

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** January 12,2021

**Report Number:** E42021-0007

**Report Name:** EU Green Deal - January 2021 Update

**Country:** European Union

**Post:** Brussels USEU

**Report Category:** Agriculture in the News, Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security, Policy and Program Announcements

**Prepared By:** Sophie Bolla

**Approved By:** Lisa Allen

**Report Highlights:**

This quarterly report covers October through December 2020 and provides details on the status of the EU Green Deal objectives and strategies including the Farm to Fork Strategy (F2F), Biodiversity Strategy, the Climate Target Plan, the EU Methane Strategy, and the Circular Economy Action Plan.

Representatives across all sectors, including producers, food retailers, Parliamentarians and Commission officials, have been speaking out on F2F. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) negotiations may affect the ability of the EU to meet the F2F targets. Stakeholders are pushing the Commission to complete impact assessments before releasing any draft proposal to ensure the feasibility of any new requirements.

The Commission hosted its first annual Farm to Fork conference on October 15-16, 2020, with the aim to build an international alliance and a global standard of sustainability. The conference opened with remarks from European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Commission Executive Vice President for the Green Deal Frans Timmermans, the Agriculture and Health Commissioners, and the Agriculture Minister of Germany. Participants in the conference were from the agriculture and food industry, farm advocates, academia, research institutes, and environmental non-governmental organizations. The conference discussions touched on a myriad of issues, including consumer acceptance, sustainable practices, technology and innovation.

The Commission has started preparatory work, but most draft legislative proposals are expected in the coming years. On October 20, 2020, the European Commission adopted its [2021 Work Program](#) setting out the actions the Commission aims to take in 2021. To achieve the Green Deal objective of climate neutrality by 2050, the Commission announced that in 2021 it will table a legislative package to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 percent by 2030. This will cover wide-ranging policy areas including renewable energy, land use and forestry. The Commission will also publish a proposal for a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism on the risk of carbon leakage<sup>1</sup>. In addition, the Commission will propose legislation to implement Europe's Circular Economy Action Plan, the EU Biodiversity Strategy, and the F2F. For more information about the Work Program, see: [EU Commission Presents its 2021 Work Program](#).

## **Background:**

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has prioritized her presidency around greening and transforming the EU economy to become carbon neutral by 2050 through the politically ambitious “[EU Green Deal](#).” This quarterly update report includes details on what was proposed and what has progressed during the period October-December 2020. The previous report covering March-September 2020 can be found [here](#).

## **PART I: REGULATORY UPDATES**

## **PART II: FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **PART I: REGULATORY UPDATES**

#### **The EU Climate Law**

On March 4, 2020, the European Commission published the founding legislative proposal of the EU Green Deal: [the EU Climate Law](#). This proposal aims to write into EU law the goal set out in the

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<sup>1</sup> According to the EU, carbon leakage refers to the situation that may occur if, for reasons of costs related to climate policies, businesses were to transfer production to other countries with less stringent emission constraints.

European Green Deal: climate neutrality by 2050 while achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions. The Climate Law will make the objectives of the EU Green Deal legally binding for the European Union and the Member States. The proposal also includes a reduction of net GHG emissions by at least 55 percent compared to 1990 levels by 2030. The proposed text would also empower the Commission to adopt legislation setting out a trajectory to reach carbon-neutrality by 2050, starting from the 2030 target.

2020 target	Current 2030 target	Proposed 2030 target	Proposed 2050 target
- 20%	- 40%	- 55%	- 100%

Table 1: EU targets and Commission’s proposed targets for net reduction of GHG emissions compared to 1990 levels.

### What’s new?

The EU Climate Law is currently going through the EU’s legislative process:

- The European Parliament adopted [its position on the EU Climate Law](#) on October 7, 2020. The Parliament wants the EU to be even more ambitious with its targets. Therefore, they called for a reduction of GHG emissions of 60 percent by 2030.
- On December 11, 2020, the EU Heads of State [endorsed](#) a binding EU target of a net domestic reduction of at least 55 percent in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and called for a swift adoption of the European Climate Law.
- On December 17, the 27 Ministers of Environments adopted the [Council’s position](#) on the EU Climate Law. This position includes a new EU greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of at least 55 percent by 2030 compared to 1990, following the guidance of the European Council.

