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MANIFESTO

OF THE

MEP Group on “Climate
Change, Biodiversity and
Sustainable Development”



Table of Contents

Our vision	03
Our work	05
Areas of activities:	
Sustainable Food Systems	06
Water Resilience	07
Circular Economy and Bioeconomy	08
Sustainable Forest Management	09
Clean Energy and Transport	10
Ocean Governance	11
Cross-cutting themes	12



MANIFESTO

THE MEP GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Our vision

Our vision is to contribute to building up a harmonious and equitable future, based on the principle of inclusive and transparent partnerships among diverse stakeholders.

By fostering a culture of collaboration, we aim to facilitate the development of science-based policies and contribute to the holistic well-being of communities in healthy and sustainable livelihoods.

The EP mandate 2024-2029 is going to be an important period for the future and implementation of the European Green Deal. Therefore, the aim of this MEP Group is to serve as an open forum for transformative change inside the European Parliament. In doing so, it provides a collaborative platform that encourages the development of well-informed policies, taking socio-economic considerations into the environmental-sustainability discourse.



FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS

Cultivating a culture of cooperation and shared expertise for sustainable progress



PROMOTING WELL-INFORMED POLICY-MAKING

Contributing to the creation of science-based solutions with a close link to practice on the ground



ENCOURAGING INNOVATION

Underlining the key role of technology and innovation to address complex environmental, economic and social challenges



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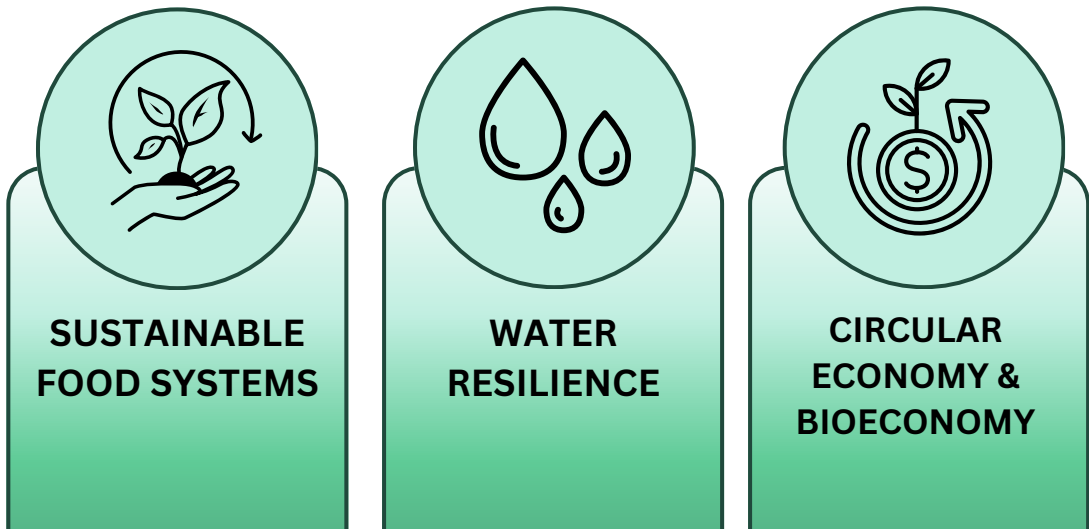
THE MEP GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



