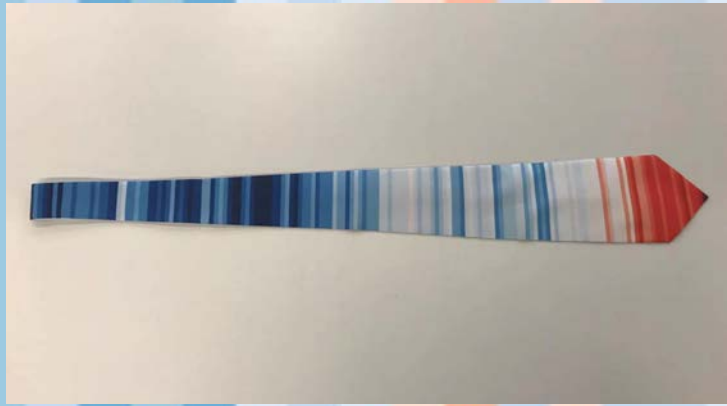


# The European Green Deal and the EU's path towards Climate neutrality: ambitions under pressure



# Unprecedented challenges: 'triple planetary crisis', planetary boundaries

## Unprecedented answers? Paris, Montreal/Kunming, SDG, ...?

1. IPCC: **climate change**

2. IPBES: **biodiversity loss** and ecosystem services

3. IRP: unsustainable **resource use**

4. WHO: environment and **health**

**• Urgency; pivotal decade**

- Irreversibilities
- Tipping points
- Interconnected

**ipcc**  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE  
Climate Change 2014  
The Physical Science Basis  
Summary for Policymakers  
Working Group I contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change  
WMO UNEP

**GLOBAL RESOURCES OUTLOOK 2019**  
NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE WE WANT  
UN environment International Resource Panel

**Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**  
WORLD LEADERSHIP REPORT ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES  
IPBES

**PREVENTING DISEASE THROUGH HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS**  
A global assessment of the burden of disease from environmental risks  
A Prüss-Ustün, J Wolf, C Corvalán, R Bos and M Neira  
World Health Organization

# Global response: sustainable development goals (again!)



1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



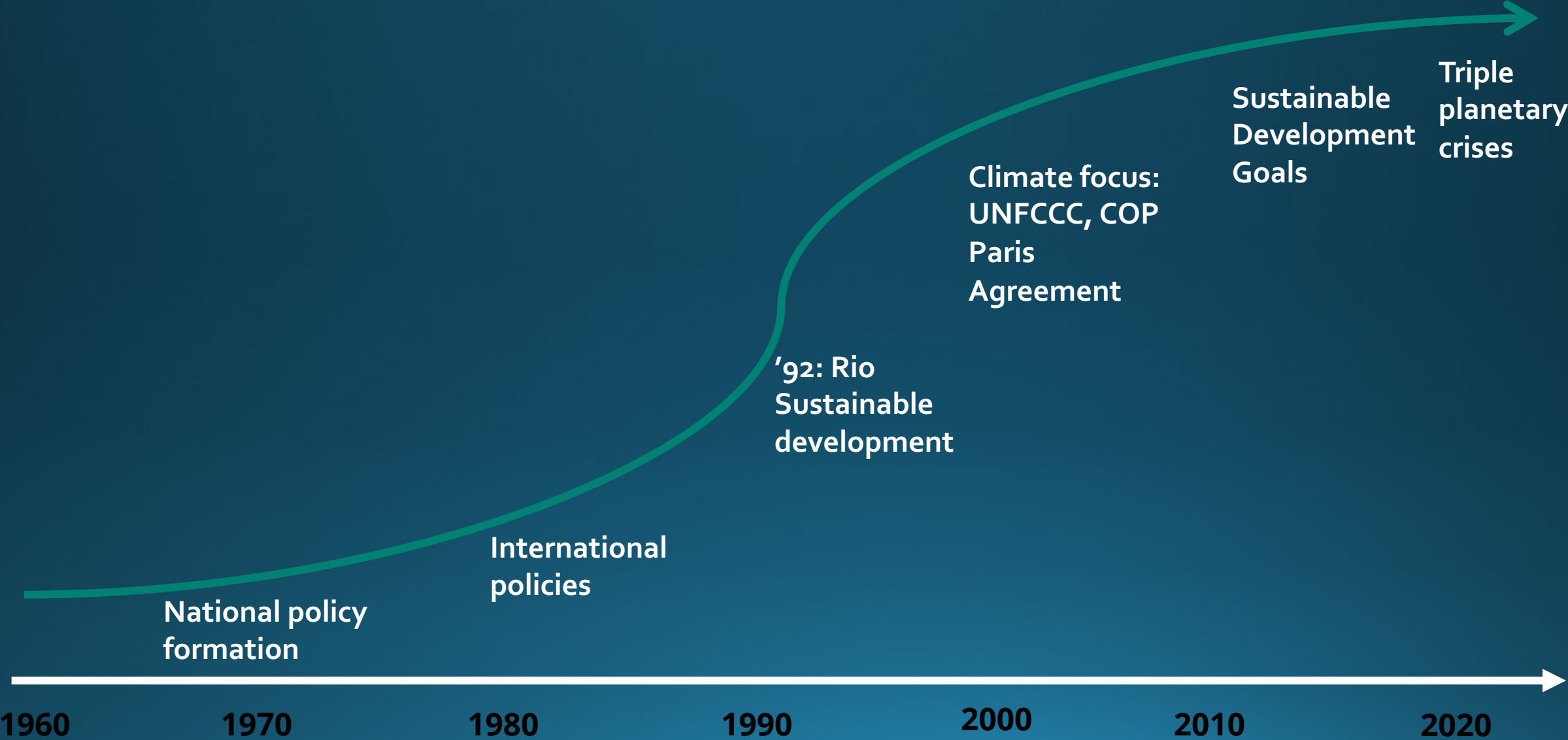
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



