

## Norway-EU Green Alliance

### 1. General

- Both sides agree to enhance their dialogue and cooperation on a just climate, environment, energy and industrial transformation by establishing a Green Alliance.
- Both sides emphasise the particularly strong relationship they enjoy as European neighbours, partners, and allies, sharing fundamental values and a common regulatory framework through the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement), and taking into account the regional context of the Baltic and North Seas.
- Both sides reaffirm that high and aligned ambitions, collective effort and urgent action are needed to address the triple planetary crisis – climate, biodiversity loss and pollution, and to speed up the transition to a just, environmentally friendly, climate-neutral, and equitable economy.
- Both sides reiterate their commitment to their respective 2030 targets of at least 55% greenhouse gas emission reductions compared to 1990, and to achieving climate-neutrality at the latest by 2050, aiming to keep global temperature rise within the 1.5 C-degree target while ensuring energy security, environmental protection and human rights.
- For both sides, climate neutrality is their chosen strategy for growth, jobs, and competitiveness, focused on a virtuous cycle of the economy and the environment, leaving no one behind.
- Both sides strongly support a rule-based international order and multilateralism. They reaffirm their commitment to implementing the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Both sides further emphasize their cooperation and support for climate finance, biodiversity and zero-pollution ambition through multilateral organizations and processes.

- In this context, both sides intend to further deepen mutually beneficial cooperation and partnerships within relevant bilateral, regional, European, and global frameworks. Both sides will seek to strengthen international cooperation on the environmental dimension of sustainable development, including through United Nations Environment Assembly and multilateral environmental agreements.
- Both sides agree on the importance of improving resilience and adaptation to climate change so as to protect the ecosystems and livelihoods in the vulnerable polar and sub-polar regions.
- Both sides agree on the necessity to support efforts to accelerate the clean energy transition and recognise the important role of Norway in contributing to the EU's energy needs in its transition to a net zero economy. In this context, both sides agree to join forces to achieve a decarbonised European energy system of the future.
- Both sides are committed to fostering green and just mobility and transport, which is essential for a climate-neutral society, not least due to the expected increase in global production, trade, and transport in the coming decades.

## **2. Priority areas for cooperation**

### **Climate Change**

- Recognising that the effects of climate change are already being felt, both sides underline the need to scale up support to climate adaptation, preparedness and to fighting hunger in international cooperation, and aim at co-operating and exchanging views on respective policies on adaptation to the changing climate.
- Both sides recognise the importance of carbon pricing including emission trading systems in contributing to economic growth and as a way of creating incentives for reducing emissions. Both sides recognise the importance of the EU ETS as a cornerstone of their climate policy to put them on track to achieve their respective climate targets for 2030 and become net zero economies.
- Both sides underline that carbon removals will have a substantial role to play in meeting climate targets and in the transition to a climate-neutral society. Both sides are determined to sustainably use the forest as a central part of its climate policies and to increase the natural carbon

removals and storage in nature, recognising that this also requires increased efforts for emission reduction.

- Both sides intend to also work to further develop carbon capture and storage technologies, demonstration of commercial viability, and infrastructure. Both sides intend to work together to bring this key technology to markets to foster the decarbonisation of hard-to-abate industrial sectors. In particular, Norway and the EU intend to cooperate to further develop European market rules and infrastructure for CO<sub>2</sub> capture, transport, utilisation, and storage. Building on the CCUS Forum initiative, they intend to intensify cooperation to promote the regulation and uptake of the technology, investment, research, and development globally.