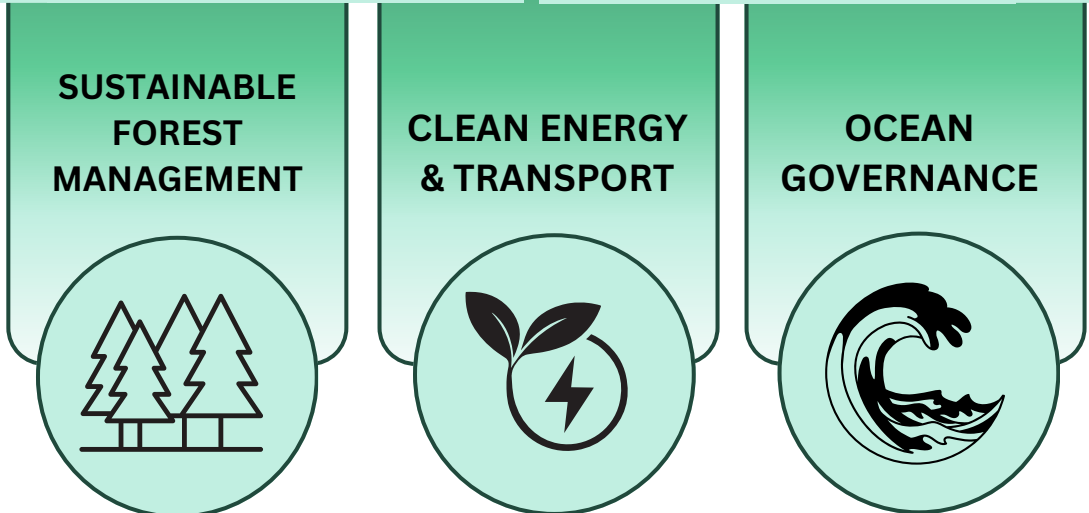
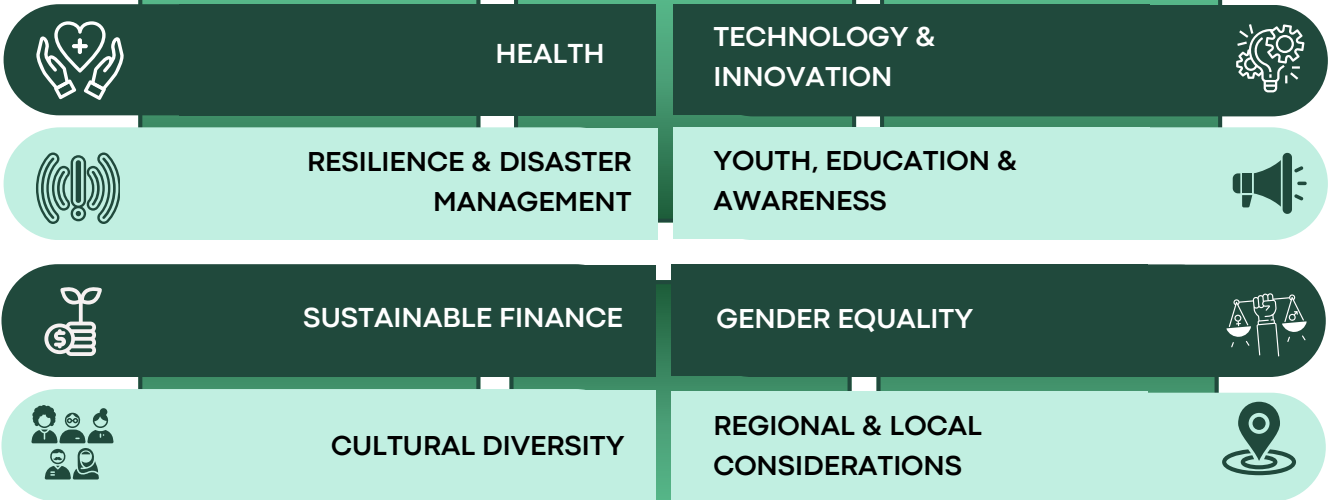
BUILDING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

Our work

AREAS OF ACTIVITY



CROSS-CUTTING THEMES



Areas of activities



SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS (AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE)

The global challenges we face – from climate change and environmental degradation to food insecurity - require **more attention to the way we produce, distribute, and consume food**. Within the EU, the main priorities should address the access to nutritious and quality food, fostering sustainable practices that respect biodiversity, reduce water stress and restore soil quality. **Bottom-up innovation needs to be encouraged**, alongside the improvement of access to resources and services in rural areas; **reinforcing the competitiveness of EU agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture** means ensuring their potential is reached in a sustainable way, while securing and improving farmers’ and fishers’ income and generational renewal.

POLICY PRIORITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS



TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Encouraging the adoption of innovative harvesting techniques, land management practices, and transportation systems to actively contribute to carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Promoting sustainable methods to protect ecosystems, bolster pollinator populations, and encourage the responsible use of plant protection products, aiding farmers, fishers and foresters in effectively implementing EU policies



FOOD SECURITY AND AFFORDABILITY

Establishing sustainable food systems to guarantee consistent and fair access to nourishing food while tackling food waste, thereby reducing vulnerability to hunger and malnutrition



FOOD LABELLING AND CONSUMER PROTECTION:

Supporting the implementation of accurate food labelling for safeguarding consumer rights and promoting informed choices



WATER RESILIENCE

Preserving our water resources is of paramount importance for human health, the advancement of social and economic spheres, and the flourishing of our planet's intricate ecosystems. Effective water management encompasses both qualitative and quantitative dimensions to protect our surface water and groundwater resources, as well as the safeguarding of water reserves from pollutants through effective control-at-source. **A truly holistic water resilience strategy is needed to ensure that today's and future generations have enough clean, safe and affordable drinking water to cover their needs,** ranging from agriculture to public water supply, industry and tourism.