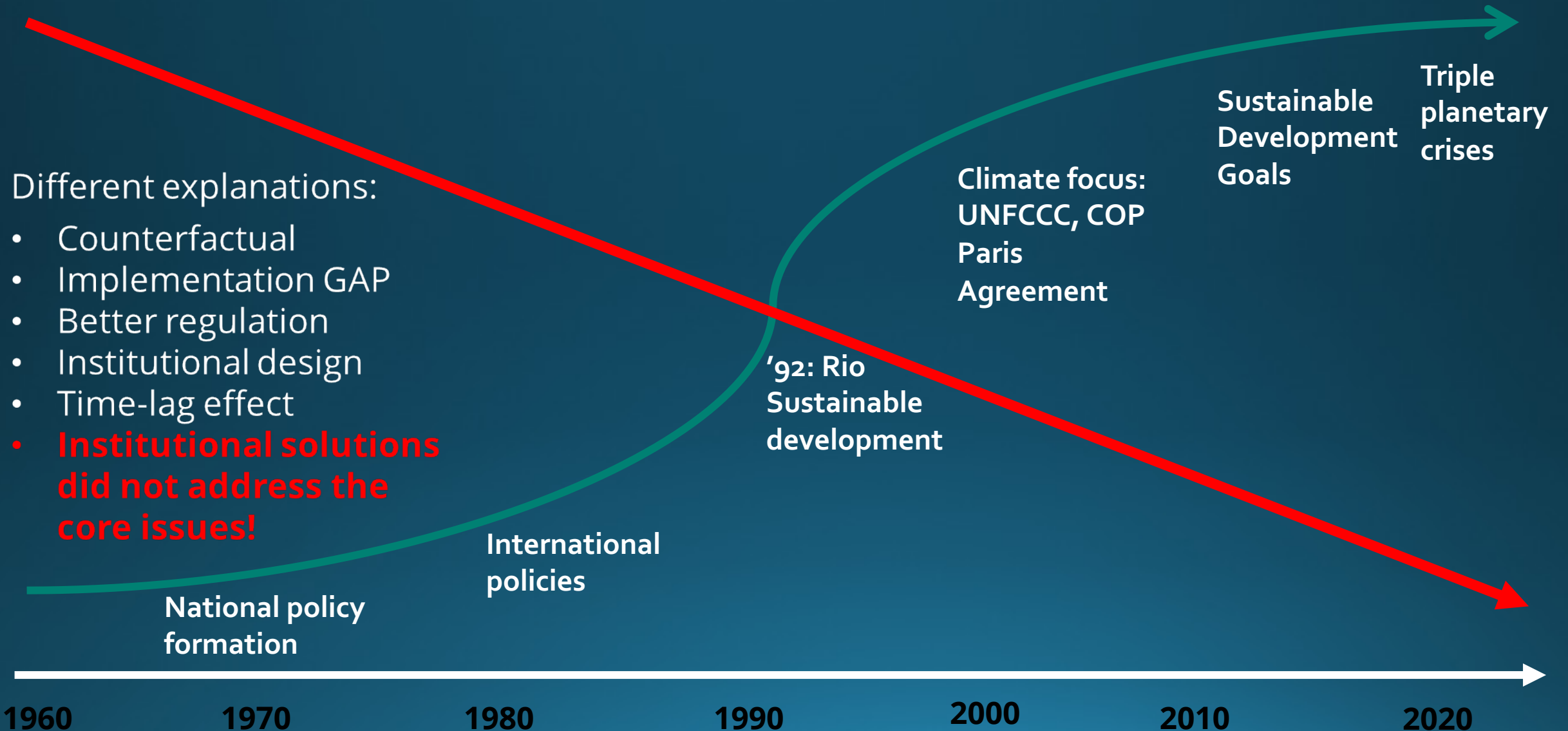
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# Institutionalisation of environmental and climate policies



# Institutionalisation of environmental and climate policies



# EGD: a paradigm shift in politics/policy and investments

- First **climate-neutral** continent
- **Biodiversity** Strategy 2030
- New **Circular Economy** Action Plan
- **Zero pollution** strategy
- **Farm to fork** strategy
- **Just transition**
- **Sustainable European Investment Plan**
- Future ready economy – new **industrial strategy**



# Re-thinking and re-configuring energy, food, mobility, built environment and industrial systems





+

How well can you predict the outcome of your actions?

**Complexity**  
Multiple key decision factors

**Volatility**  
Rate of change

**Ambiguity**  
Lack of clarity about meaning of an event

**Uncertainty**  
Unclear about the present

-

How much do you know about the situation?

+

The **VUCA** world:  
Shaping sustainability in a difficult macro-context

Eurozone inflation rate (%)





Home / News / Energy & Environment / Oil / Oil and gas majors look for mega profits to roll on

# Oil and gas majors look for mega profits to roll on

EURACTIV.com with AFP 🕒 8 Feb 2023 (updated: 🕒 9 Feb 2023)



**TipRanks** + Follow View Profile

## Saudi Aramco Joins Shell in Record Profits

Story by Radhika Saraogi • 3h ago 1 1 Comments

MARKETS TODAY ...

DJI ▲ +0.27% INX ▼ -0.15% COMP ▲ +0.28%

The world's largest integrated oil and gas company, Saudi Aramco (Company), reported a net income of **\$161.1 billion for 2022**. This profit delivered by an oil and gas company. Interestingly, higher crude oil

**nature**

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nature > news feature > article

NEWS FEATURE | 20 October 2021

# The broken \$100-billion promise of climate finance – and how to fix it

At Glasgow's COP26 summit, countries will argue for more money to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

