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**Prepared By:**

**Approved By:** Jennifer Lappin

**Report Highlights:**

Ursula von der Leyen, President-Designate of the European Commission, has announced that the EU will propose a "European Green Deal" in the first 100 days of her mandate. The goal is for Europe to be the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. The European Green Deal will most likely impact the agri-food sector.

## General Information:

Following her appointment as the next President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen published [her political guidelines](#) for the Commission 2019-2024. These guidelines focused on six headline goals for the EU and included “A European Green Deal.” The main ambition is for Europe to be the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. While no concrete actions have been presented so far, the European Green Deal will more than likely be central to the work of the upcoming Commission. This was underlined during the confirmation hearings of several Commissioners designate in front of the European Parliament in October 2019.

President von der Leyen announced that she will published the EU Green Deal proposal with clear action in the first 100 days of her mandate. However, she already listed some priorities in her political guidelines:

- European Climate Legislation to enshrine the 2050 climate-neutrality target into law;
- Extension of the Emissions Trading System to the maritime sector and airlines;
- Introduction of a Carbon Border Tax to avoid carbon leakage
- Creation of a Sustainable Europe Investment Plan
- A Biodiversity Strategy for 2030
- A “Farm to Fork Strategy” on sustainable food along the whole value chain
- A new Circular Economy Action Plan

First Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans will be responsible for the EU Green Deal in the new Commission. He will be the Head of the Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA). He will also coordinate the work of five Commissioners also responsible for delivering the deal:

- Stella Kyriakides – Health (DG SANTE)
- Janusz Wojciechowski – Agriculture (DG AGRI)
- Transport (DG TRAN) [Note: the European Parliament rejected the initial Transport Designate, during the confirmation hearings; the new nominee is forthcoming]
- Kadri Simson – Energy (DG ENER)
- Virginijus Sinkevicius – Environment and Oceans (DG ENVI/DG MARE)

## The Farm to Fork Strategy

According to the Mission Letters of Commissioners Kyriakides and Wojciechowski, the Farm to Fork Strategy will be co-led by DG SANTE and DG AGRI. It will cover every step in the food chain from production to consumption, and feed into the EU’s circular economy objectives.

One of the objectives will be to work on plant health and to reduce the EU’s dependency on pesticides and stimulate the take-up of lower-risk and non-chemical alternatives. Another will be to look at how the agri-food sector can improve the sustainability of food production across the food chain, including through organic production.

More information on the content of the Farm to Fork Strategy will likely be presented with publication of the EU Green Deal, expected in early 2020.

## **Deforestation-free Supply Chain**

Another idea that has been floated around by VP Frans Timmermans is to create deforestation-free supply chains for the EU, complementing the EU Communication on Deforestation (see [GAIN E19027](#)). On October 14, 2019 the Council of Agriculture Ministers of the European Union underlined the importance of the Commission's Communication. In particular, the Ministers stressed the promotion of deforestation-free supply chains through certification schemes for deforestation-free products.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.