European Energy and Climate Politics in Geopolitically Turbulent Times

Miranda A. Schreurs

Prof. of Environmental and Climate Policy

Technical University of Munich

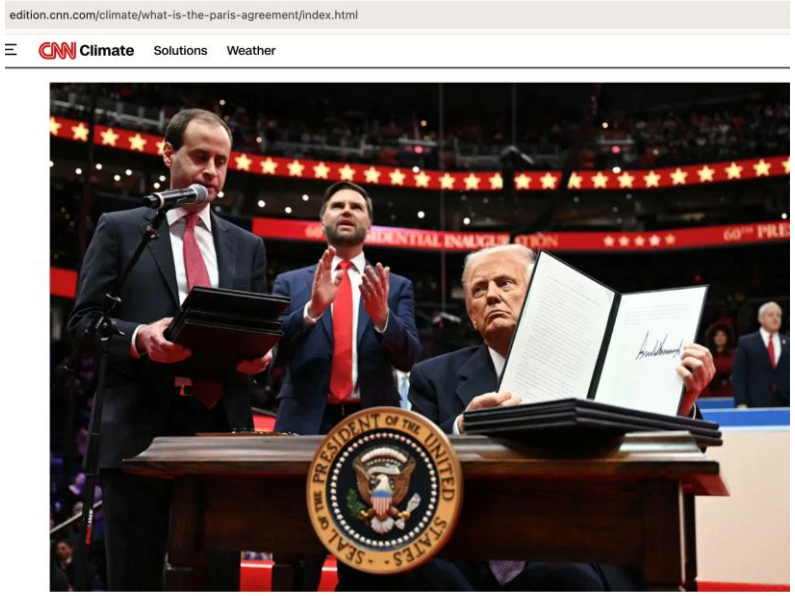
Alternative Paths

- United States: Seeking dominance through fossil fuel resources and military/political might
- China: Seeking expanded influence through renewables and international projects
- Europe: The Green New Deal/Industrial Plan…

Trump 2. Putting America First, Pulling US out of International Agreements



US has pulled out of over 60 international environmental agreements and institutions including the Paris Agreement, UNFCCC, and the IPCC



President Donald Trump holds an executive order announcing the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement on January 20, 2025. Jim Watson/AFP/Getty Images



Donald Trump at an event during his campaign for the 2024 presidential election. Photograph: Alex Brandon/AP

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/jan/09/a-colossal-own-goal-trumps-exit-from-global-climate-treaties-will-have-little-effect-outside-us

energy.gov

Department of Energy

An official website of the United States government Here's how you know

U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY

About Our Mission New Horizons Topics Consumer Savings Services & Opportunities

Notice of Court Order. Click here to read.

Restoring Energy Dominance

President Trump's Day One Actions will Return the Department to Regular Order.

Read more here



breitbart.com/news/why-boosting-production-of-venezuelas-very-dense-very-sloppy-oil-could-harm-the-environment/

