

THE ROLE OF TRADE IN PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - THE CASE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Abstract

Adopted in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been hailed as "a defining moment for humanity and the planet", a "victory for multilateralism" and a "blueprint for a better future". The Agenda contains the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which set targets to be achieved by 2030 in 17 areas, including poverty, health, education and the environment. The 2030 Agenda recognizes that trade is an engine of economic growth for all and a means of reducing poverty and contributing to the sustainable development of countries. Eradicating poverty is high on the 2030 Agenda as the first Sustainable Development Goal, and trade continues to be a key factor in progressing towards this goal. Trade and the World Trade Organization have contributed greatly to the unprecedented economic development of the past 15 years. The purpose of this article is to highlight how trade contributes to the achievement of the main objectives of sustainable development, from the perspective of the European Union, highlighting the main directions of action of the European Union in this regard.

Keywords: *European Union, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development Goals, trade, World Trade Organization*

JEL classification: F50, F63

1. Agenda 2030 – the general framework of sustainable development

The UN's 2030 Agenda, adopted in 2015, represents the new global framework for sustainable development; setting 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is a commitment to eradicate poverty and ensure sustainable development worldwide by 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals aim to balance the three dimensions of sustainable development - the economic, the social and the environmental component - through concrete actions foreseen for the next 15 years, focused in particular on regional and global stability, resilient and equitable societies and economies prosper.

Sustainable Development Goals:

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

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Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. (UN,2015).

The 2030 Agenda is a commitment to eradicating poverty and achieving results towards sustainable development worldwide by 2030, ensuring that no one is left behind. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 related targets are global in nature, generally applicable and interconnected. All countries, both developed and developing, have a shared responsibility to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2030 Agenda integrates in a balanced way the three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental - and reflects for the first time an international consensus that peace, security, justice for all and social inclusion should not be pursued only in separately, but must support each other.

2. Integrating trade to expand economic opportunities for poverty reduction

The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs reflect the convergence of two previously separate processes: 1) the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and 2) global discussions on sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda calls for completing unfinished business within the framework of the MDGs while integrating the concept of sustainable development. To this end, there is an urgent need to ensure that economic growth, environmental protection and social inclusion are seen as part of an integrated and indivisible development agenda. The 2030 Agenda calls for “universal” action by poor and rich countries alike, which deviates from the MDGs’ emphasis on donor-recipient relationships. Compared to the framework provided by the MDGs, the 2030 Agenda brings another crucial innovation: the conception that if environmental sustainability is not taken into account, any gain relating to poverty or economic growth will be at best ephemeral, at worst unobtainable. (WTO,2018)

Climate change is having profound impacts on international trade, which differ across regions and sectors. Trade can be part of the solution to help countries adapt to climate change because it fosters investment and economic development and provides opportunities for investment in adaptation actions. It can facilitate access to adaptation technologies, contribute to tackling food security challenges, and support countries in preparing for, responding to and recovering from climate shocks. Greater international cooperation, including at the WTO, is key to strengthen the climate resilience of supply chains, address climate-related food security challenges, and deliver the technical assistance and investment required to climate-proof infrastructure and upgrade productive capacities.(WTO, 2022)

Trade is recognized as an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction that contributes to the promotion of sustainable development both by the 2030 Agenda and its accompanying SDGs as well as the Addis Ababa Agenda. International trade can be an important source of finance to both the private sector and the public sector in developing countries. Trade growth enhances a country’s income-generating capacity, which is one of the essential prerequisites for achieving sustainable development. The opportunities that trade generates for greater economic growth, for improved social development and for reducing poverty are well established. Trade contributes to the realization of the SDGs and, as an enabler, serves as a foundation from which to build national, regional and international policies for sustainable development. More concretely, the WTO has already started to deliver on specific

