is no clear differentiation between unsustainable activities that should be promptly phased out, and activities that can ultimately reach the green category, provided an activity-specific investment plan is set up. To achieve a truly ‘green financial system’, it is crucial to enhance the EU sustainable finance regulatory framework. The most impactful solution would be to extend the EU Taxonomy framework from the current single category (‘sustainable’) to three categories in a traffic-light system; the new system would differentiate economic activities that are ‘sustainable’, ‘intermediate’ (in transition), and ‘unsustainable’.

2 The EU taxonomy refers to a classification system established by the European Union to define what economic activities can be considered environmentally sustainable.

Does your party commit to extend the EU framework on sustainable finance by adding two categories which help differentiate between ‘intermediate’ and ‘unsustainable’ economic activities, in addition to the already defined ‘sustainable’ activities?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we support the adoption of an ‘extended’ taxonomy with three categories, clarifying what constitutes ‘sustainable’, ‘intermediate’ and ‘unsustainable’ economic activities

☐ Yes, we support the adoption of an ‘extended’ taxonomy with two categories, clarifying what constitutes ‘sustainable’ and ‘intermediate’ economic activities

☐ No, we do not support the adoption of an ‘extended’ taxonomy and believe the current approach of a ‘sustainable’ taxonomy is sufficient

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

In its Malaga resolution the PES highlighted the need to:

- Increase measures to steer private investment towards the green transition, ensuring that its implementation does not deepen inequalities between regions.
- Set common targets for public bodies, enterprises, fund managers and pension funds to divest from fossil fuels and invest in green assets.
- Combat greenwashing by introducing EU-wide minimum standards for sustainable investment funds, to avoid investment funds being labelled as green while still funding unsustainable economic activities.
11. Achieving a 100% renewables target

Boosting the share of renewables in Europe’s energy sources is crucial to combat climate change and guarantee a more stable energy supply, as well as affordable prices for European households. In 2023, the EU adopted the revised Renewable Energy Directive (RED), which raised the share of renewable energy in Europe’s overall energy consumption to 42.5% by 2030. The new version of the directive also includes an additional 2.5% indicative top up that would allow it to reach 45%. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to define a target for 2040, as part of the next revision of the RED in the next five years. Your support to increase the share of renewable energy will be key to achieving climate neutrality and energy independence.

What percentage share of renewable energy in the EU’s overall energy consumption does your party commit to enshrining in EU law?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ 100% by 2040

☒ We support moving to 100% renewable energy, but achieving this by 2040 will be too difficult

☐ We don’t support a 100% renewable energy target

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
12. Ensuring nature-friendly deployment of renewable energy infrastructure

A rapid expansion in wind and solar power is crucial if we are to increase our energy security and stop runaway climate change. Nonetheless, this must be done with public consent and in an environmentally-friendly way. The new permitting rules in the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) set tighter deadlines for planning decisions, and require Member States to identify Renewable Acceleration Areas (RAAs), both of which are welcome. However, the rules also exempt projects in RAAs from Environmental Impact Assessments - which provide opportunities for public consultation - and require all renewables everywhere to be presumed as being in the overriding public interest. These new, unnecessary provisions undermine the public trust in renewables as well as the vital nature protection measures in the Birds, Habitats and Water Framework Directives.

Will your party seek to reverse the scrapping of environmental protection rules in the Renewable Energy Directive, and to ensure that we tackle the climate and biodiversity crises in parallel?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we believe that the rapid expansion of renewables depends on robust ecosystem-based spatial planning, and so we would reinstate the requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment for all projects, and cancel the presumption of overriding public interest.

☒ No, we would keep the new permitting rules as they are.

☐ No, we would pursue even further relaxation of nature protection rules, which we believe are too strict and/or administratively burdensome for a rapid expansion in wind and solar power.

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
13. **Speeding up progress towards a good status of rivers, lakes and groundwater**

Humans, animals, and plants all depend on freshwater for survival. Beyond its role in supporting life, it also plays a key role in agriculture, various industrial processes, and climate regulation. Unfortunately, freshwater resources in Europe are facing numerous threats, including pollution, over-extraction, and climate change. The Water Framework Directive, the main piece of EU legislation on water, sets an objective of bringing all lakes, rivers, and groundwater back to good health in 2027. However, since its adoption in 2000, very little progress has been made to protect and restore watersheds. Furthermore, nearly 60% of EU rivers and lakes are still not in good condition today, with many waters exempted from meeting the legal obligations. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to engage in this process and foster better implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

**Will your party commit to pushing Member States to take the necessary measures and speed up progress towards the Water Framework Directive’s objective of good status of rivers, lakes and groundwater in 2027?**

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support the objectives of the Water Framework Directive, and believe Member States need to speed up progress towards the Directive’s objectives

☐ Yes, we support the objectives of the Water Framework Directive but we think Member States need more time and flexibility to achieve them

☐ No, we believe that the implementation of the Water Framework Directive is not feasible and we call for lowering the Directive’s objectives

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
14. Better implementing the Common Fisheries Policy

Fisheries hold a crucial role in the EU society, economy and food system, supporting employment and contributing to the nutritional wellbeing of the population. Yet, their intricate connection to climate change and overfishing poses challenges, impacting marine biodiversity and fish stocks, and contributing to wider environmental issues. In 2023, the European Commission published its “Fisheries Package”, a series of strategies and policy recommendations supporting EU fishers in transitioning towards environmentally sustainable, socially fair and economically viable practices. One of its recommendations is to better implement certain legal provisions of the Common Fisheries Policy in order to end overfishing and deliver ecosystem-based fisheries management.

Will your party commit to fully implementing the Common Fisheries Policy, to end overfishing and deliver ecosystem-based fisheries management?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support the full implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy to deliver low-impact, sustainable EU fisheries

☐ No, we believe that there is no further need to step up the implementation of the current Common Fisheries Policy and efforts today are satisfactory to achieve low-impact, sustainable EU fisheries

☐ No, we believe that the current objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy are not realistic and should be revised

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
15. Mainstreaming an ecosystem-based approach across all maritime policies

Our ocean plays a vital role in helping regulate the climate. It stores equivalent amounts of carbon to terrestrial ecosystems and removes around one-third of CO2 emitted by human activity. It also hosts a diverse range of ecosystems and provides an immense cultural and recreational value. As such, its protection is essential and needs a transversal approach. While the European Green Deal triggered a shift away from environmental degradation towards a more sustainable society, the absence of meaningful attention to our ocean in the European Green Deal sparks concerns and conflicts in implementation. Indeed, ocean-related policies lack alignment and coherence with recently adopted EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives. Improvements are needed to make these policies fit for effectively protecting our ocean and fostering a sustainable blue economy.

Does your party support adapting EU maritime policies to align them with EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives, to foster a sustainable blue economy?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we commit to adapting all EU maritime policies to the EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives, and we support new legislative initiatives

☐ Yes, we commit to adapting all EU maritime policies to EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives, but only through non-legislative measures

☐ No, we do not believe it is necessary to improve coherence between EU maritime policies and the EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

According to what the S&D Group send us last time I clicked the first box:

The S&D Group defends that EU should continue to push at international fora, for the implementation of the most ambitious environmental, social and economic objectives. The protection and recovery of environment cannot prevailed over the need to create resilient and prepared societies and communities all over the planet, only this way will allow to proper address climate and biodiversity objectives, and truly reach a sustainable blue economy.
16. Improving access to information, public participation and access to justice

To properly implement EU law, including environmental legislation, it is crucial for both civil society and individual citizens to have the ability to access public information and - if needed - to seek justice through national courts. As of 2022, access to justice for the concerned public is impeded in 21 out of 27 Member States due to persistent barriers\(^3\). Together with poor access to information on environmental decision-making, these obstacles include limitations on the right of environmental NGOs and individuals to bring cases to court, high and prohibitive costs, and judges applying an insufficient scope. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to improve the implementation of the European Green Deal by addressing and removing the ongoing barriers to accessing information and justice in Member States - ensuring citizens’ fundamental rights.

\(^3\) Based on the European Commission’s 2022 Environmental Implementation Review, see here, p. 5

Will your party commit to improving the public’s access to information and effective access to justice?

Please select one of the answers below:

☑ Yes, we commit to stepping up national implementation of existing obligations on access to information and access to justice, and to supporting further initiatives at EU level to tackle the inconsistent and uneven compliance with access to justice requirements across the EU and its Member States

☐ Yes, we support stepping up national implementation of existing obligations on access to information and access to justice, but do not believe further initiatives at EU level are necessary

☐ No, we do not support taking any further actions to provide the public with access to information and effective access to justice

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
17. Promoting a just and fair transition

The transition to climate neutrality in the EU is most keenly felt at a local level. Millions of citizens will need to retrain or find new employment as polluting industries are replaced by nature-positive and climate-neutral industries. Furthermore, lowest income households have the most difficulty in accessing clean energy and energy-saving technologies such as heat-pumps, electric vehicles, and solar panels. While the current EU just transition framework focuses on rapid decarbonisation in a number of specific regions, additional broader measures are needed. Unless the green transition is accompanied by policies that mitigate its social impact, we will experience rising inequality, increased poverty and reduced social cohesion. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to address this challenge, ensuring that the transition towards sustainability leaves no one behind.

Does your party commit to a just and fair transition by mandating large-scale EU investment in energy-saving, renovation, and retraining/re-employment programmes?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support the introduction of further large-scale EU investment programmes to facilitate a just and fair transition

☐ No, we do not support the introduction of further large-scale EU investment programmes to facilitate a just and fair transition

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
18. Reducing the EU’s impact on deforestation

Despite seven in ten Europeans wanting deforestation off their supermarket shelves, the EU is still one of the world’s largest importers of tropical deforestation and associated emissions. In 2023, the EU adopted a new law aiming to halt the trade in products linked to deforestation on the European market - the Regulation on Deforestation-free products. If the EU wants to fully address consumers’ concern on this issue, this new Deforestation Law needs to be extended beyond its current scope of tropical forests only. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to support the integration into the law of products linked to the deforestation and degradation of other wooded lands, such as savannahs, grasslands and wetlands.

Does your party commit to reducing the EU’s impact on deforestation by supporting the extension of the scope of the EU Regulation on Deforestation-free products (EUDR) to other wooded lands, such as savannahs and grasslands?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support extending the scope of the EUDR to other wooded lands in the next five years

☐ No, we do not support extending the scope of the EUDR to other wooded lands in the next five years

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

Our political family supports putting in place a legislative framework to reduce the EU’s impact on global deforestation and forest degradation bringing down greenhouse gas emissions caused by EU consumption and production of the relevant commodities and reduce deforestation, forest degradation and biodiversity loss.
WWF’S PARTY QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE 2024 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTION

RESPONSES FROM:
ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE PARTY
1. **Maintaining and strengthening the European Green Deal**

In 2019, the EU launched the [European Green Deal](https://eur-lex.europa.eu) (https://eur-lex.europa.eu), a comprehensive agenda to tackle climate change and environmental degradation, and make the EU’s economy more resource-efficient and competitive. The European Green Deal includes policies on climate, energy, biodiversity, agriculture, circular economy, transport and finance. However, several commitments are yet to be turned into reality (e.g. transition to sustainable food systems), and some actions taken do not match the initial ambition (e.g. the overall EU emissions reduction agreed by 2030). If elected, your party can help the EU transition to a greener and more just model by ensuring the European Green Deal is fully put into action.

Does your party commit to upholding the European Green Deal in the next five years, by making its implementation a top priority, as well as supporting additional and stronger EU climate and environmental legislation in order to meet the commitments made under the European Green Deal?

Please select one of the answers below:

- ☐ Yes, we will uphold the European Green Deal as one of the main political priorities, including by supporting additional and stronger EU climate and environmental legislation
- ☐ Yes, we will uphold the European Green Deal as one of the main political priorities, but we will only support the implementation of existing EU climate and environmental legislation
- ☐ No, we will not maintain the European Green Deal as one of the main political priorities

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

The priority would be the implementation of all the legislation that was adopted in the previous term, however we don’t oppose new legislation in case it is needed to achieve climate goals and ambitions.
2. Achieving climate neutrality

With the European Green Deal, the EU has enshrined into the European Climate Law its goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, with intermediary targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and by 2040. The first intermediary legal target is already set to cut the EU’s 'net emissions' (emissions after deduction of carbon removals such as forests and other landscapes) by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. However, there is no legal target for the second intermediary target for 2040 yet. According to the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change’s recent advice on the 2040 target, the EU has already, under certain ethical principles, exhausted its fair share of the global emissions budget. WWF’s position is that the EU should aim to reach climate neutrality - i.e. a 100% reduction in net GHG emissions - by 2040, instead of 2050.

What level of reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 does your party commit to enshrine into EU law?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ At least 100% (i.e. reach climate neutrality by 2040)

☐ At least 90%

☐ Less than 90%, or no legally binding 2040 target at all

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

No official ALDE Party position on this yet
3. Ending fossil fuel use

The geopolitical and subsequent energy crisis that is ongoing in Europe underscores the staggering cost of our dependence on fossil fuels. Fossil energy is not only increasingly expensive for the most vulnerable households, but it is also polluting and unsustainable. The EU must rapidly transition away from fossil fuels use in order to become a climate-neutral economy and avoid the worst impacts of climate change. At the moment, there is no legally binding approach to phase-out fossil fuels. It is crucial for the EU to set legally binding targets for the complete phase-out of coal by 2030, gas by 2035, and oil by 2040.

Does your party commit to setting near-term and legally binding target dates for ending coal, gas and oil use, in that order?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we commit to setting legally binding target dates for the complete phase-out of coal by 2030, gas by 2035, and oil by 2040

☐ Yes, we commit to setting legally binding target dates for the complete phase-out of coal, gas and oil use, but think the target dates of 2030, 2035 and 2040 are too strict

☐ No, we do not commit to setting legally binding target dates for ending coal, gas and oil use

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
4. Transitioning towards sustainable food systems

The impact of our current food system can be felt in our daily lives. People are increasingly struggling to access healthy and sustainable food. Also, our food system is contributing significantly to biodiversity loss, the depletion of natural resources and climate change. This is why policymakers need to define legally binding principles and objectives to improve our food system, for all actors from food processing, to distribution and consumption. The EU has made a step in this direction by presenting, as part of the Farm to Fork Strategy, the idea of an overarching regulation on sustainable food systems. However, this is yet to be presented as a legislative proposal that can be negotiated by the European Parliament and Member States. WWF is calling on the Commission and political parties to support the swift publication of the proposal - with standards for European products also applying to imported ones. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to support the publication of this new law and to actively help foster a sustainable, fair and healthy model for food producers and consumers in Europe.

1 The Farm to Fork Strategy is at the heart of the European Green Deal aiming to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly.