BREITBART

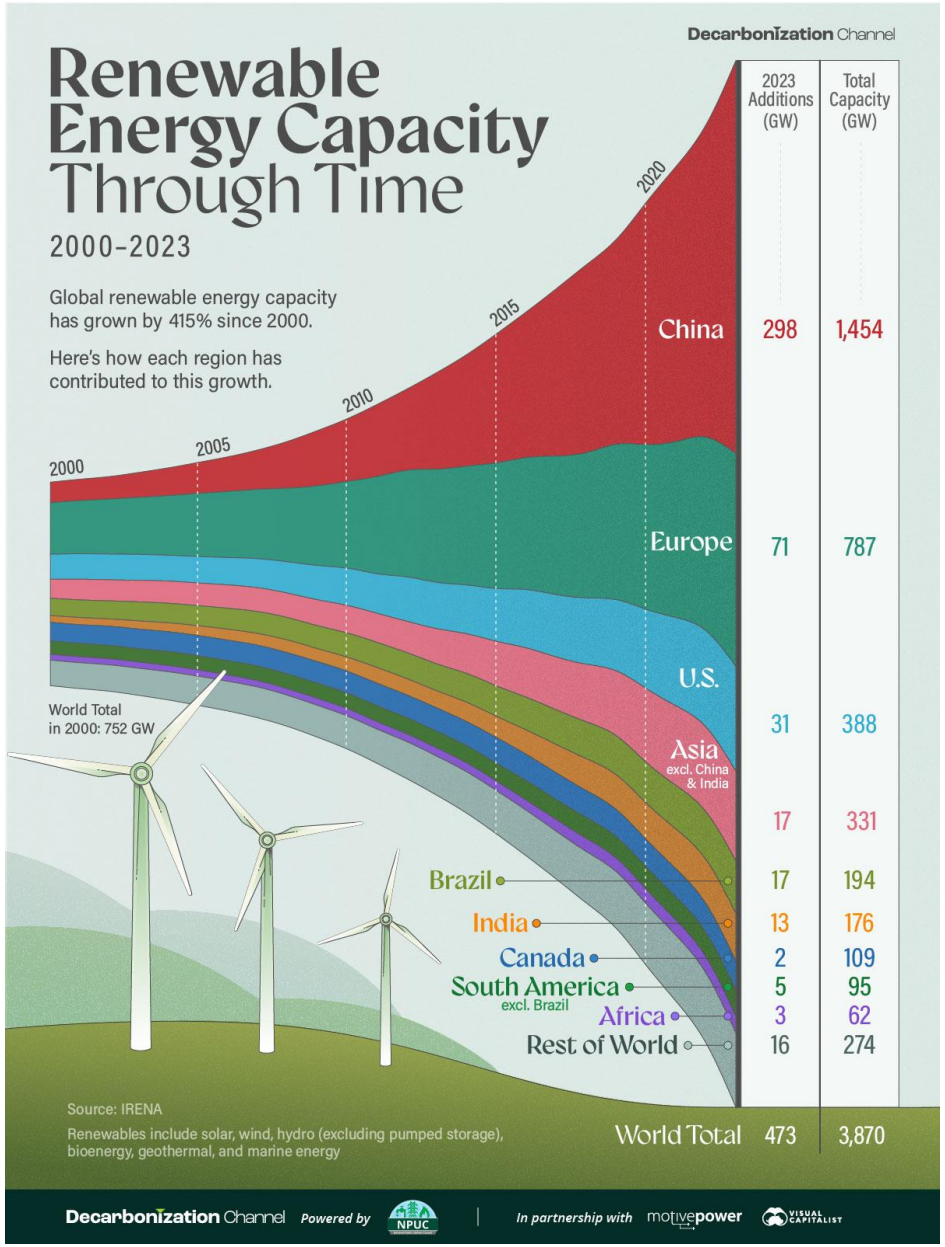
WHY BOOSTING PRODUCTION OF VENEZUELA'S 'VERY DENSE, VERY SLOPPY' OIL COULD HARM THE ENVIRONMENT