**REUTERS** World ▾ Business ▾ Legal ▾ Markets ▾ Breakingviews Technology ▾ Investig

Energy

3 minute read · January 31, 2022 4:56 PM GMT+1 · Last Updated a year ago

## EXCLUSIVE Qatar seeks EU guarantees emergency gas stays within EU - source

By Dmitry Zhdannikov

**WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM**

FUTURE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

# Going green could save Europe €1 trillion in fossil fuel costs

Jul 1, 2022

(Not) an exceptional/unexpected Summer



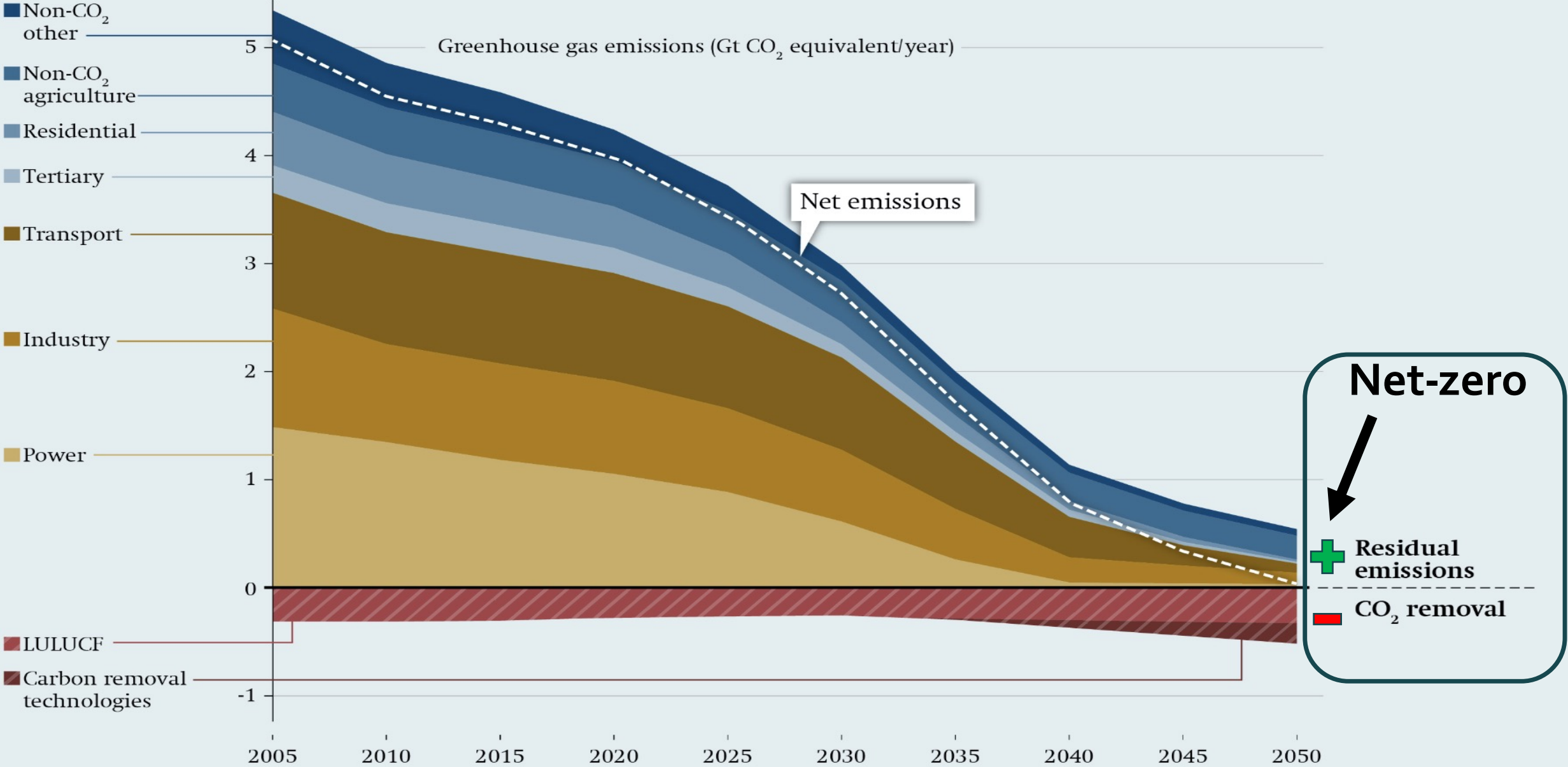
# EUROPEAN CLIMATE LAW

2050

CO<sub>2</sub>

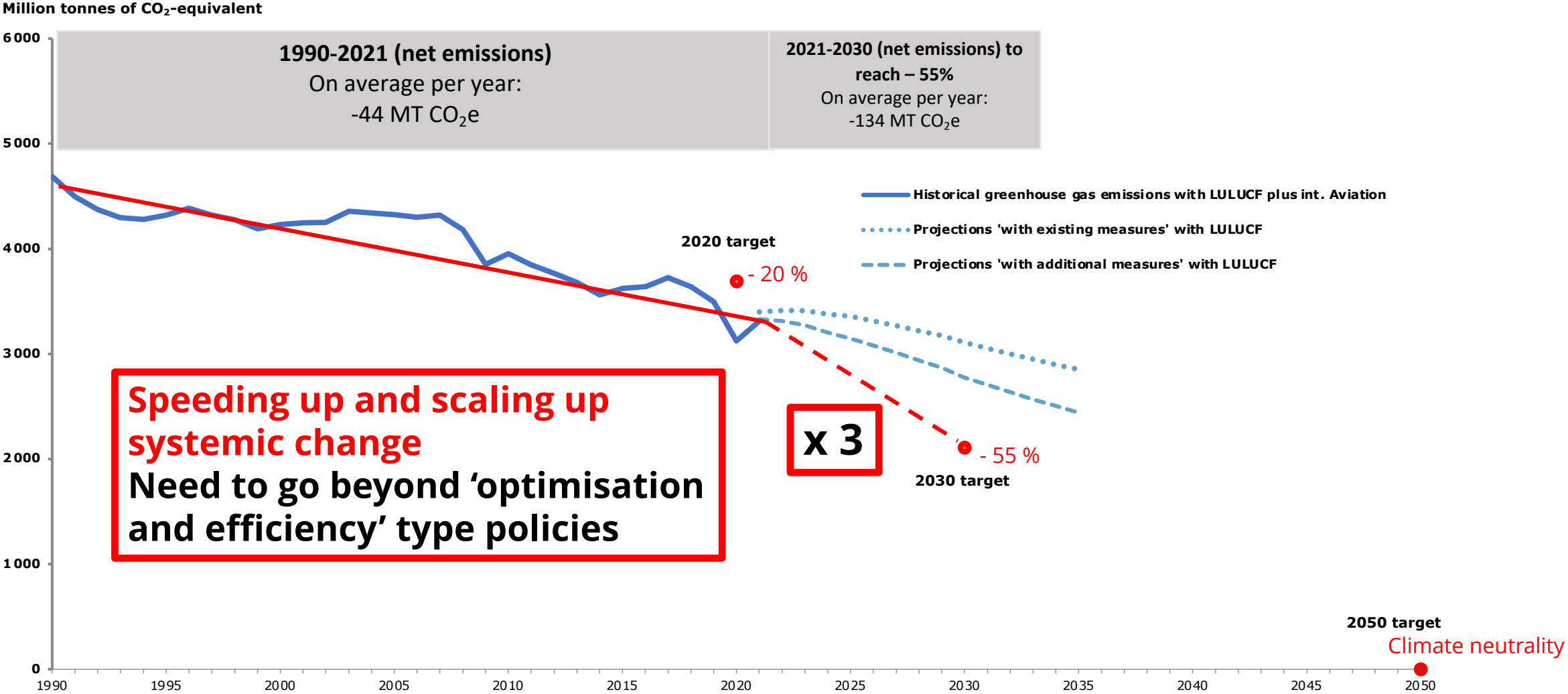


# Illustrative emissions pathways to achieve a net-zero target in the EU



Translation and adaptation: 2020 Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)