SDG targets, such as Target 2.B in SDG 2 on zero hunger, which calls for the elimination of trade distortions in agriculture markets, including the phase-out of export subsidies. In December 2015 at the WTO's 10th Ministerial Conference held in Nairobi, ministers adopted the Decision on Export Competition in Agriculture which, among other disciplines, prohibits the use of export subsidies in agriculture largely delivering on Target 2.B. This was among the first targets to be achieved just a few months after the adoption of the SDGs. The decision eliminates agricultural export subsidies and sets out new rules for export credits, international food aid and exporting state trading enterprises. By prohibiting the use of trade-distorting export subsidies and measures of equivalent effect, this decision helps to level the playing field in agriculture, aiding farmers in many developing and least developed countries. This is the most significant reform of global agricultural trade in the history of the WTO – and one which will help to improve the quality of life of future generations, particularly in low-income countries that depend on trade in agricultural products. These recent WTO negotiating successes prove that the trading system does deliver for development. Mainstreaming trade, however, requires a deliberate effort to integrate trade into the various dimensions of government activity and policy making. Trade is a fundamental component of the 2030 Development Agenda, most prominently anchored through Goal 17 on global partnerships as a key means of implementation for delivering on the main goal of eradicating poverty (Goal 1). The true value of trade, however, is essentially interwoven throughout the SDGs, with explicit trade targets across SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 3 on good health and well-being, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 10 on reduced inequalities, SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, and SDG 14 on life below water, and even more deeply underpinning targets in almost all of the SDGs. This is clearly seen in the role of trade in stimulating economic growth, investments into productive capacity including agriculture, supporting clean energy, public health and education, infrastructure development and innovation as well as key linkages to investments. (WTO,2018)

Sustainable development and environmental protection and conservation are fundamental objectives of the WTO. They are enshrined in the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO and complement the Organization's objective of reducing barriers to trade and eliminating discrimination in international trade relations. Although there is no specific agreement on the environment, under WTO rules, members can take trade-related measures to protect the environment, provided that several conditions are met to avoid abuse of these measures for protectionist purposes. The WTO contributes to the protection and preservation of the environment through its objective of trade openness, its rules and enforcement mechanism, the work carried out by its various bodies and its ongoing efforts under the Doha Development Agenda. The Doha Agenda provides for specific trade and environment negotiations and certain tasks are assigned to the Committee on Trade and Environment in regular session.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) are an important means for countries to tackle environmental problems, particularly those international or global in scope. There are, currently in force, over 250 multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) dealing with various environmental issues. About 15 of these MEAs include provisions to control trade in order to prevent damage to the environment:

- [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#)
- [United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement \(UNFSA\)](#)
- [Agreement on Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing \(PSMA\)](#)
- [International Tropical Timber Agreement \(ITTA\)](#)
- [International Plant Protection Convention \(IPPC\)](#)

- [Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#)
- [Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#)
- [Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#)
- [Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#)
- [Montreal Protocol and the Vienna Convention on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer](#)
- [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\), the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement](#)
- [Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal](#)
- [Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade](#)
- [Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants](#)
- [Minamata Convention on Mercury](#). (WTO,2022)

An effective strategy to combat global warming cannot succeed if governments ignore the important role of trade in achieving climate goals, the WTO Director-General said at the COP27 summit in 2022 at the launch of the World Trade Report, which focuses on the relationship between climate change and international trade. The World Trade Report maps out pathways for governments on how to use trade to support national action plans — known as nationally determined contributions (NDCs) — for tackling climate change. Each party to the UN's 2015 Paris Agreement, which sets the target of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, is required to establish an NDC and update it every five years. The World Trade Report indicates trade actions that can help countries meet the challenge of moving to net-zero emissions by mid-century and harnessing trade as a force multiplier for climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. Examples of such trade actions include opening up trade in environmental goods and services, improving cooperation on carbon measurement and verification, and transforming the WTO's Aid-for-Trade initiative into an investment programme that expands opportunities for sustainable trade in less affluent nations.

2.1 Ways and means by which international trade and trade policy can support climate change adaptation strategies

According to the World Trade Report 2022, climate change adaptation strategies encompass actions that reduce the negative impact of climate change, while taking advantage of potential new opportunities that climate change might create. Reducing the consequences of climate change can be achieved by identifying, preventing and reducing actual or expected climate risks, exposure and vulnerabilities, and by being prepared to cope with the effects of climate change and to minimize unavoidable losses and damages from climate change by adjusting existing systems. In practice, adjusting existing systems means adapting the behaviours of people, firms and governments, and modifying infrastructure to deal with the current and future changing climate. Common examples of adaptation strategies include early warning and information-sharing systems, flood risk control, insurance, the introduction of new crop varieties, livelihood diversification, soil and water conservation, and sustainable forest management. Given the urgency to scale-up climate change actions, synergies between climate change adaptation and mitigation can help achieve climate resilience more effectively. While international trade affects climate change, it can also play an important role in climate risk prevention, reduction and preparedness, and in climate disaster recovery and