### **Environmental Protection**

- Both sides acknowledge the interdependence between climate change and biodiversity loss, as well as the need to address unsustainable production and consumption as drivers for pollution, environmental degradation, and climate change.
- Both sides intend to intensify wide-ranging Arctic cooperation and protect the region and inhabitants considering its environmental and geostrategic importance. In line with the commitment to keep global temperature rise within the 1.5 C-degree target they confirm that full respect for the precautionary principle in the region is paramount.
- Both sides agree to work with all Arctic states on the accelerated transition of Arctic communities to renewable energy in all sectors and accelerate the decline in black carbon.
- Both sides intend to cooperate to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and to follow-up on and fully and swiftly implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other outcomes of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15), aiming to increase synergies between the Norwegian and EU policies and, inter alia, fostering nature-based solutions for multiple purposes including biodiversity and climate adaptation.
- Both sides emphasize the importance of ensuring that commodities, products, raw materials, and natural resources are sustainably produced, exploited as efficiently as possible for as long as possible and are as safe as possible for human consumption and the environment. Both sides intend to cooperate on circular economy and promote policy measures that enable

and encourage circularity along the entire value chain of products, as a key feature for the green transition. In that vein, both sides intend to work together to ensure that their common frameworks and regulations facilitate increased circularity. Both sides acknowledge that digitalization and advanced technologies are key drivers for the transition to a circular economy.

- Recognising the environmental impacts of plastics, both sides intend to cooperate on comprehensive approaches to addressing the full life cycle of plastics, from production and design to waste prevention and management. They intend to work together closely on the ambitious multilateral agreement on plastics initiated at UNEA5.
- Both sides aim to cooperate on the promotion of ambitious European and global standards for the sound management of chemicals and waste. Both sides welcome the zero-pollution ambition as an integral element of a toxic-free environment and intend to cooperate on bilateral and multilateral policies and actions to better prevent and remedy pollution from air, water, soil, and from consumer products. Furthermore, both sides support aim for improved air quality.
- Sustainable management of the ocean is key for transitioning to a sustainable ocean economy. Both sides intend to cooperate to support developing countries with necessary knowledge and capacity towards a climate-neutral future, to protect and restore marine ecosystems and biodiversity and to establish sustainable ocean and coastal zone management, including through Marine Spatial Plans or Sustainable Spatial Plans, to ensure a clean, productive and healthy ocean.
- Both sides intend to pursue their joint commitment to clean and healthy oceans in international organisations and processes, including the UN Decade on Ocean Science, the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance, the EU Green Deal Mission Restore Our Ocean and Waters by 2030 and the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR).
- Norway and the EU intend to cooperate in implementing the outcomes of the CBD on ocean protection, including through 30% coverage by Marine Protected Areas or other effective conservation measures. Both sides

intend to work to adhere to and support implementation of a zero-tolerance approach to illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

- The global driver of deforestation is expansion of agricultural land to produce commodities such as soy, beef, palm oil, cocoa, coffee, and wood. Both sides are determined to facilitate the fight against both illegal and legal deforestation and forest degradation by promoting deforestation-free supply chains and ensuring that products that Norway and the EU citizens consume do not contribute to global deforestation and forest degradation.

### **Green industrial transformation**

- Both sides acknowledge that green industrial transition and development are imperative to achieve the climate targets. Both sides see the importance of sustainably securing supply of critical raw materials and technologies instrumental for the green and digital transition, while ensuring the competitiveness and resilience of their economies.
- Norway and the EU are already enhancing political and industrial cooperation through the establishment of a Strategic Partnership on Sustainable Raw Materials and Batteries Value Chains. Both sides agree that the partnership on raw materials and batteries could be followed by partnerships in other areas of green industrial policy of mutual interest to both parties.

### **Clean and Just Energy Transition**

- Both sides stress the importance of accelerating the green energy transition towards 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050 and share the ambition to facilitate and incentivize the development of competitive and sustainable clean energy technologies, foster the creation of decarbonised energy markets and value-chains to that effect. Therefore, the areas of cooperation on the production and use of hydrogen and offshore renewables are key to reaching climate objectives, further strengthening Europe's competitiveness, and open strategic autonomy, as well as ensuring a lasting energy partnership that also includes energy security.
- Hydrogen will play an important role in supporting the decarbonization of industry and transport across Europe. Both sides share high ambition for the production and use of renewable and low carbon hydrogen. Both sides intend to intensify their cooperation to foster renewable hydrogen production in Europe, create a fully-fledged European hydrogen market based on the common legislation within the European Economic Area, an

enabling environment for trade and investments, and research and innovation, while recognising the transition role that hydrogen based on Carbon Capture Usage and Storage (CCUS) technologies will play.