# Ambitious targets require speeding up and scaling up

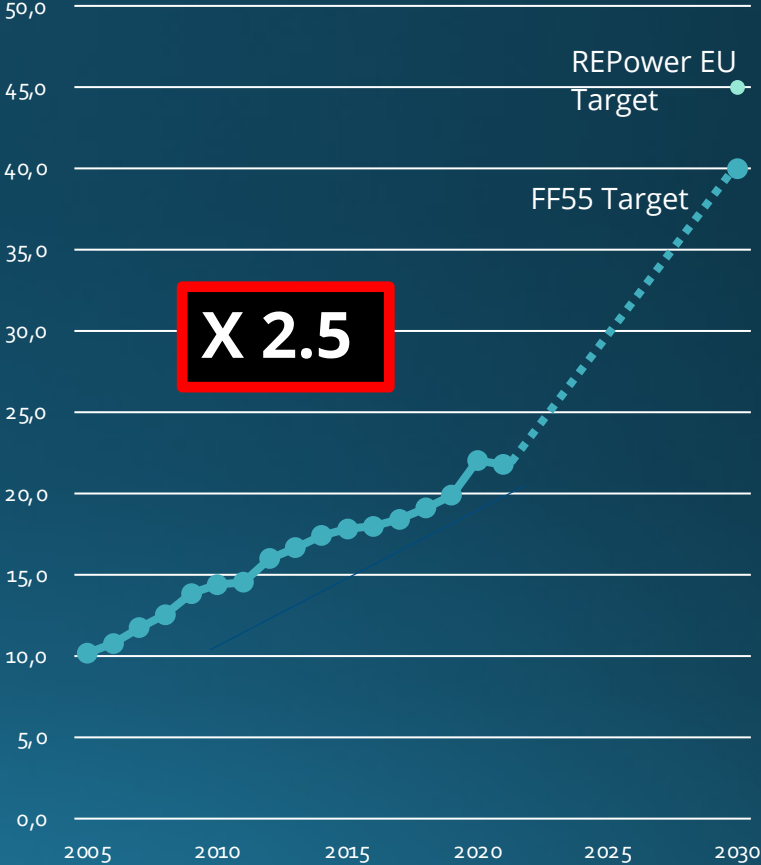


# Acceleration required across policies, and across Europe

## Reduction of final energy consumption

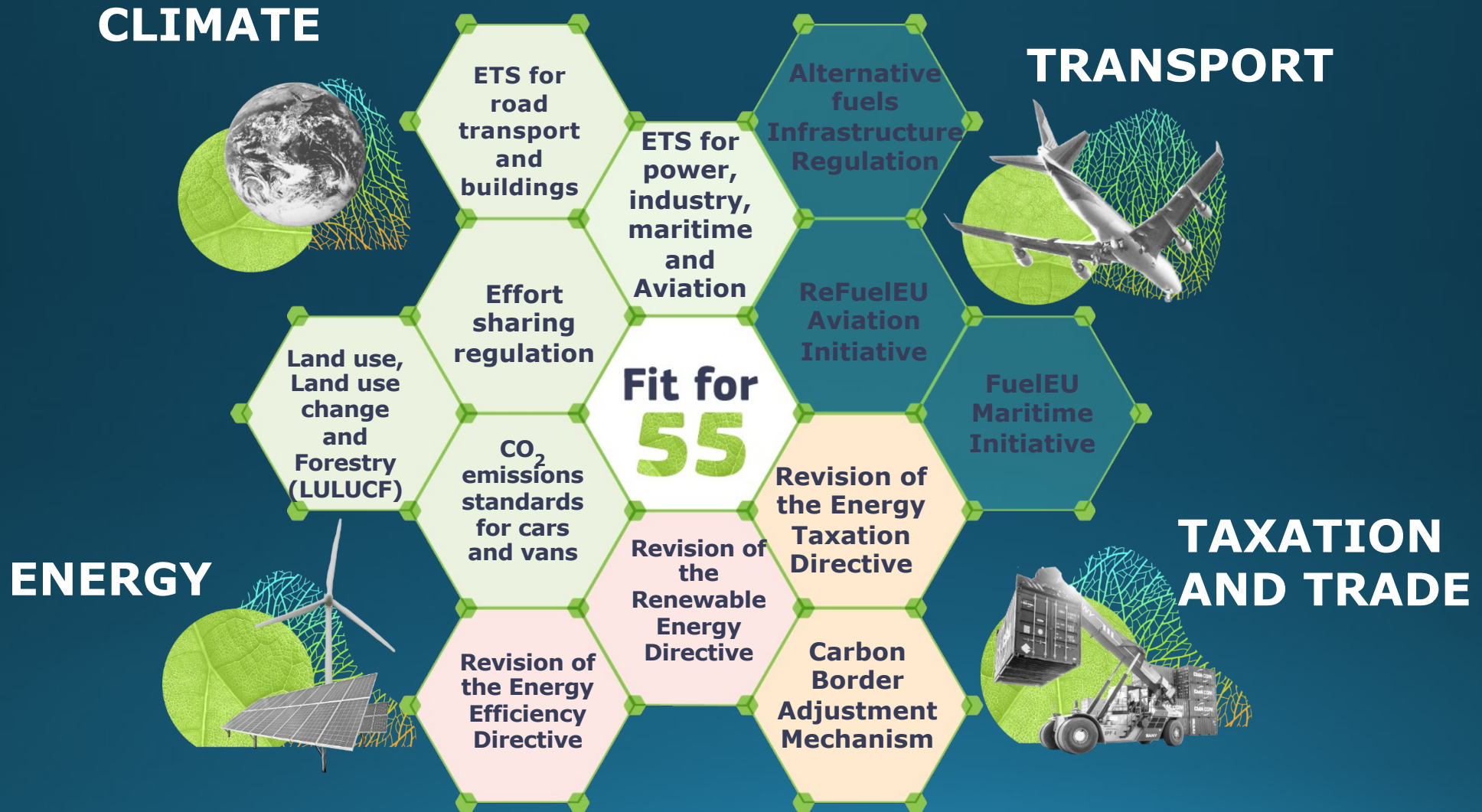


## Increase renewable energy





# Fit for 55 package: policy bundle to deliver net-zero



# EU kicks off debate on 2040 climate goal on way to net-zero emissions

By Frédéric Simon | EURACTIV ⌚ Est. 8min

📅 Feb 6, 2024 (updated: 📅 Feb 9, 2024)

Content-Type: News



A 2040 climate target “will help European industry, investors, citizens and governments to make decisions in this decade that will keep the EU on track to meet its climate neutrality objective in 2050,” the European Commission said. [Copyright: © European Union 2023 - Source : EP]

📄 Euractiv is part of the Trust Project >>>

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Funded by the LIFE Programme of the European Union