POLICY PRIORITIES FOR WATER RESILIENCE



EFFICIENT WASTE-WATER TREATMENT

Supporting the implementation of robust waste-water treatment systems that minimize pollution, preserving water quality and the vitality of aquatic ecosystems



CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

Fostering water management strategies that enhance resilience to extreme weather conditions and changing climate patterns, minimizing the impact of floods and droughts



POLLUTION PREVENTION

Championing control-at-source measures to shield water resources from pollutants, curbing the inflow of contaminants and nurturing aquatic biodiversity through effective control-at-source measures



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Enabling the water sector to take advantage of its full renewable energy generation potential and including the sector into local energy systems



CIRCULAR WATER ECONOMY

Facilitating the recovery of nutrients and other resources by putting in place market pull tools, and encouraging water reuse in various sectors whenever sensible



CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND BIOECONOMY

Circular economy and bioeconomy are of extreme importance towards crafting a climate-neutral, net-zero and resource-efficient future, that is aligned with Europe’s agenda for sustainable development. All in all, circular economy and the bioeconomy offer an enormous potential in promoting Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), addressing critical raw materials and tackling pollution, whilst playing a **key role in boosting Europe’s competitiveness and creating new jobs**. Specifically via supporting the role of bioeconomy for people, regions and cities, Europe can transition from fossil and non-renewable resources to renewable bio-based ones, without compromising biodiversity goals, therefore contributing to achieving a climate-neutral, net-zero and circular economy.

POLICY PRIORITIES FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND BIOECONOMY



SUPPORTING A CIRCULAR, CLIMATE-NEUTRAL AND GREEN TRANSFORMATION

Nurturing the circular economy and advancing the bioeconomy is key in defossilizing the economy and establishing sustainable carbon and nutrient cycles that align with EU’s vision for addressing climate challenges



RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND WASTE REDUCTION

Enhancing initiatives that tackle pollution, avoid unnecessary waste or valorise it, as well as optimize resource utilization, and promote recycling methods



SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

Facilitating sustainable production and consumption entails encouraging well-informed and circular choices, fostering practices that minimize environmental impact and promote a more sustainable future



RENEWABLE MATERIALS AND ENERGY TRANSITION

Advancing the transition from fossil-based and non-renewable resources to renewable energy involves expediting the sustainable production of renewable resources and their conversion into various essential components, as well as bio-energy via innovative and efficient technologies



SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forests are crucial for both the environment and human well-being via their multiple benefits, including carbon sink and storage, biodiversity, wood as sustainable raw material, a place for recreation, clean water, cultural heritage and jobs in rural areas. While many forest-related policies and initiatives have been developed under the EU Green Deal, **attention should also be given to coherent implementation of these policies with Sustainable Forest Management as a core principle, to ensure that forests are environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable.** As a result, additional efforts should be dedicated to safeguarding the multifunctionality of EU forests, including ways to increasing their health, resilience and productivity.

POLICY PRIORITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

SUPPORTING FORESTS' RESILIENCE AND DEVELOPMENT



Promoting forest resilience and development through policy approaches grounded in research and innovation, which enhance forest health and are adapted to local circumstances is key. Additionally, expanding forests through afforestation of other available land and integrating forestry into spatial planning at landscape level alongside considerations for watershed management, ground water protection, soils, and torrent control

ENHANCEMENT OF COLLABORATION WITH FOREST OWNERS AND MANAGERS



Including the expertise and knowledge of those who take care of forests on a daily basis, in forest-related policies decisions is essential

CARBON SEQUESTRATION, STORAGE AND SUBSTITUTION



Sustainably and actively managing forests to increase their contribution to climate change mitigation by absorbing atmospheric carbon and storing it in trees and soils and supporting the use of wood as sustainable raw material

SUSTAINABLE BIO-BASED CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Promoting the role of forests in bioeconomy and supporting rural areas' socio-economic and social sustainability



CLEAN ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

Secure, sustainable, and affordable energy is key for the future of Europe. While we are facing rising energy demand, volatile prices, and supply disruptions, it is crucial for Europe’s energy sector to also reduce its environmental impact. Towards this direction, we need to progressively replace fossil gaseous and liquid fuels with mainly EU-produced renewable and low-carbon, including hydrogen. We also need to **move towards clean and sustainable energy sources that would increase Europe’s strategic autonomy, and unlock the potential of renewable energy sources**, such as solar and wind power, among others. Directly linked with the Fit-for-55 vision is the **crucial role of clean- and e-mobility**, as it is only via addressing the decarbonization of transport that the EU will be in a position to meet its climate goals.