- Both sides have a shared long-term vision and high ambitions for the role of offshore renewable energy to deliver on climate goals. With vast sea basins and industrial leadership, Europe has what it takes to lead globally the deployment of offshore renewable energy in a sustainable way, respecting the marine ecosystems. In order to promote the scale-up of offshore renewable capacity, Norway and the EU intend to intensify their cooperation on offshore renewables, within the North Sea Energy Cooperation (NSEC). Both sides endeavour to step up their engagement in the global context, to promote the deployment of offshore renewable technologies worldwide, in line with international trade and investment disciplines of the World Trade Organisation. By 2040, Norway aims to award areas that can generate 30 GW offshore wind and has a strong focus on the development of floating wind power. The EU aims to develop at least 60GW of offshore wind and at least 1 GW of ocean energy by 2030, with a view to reach 300 GW and 40 GW of installed capacity by 2050, respectively.
- Both sides agree that security of affordable energy supply and strengthened European critical infrastructures are essential to build a better, greener and more resilient European society and, in this framework, they intend to cooperate to reduce import dependence of raw materials and components strategic for the energy transition. At the same time Norway and the EU intend to jointly support the accelerated deployment of green technologies and their manufacturing, while ensuring the security of the European critical infrastructures.

### **Green mobility**

- Both sides emphasize the importance of working together to decarbonize the transport sector by speeding up green transition in all modes of transport and developing a sustainable, smart, and resilient transport industry.
- Both sides agree to cooperate to work towards Zero GHG Emission and Zero Pollution shipping and fishing fleets. Both sides agree to cooperate to make alternative fuels available along as much of Europe's coastline as possible, spearheaded by targeted "green shipping corridors". Both sides intend to further cooperate in the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to achieve ambitious emission reductions from international shipping, and to minimize the spread of invasive species through shipping.

- Cooperation can *inter alia* draw on Norwegian experience as a pioneer in transitioning to electric vehicles as well as utilizing the extensive network of regional airports in Norway as a platform to develop low and zero emission aviation.
- Both sides emphasize the use of green requirements in public tenders and public-private collaboration.

### **Regulatory and business cooperation**

- Both sides intend to work together to strengthen frameworks and regulatory co-operation to become leading voices in setting up global standards for innovative environmental solutions, sustainable products, and clean technologies of key importance to accelerate the transition to circular and net-zero economies in Europe and globally.

### **Research & education and innovation**

- Both sides underline the importance of the green and digital transitions in the European Research Area and the European Education Area. Both sides intend to cooperate on programme collaboration, which carries great potential for the exchange and sharing of knowledge through the mobility of students and even closer cooperation between researchers, businesses and municipalities and state agencies in Norway and the EU. Both sides also intend to cooperate closely within the environmental data policy programmes and development of statistics for the European Green Deal.

### **Sustainable finance**

- Both sides underline that environmentally sustainable investments are needed to set Europe on a pathway towards an environmentally sustainable, climate-neutral and climate-resilient economy. Both sides intend to work together to enable private investors to re-orient investments towards more sustainable technologies and businesses, as such measures will be instrumental in reaching climate and environmental targets.
- Both sides agree that for banks and investors to be able to make informed investment decisions, disclosures from large and listed companies must improve. Companies should disclose how their business impacts the environment, and how they are impacted by climate change and other environmental factors.
- International coordination of regulatory initiatives may increase transparency and reduce costs for investors and businesses. Both sides agree to work together to promote dialogue and coordination in

international forums, such as the International Platform on Sustainable Finance.

- Both sides consider that coordinated investment plans may facilitate deployment of strategic projects. They intend to explore such possibilities.