The content of this publication represents the views of

# Bringing nature back into our lives

EU 2030 Biodiversity strategy

May 2020

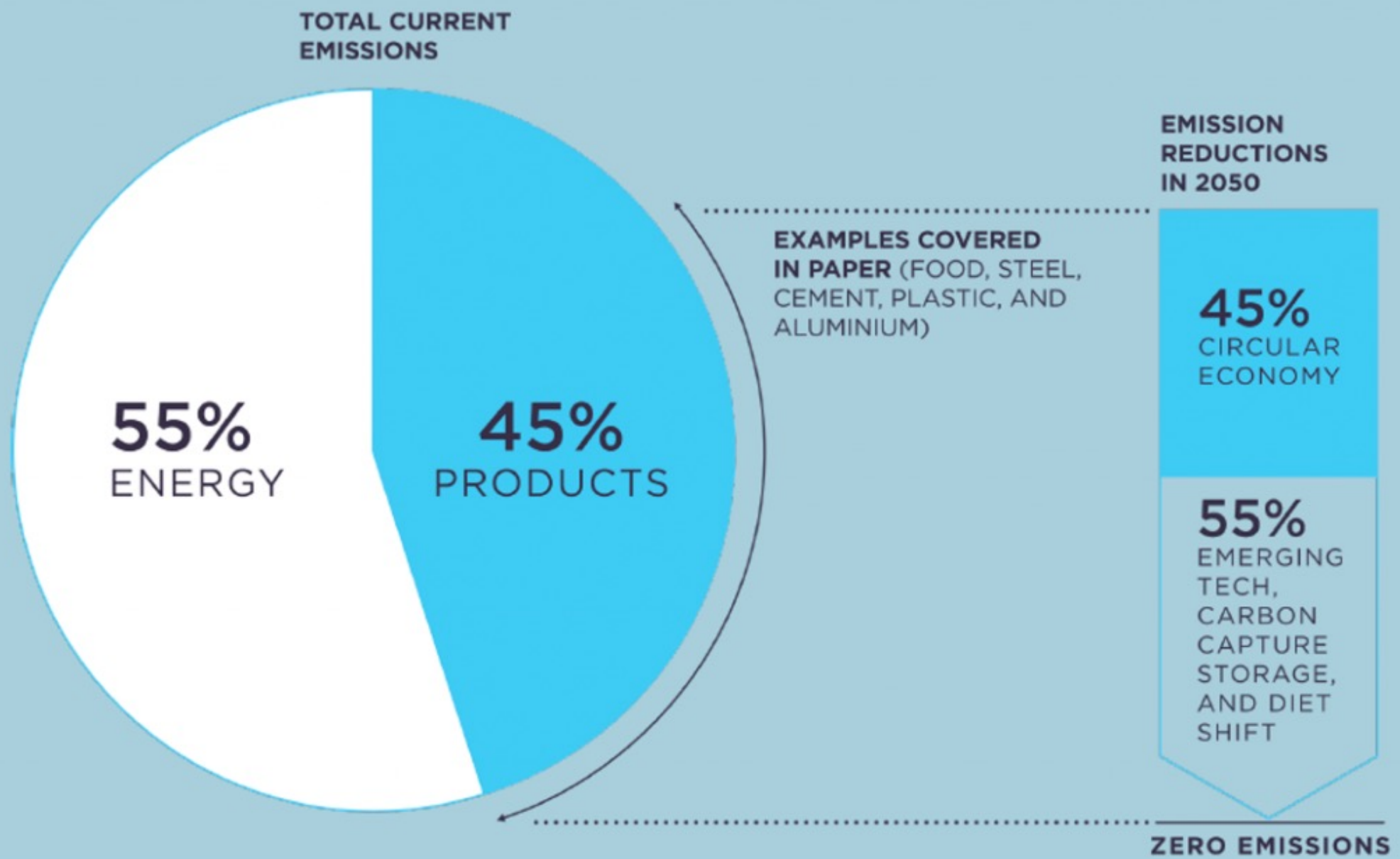
#EUGreenDeal



*“Making nature healthy again is key to our physical and mental wellbeing and is an ally in the fight against climate change and disease outbreaks. It is at the heart of our growth strategy, the European Green Deal, and is part of a European recovery that gives more back to the planet than it takes away.”*

*Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission*

**COMPLETING THE PICTURE:  
TACKLING THE OVERLOOKED EMISSIONS**



- Refuse**
- Rethink**
- Reduce**
- Reuse**
- Repair**
- Refurbish**
- Remanufacture**
- Recycle**

#EUGREENDEAL

# FARM2FORK

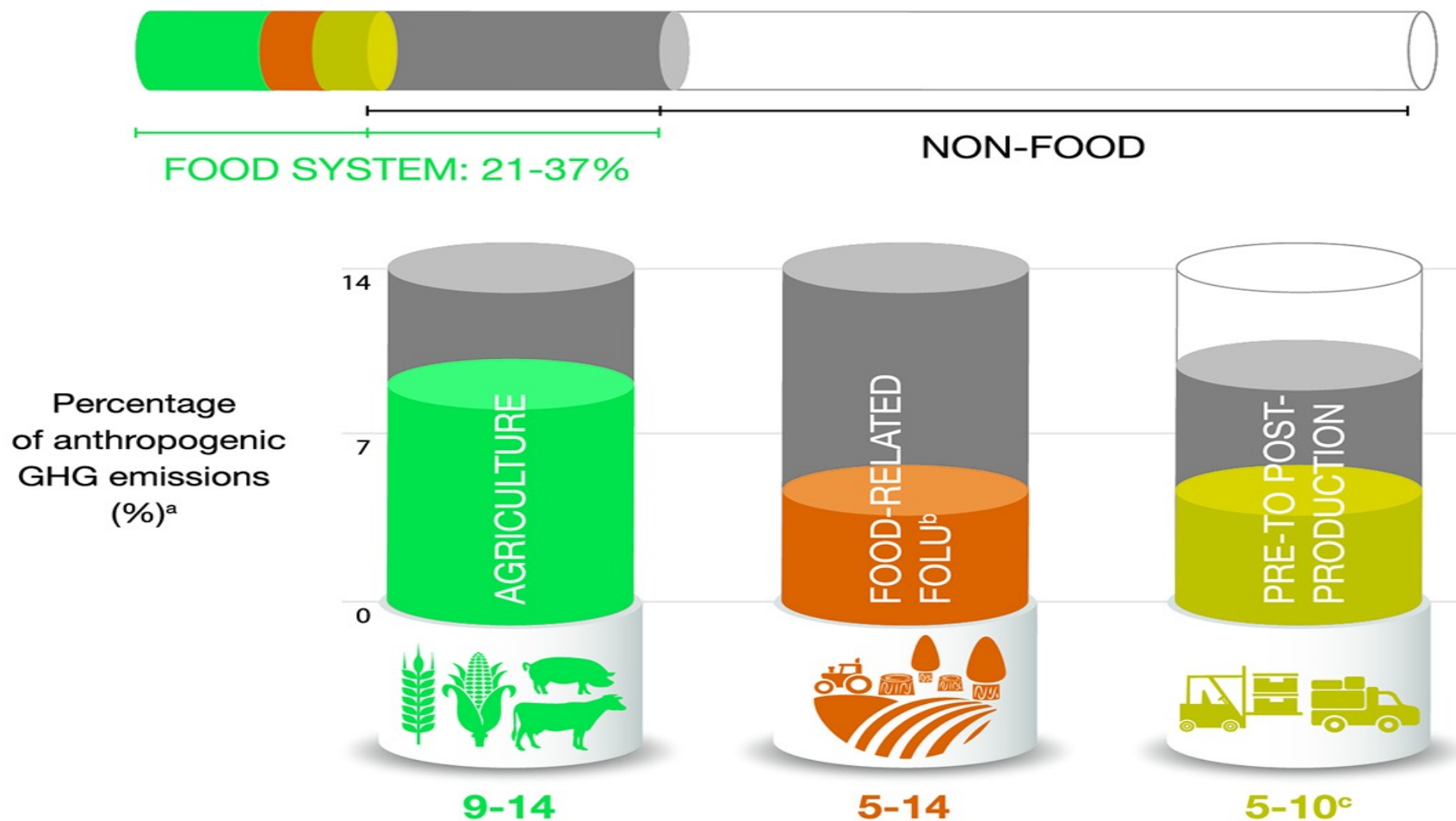
A strategy for Sustainable food



European  
Climate and Health  
Observatory



# Global greenhouse gas emissions from the food system



**Data source:** *Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems*

<sup>a</sup>Computed using a total emissions value for the period 2007–2016 of 52 GtCO<sub>2</sub>-eq per year

<sup>b</sup>Forestry and Other Land Use

<sup>c</sup>Rounded to nearest fifth percentile due to assessed uncertainty in estimates

# The **financial system** as a partner in the **radical transition**?



#SusFinEU

## Sustainable finance



European  
Commission



EU TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON  
SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