For more information, please see [EU Parliament and Council Move Forward on Landmark EU Climate Law](#).

Additionally, throughout 2020, the European Commission published many sectoral communications and strategies that lay out a vision (with proposed measures) to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 (which will be enshrined into EU law by the EU Climate Law). The Commission will continue to publish new strategies in 2021. More information on the status of the EU Green deal strategies can be found [here](#).

This report will look at the sectorial strategies that may impact agriculture and food:

- [The Farm To Fork Strategy](#)
- [The Biodiversity Strategy](#)
- [The EU Climate Target Plan For 2030](#)
- [The EU Methane Strategy](#)
- [The Circular Economy Action Plan](#)

## The Farm to Fork Strategy

The Commission published the Farm to Fork (F2F) Strategy on May 20, 2020. The Strategy lists 27 actions aimed to transform the way EU food is produced, processed, transported, presented, and sold. The full Strategy can be found [here](#). The Commission identified these actions to further the Green Deal goals, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and pursuing economic growth decoupled from resource use.

On October 19, 2020, the 27 EU Ministers of Agriculture adopted [Council Conclusions on the Farm to Fork Strategy](#) (F2F). This document is the official position of the Member States on the F2F. With these Conclusions, the Council endorsed the Commission’s Strategy but warned that it needs to ensure sufficient and affordable food while contributing to EU climate neutrality by 2050. The Council also called on the Commission to base all legislative proposals on “thorough impact assessments.” Following the adoption of the Conclusions, Julia Klöckner, Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture of Germany, who was chairing the meeting stated: “The unanimous decision reached is a crucial signal and a clear commitment to a sustainable and economically viable agri-food sector. For the first time, the entire food system is taken into account as a whole – from producers to consumers. It is a solid starting point, and we are looking forward to working altogether the coming years towards a truly sustainable and fair food system in Europe and beyond.” For more information see: [EU Member States Adopt Official Position on Farm to Fork Strategy](#).

### 1. Proposal for a harmonized mandatory front-of-pack nutrition label to enable consumers to make health conscious food choices

The Commission announced that it would propose EU-harmonized mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labeling before the end of 2022. In a [specific report](#) on the subject, the Commission stated that front-of-pack labeling has the potential to help consumers make health-conscious food choices and that harmonized mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labeling (FOPNL) at the EU-level could help inform consumer decisions. Health and Food Safety Commissioner Kyriakides underlined that, at this stage, the Commission would not be recommending any specific schemes and would rather first launch an impact assessment on the different options while soliciting input from stakeholders through a public consultation. European media suggest that the French Nutri-Score labeling scheme is the frontrunner labeling approach to be widely adopted across the EU. France, Belgium<sup>2</sup>, Spain, The Netherlands<sup>3</sup> and Germany have already adopted the Nutri-Score system domestically. The Nutri-Score scheme has also been adopted by leading food manufacturers such as Nestlé and Danone.

### What’s new?

On December 15, 2020, European Ministers of Agriculture discussed this issue in conjunction with discussions about the extension or origin labeling and nutrient profiles. While there was broad support from a majority of Member States for the text prepared by the German Presidency, there was no consensus, notably because of diverging views on FOPNL. The most contentious issues include the aspects and criteria to be considered by the Commission when preparing its proposal. Member States are in particular divided into those in favor of a mandatory, color coded FOPNL, evaluating the nutritional

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<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., [Belgium Adopts Nutri-Score for Front of Pack Nutritional Labeling](#)

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., [Dutch Food Company Adds Nutri-score to Packaged Products](#)

value of a food as a whole and which could be grasped at a glance by all consumers, and those advocating for a voluntary, non-color coded, non-discriminatory labeling scheme merely describing a foodstuff's energy and nutrient contents by repeating in other forms of expression and presentation the mandatory nutritional declaration on the back of pack. With the support of 23 Member States<sup>4</sup>, the German Presidency issued the prepared text as [Presidency Conclusions](#). These Conclusions notably ask the Commission to explore the possibility of excluding geographical indications from FOPNL schemes.

