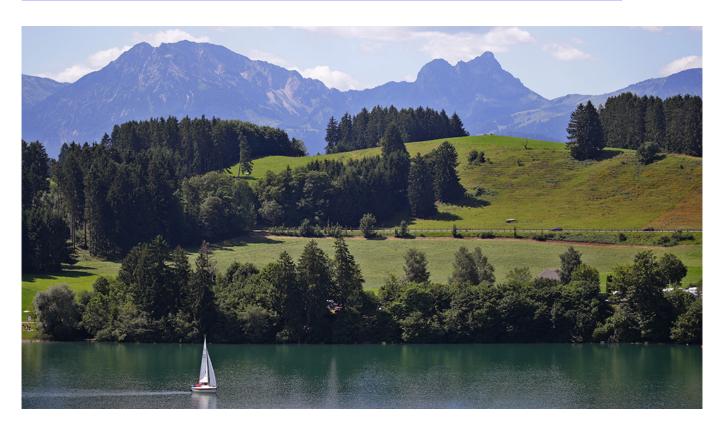
<u>Article — Green Deal: key to a</u> climate-neutral and sustainable EU



EU Climate Law

In March 2020, the Commission proposed the European Climate Law, a **legal framework** to achieve the <u>2050 climate neutrality goal</u>. In January, Parliament had called for <u>more ambitious emission reduction targets</u> than those initially proposed by the Commission. The EU executive is expected to come up with a revised interim target for 2030 later in 2020.

Empowering European industry and SMEs

In March 2020, the Commission presented a new <u>Industrial Strategy</u> for Europe to ensure that European businesses can transition towards climate neutrality and a digital future.

As 99% of European firms are small and medium-sized enterprises (**SMEs**), accounting for 50% of the 's gross domestic product and responsible for two out of three jobs, the Commission also proposed a <u>new SME Strategy</u>, encouraging **innovation**; cutting **red tape** and allowing better **access to finance**.

Boosting the circular economy

In addition the Commission presented the EU Circular Economy Action Plan in

March, which includes measures along the entire life cycle of products promoting circular economy processes, fostering sustainable consumption and guaranteeing less waste. It will focus on:

- electronics and ICT
- batteries and vehicles
- packaging and plastics
- textiles
- construction and buildings
- food chain