Does your party support the adoption of new legislation setting comprehensive and science-based quantitative targets, in order to enhance sustainability throughout the entire food supply chain?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we support the adoption of legislation on sustainable food systems, setting overarching principles and quantitative binding targets to involve more strongly food manufacturers, distributors, and consumers, in the green transition

☐ Yes, we support the adoption of legislation on sustainable food systems, but it should be limited to set general principles and objectives - without quantitative binding targets

☐ No, we do not support the adoption of any new legislation on sustainable food systems

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
5. Reforming the Common Agricultural Policy

The relationship between European farmers, climate change and biodiversity loss is intricate. On the one hand, our agricultural practices significantly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and nature loss; on the other hand, farmers find themselves increasingly vulnerable to the repercussions of the climate change and biodiversity crises. In 2025, the European Commission is due to make a legislative proposal to design a new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the period after 2027. It will be the first opportunity to align the CAP with the vision of the Farm to Fork Strategy, and redirect the CAP’s direct payments to financially support farmers in the transition to a more sustainable food system. If elected, your party will be able to empower farmers and help them build resilience while reducing the environmental impact of the EU’s agriculture production.

Does your party support revising the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal, and redirect support for farmers towards their transition to agro-ecological practices?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we commit to revising the CAP in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and European Green Deal, and we support phasing out its direct payments and instead redirect EU public funds to support farmers in the transition to a more sustainable food system

☐ Yes, we commit to revising the CAP in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal, but we do not support phasing out its direct payments

☐ No, we do not support revising the CAP in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
6. Adopting a climate resilience framework

Nature is crucial for building resilience to climate change, with healthy ecosystems like floodplains, free-flowing rivers, resilient forests and agricultural landscapes serving as defences against floods, droughts and wildfires. Neglecting nature increases our vulnerability and financial burdens from extreme weather, with the EU already facing over €12 billion in annual losses. As a matter of security, the EU needs a new climate resilience framework with both legislative and non-legislative measures, integrating climate change impacts into all policies. This framework would encourage smart investments in various sectors (energy, transport, agriculture or forests), focusing on nature-based solutions instead of grey infrastructure - which in many cases only increases vulnerability to climate change impacts in the long run. It would support cities and rural areas to cope with the rapidly changing climate, and would help protect EU citizens, including farmers, fishers and businesses. Examples include wetland restoration so that they can absorb and filter water and store it in the ground, rather than building new dams, heightening dykes or implementing large-scale water transfers to manage water. It also means extracting only the amount of water we need for agro-ecological farming and cultures adapted to a changing climate, and for drinking water in the most water-stressed areas.

Does your party support the adoption of a new framework consisting of legislative and non-legislative measures to promote climate resilience, with the aim of strengthening the adaptability of European ecosystems to protect our society from climate-related hazards?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we support the adoption of new legislative and non-legislative measures on climate resilience which prioritise the deployment and upscaling of nature-based solutions

☐ Yes, we support the adoption of new non-legislative measures on climate resilience which prioritise the deployment and upscaling of nature-based solutions, but do not support new legislative measures

☐ No, we believe the EU already has sufficient legislative and non-legislative measures to support climate adaptation and/or nature-based solutions

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

We do recognise the need to build resilience but within our membership we likely have a range of answers for this question across the three options as to how best to approach implementation. But again in principle I would imagine the Group would consider new legislative measures if proposed and only support after debated consideration.
7. Increasing investments in nature and people

To mitigate climate change and adapt our society and economy to its shocks, it is crucial that we protect and restore our ecosystems. This necessitates a redirection of environmentally harmful subsidies towards investments in nature, accompanied by financial support for farmers, foresters, landowners, fishers, coastal communities, and local collectives engaged in nature restoration activities. A study commissioned by the European Commission conservatively estimates that at least €48 billion are required annually between 2021 and 2030 to deliver the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. It is estimated that in 2021, only €27 billion was invested by the EU and its Member States. Bridging the funding gap at both EU and national levels is imperative to address the biodiversity loss crisis; it’s also an opportunity to empower those on the front lines of nature restoration, enhance our resilience to climate disasters, and support sustainable food production. Finally, financing nature is an investment, not a cost, as investing 1€ in nature restoration brings 8€ in return in economic benefits.

Does your party support increasing EU and national investments in nature, to at least €50 billion annually?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we support increasing EU and national investments in nature, to at least €50 billion annually

☐ Yes, we support increasing EU and national investments in nature compared to today, but do not commit to any specific figure

☐ No, we do not support increasing EU and national investments in nature compared to today

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
8. Implementing the United Nations Global Biodiversity Framework

Worldwide, 75% of land surface and 66% of the ocean area is impacted by human activities. This phenomenon deeply affects not only the diverse species that call these ecosystems home, but also the wellbeing of future generations. Indeed, it reduces these areas' capacity to act as carbon sinks and protect against the impacts of climate change. The EU committed in its Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 to establishing a coherent and effectively managed protected area network. The network should cover at least 30% of the EU land and 30% of the EU sea area, and include at least one-third of strictly protected areas by 2030. Furthermore, at global level, the UN Global Biodiversity Framework sets an objective of effectively protecting 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of coastal and marine areas by 2030. To achieve these objectives, the EU is relying on a voluntary mechanism, which, so far, hasn't been very effective. Currently, only a handful of EU Member States have submitted national pledges, although the deadline was the end of 2022. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to review the Biodiversity Strategy and turn these voluntary pledges into legally binding targets, helping protect these precious ecosystems and the life forms they sustain.

Does your party commit to protecting natural areas and achieve the targets set under the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the Global Biodiversity Framework, by turning voluntary pledges into legally binding targets for all EU Member States?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we support the establishment of legally binding targets for EU Member States to achieve the 2030 objectives on protected areas

☐ No, we believe voluntary pledges for EU Member States are sufficient to achieve the 2030 objectives on protected areas

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
9. Redirecting fossil fuel and other environmentally harmful subsidies

Subsidies to environmentally harmful practices, such as fossil fuels and industrial agricultural practices, contribute to overexploitation of natural resources, biodiversity loss, and increased greenhouse gas emissions. They entail enormous human and financial hidden costs, while also representing a missed opportunity for funding the European Green Deal. Redirecting these subsidies is crucial, as it would promote sustainability, and foster the transition to a more environmentally responsible economy. To tackle this problem, the EU and its Member States have made repeated non-binding commitments to phase out public subsidies for fossil fuels, and for other nature-damaging activities. However, there is currently no legal framework to support these commitments. As a result, only minimal progress has been achieved. Redirecting all harmful subsidies towards the green transition, with a focus on supporting vulnerable households and key economic sectors in that transition, would be a key step in funding these crucial efforts.

Does your party commit to redirecting fossil fuel and other environmentally harmful EU and national subsidies towards the green transition, with a priority focus on helping vulnerable people and key economic sectors?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we support the adoption and implementation of legal measures to phase out fossil fuel and environmentally harmful EU and national subsidies, and believe these subsidies should - as a priority – be reoriented towards the green transition, with a focus on helping vulnerable people and key stakeholders

☐ Yes, we support the aim of phasing out fossil fuel and environmentally harmful subsidies, and believe these subsidies should - as a priority - be reoriented towards the achievement of the green transition, with a focus on helping vulnerable people and key stakeholders in the green transition; however, we do not believe additional legal measures are required to achieve this aim

☐ No, we do not support the aim of phasing out fossil fuel and environmentally harmful subsidies

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
Green finance is a powerful tool to achieve a greener economy, as it directs capital and investment towards environmentally sustainable activities. A first necessary step is to define what constitutes such ‘environmentally sustainable activities’. The EU has made significant progress in this area by creating the EU Taxonomy in 2021. However, this classification system is incomplete, as there is no clear differentiation between unsustainable activities that should be promptly phased out, and activities that can ultimately reach the green category, provided an activity-specific investment plan is set up. To achieve a truly ‘green financial system’, it is crucial to enhance the EU sustainable finance regulatory framework. The most impactful solution would be to extend the EU Taxonomy framework from the current single category (‘sustainable’) to three categories in a traffic-light system; the new system would differentiate economic activities that are ‘sustainable’, ‘intermediate’ (in transition), and ‘unsustainable’.

Does your party commit to extend the EU framework on sustainable finance by adding two categories which help differentiate between ‘intermediate’ and ‘unsustainable’ economic activities, in addition to the already defined ‘sustainable’ activities?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we support the adoption of an ‘extended’ taxonomy with three categories, clarifying what constitutes ‘sustainable’, ‘intermediate’ and ‘unsustainable’ economic activities

☐ Yes, we support the adoption of an ‘extended’ taxonomy with two categories, clarifying what constitutes ‘sustainable’ and ‘intermediate’ economic activities

☐ No, we do not support the adoption of an ‘extended’ taxonomy and believe the current approach of a ‘sustainable’ taxonomy is sufficient

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
11. Achieving a 100% renewables target

Boosting the share of renewables in Europe's energy sources is crucial to combat climate change and guarantee a more stable energy supply, as well as affordable prices for European households. In 2023, the EU adopted the revised Renewable Energy Directive (RED), which raised the share of renewable energy in Europe's overall energy consumption to 42.5% by 2030. The new version of the directive also includes an additional 2.5% indicative top up that would allow it to reach 45%. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to define a target for 2040, as part of the next revision of the RED in the next five years. Your support to increase the share of renewable energy will be key to achieving climate neutrality and energy independence.

What percentage share of renewable energy in the EU’s overall energy consumption does your party commit to enshrining in EU law?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ 100% by 2040

☐ We support moving to 100% renewable energy, but achieving this by 2040 will be too difficult

☐ We don’t support a 100% renewable energy target

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
A rapid expansion in wind and solar power is crucial if we are to increase our energy security and stop runaway climate change. Nonetheless, this must be done with public consent and in an environmentally-friendly way. The new permitting rules in the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) set tighter deadlines for planning decisions, and require Member States to identify Renewable Acceleration Areas (RAAs), both of which are welcome. However, the rules also exempt projects in RAAs from Environmental Impact Assessments - which provide opportunities for public consultation - and require all renewables everywhere to be presumed as being in the overriding public interest. These new, unnecessary provisions undermine the public trust in renewables as well as the vital nature protection measures in the Birds, Habitats and Water Framework Directives.

**Will your party seek to reverse the scrapping of environmental protection rules in the Renewable Energy Directive, and to ensure that we tackle the climate and biodiversity crises in parallel?**

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we believe that the rapid expansion of renewables depends on robust ecosystem-based spatial planning, and so we would reinstate the requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment for all projects, and cancel the presumption of overriding public interest.

☐ No, we would keep the new permitting rules as they are.

☐ No, we would pursue even further relaxation of nature protection rules, which we believe are too strict and/or administratively burdensome for a rapid expansion in wind and solar power.

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

*We believe the permitting rules need to be adapted to allow for fast deployment of renewable energy: we need to simplify, shorten, and speed up the digitalisation of licensing and permitting procedures of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects across EU Member States.*
Humans, animals, and plants all depend on freshwater for survival. Beyond its role in supporting life, it also plays a key role in agriculture, various industrial processes, and climate regulation. Unfortunately, freshwater resources in Europe are facing numerous threats, including pollution, over-extraction, and climate change. The Water Framework Directive, the main piece of EU legislation on water, sets an objective of bringing all lakes, rivers, and groundwater back to good health in 2027. However, since its adoption in 2000, very little progress has been made to protect and restore watersheds. Furthermore, nearly 60% of EU rivers and lakes are still not in good condition today, with many waters exempted from meeting the legal obligations. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to engage in this process and foster better implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

Will your party commit to pushing Member States to take the necessary measures and speed up progress towards the Water Framework Directive’s objective of good status of rivers, lakes and groundwater in 2027?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we support the objectives of the Water Framework Directive, and believe Member States need to speed up progress towards the Directive’s objectives

☐ Yes, we support the objectives of the Water Framework Directive but we think Member States need more time and flexibility to achieve them

☐ No, we believe that the implementation of the Water Framework Directive is not feasible and we call for lowering the Directive’s objectives

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
Fisheries hold a crucial role in the EU society, economy and food system, supporting employment and contributing to the nutritional wellbeing of the population. Yet, their intricate connection to climate change and overfishing poses challenges, impacting marine biodiversity and fish stocks, and contributing to wider environmental issues. In 2023, the European Commission published its “Fisheries Package”, a series of strategies and policy recommendations supporting EU fishers in transitioning towards environmentally sustainable, socially fair and economically viable practices. One of its recommendations is to better implement certain legal provisions of the Common Fisheries Policy in order to end overfishing and deliver ecosystem-based fisheries management.

Will your party commit to fully implementing the Common Fisheries Policy, to end overfishing and deliver ecosystem-based fisheries management?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we support the full implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy to deliver low-impact, sustainable EU fisheries

☐ No, we believe that there is no further need to step up the implementation of the current Common Fisheries Policy and efforts today are satisfactory to achieve low-impact, sustainable EU fisheries

☐ No, we believe that the current objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy are not realistic and should be revised

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
15. Mainstreaming an ecosystem-based approach across all maritime policies

Our ocean plays a vital role in helping regulate the climate. It stores equivalent amounts of carbon to terrestrial ecosystems and removes around one-third of CO2 emitted by human activity. It also hosts a diverse range of ecosystems and provides an immense cultural and recreational value. As such, its protection is essential and needs a transversal approach. While the European Green Deal triggered a shift away from environmental degradation towards a more sustainable society, the absence of meaningful attention to our ocean in the European Green Deal sparks concerns and conflicts in implementation. Indeed, ocean-related policies lack alignment and coherence with recently adopted EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives. Improvements are needed to make these policies fit for effectively protecting our ocean and fostering a sustainable blue economy.

Does your party support adapting EU maritime policies to align them with EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives, to foster a sustainable blue economy?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we commit to adapting all EU maritime policies to the EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives, and we support new legislative initiatives

☐ Yes, we commit to adapting all EU maritime policies to EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives, but only through non-legislative measures

☐ No, we do not believe it is necessary to improve coherence between EU maritime policies and the EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

When needed
To properly implement EU law, including environmental legislation, it is crucial for both civil society and individual citizens to have the ability to access public information and - if needed - to seek justice through national courts. As of 2022, access to justice for the concerned public is impeded in 21 out of 27 Member States due to persistent barriers. Together with poor access to information on environmental decision-making, these obstacles include limitations on the right of environmental NGOs and individuals to bring cases to court, high and prohibitive costs, and judges applying an insufficient scope. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to improve the implementation of the European Green Deal by addressing and removing the ongoing barriers to accessing information and justice in Member States - ensuring citizens’ fundamental rights.

Based on the European Commission’s 2022 Environmental Implementation Review, see here, p. 5

Will your party commit to improving the public’s access to information and effective access to justice?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we commit to stepping up national implementation of existing obligations on access to information and access to justice, and to supporting further initiatives at EU level to tackle the inconsistent and uneven compliance with access to justice requirements across the EU and its Member States

☐ Yes, we support stepping up national implementation of existing obligations on access to information and access to justice, but do not believe further initiatives at EU level are necessary

☐ No, we do not support taking any further actions to provide the public with access to information and effective access to justice

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
The transition to climate neutrality in the EU is most keenly felt at a local level. Millions of citizens will need to retrain or find new employment as polluting industries are replaced by nature-positive and climate-neutral industries. Furthermore, lowest income households have the most difficulty in accessing clean energy and energy-saving technologies such as heat-pumps, electric vehicles, and solar panels. While the current EU just transition framework focuses on rapid decarbonisation in a number of specific regions, additional broader measures are needed. Unless the green transition is accompanied by policies that mitigate its social impact, we will experience rising inequality, increased poverty and reduced social cohesion. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to address this challenge, ensuring that the transition towards sustainability leaves no one behind.