On December 23, 2020, the European Commission published [a roadmap](#) laying down its intention to put forward a legislative proposal for a revision of [Regulation \(EU\) 1169/2011](#) on the provision of food information to consumers (FIC Regulation). With this roadmap, the Commission announces that it will prepare an impact assessment in 2021. A legislative proposal is foreseen for the fourth quarter of 2022. This roadmap covers the proposal for a harmonized mandatory front-of-pack nutrition label. In its impact assessment, the Commission will look at the four types of front-of-pack labels currently in use or development in the EU. The options will cover pre-packed foods that are required to bear a nutrition declaration under the FIC Regulation. The possibility to apply specific conditions to certain categories of food, such as products bearing geographical indications for example, will also be explored. For more information, please see: [Commission Publishes Roadmap on the Upcoming Revision of Food Labeling Requirements](#).

## 2. Nutrient profiles in the context of nutrition and health claims

The Commission announced that it would set nutrient profiles to restrict promotion of food high in salt, sugars and/or fat as required by [Regulation 1924/2006](#) before the end of 2022. Currently, the implementation of Regulation 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods remains incomplete since the Commission did not establish nutrient profiles that had to be set by January 2009.

### What's new?

On December 15, 2020, European Ministers of Agriculture discussed this issue in conjunction with discussions about the FOPNL and the extension or origin labeling. As stated above, while there was broad support from a majority of Member States for the text prepared by the German Presidency, there was no consensus, notably on FOPNL. The [Presidency Conclusions](#) underline the importance of basing the proposal on nutrient profiles on science and evidence and a thorough impact assessment, and call upon the Commission to examine the impact of different nutrient profiling models and the need for exemptions.

On December 23, 2020, the European Commission published [a roadmap](#) laying down its intention to put forward a legislative proposal for a revision of [Regulation \(EU\) 1169/2011](#) on the provision of food information to consumers (FIC Regulation). With this roadmap, the Commission announced that it will prepare an impact assessment in 2021. A legislative proposal is foreseen for the fourth quarter of 2022. This roadmap covers the setting up of nutrient profiles and notes that the Commission plans to develop “in a coherent manner” harmonized front-of-pack nutrition labelling and the setting of nutrient

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<sup>4</sup> The four Member States who did not sign on the Presidency Conclusions are: Italy, Greece, the Czech Republic, and Cyprus.

profiles. For more information, please see: [Commission Publishes Roadmap on the Upcoming Revision of Food Labeling Requirements](#).

### 3. Animal welfare labeling

The F2F Strategy includes the objective for the EU to improve animal welfare, improve animal health and reduce the need for medication. In that regard, the Strategy notes that the Commission will consider “options for animal welfare labeling to better transmit value through the food chain.”

#### What’s new?

On November 3, 2020, during a meeting of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare<sup>5</sup>, the Commission announced the creation of a subgroup which will look at animal welfare labeling. This group, composed of stakeholders, will publish a report by June 2021. The report will look at consumers’ awareness, existing schemes (organic, national initiatives), the economic impact and case studies.

On December 15, European Ministers of Agriculture adopted [Council Conclusions on an EU-wide animal welfare label](#). This is the Member States’ official position on the Commission’s announcement that it would consider options for such labeling in the F2F. Member States think an EU-wide animal welfare label for food produced under animal welfare standards higher than those provided by EU legislation could respond to the consumer demand to easily recognize such food. Therefore, Member States invite the Commission to consider developing criteria that would have to be fulfilled in order to be able to use the EU animal welfare label and to consider the creation of a standardized EU logo for this label. This would be similar to the EU organic label. Julia Klöckner, Germany's Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture, who was chairing the meeting stated: “A common EU label on animal welfare would increase credibility and transparency in our markets and would enable consumers to make more informed choices. It would also help reward producers who respect those standards.”

