

Italy: Intesa Sanpaolo and the EIB Group: 2.8 billion euro in loans and resources

- In 2020, agreements for more than €2.8 billion in funding were signed to support SMEs and mid-caps in research, innovation and overcoming the health emergency.
- The funds are intended to support the economies of the countries in which Intesa Sanpaolo operates, particularly the Italian economy.
- Two projects were funded related to tourism and courses for university students.

In 2020, **Intesa Sanpaolo** and the **European Investment Bank Group** (EIB and EIF – European Investment Fund) extended their cooperation to jointly provide **new financial resources to support the countries where Intesa Sanpaolo operates**.

In a particularly difficult year for the world's economies due to the COVID-19 health emergency, several initiatives have been launched through a number of specific agreements. Under these agreements, the **EIB Group** has made and will make financial resources available to **Intesa Sanpaolo** that, combined with resources added by the Italian bank, will make it possible to grant **over €2.8 billion in new loans** to final recipients **destined primarily for the Italian economy**.

Intesa Sanpaolo will **allocate the funds** mainly to its **more than 200 000 corporate customers** for:

- **financing small and medium-sized Italian companies and mid-caps**, i.e. companies with up to 3 000 employees at a consolidated level, for:
 - new investments, particularly in research projects and innovation;
 - ongoing working capital needs;
 - liquidity to overcome the COVID-19 crisis.
- **support for two projects through EU Structural Funds**:
 - an **agreement with the Sardinia Region** to counter the COVID-19 crisis that focuses primarily on the tourism sector (another is being finalised with the Sicilian regional administration);
 - an **agreement to provide student loans to university students**.

Among the agreements signed in 2020 between the **EIB Group** and **Intesa Sanpaolo** is the synthetic **securitisation** of an existing loan portfolio amounting to **approximately €2 billion under the GARC programme** (*Gestione Attiva Rischio di Credito* – Active Credit Risk Management). Through this agreement, after optimising the credit risk on an existing portfolio, it will be possible to make available **€450 million in new loans** for **SMEs and mid-caps** affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

Italian businesses will be able to access new credit on favourable terms,

also in combination with the COVID-19 measures provided for by the so-called Liquidity and Relaunch Decrees, and therefore benefiting from the guarantees from the **Central Guarantee Fund** and **SACE**.

Also being finalised is an **innovative social housing project** through urban redevelopment projects that include improving the energy efficiency of the areas involved.

Intesa Sanpaolo is the leading bank in Italy and one of the soundest and most profitable banks in Europe. It offers commercial, corporate investment banking, asset management and insurance services. The Intesa Sanpaolo Group has approximately 14.6 million customers who are assisted through both digital and traditional channels. The Group's international subsidiary banks serve 7.2 million customers across Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Intesa Sanpaolo is considered one of the most sustainable banks in the world. For the Group, creating value means being a driver for growth, for the benefit of both society and the economy. As regards the environment, the Group has set up a €6 billion fund for the circular economy. Intesa Sanpaolo supports major economic inclusion and poverty reduction projects, including an impact fund of €1.2 billion for loans available to social groups who struggle to access credit. Intesa Sanpaolo has a high level of involvement in cultural initiatives, organised by the bank or in collaboration with other entities in Italy and further afield. These include permanent and temporary exhibitions showcasing the bank's impressive artistic heritage at the Gallerie d'Italia, the Group's museums located in Milan, Naples, Vicenza and soon Turin.

Press release – Deal on financing a just energy transition in EU regions



The Just Transition Fund (JTF), worth 17.5 billion EUR, is one of the EU's key tools to support regions in the transition towards climate neutrality by 2050.

During their talks, EU institutions agreed to broaden its scope to also fund micro-enterprises, universities and public research institutions, digital innovation and activities in the areas of education and social inclusion. Investments in renewable energy and energy storage technologies, investments in energy efficiency and heat production for renewables-based district heating, smart and sustainable local mobility will also be financed.

The decommissioning or construction of nuclear power stations, activities linked to tobacco products and investment related to the production, processing, transport, distribution, storage or combustion of fossil fuels cannot be funded through the JTF.

At the initiative of the Parliament, a "Green Rewarding Mechanism" will be introduced, if JTF resources are increased after 31 December 2024. The additional resources will be distributed among member states, with those that succeed in reducing greenhouse gas emitted by their industrial facilities receiving more funding.

Other key measures agreed

- In their territorial just transition plans, member states have to focus on supporting **outermost regions and islands** and earmark specific amounts from their national allocations;
- **Businesses in difficulty** may receive support in compliance with temporary EU state aid rules established to address exceptional circumstances;
- Resources may be transferred from other cohesion funds on a **voluntary basis**;
- The proportion of the investments to be provided by EU funding (**co-financing**) is set at maximum of 85% for less developed regions, 70% for transition regions and 50% for more developed regions.