FINANCING A SUSTAINABLE  
EUROPEAN ECONOMY

# TAXONOMY

Technical Report

Taxonomy Technical Report

# Taking the lead in 'green technology' and production



European  
Commission



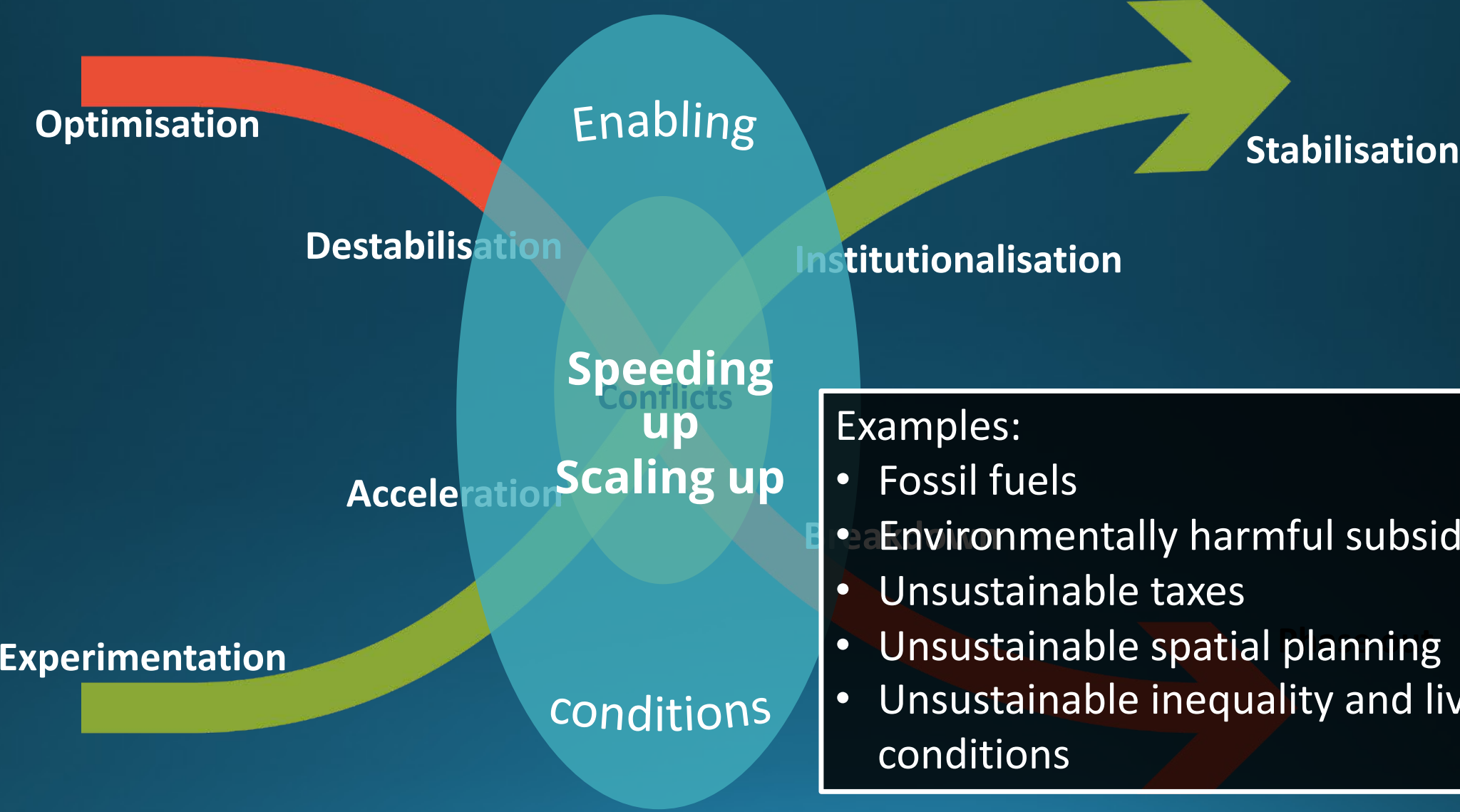
EU NET-ZERO  
INDUSTRY ACT:  
MAKING THE EU THE HOME  
OF CLEAN TECH INDUSTRIES

March 2023





# Policies for the full 'x-curve'? focus on the **dynamics of phasing out**



- Examples:
- Fossil fuels
  - Environmentally harmful subsidies
  - Unsustainable taxes
  - Unsustainable spatial planning
  - Unsustainable inequality and living conditions

Source: Loorbach et al .

# Pushing back ambitions: internal logic without external validity!

- Back to sustainability as a 'luxury policy'
- Arguments without base/mis-using global dynamics in Europe
- Slowing down; protectionism and narrow interests
- The populist card
- Myopic idiocy
- Fake knowledge
- ...
  
- None of these hold in light of the systemic issues that the Green Deal is addressing!

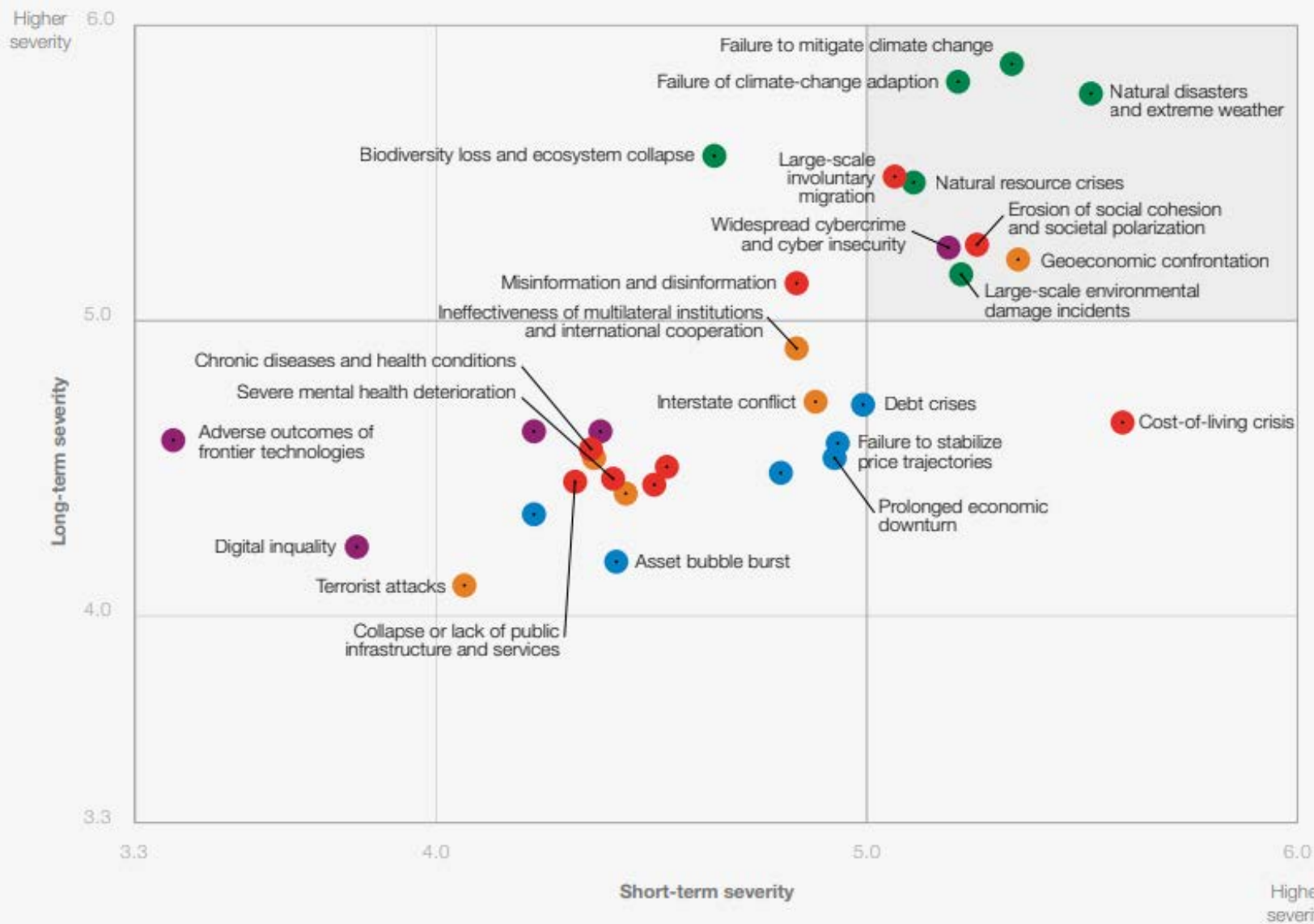
# Global risks ranked by severity over the short and long term