### 4. Extension of origin indication for certain products

The Commission announced that it will “consider proposing the extension of mandatory origin or provenance indications to certain products, while fully taking into account impacts on the single market” before the end of 2022. Currently, origin labeling is already mandatory in the EU for honey, fruits and vegetables, olive oil, fishery and aquaculture products as well as fresh, chilled and frozen beef, pork, sheep and goat meat and poultry. However, it is still possible for EU Member States to introduce, under certain conditions, national mandatory origin rules

#### What’s new?

On December 2, 2020, Janusz Wojciechowski, EU Commissioner for Agriculture participated in a meeting of the European Parliament’s Committee of Inquiry on the Protection of Animals during

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<sup>5</sup> The EU Platform on Animal Welfare was established in 2017 on the initiative of the European Commission. It is a restricted access stakeholders' network whose objective is to enhance dialogue among members, strengthen synergies, and make voluntary commitments as well as exchange information and good practices on animal welfare issues that are relevant at an EU level. More information: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/awp/#home-pan>



Transport. During that meeting, he stated that the Commission is in favor of informing consumers as much as possible about the origins of meat products from animals and is in favor of including this type of labelling in the EU through the Farm to Fork Strategy.

On December 15, 2020, European Ministers of Agriculture discussed the extension of origin labeling to other food products. This discussion was held in conjunction with discussions about front of pack nutrition labeling (FOPNL) and nutrient profiles. As stated above, while there was broad support from a majority of Member States for the text prepared by the German Presidency, there was no consensus. On origin labeling, the [Presidency Conclusions](#) stress the importance of harmonized rules at the EU level rather than national measures. Member States call on the Commission to consider the impact on the Single Market as well as the consumer benefits in its impact assessment. With regards to the scope of the future proposal, they state that milk, milk used as an ingredient in dairy products, meat and meat used as an ingredient should be first priorities. The Conclusions also call for the Commission to include the specification of the countries of origin of the honey used in honey blends.

On December 23, 2020, the European Commission published [a roadmap](#) laying down its intention to put forward a legislative proposal for a revision of [Regulation \(EU\) 1169/2011](#) on the provision of food information to consumers (FIC Regulation). With this roadmap, the Commission announces that it will prepare an impact assessment in 2021. A legislative proposal is foreseen for the fourth quarter of 2022. This roadmap covers the extension of mandatory origin or provenance indications to certain products. In this roadmap, the Commission identified foods for which the impact of the extension of mandatory origin labelling will be assessed in the impact assessment: milk and milk used as an ingredient, meat used as an ingredient, rabbit and game meat, rice, durum wheat used in pasta, potatoes and tomato used in certain tomato products. For more information, please see: [Commission Publishes Roadmap on the Upcoming Revision of Food Labeling Requirements](#).

## **5. Revision of the EU rules on date marking**

According to the Farm to Fork Strategy, food waste at all steps of the product lifecycle in the EU, accounts for at least 6 percent of total EU GHG emissions. As a way to reduce food waste and food loss in the EU, the Commission also announced that it will propose revisions to EU rules relating to date marking ('use by' and 'best before' dates) before the end of 2022.

### **What's new?**

On December 23, 2020, the European Commission published [a roadmap](#) laying down its intention to put forward a legislative proposal for a revision of [Regulation \(EU\) 1169/2011](#) on the provision of food information to consumers (FIC Regulation). With this roadmap, the Commission announced that it will prepare an impact assessment in 2021. A legislative proposal is foreseen for the fourth quarter of 2022. This roadmap covers the revision of the EU rules on date marking. The Commission announced that in its impact assessment, it will look at different options such as a revision of the rules of application of the 'best before' date, the abolishment of the concept of 'best before' date and an improvement of the expression and presentation of date marking through a new layout, format or wording. For more information, please see: [Commission Publishes Roadmap on the Upcoming Revision of Food Labeling Requirements](#).