Does your party commit to a just and fair transition by mandating large-scale EU investment in energy-saving, renovation, and retraining/re-employment programmes?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we support the introduction of further large-scale EU investment programmes to facilitate a just and fair transition

☐ No, we do not support the introduction of further large-scale EU investment programmes to facilitate a just and fair transition

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
18. Reducing the EU’s impact on deforestation

Despite seven in ten Europeans wanting deforestation off their supermarket shelves, the EU is still one of the world’s largest importers of tropical deforestation and associated emissions. In 2023, the EU adopted a new law aiming to halt the trade in products linked to deforestation on the European market - the Regulation on Deforestation-free products. If the EU wants to fully address consumers’ concern on this issue, this new Deforestation Law needs to be extended beyond its current scope of tropical forests only. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to support the integration into the law of products linked to the deforestation and degradation of other wooded lands, such as savannahs, grasslands and wetlands.

Does your party commit to reducing the EU’s impact on deforestation by supporting the extension of the scope of the EU Regulation on Deforestation-free products (EUDR) to other wooded lands, such as savannahs and grasslands?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we support extending the scope of the EUDR to other wooded lands in the next five years

☐ No, we do not support extending the scope of the EUDR to other wooded lands in the next five years

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
WWF’S PARTY QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE 2024 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTION

RESPONSES FROM:
EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY
Maintaining and strengthening the European Green Deal

In 2019, the EU launched the [European Green Deal](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en), a comprehensive agenda to tackle climate change and environmental degradation, and make the EU’s economy more resource-efficient and competitive. The European Green Deal includes policies on climate, energy, biodiversity, agriculture, circular economy, transport and finance. However, several commitments are yet to be turned into reality (e.g. [transition to sustainable food systems](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en)), and some actions taken do not match the initial ambition (e.g. the overall EU emissions reduction agreed by 2030). If elected, your party can help the EU transition to a greener and more just model by ensuring the European Green Deal is fully put into action.

Does your party commit to upholding the European Green Deal in the next five years, by making its implementation a top priority, as well as supporting additional and stronger EU climate and environmental legislation in order to meet the commitments made under the European Green Deal?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we will uphold the European Green Deal as one of the main political priorities, including by supporting additional and stronger EU climate and environmental legislation

☒ Yes, we will uphold the European Green Deal as one of the main political priorities, but we will only support the implementation of existing EU climate and environmental legislation

☐ No, we will not maintain the European Green Deal as one of the main political priorities

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

We support further progress on this legislation but call for more dialogue with stakeholders and less dogmatism in the climate debate. Technology must take precedence over ideology and this transition must be done with, not against, the productive sectors, agreeing on processes and costs and committing to technology neutrality. However, the Commission’s proposals have been poorly coordinated and are often incoherent, particularly in relation to land use. The Green Deal therefore needs to be fixed and implemented in a more balanced way.
2. Achieving climate neutrality

With the European Green Deal, the EU has enshrined into the European Climate Law its goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, with intermediary targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and by 2040. The first intermediary legal target is already set to cut the EU's 'net emissions' (emissions after deduction of carbon removals such as forests and other landscapes) by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. However, there is no legal target for the second intermediary target for 2040 yet. According to the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change's recent advice on the 2040 target, the EU has already, under certain ethical principles, exhausted its fair share of the global emissions budget. WWF’s position is that the EU should aim to reach climate neutrality - i.e. a 100% reduction in net GHG emissions - by 2040, instead of 2050.

What level of reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 does your party commit to enshrine into EU law?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ At least 100% (i.e. reach climate neutrality by 2040)

☒ At least 90%

☐ Less than 90%, or no legally binding 2040 target at all

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

We fully share the goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050. However, we accept upward revision clauses for the current targets as technologies are proven to make them feasible. The Union's current climate targets are sufficiently ambitious and stimulate innovation in key industrial sectors such as energy and mobility services. Proposing more ambitious targets without providing the necessary support on how to achieve them is pie in the sky.
3. Ending fossil fuel use

The geopolitical and subsequent energy crisis that is ongoing in Europe underscores the staggering cost of our dependence on fossil fuels. Fossil energy is not only increasingly expensive for the most vulnerable households, but it is also polluting and unsustainable. The EU must rapidly transition away from fossil fuels use in order to become a climate-neutral economy and avoid the worst impacts of climate change. At the moment, there is no legally binding approach to phase-out fossil fuels. It is crucial for the EU to set legally binding targets for the complete phase-out of coal by 2030, gas by 2035, and oil by 2040.

Does your party commit to setting near-term and legally binding target dates for ending coal, gas and oil use, in that order?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we commit to setting legally binding target dates for the complete phase-out of coal by 2030, gas by 2035, and oil by 2040

☐ Yes, we commit to setting legally binding target dates for the complete phase-out of coal, gas and oil use, but think the target dates of 2030, 2035 and 2040 are too strict

☐ No, we do not commit to setting legally binding target dates for ending coal, gas and oil use

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
4. Transitioning towards sustainable food systems

The impact of our current food system can be felt in our daily lives. People are increasingly struggling to access healthy and sustainable food. Also, our food system is contributing significantly to biodiversity loss, the depletion of natural resources and climate change. This is why policymakers need to define legally binding principles and objectives to improve our food system, for all actors from food processing, to distribution and consumption. The EU has made a step in this direction by presenting, as part of the Farm to Fork Strategy\(^1\), the idea of an overarching regulation on sustainable food systems. However, this is yet to be presented as a legislative proposal that can be negotiated by the European Parliament and Member States. WWF is calling on the Commission and political parties to support the swift publication of the proposal—with standards for European products also applying to imported ones. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to support the publication of this new law and to actively help foster a sustainable, fair and healthy model for food producers and consumers in Europe.

\(^1\) The Farm to Fork Strategy is at the heart of the European Green Deal aiming to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly.

Does your party support the adoption of new legislation setting comprehensive and science-based quantitative targets, in order to enhance sustainability throughout the entire food supply chain?

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<th>Please select one of the answers below:</th>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Yes, we support the adoption of legislation on sustainable food systems, setting overarching principles and quantitative binding targets to involve more strongly food manufacturers, distributors, and consumers, in the green transition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Yes, we support the adoption of legislation on sustainable food systems, but it should be limited to set general principles and objectives - without quantitative binding targets</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ No, we do not support the adoption of any new legislation on sustainable food systems</td>
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If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

Of course, this type of legislation must set binding targets, but these must be developed in dialogue with the sectors concerned, based on a sound technological and scientific basis, and with proposals that are both practical and feasible. Legislation should therefore focus on general principles rather than quantitative targets, in order to allow for a process of problem solving by approximation rather than by prematurely defining end results.
5. Reforming the Common Agricultural Policy

The relationship between European farmers, climate change and biodiversity loss is intricate. On the one hand, our agricultural practices significantly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and nature loss; on the other hand, farmers find themselves increasingly vulnerable to the repercussions of the climate change and biodiversity crises. In 2025, the European Commission is due to make a legislative proposal to design a new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the period after 2027. It will be the first opportunity to align the CAP with the vision of the Farm to Fork Strategy, and redirect the CAP’s direct payments to financially support farmers in the transition to a more sustainable food system. If elected, your party will be able to empower farmers and help them build resilience while reducing the environmental impact of the EU’s agriculture production.

Does your party support revising the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal, and redirect support for farmers towards their transition to agro-ecological practices?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we commit to revising the CAP in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and European Green Deal, and we support phasing out its direct payments and instead redirect EU public funds to support farmers in the transition to a more sustainable food system

☐ Yes, we commit to revising the CAP in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal, but we do not support phasing out its direct payments

☐ No, we do not support revising the CAP in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

These choices are misleading. Yes, the CAP needs to be reformed and there needs to be better alignment between agricultural policy and the Green Deal, but it has to go both ways; alignment has to be on an equal footing and agricultural policy has to deliver for the future prospects of farming in the EU, which will not happen if there is a hierarchy of objectives that does not put food security on an equal footing with climate and environmental concerns.

It is also regrettable that the WWF, as well as the authors of the food strategy, are still neglecting the integration of seafood into the strategy.
7. Increasing investments in nature and people

To mitigate climate change and adapt our society and economy to its shocks, it is crucial that we protect and restore our ecosystems. This necessitates a redirection of environmentally harmful subsidies towards investments in nature, accompanied by financial support for farmers, foresters, landowners, fishers, coastal communities, and local collectives engaged in nature restoration activities. A study commissioned by the European Commission conservatively estimates that at least €48 billion are required annually between 2021 and 2030 to deliver the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. It is estimated that in 2021, only €27 billion was invested by the EU and its Member States. Bridging the funding gap at both EU and national levels is imperative to address the biodiversity loss crisis; it’s also an opportunity to empower those on the front lines of nature restoration, enhance our resilience to climate disasters, and support sustainable food production. Finally, financing nature is an investment, not a cost, as investing 1€ in nature restoration brings 8€ in return in economic benefits.

Does your party support increasing EU and national investments in nature, to at least €50 billion annually?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we support increasing EU and national investments in nature, to at least €50 billion annually

☒ Yes, we support increasing EU and national investments in nature compared to today, but do not commit to any specific figure

☐ No, we do not support increasing EU and national investments in nature compared to today

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
8. Implementing the United Nations Global Biodiversity Framework

Worldwide, 75% of land surface and 66% of the ocean area is impacted by human activities. This phenomenon deeply affects not only the diverse species that call these ecosystems home, but also the wellbeing of future generations. Indeed, it reduces these areas’ capacity to act as carbon sinks and protect against the impacts of climate change. The EU committed in its Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 to establishing a coherent and effectively managed protected area network. The network should cover at least 30% of the EU land and 30% of the EU sea area, and include at least one-third of strictly protected areas by 2030. Furthermore, at global level, the UN Global Biodiversity Framework sets an objective of effectively protecting 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of coastal and marine areas by 2030. To achieve these objectives, the EU is relying on a voluntary mechanism, which, so far, hasn’t been very effective. Currently, only a handful of EU Member States have submitted national pledges, although the deadline was the end of 2022. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to review the Biodiversity Strategy and turn these voluntary pledges into legally binding targets, helping protect these precious ecosystems and the life forms they sustain.

Does your party commit to protecting natural areas and achieve the targets set under the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the Global Biodiversity Framework, by turning voluntary pledges into legally binding targets for all EU Member States?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we support the establishment of legally binding targets for EU Member States to achieve the 2030 objectives on protected areas

☐ No, we believe voluntary pledges for EU Member States are sufficient to achieve the 2030 objectives on protected areas

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
9. Redirecting fossil fuel and other environmentally harmful subsidies

Subsidies to environmentally harmful practices, such as fossil fuels and industrial agricultural practices, contribute to overexploitation of natural resources, biodiversity loss, and increased greenhouse gas emissions. They entail enormous human and financial hidden costs, while also representing a missed opportunity for funding the European Green Deal. Redirecting these subsidies is crucial, as it would promote sustainability, and foster the transition to a more environmentally responsible economy. To tackle this problem, the EU and its Member States have made repeated non-binding commitments to phase out public subsidies for fossil fuels, and for other nature-damaging activities. However, there is currently no legal framework to support these commitments. As a result, only minimal progress has been achieved. Redirecting all harmful subsidies towards the green transition, with a focus on supporting vulnerable households and key economic sectors in that transition, would be a key step in funding these crucial efforts.

Does your party commit to redirecting fossil fuel and other environmentally harmful EU and national subsidies towards the green transition, with a priority focus on helping vulnerable people and key stakeholders?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we support the adoption and implementation of legal measures to phase out fossil fuel and environmentally harmful EU and national subsidies, and believe these subsidies should - as a priority - be reoriented towards the green transition, with a focus on helping vulnerable people and key stakeholders.

☒ Yes, we support the aim of phasing out fossil fuel and environmentally harmful subsidies, and believe these subsidies should - as a priority - be reoriented towards the achievement of the green transition, with a focus on helping vulnerable people and key stakeholders in the green transition; however, we do not believe additional legal measures are required to achieve this aim.

☐ No, we do not support the aim of phasing out fossil fuel and environmentally harmful subsidies.

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
10. Supporting an EU framework for transition finance

Green finance is a powerful tool to achieve a greener economy, as it directs capital and investment towards environmentally sustainable activities. A first necessary step is to define what constitutes such ‘environmentally sustainable activities’. The EU has made significant progress in this area by creating the EU Taxonomy\(^2\) in 2021. However, this classification system is incomplete, as there is no clear differentiation between unsustainable activities that should be promptly phased out, and activities that can ultimately reach the green category, provided an activity-specific investment plan is set up. To achieve a truly ‘green financial system’, it is crucial to enhance the EU sustainable finance regulatory framework. The most impactful solution would be to extend the EU Taxonomy framework from the current single category (‘sustainable’) to three categories in a traffic-light system; the new system would differentiate economic activities that are ‘sustainable’, ‘intermediate’ (in transition), and ‘unsustainable’.

\(^2\) The EU taxonomy refers to a classification system established by the European Union to define what economic activities can be considered environmentally sustainable.

Does your party commit to extend the EU framework on sustainable finance by adding two categories which help differentiate between ‘intermediate’ and ‘unsustainable’ economic activities, in addition to the already defined ‘sustainable’ activities?

Please select one of the answers below:

- X Yes, we support the adoption of an ‘extended’ taxonomy with three categories, clarifying what constitutes ‘sustainable’, ‘intermediate’ and ‘unsustainable’ economic activities
- ☐ Yes, we support the adoption of an ‘extended’ taxonomy with two categories, clarifying what constitutes ‘sustainable’ and ‘intermediate’ economic activities
- ☐ No, we do not support the adoption of an ‘extended’ taxonomy and believe the current approach of a ‘sustainable’ taxonomy is sufficient

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
11. Achieving a 100% renewables target

Boosting the share of renewables in Europe’s energy sources is crucial to combat climate change and guarantee a more stable energy supply, as well as affordable prices for European households. In 2023, the EU adopted the revised Renewable Energy Directive (RED), which raised the share of renewable energy in Europe’s overall energy consumption to 42.5% by 2030. The new version of the directive also includes an additional 2.5% indicative top up that would allow it to reach 45%. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to define a target for 2040, as part of the next revision of the RED in the next five years. Your support to increase the share of renewable energy will be key to achieving climate neutrality and energy independence.