rehabilitation, even though the consequences of climate change will remain disruptive and costly. Trade can help strengthen food security, and facilitate access to essential goods and services after EWEs hit. In that context, trade policies can also be integrated into climate change adaptation strategies. However, other coordinated policies and actions are important to mitigate the costly adjustment to changes caused by climate change. (WTO, 2022)

(a) Trade can support climate change adaptation actions through economic growth

Adapting to climate change requires important investment in infrastructure to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability at the community, local, regional, sectoral and national level. Although developing countries are considered to be those most vulnerable to a rapidly changing climate, progress in climate change adaptation strategies tends to be more frequently and rapidly achieved in advanced economies. For many developing countries, lack of finance remains an obstacle to invest in climate change adaptation. In this context, international trade, as a driving force for sustained economic prosperity, can indirectly help economies steer some of their financial resources towards climate change adaptation strategies. Higher economic growth can, in turn, provide financial support and material preparation for essential climate change adaptation, such as investment in climate-resilient infrastructure.

(b) Trade can enhance economic resilience to climate change shocks

International trade can help countries prepare for, cope with and recover from climate-related shocks more effectively. Risk prevention and reduction can be achieved by explicitly integrating risk management into decision-making, including financial appraisal of risks and early warning systems. Climate risk screening, resilience performance rating or sustainability standard can be used to identify climate risks and evaluate and reward resilience attributes of public and private investments. In parallel, preparedness encompasses strategies and actions effectively designed to anticipate, respond to and enable recovery from the impacts of likely, imminent or current climate-related shocks. Some of these strategies can include developing disaster responses and contingency plans, identifying priorities and reviewing insurance coverage. When an extreme weather-related shock hits, international trade can, under certain conditions, spread its effects across countries, but at the same time it can contribute to making economies more resilient by ensuring the timely availability of essential goods and services. Imports provide a vital channel for increasing the availability of goods and services that may be in short supply in a disasterstruck country. Such goods and services include food, medical supplies, emergency equipment and expertise to aid relief and recovery efforts. Efficient customs clearance, transit procedures and public procurement processes are essential for trade to play this role effectively. Allowing trade to resume faster in the aftermath of climate-induced shocks and disruptions can be an important economic stimulus that supports economic recovery. For instance, facilitating imports of construction materials can contribute to sustaining infrastructure and post-disaster reconstruction.

(c) Trade can contribute to improving food security arising from changing comparative advantages

Open trade can help countries to adapt to changes in comparative advantages caused by climate change, and to benefit from potential new opportunities, although systemic cascading risks from climate change will remain. Policies aimed at reducing trade costs can support part of the adjustment caused by changes in comparative advantages due to climate change, while minimizing changes in patterns of consumption through imports, and thus potentially minimizing welfare losses. Simulations suggest that reducing trade costs in lower-income economies would, all things being equal, reduce their welfare losses caused by climate change by up to 68 per cent. Promoting trade could also reduce the incidence of climate-induced migrations, as trade and international labour mobility tend to be substitutes rather than complements. Trade and well-functioning markets can contribute to improving food security across multiple dimensions, including food availability, nutrition, access and utilization.

Trade can directly contribute to improving the availability of food by easing its movement between surplus and deficit economies. However, low levels of purchasing power among vulnerable population groups are likely to be further exacerbated by climate change and continue to compromise people’s access to food.