## **6. Reduction of the overall use and risk of chemical pesticides by 50 percent and the use of more hazardous pesticides by 50 percent by 2030**

The Commission announced that it would take action to reduce the overall use and risk of chemical pesticides by 50 percent and the use of high-risk pesticides<sup>6</sup> by 50 percent by 2030. These suggested actions include putting forward proposals to revise the [Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive \(SUD\)](#), enhancing provisions on integrated pest management (IPM), and promoting the use of alternative ways to protect harvests from pests and diseases. The Commission began its roadmap to revise the SUD with a public comment period, which lasted from May 29, 2020 to August 7, 2020.

### **What's new?**

The Commission organized a virtual workshop from November 17 to 19, 2020 on the “Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (SUD) 2009/128/EC: Experiences on its current implementation and possible future policy options” in coordination with Member State competent authorities. Details on the workshop can be found [here](#).

On December 14, 2020, when the European Commission decided to ban the plant protection products containing the active substance “Mancozeb”<sup>7</sup>, Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety linked this decision to the F2F reduction targets. She said "the protection of citizens and the environment from dangerous chemicals is a priority for the European Commission. Reducing the dependency on chemical pesticides is a key pillar of the Farm to Fork strategy we presented last spring. We cannot accept that pesticides harmful to our health are used in the EU. Member States should now urgently withdraw all authorizations for plant protection products containing Mancozeb."

For more information about the ban, please see: [Mancozeb Non-Renewal and MRL Review](#)

## **7. New innovative techniques, including biotechnology and the development of bio-based products**

On page 10 of the F2F Strategy, the Commission states, “New innovative techniques, including biotechnology and the development of bio-based products, may play a role in increasing sustainability.” It is unclear exactly how biotechnology will play a role in the F2F Strategy; however, this is being monitored.

### **What's new?**

On November 24, 2020, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published a [Scientific Opinion on genome editing](#). EFSA announced that current guidelines for risk assessment of genetically engineered

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<sup>6</sup> According to the EU, high risk pesticides are plant protection products containing active substances that meet the cut-off criteria set out in points 3.6.2 to 3.6.5 and 3.8.2 of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2009 or are identified as candidates for substitution in accordance with the criteria in point 4 of that annex.

<sup>7</sup> For more information about the non-renewal of Mancozeb, please see [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/2087](#). Member States have until July 4, 2021 to withdraw all authorizations for plant protection products containing Mancozeb.



(GE) organisms are sufficient, but only partially applicable to plant products produced through some techniques of genome editing. This Opinion is one of several EFSA Scientific Opinions released this year that will inform the Commission's [forthcoming April 2021 study on new genomic techniques](#). The April 2021 study is also expected to inform various aspects of the F2F Strategy around new innovative techniques.

## **8. Revision of the Feed Additives Regulation to reduce the environmental impact of livestock farming**

The Commission announced that it would facilitate the placing on the market of sustainable and innovative feed additives through a revision of the feed additives legislation. The Commission aims to adapt the rules to address the goals of sustainable farming as well as reduce the non-CO2 GHG emissions (methane and nitrous oxide) linked to livestock production.

### **What's new?**

On December 14, 2020, the European Commission launched a public consultation on possible revisions to the EU's feed additives legislation. The Commission will conduct an impact assessment to evaluate if any adjustments are needed in order to better align the feed additives regulation with the EU Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy. A legislative proposal is expected to be published by the end of 2021. For more information, please see: [European Commission Launches Public Consultation on Possible Revision of Feed Additives Legislation](#).

### **The Biodiversity Strategy**

The Commission published the Biodiversity Strategy on May 20, 2020. The Strategy lists 39 actions aimed to improve biodiversity in the European Union. The full Strategy can be found [here](#). This report will only assess actions that may impact U.S. agricultural product market access, EU competitiveness, and/or create technical barriers to trade.

On October 23, 2020, the 27 EU Ministers of Environment adopted [Council Conclusions](#) on the Biodiversity Strategy. This document is the official position of the Member States on the Strategy. With these Conclusions, the Council endorsed the objectives of the Commission's Strategy. However, they also called on the Commission to provide thorough impact assessments for any legislative proposals that it may put forward, including an assessment of the subsidiarity and proportionality of the proposed measures and, if need be, an assessment of compensation and its financeability. For more information see: [EU Member States Adopt Their Position on the Biodiversity Strategy](#).