POLICY PRIORITIES FOR CLEAN ENERGY AND TRANSPORT



ENERGY SECURITY AND RESILIENCE

Ensuring energy security and sustainability by diversifying energy sources and reducing environmental impact, but also strengthening the resilience of the energy market to withstand external shocks, keeping energy prices affordable for European citizens



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Making buildings in the EU greener, and keeping our economy in the front line of innovative green products and services should remain among the key goals of the EU’s energy transition



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Prioritizing clean and sustainable energy production, including solar, wind and hydro-power, to reduce dependency on energy from countries outside the EU



CLEAN MOBILITY

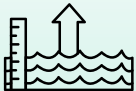
Promoting sustainable transport and clean mobility, making sustainable alternatives widely available in a multimodal transport system needs to be supported. We need to increase the uptake of renewable fuels to achieve EU’s climate goals, while developing Europe’s e-mobility industry amidst potential threats from imports



OCEAN GOVERNANCE

With over 70% of the Earth's surface covered by the ocean, it is important to recognize its role for environmental and economic prosperity, climate solutions and biodiversity services, renewable energy production, but also aquatic food. As a result, **sustainable ocean governance is imperative as we confront the challenges of over-exploitation, pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss.** Therefore, key priorities of EU ocean governance include **promoting cross-sectoral and international cooperation for our ocean, curbing unsustainable practices, and investing in cutting-edge technology and more data.** By championing these principles, the EU can not only protect its own maritime interests, but also lead global efforts in safeguarding our precious ocean for generations to come.

POLICY PRIORITIES FOR OCEAN GOVERNANCE



PROMOTING CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION

Developing strategies to address climate change impacts, support renewable energy initiatives, and invest in research for climate-resilient marine ecosystems



BOOSTING BLUE ECONOMY SUSTAINABILITY

Promoting sustainable practices while encouraging multi-stakeholder participation, alongside the advancement of technology and innovation



TACKLING POLLUTION

Implementing measures to reduce marine pollution, promoting recycling and circular economy approaches



SUPPORTING THE INTERFACE BETWEEN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND OCEAN CONSERVATION

Strengthening the connection between fisheries' management and ocean conservation is of significant importance, alongside combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) and enhancing dialogue between sustainable use and conservation communities

Cross-cutting themes

Considering the multifaceted focus of the MEP Group, several cross-cutting issues are presented to shape the upcoming mandate:

HEALTH



Human, animal and environmental health are closely linked, as the quality of the environment directly impacts human well-being. This involves the zero-pollution ambition of the EU, tackling air pollution, water quality, soil health and more. As a result, future policies need to ensure recognition of these interlinkages, in line with the One Health Approach

RESILIENCE & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Enhancing community resilience to natural or human-made disasters and wars is the 'must' of our times, including effective disaster preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery, to minimize the negative impacts of such crises



SUSTAINABLE FINANCE



Ensuring environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations are well-positioned in investment decisions in the financial sector, is of significant value when it comes to long-term sustainability. Sustainable finance can therefore drive sustainable economic development, while delivering the EU's climate- and environmental vision ahead

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The recognition and protection of different cultures, alongside respect for diversity, are of paramount importance. A diversity of communities' participation in the decision-making process is at the heart of advancing a human rights-based partnership approach



TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

As technology is constantly evolving and innovation is welcome across various sectors, new tools such as the use of artificial intelligence (AI) among others are increasingly becoming pivotal for tackling climate change, driving biodiversity protection and transformative change in the energy and transportation sectors



YOUTH, EDUCATION & AWARENESS

Education can promote the need for urgent action, empowering and motivating a next generation of well-informed youth, that is capable of leading the future. Ensuring that the youth's voice receives the prominent space it deserves, broader public awareness efforts are also important, as they serve to communicate information on sustainable choices and shifts in behaviour



GENDER EQUALITY

Gender equality is essential in tackling societal challenges, as it ensures fair distribution of opportunities and resources, fostering inclusive development and harnessing diverse perspectives and talents for a more just and prosperous society



REGIONAL AND LOCAL CONSIDERATIONS

Climate and environmental sustainability challenges vary across regions, necessitating tailored solutions that consider all diverse ecological, social, and local economy factors. It is essential to strengthen engagement with key areas of the world, such as the Arctic; tackling the effects of climate change, ensuring a peaceful and prosperous region, as well as supporting its comprehensive, inclusive and sustainable development. Moreover, it is vital to recognise the role of European islands and overseas entities in shaping Europe's future across maritime, agricultural, strategic infrastructure, and key ecological domains.





**MEP Group on Climate Change, Biodiversity
and Sustainable Development**



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