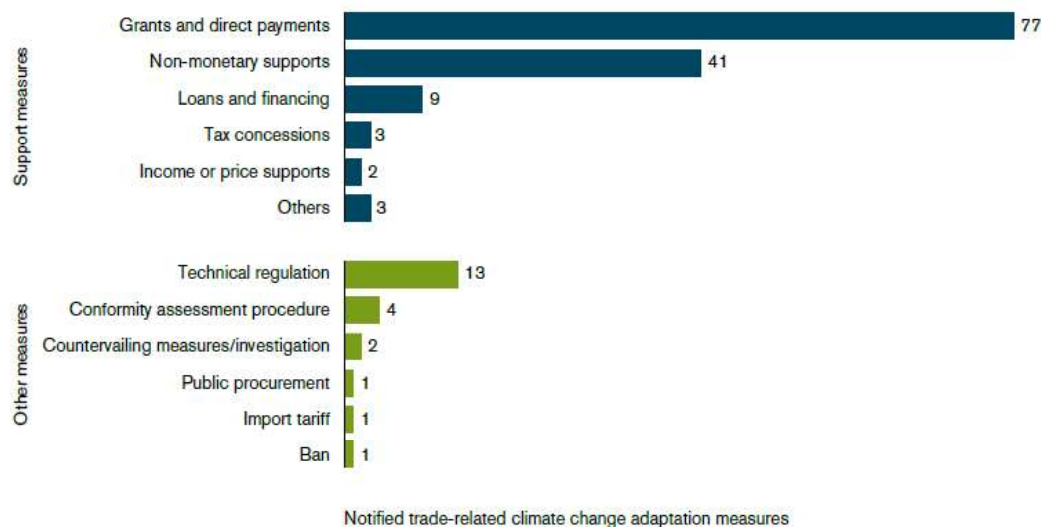
(d) Trade can facilitate the acquisition and deployment of technologies that can contribute to climate change adaptation

Adapting to climate change can require adopting specific technologies to adjust existing systems to deal with current and future consequences of climate change. For instance, technologies that can offset negative agricultural yield shocks include crop varieties with higher heat or salinity tolerance, early warning system for biopesticide use, fertilizers and machinery, as well as irrigation, water conservation and storage systems. Trade and trade policies can increase access to these technologies, especially in countries most vulnerable to climate shocks. The removal of unnecessary barriers to trade could improve farmers’ access to new technologies and reduce their exposure to climate-induced shocks.

(e) Trade policies can be integrated into climate change adaptation strategies

By their very nature, climate change adaptation policies are varied. Although there is no comprehensive typology of climate change policies, they can be broadly classified into three types: structural, social and institutional. Structural and physical measures include, among other things, the application of technologies and the use of ecosystems and their services to serve adaptation needs (e.g., reforestation). Social measures target the specific vulnerabilities of disadvantaged groups and propose solutions (e.g., increasing investment in education and improving labour mobility). Institutional measures relate to specific economic and regulatory policies, which foster investments in adaptation to climate change. In that context, trade policy can also support climate change adaptation actions. Trade-related climate change adaptation measures predominantly take the form of support measures, with more than three-quarters of notified measures covering grants and direct payments, non-monetary support and/or loans and financing. Technical regulations and conformity assessment measures are other common types of adaptation measures.(WTO, 2022)

Figure no.1: Financial support and technical regulations are the most common trade-related climate change adaptation measures



Source: (WTO, 2022)

More than half of the notified climate change adaptation measures cover the agricultural sector, illustrating its vulnerability to climate change and its need to adapt. While international trade can be an important component of climate change adaptation strategies, trade policies alone cannot reduce the negative impact of climate change and help take advantage of potential new opportunities. Other policies and actions are essential to adjust to current or expected effects of climate change. Macro-fiscal policy planning is important to address climate adaptation, such as identifying contingent liabilities from natural disasters and environmental shocks, developing a financial strategy to manage contingent liabilities and evaluating climate and disaster risks of the financial system. In that context, ensuring mutual supportiveness between economic policies, including trade policies, and climate change adaptation policies is essential to strengthen the role of trade while addressing broader challenges of adaptation. P.37

2.2 International trade cooperation can help to make climate adaptation strategies more ambitious and viable

International cooperation on climate adaptation is broad and diverse. While the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is at the forefront of coordinating global climate change adaptation efforts, the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda has recognized the need for the widest possible international cooperation to combat climate change. **International cooperation on trade can further support and enhance climate change adaptation actions.** A limited but increasing number of trade agreements explicitly addresses climate change adaptation, covering various commitments, from adopting adaptation measures to facilitating the removal of trade and investment barriers to goods and services that can contribute to adaptation. Provisions on climate change adaptation are sometimes complemented by other explicit provisions addressing natural disasters. The WTO, through its different functions, can also help to support climate adaptation efforts by promoting the transparency and predictability of trade policies related to climate change adaptation and by limiting unnecessarily trade-restrictive policies.

