

# Contributions to the European Green Deal

The **European Green Deal** is the European Commission's response to global challenges related to environment and climate change. The European Commission is committed to work closely on these issues with its partner countries across the world. It is an integral part of this Commission's strategy to implement the United Nation's 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## European Green Deal Ambitions

## Contribution of SWITCH-Asia

### Mobilise Industry for a Green and Circular Economy

In March 2020, the European Commission will adopt a new **Circular Economy action plan** focusing on energy-intensive sectors such as **textiles, constructions, plastics and electronics**. The action plan will prioritise reduction and reuse of materials.

SWITCH-Asia is currently providing technical assistance to the government of **Vietnam** to **mainstreaming of the Circular Economy approach** into its National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2020-2030) and to the government of **Mongolia** and to its MSMEs in the **textiles** sector to green their supply chains. In 2020, the programme will support the government of **Lao PDR** in the development of a **Roadmap on Plastics**. Lessons learnt and best practices on EU the Directive on the Single-Use-Of-Plastics will be a key element of its support. Currently SWITCH-Asia is supporting projects on **textiles** in **Cambodia, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan**; on resource efficiency and cleaner production (RECP) in the **construction** sector in **Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Mongolia**; on **plastics prevention** in **Sri Lanka, Maldives and India**; and on **waste-to-energy** (as part of a circular approach) in **China and India**.

In March 2020, the European Commission will adopt a new **EU Industrial Strategy** to address the twin challenge of the green and digital transformation.

Products placed on the EU market should comply with **EU green regulations and standards**.

SWITCH-Asia may support the external dimension of the new EU Industrial Strategy working closely with MSMEs in Asia and Central Asia as part of EU supply chains, notably ensuring that products imported from these regions comply with relevant EU green regulations and standards.

The Commission will follow up on the 2018 plastics strategy and ensure that all **packaging** in the EU market is reusable or recyclable in all economically viable manner by 2030.

SWITCH Asia may work closely with MSMEs in Asia and Central Asia to ensure that they would consider alternative packaging for their products entering the EU market and in line with EU requirements. Currently SWITCH-Asia is supporting a project on **alternative packaging** in **Myanmar**.

The European Commission is committed to **reduce the risk of "green washing"**.

- The Commission will promote **standard methodology to assess the impact** of products and industrial production on the environment.
- Public authorities, including the EU institutions, should lead by example and ensure that their **procurement** is green.

In 2020, SWITCH-Asia will support:

- The government of **Myanmar** in revising and upgrading its Environment Management Programs (EMPs) for the manufacturing sector, focusing on the textiles and garments and on the food and beverage industries;
- The governments of **Malaysia and Indonesia** in the uptake of Green Public Procurements, learning from best practices of public administrations in the EU.

## New Technologies and Innovation to Foster Sustainable Production

The Commission will simplify **waste management** for citizens and ensure cleaner secondary materials for businesses.

Currently SWITCH-Asia is supporting projects on **waste prevention and management** in **India** and **Mongolia**.

New **technologies**, sustainable solutions and disruptive **innovation** are critical to achieve the objectives of the EU Green Deal.

The use of new technologies and innovation will be encouraged within the grant scheme of the SWITCH-Asia programme to benefit from their full advantage in testing and adopting new sustainable practices within MSMEs, thus reducing the environmental impact of their industrial processes.

The **European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)** may play a key role as knowledge and innovation communities.

SWITCH-Asia may engage further with stakeholders part of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) for Climate and Manufacturing including their experience and knowledge within the technical assistance provided to national governments in Asia and Central Asia and as part of its grant scheme.

## Pursuing Green Finance and Investments to Ensure a Green Transition

The European Union will build on the **International Platform on Sustainable Finance (IPSF)** to coordinate efforts on environmentally sustainable finance initiatives such as taxonomies, disclosures, standards and labels.

In 2020, SWITCH-Asia will support the government of **Myanmar** in developing a **National Roadmap on Sustainable Finance**, including a taxonomy exercise, with the support of UNEP-FI. Working closely with the two SWITCH-Asia projects in the textiles ([SMART Myanmar](#)) and in the food & beverage industry ([Tha Bar Wa](#)) in the country, the four major national banks set aside **USD 12 million to finance energy efficiency solutions** for MSMEs in these two sectors.

## Policy Level

The European Union will engage more intensely with all partners around the world to increase the collective effort and help them to revise and implement their **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** as part of the Paris Agreement.

More generally, the European Union will promote **green alliances** are part of its relations with other partner countries in the world.



[www.switch-asia.eu](http://www.switch-asia.eu)



[europeaid-switch-asia@ec.europa.eu](mailto:europeaid-switch-asia@ec.europa.eu)

