

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 20/2021

Climate change: Special meeting of the European Council on 24-25 May 2021

EU leaders reaffirmed the conclusions of last December. They invited the Commission to swiftly put forward its **legislative package**, together with an **in-depth examination** of the environmental, economic and social impacts at member state level. They agreed to revert to the matter after the Commission's proposal is submitted.

EU leaders welcomed the recent agreement reached by the Council and the Parliament on the **European climate law** proposal.

Finally, leaders also welcomed the **United States' renewed commitment** to the Paris Agreement and called on international partners, in particular G20 members, to **increase their ambition** ahead of the United Nations climate conference COP26 in Glasgow.

For more details: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2021/05/24-25/>

eFuels are essential to power a sustainable and smart mobility strategy: eFuel Alliance publishes position paper

In order to make its necessary contribution to achieving the EU's climate targets, mobility must transition as quickly as possible from fossil fuels to sustainable energy carriers and climate-protection solutions offering significant greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction. In the transport sector, which is one of the largest contributors to GHG emissions and still highly dependent on fossil fuels, rapid CO₂ reduction will only be possible through a combination of forward-looking emission-reduction pathways, enabling different technologies to complement each other. Effective climate protection is best promoted by establishing a level-playing field and keeping abatement costs as low as possible.

The position paper can be found under:

[210514 eFuel Alliance Position Paper Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy.pdf](https://www.efuel-alliance.eu/210514_eFuel_Alliance_Position_Paper_Sustainable_and_Smart_Mobility_Strategy.pdf)
([efuel-alliance.eu](https://www.efuel-alliance.eu))

Joint ECON-ENVI public hearing on Sustainable Finance

On 26 May 2021 the Committees on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) and on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) organised jointly a public hearing on Sustainable Finance.

Sustainable finance is about redirecting investment towards sustainable economic activities. To support this shift in the financial sector, the European Commission had adopted a Sustainable Finance Action Plan in 2018. On 21 April 2021, the European

Commission adopted a comprehensive package of measures to mainstream sustainability across the financial sector.

The purpose of this hearing was therefore to take stock of the important work that has been realised in the field of sustainable finance and acquire expert insight on current day issues. To make the EU climate-neutral by 2050 while mitigating the risks of climate change for the financial system, the European Commission will adopt this year a Renewed Sustainable Finance Strategy. The hearing was also an opportunity to obtain an analysis of forward-looking initiatives.

For details: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/joint-econ-envi-public-hearing-on-sustai/product-details/20210520CHE08862>

MVBER: EU-Commission publishes evaluation report

On 28 May 2021 the European Commission published the Evaluation Report and Staff Working Document summarising the findings of its evaluation of the Motor Vehicle Block Exemption Regulation.

For downloading the full report: [Register of Commission Documents - COM\(2021\)264 \(europa.eu\)](#)

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