The WTO can improve the climate resilience of supply chains by helping to make trade more open, predictable and diversified. A broad range of strategies can be adopted to support resilience. Substituting critical inputs, stockpiling, maintaining redundancy in the production process (i.e., additional production capacity in case of need), and diversifying products, suppliers and markets are potential strategies. Pooling information and sharing expertise can also contribute to making supply chains more resilient to climate change. The WTO supports the conditions underpinning the climate resilience of supply chains by reducing trade barriers, streamlining customs procedures, and encouraging the transparency and predictability of trade policies, including those related to climate change adaptation. Several WTO bodies, in particular the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE), also provide a forum to support policy dialogue and experience-sharing in trade-related climate change adaptation strategies. Strengthening discussions in the WTO on the trade-related adaptation needs of developing countries and LDCs could also contribute to a higher degree of alignment and coherence between Aid for Trade and climate finance programmes. (WTO, 2022)

Figure no. 2 Selected examples of resilience policies under WTO agreements and decisions

<p>General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define in advance domestic customs disciplines to be implemented during an emergency. • Temporarily suspend regular customs charges on the entry of imported goods. • Facilitate customs processes and procedures to speed up imports of relief goods and other necessities.
<p>Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement and WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure quality and safety of imported relief goods, including foodstuffs. • Adapt technical standards for construction and building materials to local environmental constraints.
<p>Agreement on Agriculture (AoA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure access to goods of primary necessity, including food supplies. • Provide financial support and government services for relief from natural disasters.
<p>Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide financial support to enterprises to recover from climate-related natural disasters.
<p>Enabling Clause, Decisions on waivers for preferential treatment for LDCs, Waivers under the Marrakesh Agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant non-reciprocal preferences to support export diversification and, following EWEs, to promote the recovery of exports.
<p>General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automatically recognize the professional qualification of foreign service providers for relief services and reconstruction. • Improve access for the population and for businesses to cash aid resources. • Improve the supply of weather-related services to build capacity to anticipate EWEs.
<p>WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure balanced framework for innovation and diffusion of climate adaptation technologies. • Support technology transfer to LDCs.
<p>Agreement on Government Procurement 2012 (GPA 2012) (Plurilateral)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use emergency government procurement flexibilities to accelerate procurement processes for goods and services needed for recovery.

Source: (WTO, 2022)

3. The European Union – global partner engaged in the promotion and implementation of the 2030 Agenda

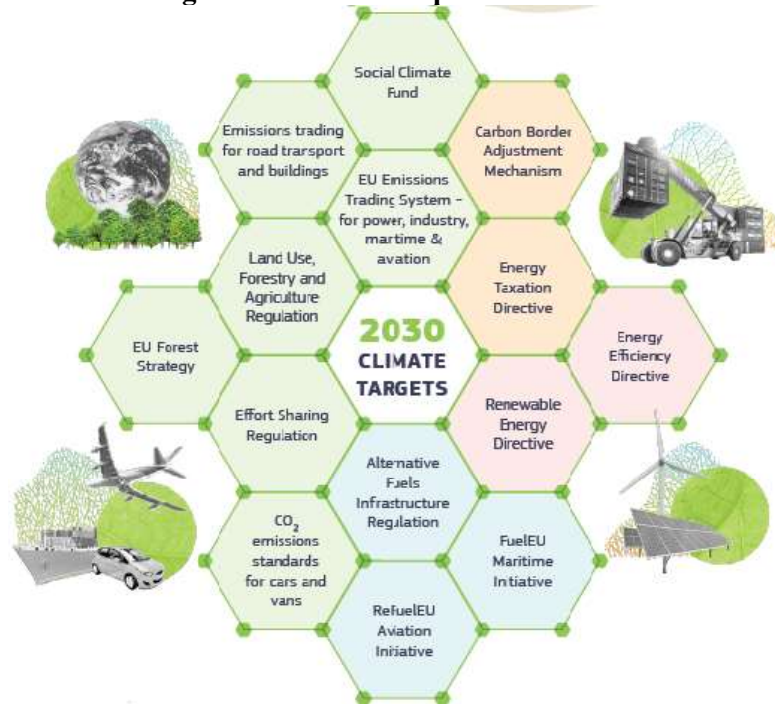
Being in an advanced position in the field of sustainable development, the European Union is determined to, together with its member states, be among the first actors to implement the UN 2030 Agenda. Sustainable development objectives are integrated in all 6 action priorities of the current European Commission.