What percentage share of renewable energy in the EU’s overall energy consumption does your party commit to enshrining in EU law?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ 100% by 2040

☒ We support moving to 100% renewable energy, but achieving this by 2040 will be too difficult

☐ We don’t support a 100% renewable energy target

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
12. Ensuring nature-friendly deployment of renewable energy infrastructure

A rapid expansion in wind and solar power is crucial if we are to increase our energy security and stop runaway climate change. Nonetheless, this must be done with public consent and in an environmentally-friendly way. The new permitting rules in the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) set tighter deadlines for planning decisions, and require Member States to identify Renewable Acceleration Areas (RAAs), both of which are welcome. However, the rules also exempt projects in RAAs from Environmental Impact Assessments - which provide opportunities for public consultation - and require all renewables everywhere to be presumed as being in the overriding public interest. These new, unnecessary provisions undermine the public trust in renewables as well as the vital nature protection measures in the Birds, Habitats and Water Framework Directives.

Will your party seek to reverse the scrapping of environmental protection rules in the Renewable Energy Directive, and to ensure that we tackle the climate and biodiversity crises in parallel?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we believe that the rapid expansion of renewables depends on robust ecosystem-based spatial planning, and so we would reinstate the requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment for all projects, and cancel the presumption of overriding public interest.

☒ No, we would keep the new permitting rules as they are.

☐ No, we would pursue even further relaxation of nature protection rules, which we believe are too strict and/or administratively burdensome for a rapid expansion in wind and solar power.

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
13. Speeding up progress towards a good status of rivers, lakes and groundwater

Humans, animals, and plants all depend on freshwater for survival. Beyond its role in supporting life, it also plays a key role in agriculture, various industrial processes, and climate regulation. Unfortunately, freshwater resources in Europe are facing numerous threats, including pollution, over-extraction, and climate change. The Water Framework Directive, the main piece of EU legislation on water, sets an objective of bringing all lakes, rivers, and groundwater back to good health in 2027. However, since its adoption in 2000, very little progress has been made to protect and restore watersheds. Furthermore, nearly 60% of EU rivers and lakes are still not in good condition today, with many waters exempted from meeting the legal obligations. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to engage in this process and foster better implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

Will your party commit to pushing Member States to take the necessary measures and speed up progress towards the Water Framework Directive’s objective of good status of rivers, lakes and groundwater in 2027?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we support the objectives of the Water Framework Directive, and believe Member States need to speed up progress towards the Directive’s objectives

☒ Yes, we support the objectives of the Water Framework Directive but we think Member States need more time and flexibility to achieve them

☐ No, we believe that the implementation of the Water Framework Directive is not feasible and we call for lowering the Directive’s objectives

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
14. **Better implementing the Common Fisheries Policy**

Fisheries hold a crucial role in the EU society, economy and food system, supporting employment and contributing to the nutritional wellbeing of the population. Yet, their intricate connection to climate change and overfishing poses challenges, impacting marine biodiversity and fish stocks, and contributing to wider environmental issues. In 2023, the European Commission published its ‘Fisheries Package’, a series of strategies and policy recommendations supporting EU fishers in transitioning towards environmentally sustainable, socially fair and economically viable practices. One of its recommendations is to better implement certain legal provisions of the Common Fisheries Policy in order to end overfishing and deliver ecosystem-based fisheries management.

Will your party commit to fully implementing the Common Fisheries Policy, to end overfishing and deliver ecosystem-based fisheries management?

Please select one of the answers below:

- X Yes, we support the full implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy to deliver low-impact, sustainable EU fisheries
- ☐ No, we believe that there is no further need to step up the implementation of the current Common Fisheries Policy and efforts today are satisfactory to achieve low-impact, sustainable EU fisheries
- ☐ No, we believe that the current objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy are not realistic and should be revised

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
15. Mainstreaming an ecosystem-based approach across all maritime policies

Our ocean plays a vital role in helping regulate the climate. It stores equivalent amounts of carbon to terrestrial ecosystems and removes around one-third of CO2 emitted by human activity. It also hosts a diverse range of ecosystems and provides an immense cultural and recreational value. As such, its protection is essential and needs a transversal approach. While the European Green Deal triggered a shift away from environmental degradation towards a more sustainable society, the absence of meaningful attention to our ocean in the European Green Deal sparks concerns and conflicts in implementation. Indeed, ocean-related policies lack alignment and coherence with recently adopted EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives. Improvements are needed to make these policies fit for effectively protecting our ocean and fostering a sustainable blue economy.

Does your party support adapting EU maritime policies to align them with EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives, to foster a sustainable blue economy?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we commit to adapting all EU maritime policies to the EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives, and we support new legislative initiatives

X Yes, we commit to adapting all EU maritime policies to EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives, but only through non-legislative measures

☐ No, we do not believe it is necessary to improve coherence between EU maritime policies and the EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
16. Improving access to information, public participation and access to justice

To properly implement EU law, including environmental legislation, it is crucial for both civil society and individual citizens to have the ability to access public information and - if needed - to seek justice through national courts. As of 2022, access to justice for the concerned public is impeded in 21 out of 27 Member States due to persistent barriers\(^3\). Together with poor access to information on environmental decision-making, these obstacles include limitations on the right of environmental NGOs and individuals to bring cases to court, high and prohibitive costs, and judges applying an insufficient scope. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to improve the implementation of the European Green Deal by addressing and removing the ongoing barriers to accessing information and justice in Member States - ensuring citizens’ fundamental rights.

\(^3\) Based on the European Commission’s 2022 Environmental Implementation Review, see here, p. 5

Will your party commit to improving the public’s access to information and effective access to justice?

Please select one of the answers below:

- **X** Yes, we commit to stepping up national implementation of existing obligations on access to information and access to justice, and to supporting further initiatives at EU level to tackle the inconsistent and uneven compliance with access to justice requirements across the EU and its Member States
- ☐ Yes, we support stepping up national implementation of existing obligations on access to information and access to justice, but do not believe further initiatives at EU level are necessary
- ☐ No, we do not support taking any further actions to provide the public with access to information and effective access to justice

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
17. Promoting a just and fair transition

The transition to climate neutrality in the EU is most keenly felt at a local level. Millions of citizens will need to retrain or find new employment as polluting industries are replaced by nature-positive and climate-neutral industries. Furthermore, lowest income households have the most difficulty in accessing clean energy and energy-saving technologies such as heat-pumps, electric vehicles, and solar panels. While the current EU just transition framework focuses on rapid decarbonisation in a number of specific regions, additional broader measures are needed. Unless the green transition is accompanied by policies that mitigate its social impact, we will experience rising inequality, increased poverty and reduced social cohesion. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to address this challenge, ensuring that the transition towards sustainability leaves no-one behind.

Does your party commit to a just and fair transition by mandating large-scale EU investment in energy-saving, renovation, and retraining/re-employment programmes?

Please select one of the answers below:

X Yes, we support the introduction of further large-scale EU investment programmes to facilitate a just and fair transition

☐ No, we do not support the introduction of further large-scale EU investment programmes to facilitate a just and fair transition

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
18. Reducing the EU’s impact on deforestation

Despite seven in ten Europeans wanting deforestation off their supermarket shelves, the EU is still one of the world’s largest importers of tropical deforestation and associated emissions. In 2023, the EU adopted a new law aiming to halt the trade in products linked to deforestation on the European market - the Regulation on Deforestation-free products. If the EU wants to fully address consumers’ concern on this issue, this new Deforestation Law needs to be extended beyond its current scope of tropical forests only. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to support the integration into the law of products linked to the deforestation and degradation of other wooded lands, such as savannahs, grasslands and wetlands.

Does your party commit to reducing the EU’s impact on deforestation by supporting the extension of the scope of the EU Regulation on Deforestation-free products (EUDR) to other wooded lands, such as savannahs and grasslands?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we support extending the scope of the EUDR to other wooded lands in the next five years

☐ No, we do not support extending the scope of the EUDR to other wooded lands in the next five years

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
WWF’S PARTY QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE 2024 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTION

RESPONSES FROM:
THE EUROPEAN GREEN PARTY
1. Maintaining and strengthening the European Green Deal

In 2019, the EU launched the European Green Deal, a comprehensive agenda to tackle climate change and environmental degradation, and make the EU’s economy more resource-efficient and competitive. The European Green Deal includes policies on climate, energy, biodiversity, agriculture, circular economy, transport and finance. However, several commitments are yet to be turned into reality (e.g. transition to sustainable food systems), and some actions taken do not match the initial ambition (e.g. the overall EU emissions reduction agreed by 2030). If elected, your party can help the EU transition to a greener and more just model by ensuring the European Green Deal is fully put into action.

Does your party commit to upholding the European Green Deal in the next five years, by making its implementation a top priority, as well as supporting additional and stronger EU climate and environmental legislation in order to meet the commitments made under the European Green Deal?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we will uphold the European Green Deal as one of the main political priorities, including by supporting additional and stronger EU climate and environmental legislation

☐ Yes, we will uphold the European Green Deal as one of the main political priorities, but we will only support the implementation of existing EU climate and environmental legislation

☐ No, we will not maintain the European Green Deal as one of the main political priorities

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
2. Achieving climate neutrality

With the European Green Deal, the EU has enshrined into the European Climate Law its goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, with intermediary targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and by 2040. The first intermediary legal target is already set to cut the EU's 'net emissions' (emissions after deduction of carbon removals such as forests and other landscapes) by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. However, there is no legal target for the second intermediary target for 2040 yet. According to the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change's recent advice on the 2040 target, the EU has already, under certain ethical principles, exhausted its fair share of the global emissions budget. WWF’s position is that the EU should aim to reach climate neutrality - i.e. a 100% reduction in net GHG emissions - by 2040, instead of 2050.

What level of reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 does your party commit to enshrine into EU law?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ At least 100% (i.e. reach climate neutrality by 2040)
☐ At least 90%
☐ Less than 90%, or no legally binding 2040 target at all

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
3. Ending fossil fuel use

The geopolitical and subsequent energy crisis that is ongoing in Europe underscores the staggering cost of our dependence on fossil fuels. Fossil energy is not only increasingly expensive for the most vulnerable households, but it is also polluting and unsustainable. The EU must rapidly transition away from fossil fuels use in order to become a climate-neutral economy and avoid the worst impacts of climate change. At the moment, there is no legally binding approach to phase-out fossil fuels. It is crucial for the EU to set legally binding targets for the complete phase-out of coal by 2030, gas by 2035, and oil by 2040.

Does your party commit to setting near-term and legally binding target dates for ending coal, gas and oil use, in that order?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we commit to setting legally binding target dates for the complete phase-out of coal by 2030, gas by 2035, and oil by 2040

☐ Yes, we commit to setting legally binding target dates for the complete phase-out of coal, gas and oil use, but think the target dates of 2030, 2035 and 2040 are too strict

☐ No, we do not commit to setting legally binding target dates for ending coal, gas and oil use

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
4. Transitioning towards sustainable food systems

The impact of our current food system can be felt in our daily lives. People are increasingly struggling to access healthy and sustainable food. Also, our food system is contributing significantly to biodiversity loss, the depletion of natural resources and climate change. This is why policymakers need to define legally binding principles and objectives to improve our food system, for all actors from food processing, to distribution and consumption. The EU has made a step in this direction by presenting, as part of the Farm to Fork Strategy, the idea of an overarching regulation on sustainable food systems. However, this is yet to be presented as a legislative proposal that can be negotiated by the European Parliament and Member States. WWF is calling on the Commission and political parties to support the swift publication of the proposal - with standards for European products also applying to imported ones. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to support the publication of this new law and to actively help foster a sustainable, fair and healthy model for food producers and consumers in Europe.

1 The Farm to Fork Strategy is at the heart of the European Green Deal aiming to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly.

Does your party support the adoption of new legislation setting comprehensive and science-based quantitative targets, in order to enhance sustainability throughout the entire food supply chain?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support the adoption of legislation on sustainable food systems, setting overarching principles and quantitative binding targets to involve more strongly food manufacturers, distributors, and consumers, in the green transition

☐ Yes, we support the adoption of legislation on sustainable food systems, but it should be limited to set general principles and objectives - without quantitative binding targets

☐ No, we do not support the adoption of any new legislation on sustainable food systems

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
5. Reforming the Common Agricultural Policy

The relationship between European farmers, climate change and biodiversity loss is intricate. On the one hand, our agricultural practices significantly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and nature loss; on the other hand, farmers find themselves increasingly vulnerable to the repercussions of the climate change and biodiversity crises. In 2025, the European Commission is due to make a legislative proposal to design a new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the period after 2027. It will be the first opportunity to align the CAP with the vision of the Farm to Fork Strategy, and redirect the CAP’s direct payments to financially support farmers in the transition to a more sustainable food system. If elected, your party will be able to empower farmers and help them build resilience while reducing the environmental impact of the EU’s agriculture production.

Does your party support revising the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal, and redirect support for farmers towards their transition to agro-ecological practices?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we commit to revising the CAP in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and European Green Deal, and we support phasing out its direct payments and instead redirect EU public funds to support farmers in the transition to a more sustainable food system.

☐ Yes, we commit to revising the CAP in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal, but we do not support phasing out its direct payments.

☐ No, we do not support revising the CAP in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal.

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
6. Adopting a climate resilience framework

Nature is crucial for building resilience to climate change, with healthy ecosystems like floodplains, free-flowing rivers, resilient forests and agricultural landscapes serving as defences against floods, droughts and wildfires. Neglecting nature increases our vulnerability and financial burdens from extreme weather, with the EU already facing over €12 billion in annual losses. As a matter of security, the EU needs a new climate resilience framework with both legislative and non-legislative measures, integrating climate change impacts into all policies. This framework would encourage smart investments in various sectors (energy, transport, agriculture or forests), focusing on nature-based solutions instead of grey infrastructure - which in many cases only increases vulnerability to climate change impacts in the long run. It would support cities and rural areas to cope with the rapidly changing climate, and would help protect EU citizens, including farmers, fishers and businesses. Examples include wetland restoration so that they can absorb and filter water and store it in the ground, rather than building new dams, heightening dykes or implementing large-scale water transfers to manage water. It also means extracting only the amount of water we need for agro-ecological farming and cultures adapted to a changing climate, and for drinking water in the most water-stressed areas.

Does your party support the adoption of a new framework consisting of legislative and non-legislative measures to promote climate resilience, with the aim of strengthening the adaptability of European ecosystems to protect our society from climate-related hazards?

Please select one of the answers below:

☑ Yes, we support the adoption of new legislative and non-legislative measures on climate resilience which prioritise the deployment and upscaling of nature-based solutions

☐ Yes, we support the adoption of new non-legislative measures on climate resilience which prioritise the deployment and upscaling of nature-based solutions, but do not support new legislative measures

☐ No, we believe the EU already has sufficient legislative and non-legislative measures to support climate adaptation and/or nature-based solutions

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
7. Increasing investments in nature and people

To mitigate climate change and adapt our society and economy to its shocks, it is crucial that we protect and restore our ecosystems. This necessitates a redirection of environmentally harmful subsidies towards investments in nature, accompanied by financial support for farmers, foresters, landowners, fishers, coastal communities, and local collectives engaged in nature restoration activities. A study commissioned by the European Commission conservatively estimates that at least €48 billion are required annually between 2021 and 2030 to deliver the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. It is estimated that in 2021, only €27 billion was invested by the EU and its Member States. Bridging the funding gap at both EU and national levels is imperative to address the biodiversity loss crisis; it's also an opportunity to empower those on the front lines of nature restoration, enhance our resilience to climate disasters, and support sustainable food production. Finally, financing nature is an investment, not a cost, as investing 1€ in nature restoration brings 8€ in return in economic benefits.