### **3. Facilitating transition with 3<sup>rd</sup> countries**

- Both sides intend to continue to promote sustainable development, multilateralism, and climate-friendly policies across the world. The common point of departure is a strong and unequivocal commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement.
- Both sides intend to cooperate to support developing countries' efforts to implement their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and promote their transition towards resilience, nature-positive development, development of renewable energy sources, resource efficiency, and sound management of chemicals and waste.
- As major donors of international climate finance, both sides intend to promote increased flow of public and private capital towards Paris Agreement-aligned investments and clean energy transition. Both sides agree to keep working towards the goal of mobilizing USD100 billion per year for developing countries and intend to play an active role in the discussions on the post-2025 climate finance goals.
- Both sides share a firm commitment to reach the goals of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forest and Land use and intend to work collectively to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation.
- As major donors of international climate and nature finance, both sides intend to support developing countries' efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and promote land and ecosystem restoration and other nature-based solutions, and work to increase global public and private finance for this purpose. Norway and the EU envisage to work together to facilitate a shift in global commodity and financial markets to address deforestation, fight international forest crime, improve global data on forests and deforestation and ensure the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative aims to collaborate with the EU and to facilitate the implementation of the forthcoming regulation on commodities and products associated with



deforestation in third countries also through close cooperation with the EU's relevant cooperation and development tools, including Forest Partnerships and others.

- Both sides intend to deepen their cooperation in international multilateral and plurilateral fora to promote high ambition, such as under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNEA, and sectoral UN processes such as within ICAO and the IMO. Both sides intend to, in particular, continue their joint effort to reach an ambitious new international agreement on plastic pollution as well as work under other relevant UN bodies in relation to plastics.
- Both sides intend to strengthen their cooperation to increase the contribution of trade to the green transition, pursuing a strong agenda on environment and sustainability in the WTO and other relevant fora, to contribute to climate neutrality and an environmentally friendly future.
- Both sides intend to support partners in developing countries and emerging markets to make their just transition to renewable energy also through ambitious new development partnerships and accelerating access to finance, including through Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs).
- Both sides underline that climate change has important security implications. The topic of climate and security should remain a key priority of the UN Security Council.
- Both sides intend to enhance action and support for adaptation and resilience in vulnerable countries and agree to work alongside others towards the implementation of the Glasgow Climate Pact's call to collectively at least double the provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing countries from 2019 levels by 2025. Both sides highlight the importance of improving access to climate finance, with a specific focus on poor and most vulnerable countries.
- Both sides reaffirm their commitment to the Global Methane Pledge and intend to step up efforts to collectively reduce global anthropogenic methane emissions by at least 30% below 2020 levels by 2030.
- Both sides intend to support work on air pollution and health in a development policy context, including through the WHO, and commit to cooperate more closely on improving air quality internationally, including as a part of the work on non-communicable diseases.

#### 4. Governance

- Both sides aim to conduct this understanding within existing and new cooperation frameworks where available and relevant, such as the EU-Norway Energy Dialogue and the Strategic Partnership on Sustainable Raw Materials and Batteries Value Chains.
- When agreed, working groups may be established between Norway and the EU in selected sectors and areas of mutual interest, to develop specific strategic partnerships, roadmaps, and work streams. Relevant stakeholders may be involved as appropriate.
- Both sides intend to inform each other of key policy developments, strategies and initiatives relevant to the Green Alliance, as appropriate.
- Both sides aim to conduct this understanding without prejudice to, and in light of, rights and obligations stemming from the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement).

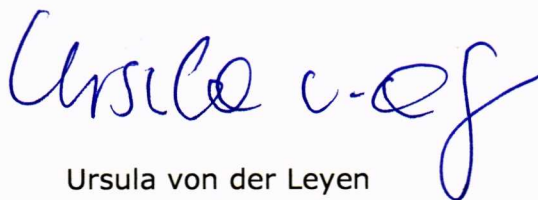
Signed in Brussels on 24 April 2023 in two original copies.

For the Kingdom of Norway,

For the European Union,



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Prime Minister



Ursula von der Leyen  
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