\*Please estimate the likely impact (severity) of the following risks over a 2-year and 10-year period\*

## 2 years



Risk categories: Economic, Environmental, Geopolitic



## Source

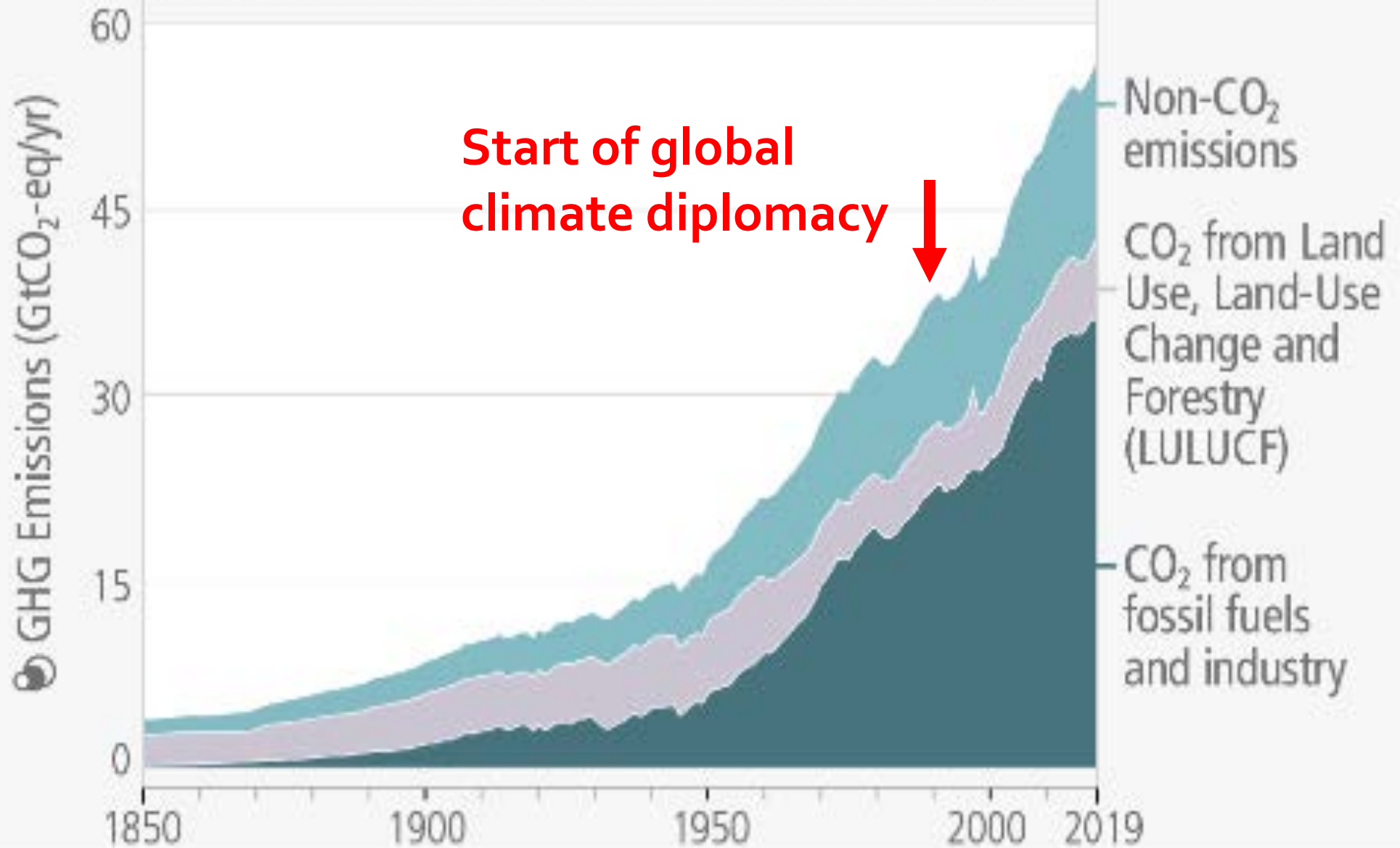
World Economic Forum Global Risks Perception Survey 2022-2023.