Quote

Rapporteur [Manolis Kefalogiannis](#) (EPP, GR) said: "The European Parliament gave a strong political signal: the social, economic and environmental impact of the energy transition in the most affected regions must be addressed. We took a pragmatic approach that will allow us to move into a new green era without leaving anyone behind."

Next steps

Parliament and Council are now expected to endorse the content of the agreement.

Background

The Commission [published](#) in January 2020 a legislative proposal on the Just Transition Fund (JTF), the first legislative proposal implementing the

priorities set out in the European Green Deal, followed in May by an [amended proposal](#) containing an increase of the Fund's resources. In July, the European Council set the financial envelope of the JTF at EUR 7.5 billion from the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework, supplemented by EUR 10 billion from the EU Recovery Instrument.

Invitation letter by President Charles Michel to the members of the European Council ahead of their meeting on 10-11 December 2020



At this week's European Council meeting we will have to tackle many important issues. We will start with our traditional exchange of views with President Sassoli.

On the COVID-19 pandemic, we welcome the positive developments on vaccines. This does not however mean that the pandemic is over. We can now step up our preparations for the deployment and distribution of vaccines. We must sustain our efforts to coordinate on testing and the lifting of restrictions, including for travel, when the epidemiological situation allows it.

I am confident that we can find an agreement on a common package to allow for the swift implementation of both the Multiannual financial framework and the Recovery fund.

Our afternoon session will be dedicated to climate change. An agreement on an enhanced emissions reduction target of at least 55% by 2030 is within our grasp. Work on the best way to get to this ambitious target is well under way. This would be a major achievement and would underpin our claim to play a leading role in fighting climate change.

Over dinner, I would like us to tackle our important international agenda. After the elections, our relations with the US will enter into a new phase and we should set the basis for a strong and equal partnership. As agreed in October we will also return to relations with Turkey.

On Friday morning, we will address the Southern Neighbourhood. It is a key region for our strategic interests and we should examine how to revive it and lend it a new dimension.

We will then turn to our security. The terrorist attacks of the past few weeks have only strengthened our resolve to work together against terrorism, radicalisation and violent extremism. We will focus in particular on

operational measures that further reinforce our cooperation.

At the end of our meeting, we will be joined by the Presidents of the ECB and the Eurogroup for a Euro Summit in inclusive format. This will be an opportunity for us to discuss the economic situation and to give further guidance on the Banking Union and the Capital Markets Union.

When it comes to relations with the UK, negotiations are on-going based on our common mandate. It is not the intention to plan a discussion on the matter. The President of the Commission will debrief us on the state of play.

I look forward to seeing you in Brussels.

[Visit the meeting page](#)

Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain countries concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Venezuela



On 12 November 2020, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2020/1700^[1].

The Council has decided that the restrictive measures should be renewed for a further period of 12 months, until 14 November 2021. The Council also decided to amend the statement of reasons of fourteen persons listed in Annex I to Decision (CFSP) 2017/2074.

The Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania^[2], and the EFTA countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this Council Decision.

They will ensure that their national policies conform to this Council Decision.

The European Union takes note of this commitment and welcomes it.

^[1] Published on 13.11.2020 in the Official Journal of the European Union L 381/25.

^[2] The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

France : la BEI et la Région Occitanie unies pour développer la mobilité hydrogène



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Signature d'un contrat de financement de 40 M€ pour le projet Corridor H2 en Occitanie

Engagée dans le développement de nouvelles énergies d'avenir et non émettrices de gaz à effet de serre, la Région Occitanie a adopté en 2019 un Plan Hydrogène vert doté de 150 M€ destiné à accélérer le déploiement à grande échelle des solutions hydrogène sur le territoire. A l'occasion de l'ouverture du salon Energaïa, la présidente de Région Carole Delga et Ambroise Fayolle, Vice-Président de la Banque européenne d'investissement, annoncent qu'ils ont signé un contrat de prêt de 40 M€ pour le financement du projet de Corridor H2, unique en Europe.

La Région Occitanie, avec ses Agences Ad'Occ (Agence de Développement Economique) et AREC (Agence Régionale Energie Climat), a monté le projet Corridor H2 qui prévoit d'une part le développement de stations de distribution d'hydrogène sur un axe Nord / Sud allant de la Méditerranée à la Mer du Nord, ainsi que les axes autoroutiers secondaires d'Occitanie (A61 et

A20 notamment), et d'autre part le développement d'une flotte de véhicules lourds pour le transport de marchandises et de passagers (camions et autocars).

Le projet Corridor H2 cible :

- **La logistique du froid** (groupes frigorifiques), avec des solutions entièrement électriques et alimentées grâce à de l'hydrogène. Elles pourront être intégrées dans de nouvelles remorques ou dans des remorques existantes ;
- **Les véhicules lourds**, en particulier les camions porteurs (16/27t) notamment pour la distribution et collecte locale, et les camions tracteurs (44t) pour le transport long courrier, national et européen ;
- **Les autocars Lio** déployés par la SPL « d'Un point à l'Autre » dans le Tarn (Gaillac).