TWEET EMAIL TRUTH

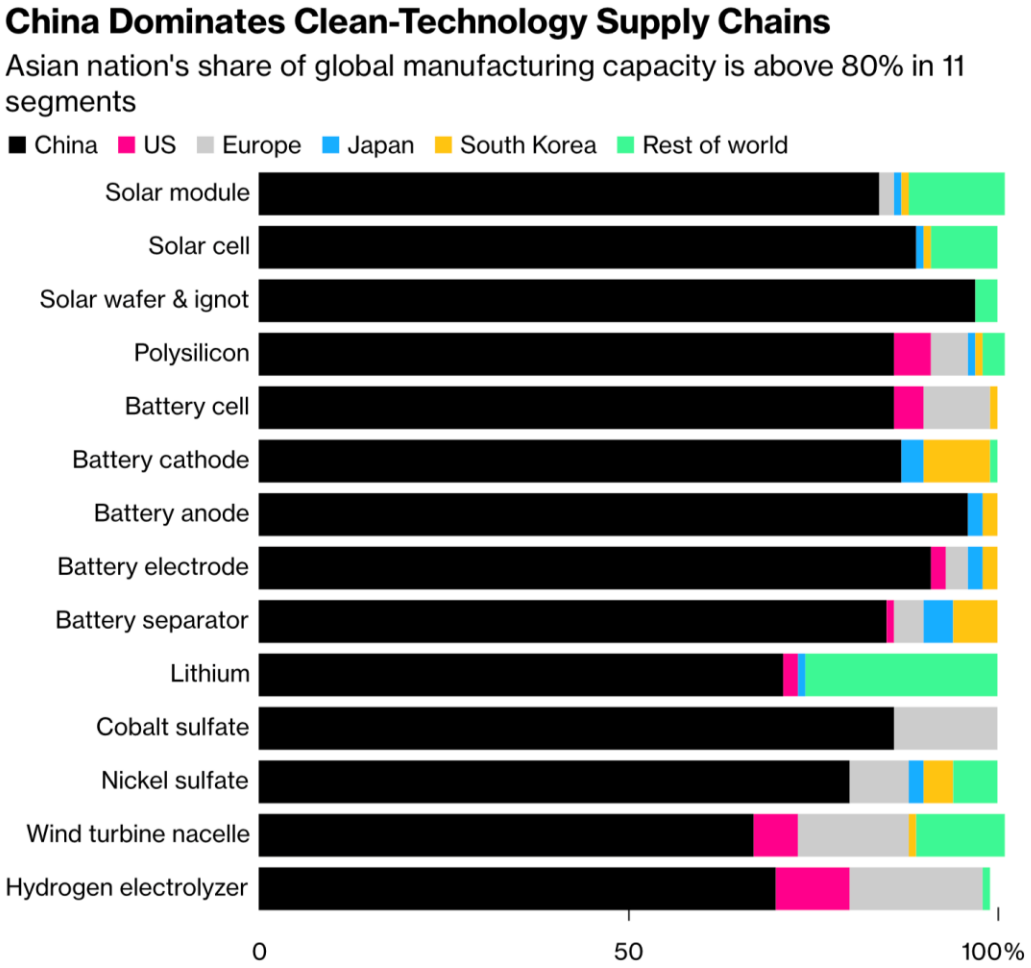


by AP | 9 Jan 2026 |

China Clean Tech Leadership



https://www.visualcapitalist.com/sp/visualized-renewable-energy-capacity-through-time-2000-2023/

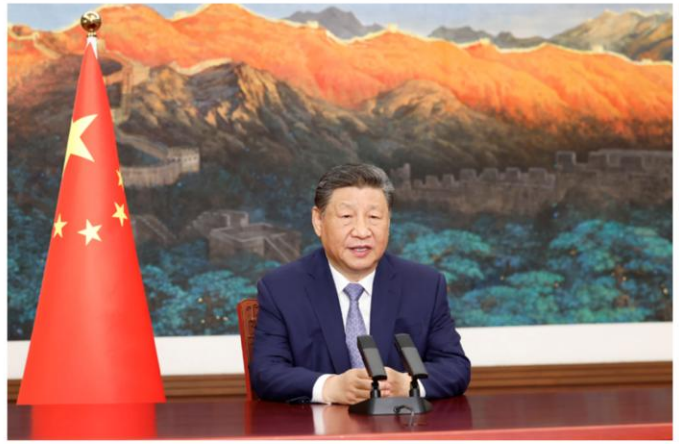


Source: BloombergNEF
Note: Capacity is for physical facility location, not manufacturer headquarters. Lithium refers to lithium hydroxide and carbonate.

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2024-04-16/china-extends-clean-tech-dominance-over-us-despite-biden-s-ira-blueprint

Xi addresses Leaders Meeting on Climate and the Just Transition, urging jointly advancing global climate governance

Updated: April 24, 2025 07:16 Xinhua



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a speech via video link at the Leaders Meeting on Climate and the Just Transition, April 23, 2025. [Photo/Xinhua]

China will:

- adhere to multilateralism
- deepen international cooperation, boost technological innovation and transformation
- pursue South – South cooperation

https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202504/24/content_WS680974c3c6d0868f4e8f2027.h

CHINA‘S NDC

2030 goals:
-**peak emissions** before 2030

-**reduce emission intensity** by 60-65% from 2005 levels

-achieve **20% share of renewables in energy mix**

2035 goals:
-**reduce** economy-wide net **greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent to 10 percent** from peak levels

-expand the installed capacity of wind and solar power to over six times the 2020 levels, aiming for a total of 3,600 gigawatts.