Does your party support increasing EU and national investments in nature, to at least €50 billion annually?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support increasing EU and national investments in nature, to at least €50 billion annually
☐ Yes, we support increasing EU and national investments in nature compared to today, but do not commit to any specific figure
☐ No, we do not support increasing EU and national investments in nature compared to today

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
8. Implementing the United Nations Global Biodiversity Framework

Worldwide, 75% of land surface and 66% of the ocean area is impacted by human activities. This phenomenon deeply affects not only the diverse species that call these ecosystems home, but also the wellbeing of future generations. Indeed, it reduces these areas’ capacity to act as carbon sinks and protect against the impacts of climate change. The EU committed in its Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 to establishing a coherent and effectively managed protected area network. The network should cover at least 30% of the EU land and 30% of the EU sea area, and include at least one-third of strictly protected areas by 2030. Furthermore, at global level, the UN Global Biodiversity Framework sets an objective of effectively protecting 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of coastal and marine areas by 2030. To achieve these objectives, the EU is relying on a voluntary mechanism, which, so far, hasn't been very effective. Currently, only a handful of EU Member States have submitted national pledges, although the deadline was the end of 2022. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to review the Biodiversity Strategy and turn these voluntary pledges into legally binding targets, helping protect these precious ecosystems and the life forms they sustain.

Does your party commit to protecting natural areas and achieve the targets set under the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the Global Biodiversity Framework, by turning voluntary pledges into legally binding targets for all EU Member States?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support the establishment of legally binding targets for EU Member States to achieve the 2030 objectives on protected areas

☐ No, we believe voluntary pledges for EU Member States are sufficient to achieve the 2030 objectives on protected areas

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
9. Redirecting fossil fuel and other environmentally harmful subsidies

Subsidies to environmentally harmful practices, such as fossil fuels and industrial agricultural practices, contribute to overexploitation of natural resources, biodiversity loss, and increased greenhouse gas emissions. They entail enormous human and financial hidden costs, while also representing a missed opportunity for funding the European Green Deal. Redirecting these subsidies is crucial, as it would promote sustainability, and foster the transition to a more environmentally responsible economy. To tackle this problem, the EU and its Member States have made repeated non-binding commitments to phase out public subsidies for fossil fuels, and for other nature-damaging activities. However, there is currently no legal framework to support these commitments. As a result, only minimal progress has been achieved. Redirecting all harmful subsidies towards the green transition, with a focus on supporting vulnerable households and key economic sectors in that transition, would be a key step in funding these crucial efforts.

Does your party commit to redirecting fossil fuel and other environmentally harmful EU and national subsidies towards the green transition, with a priority focus on helping vulnerable people and key economic sectors?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support the adoption and implementation of legal measures to phase out fossil fuel and environmentally harmful EU and national subsidies, and believe these subsidies should - as a priority – be reoriented towards the green transition, with a focus on helping vulnerable people and key stakeholders

☐ Yes, we support the aim of phasing out fossil fuel and environmentally harmful subsidies, and believe these subsidies should - as a priority - be reoriented towards the achievement of the green transition, with a focus on helping vulnerable people and key stakeholders in the green transition; however, we do not believe additional legal measures are required to achieve this aim

☐ No, we do not support the aim of phasing out fossil fuel and environmentally harmful subsidies

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
Green finance is a powerful tool to achieve a greener economy, as it directs capital and investment towards environmentally sustainable activities. A first necessary step is to define what constitutes such ‘environmentally sustainable activities’. The EU has made significant progress in this area by creating the EU Taxonomy in 2021. However, this classification system is incomplete, as there is no clear differentiation between unsustainable activities that should be promptly phased out, and activities that can ultimately reach the green category, provided an activity-specific investment plan is set up. To achieve a truly ‘green financial system’, it is crucial to enhance the EU sustainable finance regulatory framework. The most impactful solution would be to extend the EU Taxonomy framework from the current single category (‘sustainable’) to three categories in a traffic-light system; the new system would differentiate economic activities that are ‘sustainable’, ‘intermediate’ (in transition), and ‘unsustainable’.

2 The EU taxonomy refers to a classification system established by the European Union to define what economic activities can be considered environmentally sustainable.

Does your party commit to extend the EU framework on sustainable finance by adding two categories which help differentiate between ‘intermediate’ and ‘unsustainable’ economic activities, in addition to the already defined ‘sustainable’ activities?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support the adoption of an ‘extended’ taxonomy with three categories, clarifying what constitutes ‘sustainable’, ‘intermediate’ and ‘unsustainable’ economic activities

☐ Yes, we support the adoption of an ‘extended’ taxonomy with two categories, clarifying what constitutes ‘sustainable’ and ‘intermediate’ economic activities

☐ No, we do not support the adoption of an ‘extended’ taxonomy and believe the current approach of a ‘sustainable’ taxonomy is sufficient

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
11. **Achieving a 100% renewables target**

Boosting the share of renewables in Europe's energy sources is crucial to combat climate change and guarantee a more stable energy supply, as well as affordable prices for European households. In 2023, the EU adopted the **revised Renewable Energy Directive** (RED), which raised the share of renewable energy in Europe's overall energy consumption to 42.5% by 2030. The new version of the directive also includes an additional 2.5% indicative top up that would allow it to reach 45%. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to define a target for 2040, as part of the next revision of the RED in the next five years. Your support to increase the share of renewable energy will be key to achieving climate neutrality and energy independence.

**What percentage share of renewable energy in the EU’s overall energy consumption does your party commit to enshrining in EU law?**

Please select one of the answers below:

☑ 100% by 2040

☐ We support moving to 100% renewable energy, but achieving this by 2040 will be too difficult

☐ We don’t support a 100% renewable energy target

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
12. Ensuring nature-friendly deployment of renewable energy infrastructure

A rapid expansion in wind and solar power is crucial if we are to increase our energy security and stop runaway climate change. Nonetheless, this must be done with public consent and in an environmentally-friendly way. The new permitting rules in the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) set tighter deadlines for planning decisions, and require Member States to identify Renewable Acceleration Areas (RAAs), both of which are welcome. However, the rules also exempt projects in RAAs from Environmental Impact Assessments - which provide opportunities for public consultation - and require all renewables everywhere to be presumed as being in the overriding public interest. These new, unnecessary provisions undermine the public trust in renewables as well as the vital nature protection measures in the Birds, Habitats and Water Framework Directives.

Will your party seek to reverse the scrapping of environmental protection rules in the Renewable Energy Directive, and to ensure that we tackle the climate and biodiversity crises in parallel?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we believe that the rapid expansion of renewables depends on robust ecosystem-based spatial planning, and so we would reinstate the requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment for all projects, and cancel the presumption of overriding public interest.

☐ No, we would keep the new permitting rules as they are.

☐ No, we would pursue even further relaxation of nature protection rules, which we believe are too strict and/or administratively burdensome for a rapid expansion in wind and solar power.

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
13. Speeding up progress towards a good status of rivers, lakes and groundwater

Humans, animals, and plants all depend on freshwater for survival. Beyond its role in supporting life, it also plays a key role in agriculture, various industrial processes, and climate regulation. Unfortunately, freshwater resources in Europe are facing numerous threats, including pollution, over-extraction, and climate change. The Water Framework Directive, the main piece of EU legislation on water, sets an objective of bringing all lakes, rivers, and groundwater back to good health in 2027. However, since its adoption in 2000, very little progress has been made to protect and restore watersheds. Furthermore, nearly 60% of EU rivers and lakes are still not in good condition today, with many waters exempted from meeting the legal obligations. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to engage in this process and foster better implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

Will your party commit to pushing Member States to take the necessary measures and speed up progress towards the Water Framework Directive’s objective of good status of rivers, lakes and groundwater in 2027?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support the objectives of the Water Framework Directive, and believe Member States need to speed up progress towards the Directive’s objectives

☐ Yes, we support the objectives of the Water Framework Directive but we think Member States need more time and flexibility to achieve them

☐ No, we believe that the implementation of the Water Framework Directive is not feasible and we call for lowering the Directive’s objectives

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
14. Better implementing the Common Fisheries Policy

Fisheries hold a crucial role in the EU society, economy and food system, supporting employment and contributing to the nutritional wellbeing of the population. Yet, their intricate connection to climate change and overfishing poses challenges, impacting marine biodiversity and fish stocks, and contributing to wider environmental issues. In 2023, the European Commission published its “Fisheries Package”, a series of strategies and policy recommendations supporting EU fishers in transitioning towards environmentally sustainable, socially fair and economically viable practices. One of its recommendations is to better implement certain legal provisions of the Common Fisheries Policy in order to end overfishing and deliver ecosystem-based fisheries management.

Will your party commit to fully implementing the Common Fisheries Policy, to end overfishing and deliver ecosystem-based fisheries management?

Please select one of the answers below:

☑ Yes, we support the full implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy to deliver low-impact, sustainable EU fisheries

☐ No, we believe that there is no further need to step up the implementation of the current Common Fisheries Policy and efforts today are satisfactory to achieve low-impact, sustainable EU fisheries

☐ No, we believe that the current objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy are not realistic and should be revised

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
15. **Mainstreaming an ecosystem-based approach across all maritime policies**

Our ocean plays a vital role in helping regulate the climate. It stores equivalent amounts of carbon to terrestrial ecosystems and removes around one-third of CO₂ emitted by human activity. It also hosts a diverse range of ecosystems and provides an immense cultural and recreational value. As such, its protection is essential and needs a transversal approach. While the European Green Deal triggered a shift away from environmental degradation towards a more sustainable society, the absence of meaningful attention to our ocean in the European Green Deal sparks concerns and conflicts in implementation. Indeed, ocean-related policies lack alignment and coherence with recently adopted EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives. Improvements are needed to make these policies fit for effectively protecting our ocean and fostering a sustainable blue economy.

**Does your party support adapting EU maritime policies to align them with EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives, to foster a sustainable blue economy?**

Please select one of the answers below:

☑ Yes, we commit to adapting all EU maritime policies to the EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives, and we support new legislative initiatives

☐ Yes, we commit to adapting all EU maritime policies to EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives, but only through non-legislative measures

☐ No, we do not believe it is necessary to improve coherence between EU maritime policies and the EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
To properly implement EU law, including environmental legislation, it is crucial for both civil society and individual citizens to have the ability to access public information and - if needed - to seek justice through national courts. As of 2022, access to justice for the concerned public is impeded in 21 out of 27 Member States due to persistent barriers. Together with poor access to information on environmental decision-making, these obstacles include limitations on the right of environmental NGOs and individuals to bring cases to court, high and prohibitive costs, and judges applying an insufficient scope. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to improve the implementation of the European Green Deal by addressing and removing the ongoing barriers to accessing information and justice in Member States - ensuring citizens’ fundamental rights.

Based on the European Commission’s 2022 Environmental Implementation Review, see here, p. 5

**Will your party commit to improving the public’s access to information and effective access to justice?**

Please select one of the answers below:

☑ Yes, we commit to stepping up national implementation of existing obligations on access to information and access to justice, and to supporting further initiatives at EU level to tackle the inconsistent and uneven compliance with access to justice requirements across the EU and its Member States

☐ Yes, we support stepping up national implementation of existing obligations on access to information and access to justice, but do not believe further initiatives at EU level are necessary

☐ No, we do not support taking any further actions to provide the public with access to information and effective access to justice

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
17. Promoting a just and fair transition

The transition to climate neutrality in the EU is most keenly felt at a local level. Millions of citizens will need to retrain or find new employment as polluting industries are replaced by nature-positive and climate-neutral industries. Furthermore, lowest income households have the most difficulty in accessing clean energy and energy-saving technologies such as heat-pumps, electric vehicles, and solar panels. While the current EU just transition framework focuses on rapid decarbonisation in a number of specific regions, additional broader measures are needed. Unless the green transition is accompanied by policies that mitigate its social impact, we will experience rising inequality, increased poverty and reduced social cohesion. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to address this challenge, ensuring that the transition towards sustainability leaves no one behind.

Does your party commit to a just and fair transition by mandating large-scale EU investment in energy-saving, renovation, and retraining/re-employment programmes?

Please select one of the answers below:

☑ Yes, we support the introduction of further large-scale EU investment programmes to facilitate a just and fair transition

☐ No, we do not support the introduction of further large-scale EU investment programmes to facilitate a just and fair transition

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
18. Reducing the EU’s impact on deforestation

Despite seven in ten Europeans wanting deforestation off their supermarket shelves, the EU is still one of the world’s largest importers of tropical deforestation and associated emissions. In 2023, the EU adopted a new law aiming to halt the trade in products linked to deforestation on the European market - the Regulation on Deforestation-free products. If the EU wants to fully address consumers’ concern on this issue, this new Deforestation Law needs to be extended beyond its current scope of tropical forests only. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to support the integration into the law of products linked to the deforestation and degradation of other wooded lands, such as savannahs, grasslands and wetlands.

Does your party commit to reducing the EU’s impact on deforestation by supporting the extension of the scope of the EU Regulation on Deforestation-free products (EUDR) to other wooded lands, such as savannahs and grasslands?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support extending the scope of the EUDR to other wooded lands in the next five years

☐ No, we do not support extending the scope of the EUDR to other wooded lands in the next five years

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
1. Maintaining and strengthening the European Green Deal

In 2019, the EU launched the European Green Deal, a comprehensive agenda to tackle climate change and environmental degradation, and make the EU's economy more resource-efficient and competitive. The European Green Deal includes policies on climate, energy, biodiversity, agriculture, circular economy, transport and finance. However, several commitments are yet to be turned into reality (e.g. transition to sustainable food systems), and some actions taken do not match the initial ambition (e.g. the overall EU emissions reduction agreed by 2030). If elected, your party can help the EU transition to a greener and more just model by ensuring the European Green Deal is fully put into action.

Does your party commit to upholding the European Green Deal in the next five years, by making its implementation a top priority, as well as supporting additional and stronger EU climate and environmental legislation in order to meet the commitments made under the European Green Deal?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we will uphold the European Green Deal as one of the main political priorities, including by supporting additional and stronger EU climate and environmental legislation

☐ Yes, we will uphold the European Green Deal as one of the main political priorities, but we will only support the implementation of existing EU climate and environmental legislation

☐ No, we will not maintain the European Green Deal as one of the main political priorities

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

EFA supports the Green Deal in principle, but we seek a different model for its design and implementation. We find the policy approach too centralised and top-down. We seek environmental targets that do not place too much burden on vulnerable communities, rural areas or small scale farmers - or individual citizens. We seek special adaptations for small and medium enterprises and remote, rural or peripheral regions, including a special status for islands.
2. Achieving climate neutrality

With the European Green Deal, the EU has enshrined into the European Climate Law its goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, with intermediary targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and by 2040. The first intermediary legal target is already set to cut the EU's 'net emissions' (emissions after deduction of carbon removals such as forests and other landscapes) by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. However, there is no legal target for the second intermediary target for 2040 yet. According to the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change's recent advice on the 2040 target, the EU has already, under certain ethical principles, exhausted its fair share of the global emissions budget. WWF’s position is that the EU should aim to reach climate neutrality - i.e. a 100% reduction in net GHG emissions - by 2040, instead of 2050.