Huit stations seront installées afin de mettre à disposition des points de recharge hydrogène au plus près des grands axes de transport. Des infrastructures permettant d'accueillir les premiers camions à propulsion électrique hydrogène seront également mises en place en suivant l'évolution de l'introduction de ces véhicules sur le marché européen.

Ainsi, l'objectif est, d'ici 2023, le déploiement de :

- 20 unités réfrigérées dites « retrofit » (moteur d'origine du véhicule changé au profit d'une pile à combustible hydrogène) 40 remorques frigorifiques, 40 camions à propulsion H2, 15 autocars Lio en retrofit ;
- 8 stations hydrogène, soit 225t H2 distribuées/an, et 2,6 millions de litres de diesel évités par an ;
- 2 unités de production d'hydrogène vert implantées en Occitanie.

Au total, le projet Corridor H2 permettra d'éviter la consommation annuelle de 2,6 millions de tonnes de diesel.

Véritable puzzle à échelle européenne, le projet Corridor H2 s'enrichira des contributions de régions françaises et européennes qui viendront à leur tour apporter leur contribution au projet et participer au maillage du couloir européen nord-sud.

Un partenariat Région / BEI porteur

Estimé à près de 110 M€, le projet Corridor H2 bénéficie d'un prêt de 40 M€ alloué par la Banque européenne d'investissement (BEI). Ce financement s'inscrit dans l'action prioritaire menée par la Banque de l'Union européenne (UE) pour atténuer les effets du changement climatique. Persuadée que les technologies de l'hydrogène peuvent jouer un rôle majeur pour accélérer la transition énergétique, la BEI a renforcé son soutien aux porteurs de projet qu'elle accompagne également par son expertise.

« Ce projet marque une étape pour le développement de l'hydrogène au cœur des villes et territoires. C'est pourquoi, je suis très heureux de signer ce nouveau financement avec la Région Occitanie avec laquelle nous avons noué un partenariat de grande qualité. » a déclaré Ambroise Fayolle, Vice-Président

de la BEI. Et d'ajouter : « *Le financement de nouvelles technologies comme des projets innovants qui contribuent à la transition énergétique et à l'amélioration de la vie quotidienne des habitants est une priorité pour la Banque européenne du climat. En agissant ainsi, nous préparons l'avenir des jeunes générations.* »

Cet accord est en parfaite adéquation avec la « Stratégie Nationale pour le développement de l'hydrogène décarboné en France » annoncée le 8 septembre 2020 : elle pose les jalons d'une ère nouvelle pour l'hydrogène en tant que future industrie stratégique en France comme au niveau européen.

La Région Occitanie a par ailleurs déposé sa candidature à l'appel à projets européen *MIE Blending*. **L'Occitanie est à ce jour la première Région française en capacité de déposer un dossier de candidature.** Plusieurs millions d'euros de subventions pourraient être allouées sur le territoire régional si ce dossier était retenu, et viendrait compléter les 40 M€ déjà alloués via le prêt. Des appels à projets pourraient être lancés dès le premier trimestre par la Région Occitanie pour attribuer ces subventions. Les entreprises de production et de distribution d'H2 renouvelable, les transporteurs qui feront l'acquisition de camions et de remorques frigorifiques hydrogène, ainsi que la Région elle-même dans le cadre de l'acquisition de 15 autocars H2, pourraient bénéficier de ces fonds. L'AREC interviendrait comme co-investisseur au sein des projets d'infrastructures.

« *L'Occitanie s'est toujours positionnée comme pionnière dans le développement de la filière hydrogène sur son territoire. Cette volonté, nous l'avons illustrée dès 2019 par l'adoption d'un Plan Hydrogène vert sans précédent, doté de 150 M€, qui doit notamment permettre de concrétiser l'objectif que nous nous sommes fixés de devenir la 1^{ère} région à énergie positive d'Europe d'ici 2050. Ce contrat que nous signons aujourd'hui avec la Banque européenne d'investissement dans le cadre du projet Corridor H2, illustre de nouveau notre détermination à faire de l'hydrogène l'une des énergies d'avenir en Occitanie. Elle vient également souligner l'importance des liens qui nous unissent à l'Europe, qui à travers le soutien financier qu'elle apporte, vient pleinement participer à la concrétisation de la transition énergétique* », a déclaré Carole Delga à cette occasion.

Informations générales

En tant que banque européenne du climat, la **BEI** a décidé d'augmenter les financements de projets qu'elle soutient à l'appui des objectifs climatiques et environnementaux pour les porter à 50 % de son activité d'ici à 2025, de sorte que le Groupe BEI mobilise au moins 1 000 milliards d'EUR d'ici à 2030 pour promouvoir des investissements qui contribuent à la réalisation de ces objectifs. En France, en 2019, la BEI a consacré 47 % de ses financements – soit 3,28 milliards d'euros – à la lutte contre le changement climatique.