**Zooming out:**

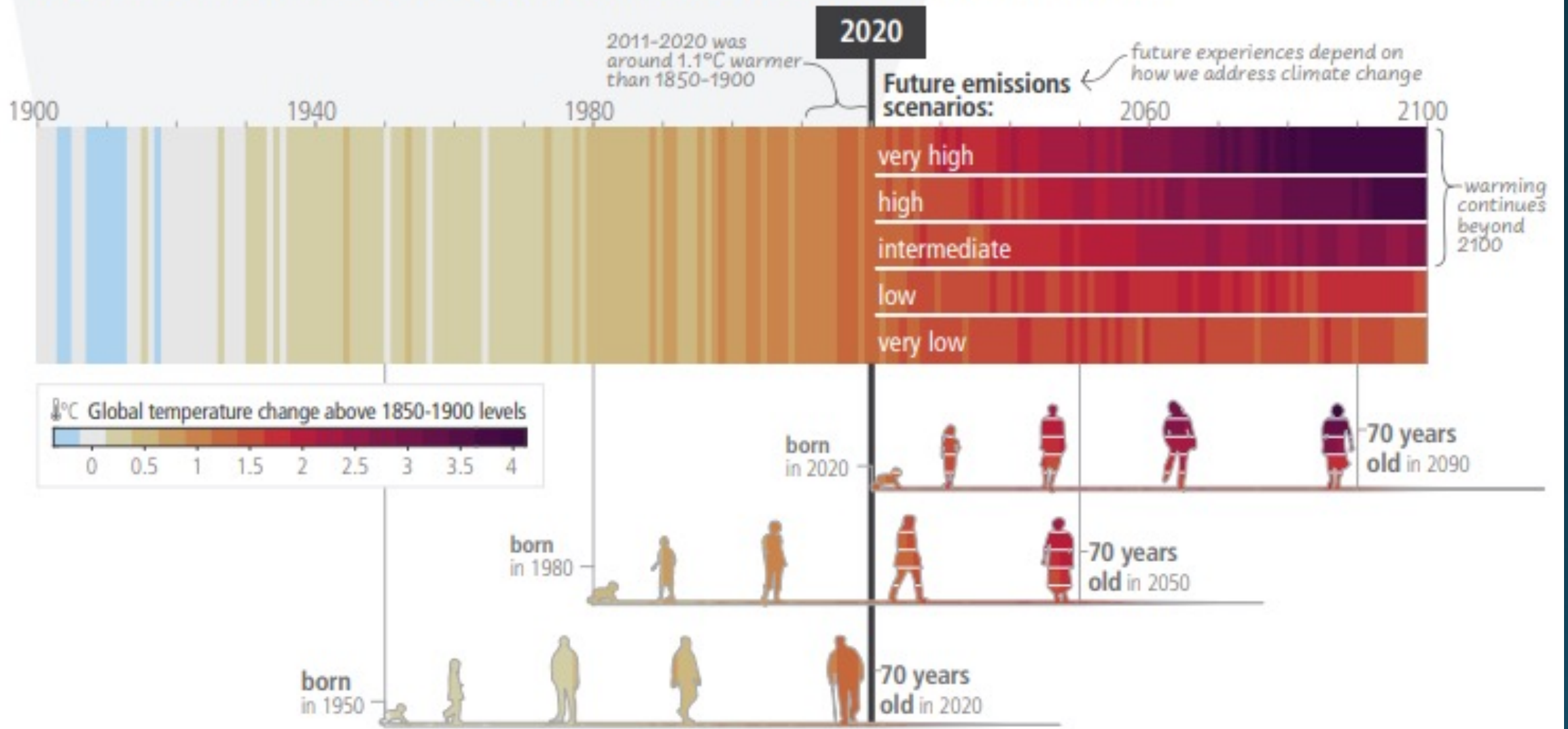
**Global, temporal and justice  
perspectives**

# Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions resulting from human activities continue to increase

Bron: IPCC, AR6



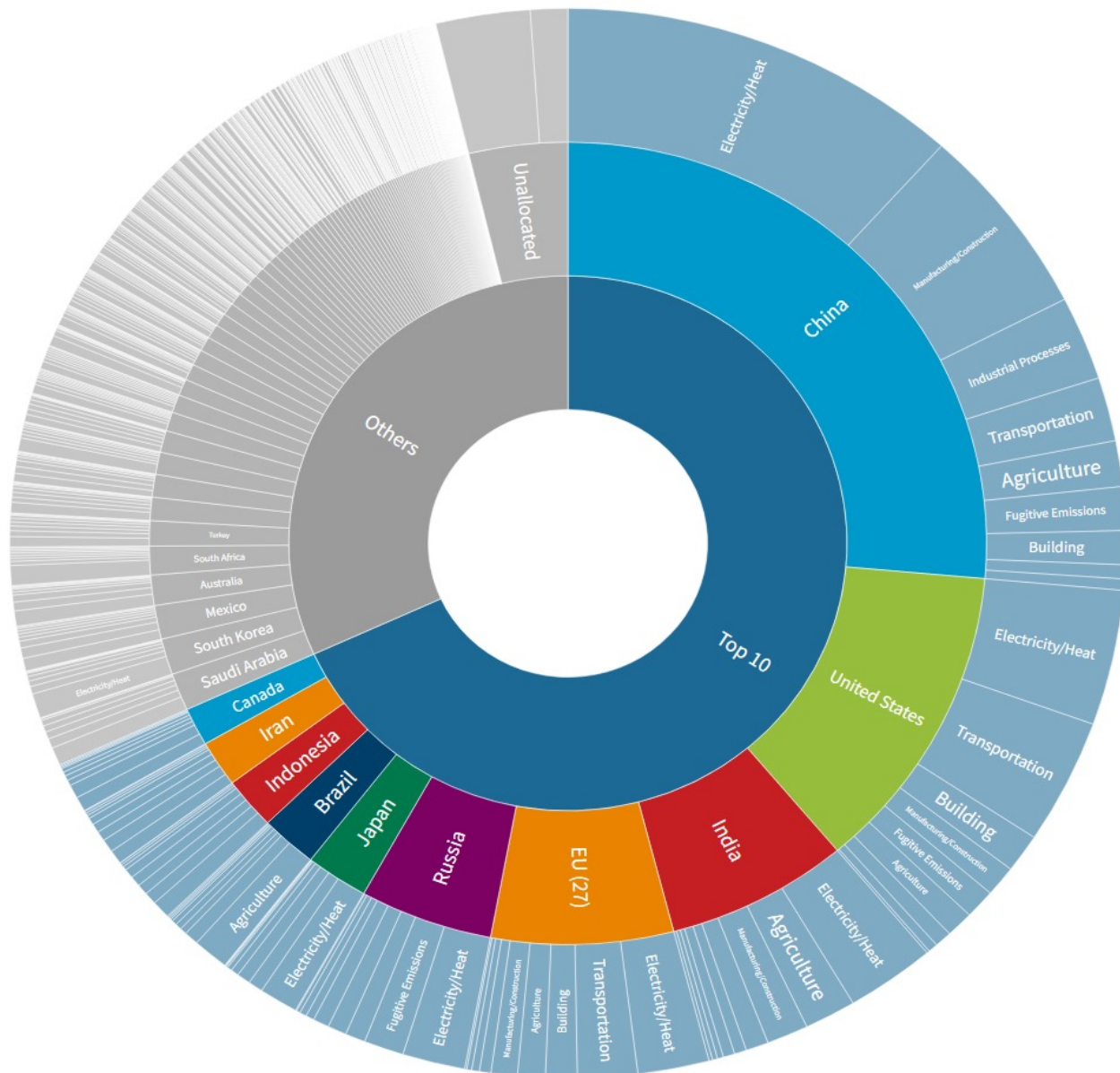
c) The extent to which current and future generations will experience a hotter and different world depends on choices now and in the near term





## The Top 10 GHG Emitters Contribute Over Two-Thirds of Global Emissions

Explore the Latest Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data on Climate Watch



- Largest emitters
- Per capita emissions
- Equal per capita rights
- Consumption based emissions
- Historic responsibility
- Responsibility since 1990
- Capacity to pay
- ...
- Central to global discussions (in a dysfunctional UN system)

Source: Global GHG Emissions 2019 excluding LUCF. [Climate Watch](#) • The EU 27 is considered a country. \*Bunker fuels include international aviation and shipping that are not included in country totals. Other territories include regions not covered by Climate Watch country data. See Climate Watch for country level land-use change and forestry and bunker fuel emissions.



# Steep and narrow path towards sustainability



# Reasons for optimism?

- Techno-optimism: yes, but no
- Naïve 'niche' optimism: no, but yes
- EU-bubble optimism: yes, but no
- Bottom-up optimism: yes, but no
  
- Evidence based optimism: energy (IEA), mobility (E-Mobility), materials (bio-based)
  
- Optimists live longer
- Is optimism really the issue? Jean Monet

**Thank you**

**Hans Bruyninckx | The Square, Van Breda | Gent, 12 september 2023**