What level of reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 does your party commit to enshrine into EU law?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ At least 100% (i.e. reach climate neutrality by 2040)
☒ At least 90%
☐ Less than 90%, or no legally binding 2040 target at all

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

EFA supports moving towards climate neutrality as fast as possible, so long as this can be done fairly. But we should maintain flexibility and not rush to achieve targets if that would mean too much burden on vulnerable sectors or communities.

As the EFA Congress has not debated the details of this policy for inclusion in our manifesto, we cannot "commit". EFA cannot bind its member parties or MEPs.
3. Ending fossil fuel use

The geopolitical and subsequent energy crisis that is ongoing in Europe underscores the staggering cost of our dependence on fossil fuels. Fossil energy is not only increasingly expensive for the most vulnerable households, but it is also polluting and unsustainable. The EU must rapidly transition away from fossil fuels use in order to become a climate-neutral economy and avoid the worst impacts of climate change. At the moment, there is no legally binding approach to phase-out fossil fuels. It is crucial for the EU to set legally binding targets for the complete phase-out of coal by 2030, gas by 2035, and oil by 2040.

Does your party commit to setting near-term and legally binding target dates for ending coal, gas and oil use, in that order?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we commit to setting legally binding target dates for the complete phase-out of coal by 2030, gas by 2035, and oil by 2040

☒ Yes, we commit to setting legally binding target dates for the complete phase-out of coal, gas and oil use, but think the target dates of 2030, 2035 and 2040 are too strict

☐ No, we do not commit to setting legally binding target dates for ending coal, gas and oil use

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

Phasing out fossil fuels must be accompanied with proper support for transitioning workforces and supporting the communities most affected. While we support the transition in principle, we should allow ourselves room to ensure that process is fair for all. As the EFA Congress has not debated the details of this policy for inclusion in our manifesto, we cannot "commit". EFA cannot bind its member parties or MEPs.
4. Transitioning towards sustainable food systems

The impact of our current food system can be felt in our daily lives. People are increasingly struggling to access healthy and sustainable food. Also, our food system is contributing significantly to biodiversity loss, the depletion of natural resources and climate change. This is why policymakers need to define legally binding principles and objectives to improve our food system, for all actors from food processing, to distribution and consumption. The EU has made a step in this direction by presenting, as part of the Farm to Fork Strategy\(^1\), the idea of an overarching regulation on sustainable food systems. However, this is yet to be presented as a legislative proposal that can be negotiated by the European Parliament and Member States. WWF is calling on the Commission and political parties to support the swift publication of the proposal- with standards for European products also applying to imported ones. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to support the publication of this new law and to actively help foster a sustainable, fair and healthy model for food producers and consumers in Europe.

\(^{1}\) The Farm to Fork Strategy is at the heart of the European Green Deal aiming to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly.

Does your party support the adoption of new legislation setting comprehensive and science-based quantitative targets, in order to enhance sustainability throughout the entire food supply chain?

Please select one of the answers below:

☑ Yes, we support the adoption of legislation on sustainable food systems, setting overarching principles and quantitative binding targets to involve more strongly food manufacturers, distributors, and consumers, in the green transition

☐ Yes, we support the adoption of legislation on sustainable food systems, but it should be limited to set general principles and objectives - without quantitative binding targets

☐ No, we do not support the adoption of any new legislation on sustainable food systems

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

For EFA, it is important that the green transition places special focus on supporting small scale farmers and their communities. We also see opportunities for local producers in building a more sustainable food system.
5. Reforming the Common Agricultural Policy

The relationship between European farmers, climate change and biodiversity loss is intricate. On the one hand, our agricultural practices significantly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and nature loss; on the other hand, farmers find themselves increasingly vulnerable to the repercussions of the climate change and biodiversity crises. In 2025, the European Commission is due to make a legislative proposal to design a new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the period after 2027. It will be the first opportunity to align the CAP with the vision of the Farm to Fork Strategy, and redirect the CAP’s direct payments to financially support farmers in the transition to a more sustainable food system. If elected, your party will be able to empower farmers and help them build resilience while reducing the environmental impact of the EU’s agriculture production.

Does your party support revising the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal, and redirect support for farmers towards their transition to agro-ecological practices?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we commit to revising the CAP in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and European Green Deal, and we support phasing out its direct payments and instead redirect EU public funds to support farmers in the transition to a more sustainable food system

☒ Yes, we commit to revising the CAP in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal, but we do not support phasing out its direct payments

☐ No, we do not support revising the CAP in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

Our priority is that the reform of the CAP results in more effective ecological protection and does not disproportionately benefit industrial-scale mono farming at the expense of small-scale farmers and diversity. We need an agricultural system in balance with its surroundings. We do not have a problem with direct payments in principle, but we seek a fairer distribution. Our biggest priority is to provide long-term regulatory certainty to farmers: they must know that the rules will not change again in a few years, so that they can invest and make informed decisions for their families and companies.
6. Adopting a climate resilience framework

Nature is crucial for building resilience to climate change, with healthy ecosystems like floodplains, free-flowing rivers, resilient forests and agricultural landscapes serving as defences against floods, droughts and wildfires. Neglecting nature increases our vulnerability and financial burdens from extreme weather, with the EU already facing over €12 billion in annual losses. As a matter of security, the EU needs a new climate resilience framework with both legislative and non-legislative measures, integrating climate change impacts into all policies. This framework would encourage smart investments in various sectors (energy, transport, agriculture or forests), focusing on nature-based solutions instead of grey infrastructure - which in many cases only increases vulnerability to climate change impacts in the long run. It would support cities and rural areas to cope with the rapidly changing climate, and would help protect EU citizens, including farmers, fishers and businesses. Examples include wetland restoration so that they can absorb and filter water and store it in the ground, rather than building new dams, heightening dykes or implementing large-scale water transfers to manage water. It also means extracting only the amount of water we need for agro-ecological farming and cultures adapted to a changing climate, and for drinking water in the most water-stressed areas.

Does your party support the adoption of a new framework consisting of legislative and non-legislative measures to promote climate resilience, with the aim of strengthening the adaptability of European ecosystems to protect our society from climate-related hazards?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support the adoption of new legislative and non-legislative measures on climate resilience which prioritise the deployment and upscaling of nature-based solutions

☐ Yes, we support the adoption of new non-legislative measures on climate resilience which prioritise the deployment and upscaling of nature-based solutions, but do not support new legislative measures

☐ No, we believe the EU already has sufficient legislative and non-legislative measures to support climate adaptation and/or nature-based solutions

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

EFA is a strong supporter of measures to protect and preserve our natural environment, including landscape and biodiversity.
7. Increasing investments in nature and people

To mitigate climate change and adapt our society and economy to its shocks, it is crucial that we protect and restore our ecosystems. This necessitates a redirection of environmentally harmful subsidies towards investments in nature, accompanied by financial support for farmers, foresters, landowners, fishers, coastal communities, and local collectives engaged in nature restoration activities. A study commissioned by the European Commission conservatively estimates that at least €48 billion are required annually between 2021 and 2030 to deliver the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. It is estimated that in 2021, only €27 billion was invested by the EU and its Member States. Bridging the funding gap at both EU and national levels is imperative to address the biodiversity loss crisis; it's also an opportunity to empower those on the front lines of nature restoration, enhance our resilience to climate disasters, and support sustainable food production. Finally, financing nature is an investment, not a cost, as investing 1€ in nature restoration brings 8€ in return in economic benefits.

Does your party support increasing EU and national investments in nature, to at least €50 billion annually?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we support increasing EU and national investments in nature, to at least €50 billion annually

☒ Yes, we support increasing EU and national investments in nature compared to today, but do not commit to any specific figure

☐ No, we do not support increasing EU and national investments in nature compared to today

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

Yes, we support increasing investments in nature. 50 billion seems fair, but we are not in a position to commit to a specific figure. We consider nature to be an important part of the identity and cultural heritage of Europe's regions, and an important part of our sense of belonging. As the EFA Congress has not debated the details of this policy for inclusion in our manifesto, we cannot "commit". EFA cannot bind its member parties or MEPs.
8. Implementing the United Nations Global Biodiversity Framework

Worldwide, 75% of land surface and 66% of the ocean area is impacted by human activities. This phenomenon deeply affects not only the diverse species that call these ecosystems home, but also the wellbeing of future generations. Indeed, it reduces these areas’ capacity to act as carbon sinks and protect against the impacts of climate change. The EU committed in its Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 to establishing a coherent and effectively managed protected area network. The network should cover at least 30% of the EU land and 30% of the EU sea area, and include at least one-third of strictly protected areas by 2030. Furthermore, at global level, the UN Global Biodiversity Framework sets an objective of effectively protecting 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of coastal and marine areas by 2030. To achieve these objectives, the EU is relying on a voluntary mechanism, which, so far, hasn’t been very effective. Currently, only a handful of EU Member States have submitted national pledges, although the deadline was the end of 2022. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to review the Biodiversity Strategy and turn these voluntary pledges into legally binding targets, helping protect these precious ecosystems and the life forms they sustain.

Does your party commit to protecting natural areas and achieve the targets set under the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the Global Biodiversity Framework, by turning voluntary pledges into legally binding targets for all EU Member States?

Please select one of the answers below:

☑ Yes, we support the establishment of legally binding targets for EU Member States to achieve the 2030 objectives on protected areas

☐ No, we believe voluntary pledges for EU Member States are sufficient to achieve the 2030 objectives on protected areas

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
9. Redirecting fossil fuel and other environmentally harmful subsidies

Subsidies to environmentally harmful practices, such as fossil fuels and industrial agricultural practices, contribute to overexploitation of natural resources, biodiversity loss, and increased greenhouse gas emissions. They entail enormous human and financial hidden costs, while also representing a missed opportunity for funding the European Green Deal. Redirecting these subsidies is crucial, as it would promote sustainability, and foster the transition to a more environmentally responsible economy. To tackle this problem, the EU and its Member States have made repeated non-binding commitments to phase out public subsidies for fossil fuels, and for other nature-damaging activities. However, there is currently no legal framework to support these commitments. As a result, only minimal progress has been achieved. Redirecting all harmful subsidies towards the green transition, with a focus on supporting vulnerable households and key economic sectors in that transition, would be a key step in funding these crucial efforts.

Does your party commit to redirecting fossil fuel and other environmentally harmful EU and national subsidies towards the green transition, with a priority focus on helping vulnerable people and key economic sectors?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we support the adoption and implementation of legal measures to phase out fossil fuel and environmentally harmful EU and national subsidies, and believe these subsidies should - as a priority – be reoriented towards the green transition, with a focus on helping vulnerable people and key stakeholders.

☒ Yes, we support the aim of phasing out fossil fuel and environmentally harmful subsidies, and believe these subsidies should - as a priority - be reoriented towards the achievement of the green transition, with a focus on helping vulnerable people and key stakeholders in the green transition; however, we do not believe additional legal measures are required to achieve this aim.

☐ No, we do not support the aim of phasing out fossil fuel and environmentally harmful subsidies.

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

We support the redirection of subsidies to help vulnerable communities through the transition. We have no position on whether legal measures are required to achieve the aim. As the EFA Congress has not debated the details of this policy for inclusion in our manifesto, we cannot “commit”. EFA cannot bind its member parties or MEPs.
10. Supporting an EU framework for transition finance

Green finance is a powerful tool to achieve a greener economy, as it directs capital and investment towards environmentally sustainable activities. A first necessary step is to define what constitutes such ‘environmentally sustainable activities’. The EU has made significant progress in this area by creating the EU Taxonomy in 2021. However, this classification system is incomplete, as there is no clear differentiation between unsustainable activities that should be promptly phased out, and activities that can ultimately reach the green category, provided an activity-specific investment plan is set up. To achieve a truly ‘green financial system’, it is crucial to enhance the EU sustainable finance regulatory framework. The most impactful solution would be to extend the EU Taxonomy framework from the current single category (‘sustainable’) to three categories in a traffic-light system; the new system would differentiate economic activities that are ‘sustainable’, ‘intermediate’ (in transition), and ‘unsustainable’.

Does your party commit to extend the EU framework on sustainable finance by adding two categories which help differentiate between ‘intermediate’ and ‘unsustainable’ economic activities, in addition to the already defined ‘sustainable’ activities?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support the adoption of an ‘extended’ taxonomy with three categories, clarifying what constitutes ‘sustainable’, ‘intermediate’ and ‘unsustainable’ economic activities

☐ Yes, we support the adoption of an ‘extended’ taxonomy with two categories, clarifying what constitutes ‘sustainable’ and ‘intermediate’ economic activities

☐ No, we do not support the adoption of an ‘extended’ taxonomy and believe the current approach of a ‘sustainable’ taxonomy is sufficient

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
11. **Achieving a 100% renewables target**

Boosting the share of renewables in Europe's energy sources is crucial to combat climate change and guarantee a more stable energy supply, as well as affordable prices for European households. In 2023, the EU adopted the [revised Renewable Energy Directive](#) (RED), which raised the share of renewable energy in Europe's overall energy consumption to 42.5% by 2030. The new version of the directive also includes an additional 2.5% indicative top up that would allow it to reach 45%. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to define a target for 2040, as part of the next revision of the RED in the next five years. Your support to increase the share of renewable energy will be key to achieving climate neutrality and energy independence.

**What percentage share of renewable energy in the EU’s overall energy consumption does your party commit to enshrining in EU law?**

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ 100% by 2040

☒ We support moving to 100% renewable energy, but achieving this by 2040 will be too difficult

☐ We don’t support a 100% renewable energy target

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

We support moving towards meeting all of Europe's energy needs from sustainable sources. We support the Commission's target of 2050. We believe we should aim to achieve it before then, but we are not in a position to commit to a 2040 target.
12. Ensuring nature-friendly deployment of renewable energy infrastructure

A rapid expansion in wind and solar power is crucial if we are to increase our energy security and stop runaway climate change. Nonetheless, this must be done with public consent and in an environmentally-friendly way. The new permitting rules in the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) set tighter deadlines for planning decisions, and require Member States to identify Renewable Acceleration Areas (RAAs), both of which are welcome. However, the rules also exempt projects in RAAs from Environmental Impact Assessments - which provide opportunities for public consultation - and require all renewables everywhere to be presumed as being in the overriding public interest. These new, unnecessary provisions undermine the public trust in renewables as well as the vital nature protection measures in the Birds, Habitats and Water Framework Directives.

