

#1 - July 2020

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### Editorial: why a Green New Deal newsletter?

*By Philippe Pochet, ETUI General Director*

As soon as the new European Commission headed by Ursula Von der Leyen was announced, an ambitious European Green Deal (EGD) was presented with the aim of making Europe the first climate-neutral continent. In short, the pact is divided into nine areas of action (biodiversity, food chains, agriculture, energy, industry, construction, mobility, pollution and climate) and also includes a Just Transition Mechanism of at least 100 billion euros to support the citizens, businesses and regions most affected by the transition to a green economy. However, anyone interested in this subject risks getting a little lost in the documentation, initiatives and projects announced by the different stakeholders influencing the decision-making on the Green Deal for Europe. With this newsletter, the ETUI aims to provide a synthesis of the latest information and thinking on this topic in an accessible format. Our intention is not only to decode the sometimes complex text at European level, but also to highlight the added value of trade union initiatives on just transition. I would like to thank the European Social Observatory (OSE) team for helping us with the initial concepts and discussions on the production of this original newsletter. [Read more](#)

### The European Union Recovery Plan: just transition put to the test

While the Green Deal is based on a long-term approach, the urgent need to mitigate the socioeconomic consequences of the health crisis means Europe's back is against the wall. (Image Hayoung Jeon, Pool via AP)



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## The circular economy and "green jobs": a new space for social dialogue?

The structural limits to the circular economy call into question its prospects for large-scale development. However, the opportunities offered by the legislative initiatives linked to the Circular Economy Action Plan, notably in terms of social dialogue, should be seized.

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Olivier De Schutter

## Interview: three questions for Olivier De Schutter

Olivier De Schutter is co-chair of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food). He took part in the ETUI webinar 'A crisis within a crisis: the European Green Deal back on track after Covid-19?', analysing what is at stake with the 'Farm to Fork' strategy. We took the opportunity to ask him a few questions about the EGD and the EU Recovery Plan.

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## What are social partners saying about the European Green Deal?

The ETUC on the European Green Deal: ahead of the announcement of the EGD, the ETUC pointed to the urgent need for ambitious climate policies that should be inclusive and supportive to the most vulnerable regions, sectors and workers. The position paper emphasised that a concrete just transition strategy - one which matches climate policy ambitions - is necessary.

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## GreenReads: "deficit myths" and "Green Swans"

One of the big questions raised by the Covid-19 crisis and by the plans for a Green New Deal to confront the climate emergency is: how are we going to pay for all this? Governments' deficits are piling up and the ideologues of austerity are already predicting the "end of the world as we know it" and preparing post-corona "austerity 2.0". However, some influential economists are tackling the "deficit myth".



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**Publications**

## Towards a just transition: coal, cars and the world of work (book)

by Bela Galgoczi (ed.)

The role of trade unions and social dialogue is key to demonstrating the major differences between coal-based energy generation and the automobile industry. This book presents two faces of a just transition towards a net-zero carbon economy by drawing lessons from these two carbon-intensive sectors.

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## The end of 'business as usual'? Covid-19 and the European Green Deal (policy brief)

by Francesca Colli

By taking the opportunity to redesign and rebuild the economy in alignment with the principles of the European Green Deal, the EU can ensure that the recovery is not just "business as usual", but is a green and fair one.

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## The time for rapid redevelopment of coal regions is now (policy contribution)

by Christian Egenhofer et al.

Efficient and effective use of Covid-19 recovery funds can give real meaning to the "just transition" concept if they focus on tangible progress that benefits regional, national and EU economies while improving the environment and implementing the European Green Deal.

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## Green Deal for all. How to achieve sustainability and equity between the people, regions, countries and generations of Europe in a post-Covid-19 era (policy report)

by Thorfinn Stainforth et al.

In order to avoid unnecessary trade-offs between the recovery of economies, societies and ecosystems, putting the principle of "leaving no one behind" into practice is paramount. This requires addressing the intra-EU, intra-country and intergenerational equity challenges that lie at the heart of the multiple crises.

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