## **1. Action plan for organic farming for 2021-2026**

In the Biodiversity Strategy, the Commission set a goal of 25 percent of agricultural land area for organic farming in the EU by 2030, up from 8 percent currently. To that end, the Commission intended to adopt an Action Plan for Organic Farming for 2021-2026 by the end of 2020. However, adoption has been delayed.

On September 4, 2020, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the EU's future action plan for the development of EU organic production. For more information, please see GAIN Report [EU Launches Consultation on Future Organics Action Plan](#). EU Member State industries meanwhile are also proposing their own plans.

### **What's new?**

The Consultation concluded on November 27 and a summary of responses is expected to be published in the first quarter of 2021.

#### **2. Study on the sustainability of the use of forest biomass for energy production / Operational guidance on the new sustainability criteria on forest biomass for energy**

The Commission had announced that it would publish a study on the sustainability of the use of forest biomass for energy production in November 2020. However, they have not yet published the study. At the same time, as part of the EU's Renewable Energy Directive 2021-2030 (known as REDII), the European Commission is preparing the operational guidance on the new sustainability criteria on forest biomass for energy (wood pellets). For more information on REDII, please see [Biofuels Annual](#) and the 'Climate Target Plan 2030' section below.

#### **3. Measures to avoid or minimize the placing of products associated with deforestation or forest degradation on the EU market**

In the European Green Deal, the Commission indicated that it would "take measures, both regulatory and otherwise, to promote imported products and value chains that do not involve deforestation and forest degradation." With the Biodiversity Strategy, the Commission announced that it will propose "measures to avoid or minimize the placing of products associated with deforestation or forest degradation on the EU market" in 2021.

### **What's new?**

On September 3, 2020, the European Commission launched [a public consultation](#) on the EU's future possible actions to reduce the impact of products placed on the EU market with regards to deforestation and forest degradation. For more information, please see GAIN Report [EU Launches Public Consultation on Deforestation-Free Supply Chains](#).

In October 2020, the EU also launched a multi-stakeholder platform on global deforestation. The aim of the platform is to hear-out the interests of stakeholders. This platform will have a series of stakeholder discussions to provide input into the development of the proposed legislation. Stakeholders include third countries, representatives from EU Member States, industry groups, and non-governmental organizations.

### **The EU Climate Target Plan for 2030**

On September 17, 2020, the European Commission presented its [2030 Climate Target Plan](#). The objective is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to at least 55 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. The

Plan includes proposed actions to achieve this objective, including a revision of the Renewable Energy Directive and the launch of an EU Carbon Farming Initiative. For more information, please see: [EU Commission Unveils EU Climate Target Plan 2030](#).

### **1. EU carbon farming initiative**

On September 17, 2020, The Commission announced that it will begin work shortly on the carbon farming initiative as part of its Climate Target Plan 2030. A proposal is expected by the end of 2021, which would be followed by stakeholder consultations. The Commission wants to integrate agricultural non-CO2 greenhouse gas emissions (mostly methane) into the land use, land use change, and forestry (LULUCF) sector and to create a new regulated sector covering agriculture, forestry, and land use. In practice, this could mean payments for farmers who actively sequester carbon on their farms.

### **2. Revision of the Renewable Energy Directive**

The Renewable Energy Directive for 2021-2030 (REDII) was adopted in 2018 and will enter into force on January 1, 2021. REDII introduces sustainability criteria for forestry biomass (wood pellets). For more information, please see '[EU Reaches a Political Agreement on Renewable Energy](#)'.

#### **What's new?**

On November 17, 2020, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the EU's review of the Renewable Energy Directive (REDII). As part of the review process, the European Commission will look at the sustainability criteria introduced by REDII for forest biomass to "mitigate climate and environmental risks created by the increasing use of certain sources for bioenergy." An ongoing study, carried out by the European Commission's Joint Research Center, on the use of forest biomass for energy production will also feed into the review of the criteria. Although, this study was expected to be published by the end of 2020, the publication has been delayed. This consultation will feed into the review process of REDII and contribute to an impact assessment that the Commission will carry out to determine whether a revision is needed and what revision would be the most appropriate. For more information, see [EU Launches Public Consultation on the Review of the Renewable Energy Directive](#).