Will your party seek to reverse the scrapping of environmental protection rules in the Renewable Energy Directive, and to ensure that we tackle the climate and biodiversity crises in parallel?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we believe that the rapid expansion of renewables depends on robust ecosystem-based spatial planning, and so we would reinstate the requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment for all projects, and cancel the presumption of overriding public interest.

☐ No, we would keep the new permitting rules as they are.

☐ No, we would pursue even further relaxation of nature protection rules, which we believe are too strict and/or administratively burdensome for a rapid expansion in wind and solar power.

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

For us, it is very important that energy projects are sustainable, proportionate and in line with the needs of the local communities.
Humans, animals, and plants all depend on freshwater for survival. Beyond its role in supporting life, it also plays a key role in agriculture, various industrial processes, and climate regulation. Unfortunately, freshwater resources in Europe are facing numerous threats, including pollution, over-extraction, and climate change. The Water Framework Directive, the main piece of EU legislation on water, sets an objective of bringing all lakes, rivers, and groundwater back to good health in 2027. However, since its adoption in 2000, very little progress has been made to protect and restore watersheds. Furthermore, nearly 60% of EU rivers and lakes are still not in good condition today, with many waters exempted from meeting the legal obligations. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to engage in this process and foster better implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

Will your party commit to pushing Member States to take the necessary measures and speed up progress towards the Water Framework Directive’s objective of good status of rivers, lakes and groundwater in 2027?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support the objectives of the Water Framework Directive, and believe Member States need to speed up progress towards the Directive’s objectives

☐ Yes, we support the objectives of the Water Framework Directive but we think Member States need more time and flexibility to achieve them

☐ No, we believe that the implementation of the Water Framework Directive is not feasible and we call for lowering the Directive’s objectives

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

We take the situation with ground water very seriously, but we acknowledge that in many parts of Europe the conditions are still far from what they should be. We believe that it will be impossible to reach the Directive’s goals by 2027. However, by 2027 the Member States should be able to show that they have taken the necessary measures to make sure the goals will be met after 2027.
14. Better implementing the Common Fisheries Policy

Fisheries hold a crucial role in the EU society, economy and food system, supporting employment and contributing to the nutritional wellbeing of the population. Yet, their intricate connection to climate change and overfishing poses challenges, impacting marine biodiversity and fish stocks, and contributing to wider environmental issues. In 2023, the European Commission published its “Fisheries Package”, a series of strategies and policy recommendations supporting EU fishers in transitioning towards environmentally sustainable, socially fair and economically viable practices. One of its recommendations is to better implement certain legal provisions of the Common Fisheries Policy in order to end overfishing and deliver ecosystem-based fisheries management.

Will your party commit to fully implementing the Common Fisheries Policy, to end overfishing and deliver ecosystem-based fisheries management?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we support the full implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy to deliver low-impact, sustainable EU fisheries

☐ No, we believe that there is no further need to step up the implementation of the current Common Fisheries Policy and efforts today are satisfactory to achieve low-impact, sustainable EU fisheries

☒ No, we believe that the current objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy are not realistic and should be revised

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

Many of the CFP’s objectives are good – but the system remains too centralised to be effective. We believe that the policy should be revised to take more account of local needs, particularly for small scale fishermen and shellfish gatherers. We support revising the CFP in order to make it fairer for all communities, but we do not question the ultimate goal of ending overfishing.
15. Mainstreaming an ecosystem-based approach across all maritime policies

Our ocean plays a vital role in helping regulate the climate. It stores equivalent amounts of carbon to terrestrial ecosystems and removes around one-third of CO2 emitted by human activity. It also hosts a diverse range of ecosystems and provides an immense cultural and recreational value. As such, its protection is essential and needs a transversal approach. While the European Green Deal triggered a shift away from environmental degradation towards a more sustainable society, the absence of meaningful attention to our ocean in the European Green Deal sparks concerns and conflicts in implementation. Indeed, ocean-related policies lack alignment and coherence with recently adopted EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives. Improvements are needed to make these policies fit for effectively protecting our ocean and fostering a sustainable blue economy.

Does your party support adapting EU maritime policies to align them with EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives, to foster a sustainable blue economy?

Please select one of the answers below:

☑ Yes, we commit to adapting all EU maritime policies to the EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives, and we support new legislative initiatives

☐ Yes, we commit to adapting all EU maritime policies to EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives, but only through non-legislative measures

☐ No, we do not believe it is necessary to improve coherence between EU maritime policies and the EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
16. Improving access to information, public participation and access to justice

To properly implement EU law, including environmental legislation, it is crucial for both civil society and individual citizens to have the ability to access public information and - if needed - to seek justice through national courts. As of 2022, access to justice for the concerned public is impeded in 21 out of 27 Member States due to persistent barriers. Together with poor access to information on environmental decision-making, these obstacles include limitations on the right of environmental NGOs and individuals to bring cases to court, high and prohibitive costs, and judges applying an insufficient scope. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to improve the implementation of the European Green Deal by addressing and removing the ongoing barriers to accessing information and justice in Member States - ensuring citizens’ fundamental rights.

3 Based on the European Commission’s 2022 Environmental Implementation Review, see here, p. 5

Will your party commit to improving the public’s access to information and effective access to justice?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we commit to stepping up national implementation of existing obligations on access to information and access to justice, and to supporting further initiatives at EU level to tackle the inconsistent and uneven compliance with access to justice requirements across the EU and its Member States

☐ Yes, we support stepping up national implementation of existing obligations on access to information and access to justice, but do not believe further initiatives at EU level are necessary

☐ No, we do not support taking any further actions to provide the public with access to information and effective access to justice

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

We support greater transparency and accountability in all aspects of EU democracy. We recognise that this needs to be enforced at the EU level because some member states are not sufficiently open or use state power against vulnerable communities.
17. Promoting a just and fair transition

The transition to climate neutrality in the EU is most keenly felt at a local level. Millions of citizens will need to retrain or find new employment as polluting industries are replaced by nature-positive and climate-neutral industries. Furthermore, lowest income households have the most difficulty in accessing clean energy and energy-saving technologies such as heat-pumps, electric vehicles, and solar panels. While the current EU just transition framework focuses on rapid decarbonisation in a number of specific regions, additional broader measures are needed. Unless the green transition is accompanied by policies that mitigate its social impact, we will experience rising inequality, increased poverty and reduced social cohesion. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to address this challenge, ensuring that the transition towards sustainability leaves no-one behind.

Does your party commit to a just and fair transition by mandating large-scale EU investment in energy-saving, renovation, and retraining/re-employment programmes?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support the introduction of further large-scale EU investment programmes to facilitate a just and fair transition

☐ No, we do not support the introduction of further large-scale EU investment programmes to facilitate a just and fair transition

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
18. Reducing the EU’s impact on deforestation

Despite seven in ten Europeans wanting deforestation off their supermarket shelves, the EU is still one of the world’s largest importers of tropical deforestation and associated emissions. In 2023, the EU adopted a new law aiming to halt the trade in products linked to deforestation on the European market - the Regulation on Deforestation-free products. If the EU wants to fully address consumers' concern on this issue, this new Deforestation Law needs to be extended beyond its current scope of tropical forests only. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to support the integration into the law of products linked to the deforestation and degradation of other wooded lands, such as savannahs, grasslands and wetlands.

Does your party commit to reducing the EU’s impact on deforestation by supporting the extension of the scope of the EU Regulation on Deforestation-free products (EUDR) to other wooded lands, such as savannahs and grasslands?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support extending the scope of the EUDR to other wooded lands in the next five years

☐ No, we do not support extending the scope of the EUDR to other wooded lands in the next five years

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

Yes, we recognise that many other landscapes in the EU are suffering from similar issues to forests and urgently need to be protected.
WWF’S PARTY QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE 2024 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTION

RESPONSES FROM:
PARTY OF THE EUROPEAN LEFT
1. **Maintaining and strengthening the European Green Deal**

In 2019, the EU launched the [European Green Deal](https://ec.europa.eu/info/services-news/policy-briefing-brochure-green-deal_en), a comprehensive agenda to tackle climate change and environmental degradation, and make the EU’s economy more resource-efficient and competitive. The European Green Deal includes policies on climate, energy, biodiversity, agriculture, circular economy, transport and finance. However, several commitments are yet to be turned into reality (e.g. [transition to sustainable food systems](https://ec.europa.eu/info/services-news/policy-briefing-brochure-green-deal_en)), and some actions taken do not match the initial ambition (e.g. the overall EU emissions reduction agreed by 2030). If elected, your party can help the EU transition to a greener and more just model by ensuring the European Green Deal is fully put into action.

**Does your party commit to upholding the European Green Deal in the next five years, by making its implementation a top priority, as well as supporting additional and stronger EU climate and environmental legislation in order to meet the commitments made under the European Green Deal?**

Please select one of the answers below:

☑ Yes, we will uphold the European Green Deal as one of the main political priorities, including by supporting additional and stronger EU climate and environmental legislation

☐ Yes, we will uphold the European Green Deal as one of the main political priorities, but we will only support the implementation of existing EU climate and environmental legislation

☐ No, we will not maintain the European Green Deal as one of the main political priorities

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

Our answers are based on the draft of our election manifesto to be adopted at the General Assembly of the EL on 24/25 February, respectively on the thematical paper "- Don’t change the climate, change the system" published in Quistioni, Nov. 2023:  https://www.europeanleftmagazine.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Quistioni5-EN.pdf
2. Achieving climate neutrality

With the European Green Deal, the EU has enshrined into the European Climate Law its goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, with intermediary targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and by 2040. The first intermediary legal target is already set to cut the EU’s ‘net emissions’ (emissions after deduction of carbon removals such as forests and other landscapes) by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. However, there is no legal target for the second intermediary target for 2040 yet. According to the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change’s recent advice on the 2040 target, the EU has already, under certain ethical principles, exhausted its fair share of the global emissions budget. WWF’s position is that the EU should aim to reach climate neutrality - i.e. a 100% reduction in net GHG emissions - by 2040, instead of 2050.

What level of reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 does your party commit to enshrine into EU law?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ At least 100% (i.e. reach climate neutrality by 2040)
☒ At least 90%
☐ Less than 90%, or no legally binding 2040 target at all

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

“We want to increase the European Union’s target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from 55% to 65% in 2030 and bring forward the date for the European Union’s climate neutrality from 2050 to 2045.”
3. Ending fossil fuel use

The geopolitical and subsequent energy crisis that is ongoing in Europe underscores the staggering cost of our dependence on fossil fuels. Fossil energy is not only increasingly expensive for the most vulnerable households, but it is also polluting and unsustainable. The EU must rapidly transition away from fossil fuels use in order to become a climate-neutral economy and avoid the worst impacts of climate change. At the moment, there is no legally binding approach to phase-out fossil fuels. It is crucial for the EU to set legally binding targets for the complete phase-out of coal by 2030, gas by 2035, and oil by 2040.

Does your party commit to setting near-term and legally binding target dates for ending coal, gas and oil use, in that order?

Please select one of the answers below:

☐ Yes, we commit to setting legally binding target dates for the complete phase-out of coal by 2030, gas by 2035, and oil by 2040

☒ Yes, we commit to setting legally binding target dates for the complete phase-out of coal, gas and oil use, but think the target dates of 2030, 2035 and 2040 are too strict

☐ No, we do not commit to setting legally binding target dates for ending coal, gas and oil use

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):

“We propose, immediately, not to exploit new fossil fuel reserves and to abandon the exploitation of reserves located in risk areas such as the deep sea and polar areas.”
4. Transitioning towards sustainable food systems

The impact of our current food system can be felt in our daily lives. People are increasingly struggling to access healthy and sustainable food. Also, our food system is contributing significantly to biodiversity loss, the depletion of natural resources and climate change. This is why policymakers need to define legally binding principles and objectives to improve our food system, for all actors from food processing, to distribution and consumption. The EU has made a step in this direction by presenting, as part of the Farm to Fork Strategy\(^1\), the idea of an overarching regulation on sustainable food systems. However, this is yet to be presented as a legislative proposal that can be negotiated by the European Parliament and Member States. WWF is calling on the Commission and political parties to support the swift publication of the proposal- with standards for European products also applying to imported ones. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to support the publication of this new law and to actively help foster a sustainable, fair and healthy model for food producers and consumers in Europe.

\(^1\) The Farm to Fork Strategy is at the heart of the European Green Deal aiming to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly.

Does your party support the adoption of new legislation setting comprehensive and science-based quantitative targets, in order to enhance sustainability throughout the entire food supply chain?

Please select one of the answers below:

☑ Yes, we support the adoption of legislation on sustainable food systems, setting overarching principles and quantitative binding targets to involve more strongly food manufacturers, distributors, and consumers, in the green transition

☐ Yes, we support the adoption of legislation on sustainable food systems, but it should be limited to set general principles and objectives - without quantitative binding targets

☐ No, we do not support the adoption of any new legislation on sustainable food systems

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
5. Reforming the Common Agricultural Policy

The relationship between European farmers, climate change and biodiversity loss is intricate. On the one hand, our agricultural practices significantly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and nature loss; on the other hand, farmers find themselves increasingly vulnerable to the repercussions of the climate change and biodiversity crises. In 2025, the European Commission is due to make a legislative proposal to design a new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the period after 2027. It will be the first opportunity to align the CAP with the vision of the Farm to Fork Strategy, and redirect the CAP’s direct payments to financially support farmers in the transition to a more sustainable food system. If elected, your party will be able to empower farmers and help them build resilience while reducing the environmental impact of the EU’s agriculture production.

Does your party support revising the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal, and redirect support for farmers towards their transition to agro-ecological practices?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we commit to revising the CAP in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and European Green Deal, and we support phasing out its direct payments and instead redirect EU public funds to support farmers in the transition to a more sustainable food system

☐ Yes, we commit to revising the CAP in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal, but we do not support phasing out its direct payments

☐ No, we do not support revising the CAP in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
6. Adopting a climate resilience framework

Nature is crucial for building resilience to climate change, with healthy ecosystems like floodplains, free-flowing rivers, resilient forests and agricultural landscapes serving as defences against floods, droughts and wildfires. Neglecting nature increases our vulnerability and financial burdens from extreme weather, with the EU already facing over €12 billion in annual losses. As a matter of security, the EU needs a new climate resilience framework with both legislative and non-legislative measures, integrating climate change impacts into all policies. This framework would encourage smart investments in various sectors (energy, transport, agriculture or forests), focusing on nature-based solutions instead of grey infrastructure - which in many cases only increases vulnerability to climate change impacts in the long run. It would support cities and rural areas to cope with the rapidly changing climate, and would help protect EU citizens, including farmers, fishers and businesses. Examples include wetland restoration so that they can absorb and filter water and store it in the ground, rather than building new dams, heightening dykes or implementing large-scale water transfers to manage water. It also means extracting only the amount of water we need for agro-ecological farming and cultures adapted to a changing climate, and for drinking water in the most water-stressed areas.