Sustainable development has long been at the heart of the European project. The EU Treaties recognize its economic, social and environmental dimensions, which must be considered together. The European Union is committed to development that meets present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The essence of sustainable development involves a dignified life for all, respecting the limits of the planet, bringing together economic prosperity and efficiency, peaceful societies, social inclusion and environmental responsibility. In the past, a European Union Sustainable Development Strategy was launched in 2001, revised in 2006 and in 2009. Since 2010, sustainable development has been integrated into the Europe 2020 Strategy, a strategy based on education and innovation ('smart'), on low carbon emissions, climate change resilience and environmental impact ('sustainable'), as well as job creation and poverty reduction ('inclusion-friendly'). As early as 2016, the European Commission presented its strategic approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable

Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda provides an opportunity for the EU to firmly anchor its strategic orientation in the global effort to build a sustainable future. The main measures for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda:

- the integration of the SDGs into absolutely all the policies and initiatives of the European Union – sustainable development is the essential guiding principle for all the policies of the European Commission
- periodic reports, starting in 2017, on the progress of the European Union
- promoting the 2030 Agenda, so that its application becomes a priority for the governments of the member states, for the European Parliament and the other European institutions, as well as for various international organizations, civil society organizations and other interested parties
- establishing a high-level multi-stakeholder platform to support the exchange of good practices in order to achieve the objectives in all sectors and at all levels (national and European)
- launching a longer-term vision for the period after 2020.(Eurostat, 2016)

Figure no.3 The European Green Deal



Source: (European Commission, 2021)

In order to promote sustainable development around the world, the EU will continue to cooperate with external partners, using all available instruments within its external policies and supporting, in particular, the efforts of developing countries.

The EU is committed to being a leader in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), together with its Member States, respecting the principle of subsidiarity. The 2030 Agenda will continue to encourage a common approach between the EU's external actions and its other policies, as well as better coherence between the different EU financial instruments.

4. Conclusion

An imperative of sustainable development is finding ways to adapt to climate change and its current and future consequences. Climate change can affect international trade through changes in productivity, supply chain disruptions, changes in trade costs and changes in comparative

advantage. International trade and trade policy can support climate change adaptation strategies. Climate change is not only an environmental problem, but also a systemic risk affecting people and the global economy. The complex set of linkages that exist within and across economies makes it particularly difficult to predict to what extent an economy will gain or lose competitiveness in a given sector in response to a climate-related shock.

Because productivity losses and gains tend to be geographically concentrated, and neighboring economies tend to trade more with each other than with more distant economies, trade losses and gains are likely to be shaped by geographic patterns of productivity changes, which could increase international inequalities. In particular, climate change can affect strategically important junctures on transport routes through which exceptional volumes of trade pass in the global trade network,⁴ and this can create vulnerabilities for the trade system. Climate change is also likely to increase agricultural trade volatility. By increasing the risk of simultaneous failure of crop systems in multiple grain- or foodproducing economies, climate change increases concerns about food security. Manufacturing sectors tend to be less vulnerable to climate change, partially because of a lower sensitivity and higher adaptive capacity to climatic variability. However, industrial sectors dependent on climate-sensitive inputs (such as food processing), labour-intensive sectors and sectors highly integrated into global value chains (GVCs) are likely to be affected. Climate change will also affect the manufacturing sectors through disruptions in supply chains.

A mapping of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) contained in the 2030 Agenda indicates that current EU policies address all 17 goals. The 2030 Agenda provides an opportunity for the EU to firmly anchor its strategic orientation in the global effort to build a sustainable future, which the Union has defined in collaboration with its partners. The EU is committed to being a leader in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), together with its Member States, respecting the principle of subsidiarity. The 2030 Agenda will continue to encourage a common approach between the EU's external actions and its other policies, as well as better coherence between the different EU financial instruments.

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