### **3. Review of the EU's emission reduction legislation**

As part of the 2030 Climate Target Plan, the Commission announced that it will review and propose to revise relevant legislation by June 2021. This includes changes to existing emission reduction legislation such as the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) Directive, the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR) and the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry Regulation (LULUCF).

#### **What's new?**

On November 13, 2020, the European Commission launched three public consultations on proposed revisions to climate-related EU legislations:

- [The Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry Regulation](#) (LULUCF Regulation)
- [The Effort Sharing Regulation](#) (ESR Regulation)
- [The EU Emission Trading System Directive](#) (ETS Directive)

The LULUCF Regulation covers the accounting of GHG emissions and CO2 removals caused by the manner in which the EU manages its land and forests. The Regulation sets out rules to ensure that only human-induced emissions and removals are taken into account in the achievement of current EU climate targets. The EU ETS Directive is a cap-and-trade system. Under the 'cap and trade' principle, a cap is set on the total amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted by all participating installations. The Effort Sharing Regulation lays down binding annual greenhouse gas emission targets with an overall aim to reduce EU emissions in the sectors covered by 30 percent compared to 2005 by 2030. The ESR applies to the sectors of the economy that fall outside the scope of the ETS Directive. These sectors include agriculture, transport and waste. For more information, see [EU Commission Launches Consultations to Assist in the Review of its Emission Reduction Legislation](#).

### **The EU Methane Strategy**

On October 14, 2020, the European Commission presented its [EU Methane Strategy](#), in which the main objective is to reduce methane emissions by 35 to 37 percent by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. In the agriculture sector, the Commission wants to improve the reporting of emissions. It also wants to boost the production of biogas from non-recyclable agricultural waste. The Commission also announced that it will propose a revision of the Feed Additives Regulation to reduce the environmental impact of livestock farming by the end of 2021.

For more information, see: [EU Adopts Its Methane Strategy](#)

### **The Circular Economy Action Plan**

On March 11, 2020, the European Commission published its [Circular Economy Action Plan](#). The Action Plan lists 35 actions that focus on the design and production for a circular economy, with the aim to ensure that the resources used are kept in the EU economy for as long as possible. Some of these actions may impact U.S. agricultural product market access, EU competitiveness, and/or create technical barriers to trade. These include:

- Mandatory requirements for recycled content and waste reduction measures for key products, including packaging (2021/2022)
- Restriction of intentionally added microplastics (2021)
- Policy framework for bio-based plastics and biodegradable or compostable plastics (2021)

## **PART II: FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**January 11, 2021:** Parliament AGRI Committee meeting

**January 14, 2021:** Parliament AGRI Committee meeting

**January 19, 2021:** Commission Stakeholder Event on SUD planned work

**January 25-26, 2021:** Parliament AGRI Committee meeting

**January 2021:** Expected publication of EMA Scientific Opinion on the list of antimicrobials reserved for human use

**February 1, 2021:** Parliament AGRI Committee meeting

**February 4, 2021:** Parliament AGRI Committee meeting

**February 21, 2021:** Parliament AGRI Committee meeting

**February 2021:** Transatlantic Sustainability Dialogue

**March 2021:** Forum for the Future of Agriculture

**April 2021:** U.S.-EU Risk Round Table

**2021:** Proposal for a revision of EU marketing standards for agricultural, fishery and aquaculture products to ensure the uptake and supply of sustainable products

**2021:** Review and possible revision of the EU Pollinators initiative

**Q1 2021:** Study on the sustainability of the use of forest biomass for energy production

**Q1-Q2 2021:** Operational guidance on the new sustainability criteria on forest biomass for energy

**Q2 2021:** Review of the data on biofuels with high indirect land-use change risk and setting up of a trajectory for their gradual phase out by 2030

**2021:** Draft measures to avoid or minimize the placing of products associated with deforestation or forest degradation on the EU market

### **Attachments:**

No Attachments.