Does your party support the adoption of a new framework consisting of legislative and non-legislative measures to promote climate resilience, with the aim of strengthening the adaptability of European ecosystems to protect our society from climate-related hazards?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support the adoption of new legislative and non-legislative measures on climate resilience which prioritise the deployment and upscaling of nature-based solutions

☐ Yes, we support the adoption of new non-legislative measures on climate resilience which prioritise the deployment and upscaling of nature-based solutions, but do not support new legislative measures

☐ No, we believe the EU already has sufficient legislative and non-legislative measures to support climate adaptation and/or nature-based solutions

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
7. **Increasing investments in nature and people**

To mitigate climate change and adapt our society and economy to its shocks, it is crucial that we protect and restore our ecosystems. This necessitates a redirection of environmentally harmful subsidies towards investments in nature, accompanied by financial support for farmers, foresters, landowners, fishers, coastal communities, and local collectives engaged in nature restoration activities. A study commissioned by the European Commission conservatively estimates that at least €48 billion are required annually between 2021 and 2030 to deliver the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. It is estimated that in 2021, only €27 billion was invested by the EU and its Member States. Bridging the funding gap at both EU and national levels is imperative to address the biodiversity loss crisis; it’s also an opportunity to empower those on the front lines of nature restoration, enhance our resilience to climate disasters, and support sustainable food production. Finally, financing nature is an investment, not a cost, as investing 1€ in nature restoration brings 8€ in return in economic benefits.

**Does your party support increasing EU and national investments in nature, to at least €50 billion annually?**

Please select one of the answers below:

- ☒ Yes, we support increasing EU and national investments in nature, to at least €50 billion annually
- ☐ Yes, we support increasing EU and national investments in nature compared to today, but do not commit to any specific figure
- ☐ No, we do not support increasing EU and national investments in nature compared to today

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
8. Implementing the United Nations Global Biodiversity Framework

Worldwide, 75% of land surface and 66% of the ocean area is impacted by human activities. This phenomenon deeply affects not only the diverse species that call these ecosystems home, but also the wellbeing of future generations. Indeed, it reduces these areas’ capacity to act as carbon sinks and protect against the impacts of climate change. The EU committed in its Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 to establishing a coherent and effectively managed protected area network. The network should cover at least 30% of the EU land and 30% of the EU sea area, and include at least one-third of strictly protected areas by 2030. Furthermore, at global level, the UN Global Biodiversity Framework sets an objective of effectively protecting 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of coastal and marine areas by 2030. To achieve these objectives, the EU is relying on a voluntary mechanism, which, so far, hasn’t been very effective. Currently, only a handful of EU Member States have submitted national pledges, although the deadline was the end of 2022. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to review the Biodiversity Strategy and turn these voluntary pledges into legally binding targets, helping protect these precious ecosystems and the life forms they sustain.

Does your party commit to protecting natural areas and achieve the targets set under the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the Global Biodiversity Framework, by turning voluntary pledges into legally binding targets for all EU Member States?

Please select one of the answers below:

☑ Yes, we support the establishment of legally binding targets for EU Member States to achieve the 2030 objectives on protected areas

☐ No, we believe voluntary pledges for EU Member States are sufficient to achieve the 2030 objectives on protected areas

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
9. Redirecting fossil fuel and other environmentally harmful subsidies

Subsidies to environmentally harmful practices, such as fossil fuels and industrial agricultural practices, contribute to overexploitation of natural resources, biodiversity loss, and increased greenhouse gas emissions. They entail enormous human and financial hidden costs, while also representing a missed opportunity for funding the European Green Deal. Redirecting these subsidies is crucial, as it would promote sustainability, and foster the transition to a more environmentally responsible economy. To tackle this problem, the EU and its Member States have made repeated non-binding commitments to phase out public subsidies for fossil fuels, and for other nature-damaging activities. However, there is currently no legal framework to support these commitments. As a result, only minimal progress has been achieved. Redirecting all harmful subsidies towards the green transition, with a focus on supporting vulnerable households and key economic sectors in that transition, would be a key step in funding these crucial efforts.

Does your party commit to redirecting fossil fuel and other environmentally harmful EU and national subsidies towards the green transition, with a priority focus on helping vulnerable people and key economic sectors?

Please select one of the answers below:

☑ Yes, we support the adoption and implementation of legal measures to phase out fossil fuel and environmentally harmful EU and national subsidies, and believe these subsidies should - as a priority – be reoriented towards the green transition, with a focus on helping vulnerable people and key stakeholders

☐ Yes, we support the aim of phasing out fossil fuel and environmentally harmful subsidies, and believe these subsidies should - as a priority - be reoriented towards the achievement of the green transition, with a focus on helping vulnerable people and key stakeholders in the green transition; however, we do not believe additional legal measures are required to achieve this aim

☐ No, we do not support the aim of phasing out fossil fuel and environmentally harmful subsidies

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
10. Supporting an EU framework for transition finance

Green finance is a powerful tool to achieve a greener economy, as it directs capital and investment towards environmentally sustainable activities. A first necessary step is to define what constitutes such ‘environmentally sustainable activities’. The EU has made significant progress in this area by creating the **EU Taxonomy**² in 2021. However, this classification system is incomplete, as there is no clear differentiation between unsustainable activities that should be promptly phased out, and activities that can ultimately reach the green category, provided an activity-specific investment plan is set up. To achieve a truly ‘green financial system’, it is crucial to enhance the EU sustainable finance regulatory framework. The most impactful solution would be to extend the EU Taxonomy framework from the current single category (‘sustainable’) to three categories in a traffic-light system; the new system would differentiate economic activities that are ‘sustainable’, ‘intermediate’ (in transition), and ‘unsustainable’.

² The EU taxonomy refers to a classification system established by the European Union to define what economic activities can be considered environmentally sustainable.

Does your party commit to extend the EU framework on sustainable finance by adding two categories which help differentiate between ‘intermediate’ and ‘unsustainable’ economic activities, in addition to the already defined ‘sustainable’ activities?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support the adoption of an ‘extended’ taxonomy with three categories, clarifying what constitutes ‘sustainable’, ‘intermediate’ and ‘unsustainable’ economic activities

☐ Yes, we support the adoption of an ‘extended’ taxonomy with two categories, clarifying what constitutes ‘sustainable’ and ‘intermediate’ economic activities

☐ No, we do not support the adoption of an ‘extended’ taxonomy and believe the current approach of a ‘sustainable’ taxonomy is sufficient

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
11. **Achieving a 100% renewables target**

Boosting the share of renewables in Europe's energy sources is crucial to combat climate change and guarantee a more stable energy supply, as well as affordable prices for European households. In 2023, the EU adopted the [revised Renewable Energy Directive](https://www.renewablesnow.com/) (RED), which raised the share of renewable energy in Europe's overall energy consumption to 42.5% by 2030. The new version of the directive also includes an additional 2.5% indicative top up that would allow it to reach 45%. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to define a target for 2040, as part of the next revision of the RED in the next five years. Your support to increase the share of renewable energy will be key to achieving climate neutrality and energy independence.

**What percentage share of renewable energy in the EU’s overall energy consumption does your party commit to enshrining in EU law?**

Please select one of the answers below:

- ☒ 100% by 2040
- ☐ We support moving to 100% renewable energy, but achieving this by 2040 will be too difficult
- ☐ We don’t support a 100% renewable energy target

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
12. Ensuring nature-friendly deployment of renewable energy infrastructure

A rapid expansion in wind and solar power is crucial if we are to increase our energy security and stop runaway climate change. Nonetheless, this must be done with public consent and in an environmentally-friendly way. The new permitting rules in the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) set tighter deadlines for planning decisions, and require Member States to identify Renewable Acceleration Areas (RAAs), both of which are welcome. However, the rules also exempt projects in RAAs from Environmental Impact Assessments - which provide opportunities for public consultation - and require all renewables everywhere to be presumed as being in the overriding public interest. These new, unnecessary provisions undermine the public trust in renewables as well as the vital nature protection measures in the Birds, Habitats and Water Framework Directives.

Will your party seek to reverse the scrapping of environmental protection rules in the Renewable Energy Directive, and to ensure that we tackle the climate and biodiversity crises in parallel?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we believe that the rapid expansion of renewables depends on robust ecosystem-based spatial planning, and so we would reinstate the requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment for all projects, and cancel the presumption of overriding public interest.

☐ No, we would keep the new permitting rules as they are.

☐ No, we would pursue even further relaxation of nature protection rules, which we believe are too strict and/or administratively burdensome for a rapid expansion in wind and solar power.

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
13. Speeding up progress towards a good status of rivers, lakes and groundwater

Humans, animals, and plants all depend on freshwater for survival. Beyond its role in supporting life, it also plays a key role in agriculture, various industrial processes, and climate regulation. Unfortunately, freshwater resources in Europe are facing numerous threats, including pollution, over-extraction, and climate change. The Water Framework Directive, the main piece of EU legislation on water, sets an objective of bringing all lakes, rivers, and groundwater back to good health in 2027. However, since its adoption in 2000, very little progress has been made to protect and restore watersheds. Furthermore, nearly 60% of EU rivers and lakes are still not in good condition today, with many waters exempted from meeting the legal obligations. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to engage in this process and foster better implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

Will your party commit to pushing Member States to take the necessary measures and speed up progress towards the Water Framework Directive’s objective of good status of rivers, lakes and groundwater in 2027?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support the objectives of the Water Framework Directive, and believe Member States need to speed up progress towards the Directive’s objectives

☐ Yes, we support the objectives of the Water Framework Directive but we think Member States need more time and flexibility to achieve them

☐ No, we believe that the implementation of the Water Framework Directive is not feasible and we call for lowering the Directive’s objectives

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
14. Better implementing the Common Fisheries Policy

Fisheries hold a crucial role in the EU society, economy and food system, supporting employment and contributing to the nutritional wellbeing of the population. Yet, their intricate connection to climate change and overfishing poses challenges, impacting marine biodiversity and fish stocks, and contributing to wider environmental issues. In 2023, the European Commission published its "Fisheries Package", a series of strategies and policy recommendations supporting EU fishers in transitioning towards environmentally sustainable, socially fair and economically viable practices. One of its recommendations is to better implement certain legal provisions of the Common Fisheries Policy in order to end overfishing and deliver ecosystem-based fisheries management.

Will your party commit to fully implementing the Common Fisheries Policy, to end overfishing and deliver ecosystem-based fisheries management?

Please select one of the answers below:

☒ Yes, we support the full implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy to deliver low-impact, sustainable EU fisheries

☐ No, we believe that there is no further need to step up the implementation of the current Common Fisheries Policy and efforts today are satisfactory to achieve low-impact, sustainable EU fisheries

☐ No, we believe that the current objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy are not realistic and should be revised

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
Our ocean plays a vital role in helping regulate the climate. It stores equivalent amounts of carbon to terrestrial ecosystems and removes around one-third of CO2 emitted by human activity. It also hosts a diverse range of ecosystems and provides an immense cultural and recreational value. As such, its protection is essential and needs a transversal approach. While the European Green Deal triggered a shift away from environmental degradation towards a more sustainable society, the absence of meaningful attention to our ocean in the European Green Deal sparks concerns and conflicts in implementation. Indeed, ocean-related policies lack alignment and coherence with recently adopted EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives. Improvements are needed to make these policies fit for effectively protecting our ocean and fostering a sustainable blue economy.

**Does your party support adapting EU maritime policies to align them with EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives, to foster a sustainable blue economy?**

**Please select one of the answers below:**

☑ Yes, we commit to adapting all EU maritime policies to the EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives, and we support new legislative initiatives

☐ Yes, we commit to adapting all EU maritime policies to EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives, but only through non-legislative measures

☐ No, we do not believe it is necessary to improve coherence between EU maritime policies and the EU and international climate and biodiversity objectives

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
To properly implement EU law, including environmental legislation, it is crucial for both civil society and individual citizens to have the ability to access public information and - if needed - to seek justice through national courts. As of 2022, access to justice for the concerned public is impeded in 21 out of 27 Member States due to persistent barriers\(^3\). Together with poor access to information on environmental decision-making, these obstacles include limitations on the right of environmental NGOs and individuals to bring cases to court, high and prohibitive costs, and judges applying an insufficient scope. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to improve the implementation of the European Green Deal by addressing and removing the ongoing barriers to accessing information and justice in Member States - ensuring citizens’ fundamental rights.

\(^3\) Based on the European Commission’s 2022 Environmental Implementation Review, see here, p. 5

### Will your party commit to improving the public’s access to information and effective access to justice?

Please select one of the answers below:

- ☒ Yes, we commit to stepping up national implementation of existing obligations on access to information and access to justice, and to supporting further initiatives at EU level to tackle the inconsistent and uneven compliance with access to justice requirements across the EU and its Member States

- ☐ Yes, we support stepping up national implementation of existing obligations on access to information and access to justice, but do not believe further initiatives at EU level are necessary

- ☐ No, we do not support taking any further actions to provide the public with access to information and effective access to justice

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
17. Promoting a just and fair transition

The transition to climate neutrality in the EU is most keenly felt at a local level. Millions of citizens will need to retrain or find new employment as polluting industries are replaced by nature-positive and climate-neutral industries. Furthermore, lowest income households have the most difficulty in accessing clean energy and energy-saving technologies such as heat-pumps, electric vehicles, and solar panels. While the current EU just transition framework focuses on rapid decarbonisation in a number of specific regions, additional broader measures are needed. Unless the green transition is accompanied by policies that mitigate its social impact, we will experience rising inequality, increased poverty and reduced social cohesion. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to address this challenge, ensuring that the transition towards sustainability leaves no-one behind.

Does your party commit to a just and fair transition by mandating large-scale EU investment in energy-saving, renovation, and retraining/re-employment programmes?

Please select one of the answers below:

☑ Yes, we support the introduction of further large-scale EU investment programmes to facilitate a just and fair transition

☐ No, we do not support the introduction of further large-scale EU investment programmes to facilitate a just and fair transition

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):
18. Reducing the EU’s impact on deforestation

Despite seven in ten Europeans wanting deforestation off their supermarket shelves, the EU is still one of the world’s largest importers of tropical deforestation and associated emissions. In 2023, the EU adopted a new law aiming to halt the trade in products linked to deforestation on the European market - the Regulation on Deforestation-free products. If the EU wants to fully address consumers’ concern on this issue, this new Deforestation Law needs to be extended beyond its current scope of tropical forests only. If elected, your party will have the opportunity to support the integration into the law of products linked to the deforestation and degradation of other wooded lands, such as savannahs, grasslands and wetlands.

Does your party commit to reducing the EU’s impact on deforestation by supporting the extension of the scope of the EU Regulation on Deforestation-free products (EUDR) to other wooded lands, such as savannahs and grasslands?

Please select one of the answers below:

☑ Yes, we support extending the scope of the EUDR to other wooded lands in the next five years

☐ No, we do not support extending the scope of the EUDR to other wooded lands in the next five years

If necessary, you can explain your answer in more detail here (please limit it to a maximum of 200 words):