-increase the share of non-fossil fuels in total energy consumption to over 30 percent

-make new energy vehicles the mainstream in the sales of new vehicles

Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization



https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-09-30/China-taking-vigorous-measures-to-build-ecological-civilization-UdovnDNoIM/index.html

China‘s (Green) Belt and Road Initiative

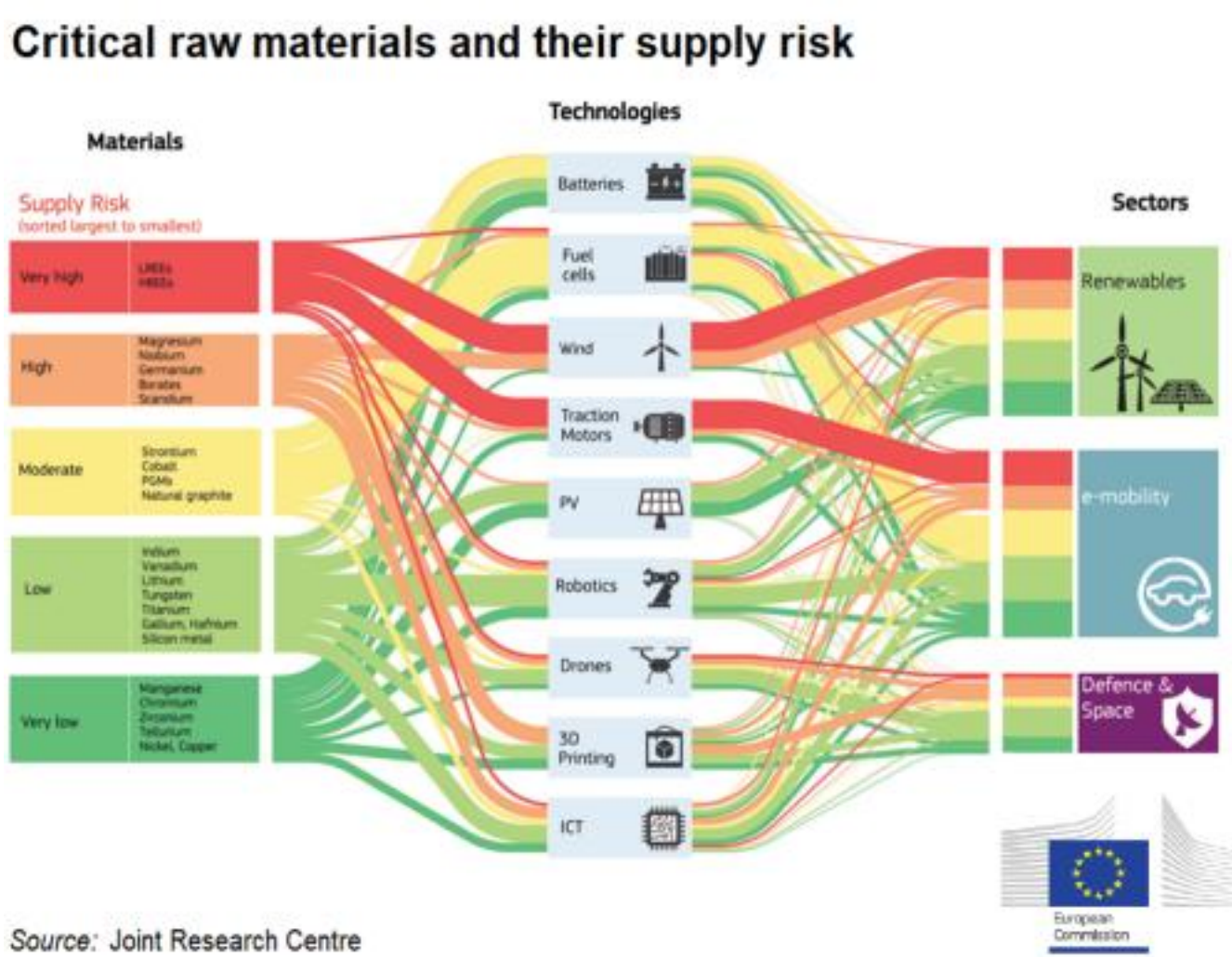




Greening the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

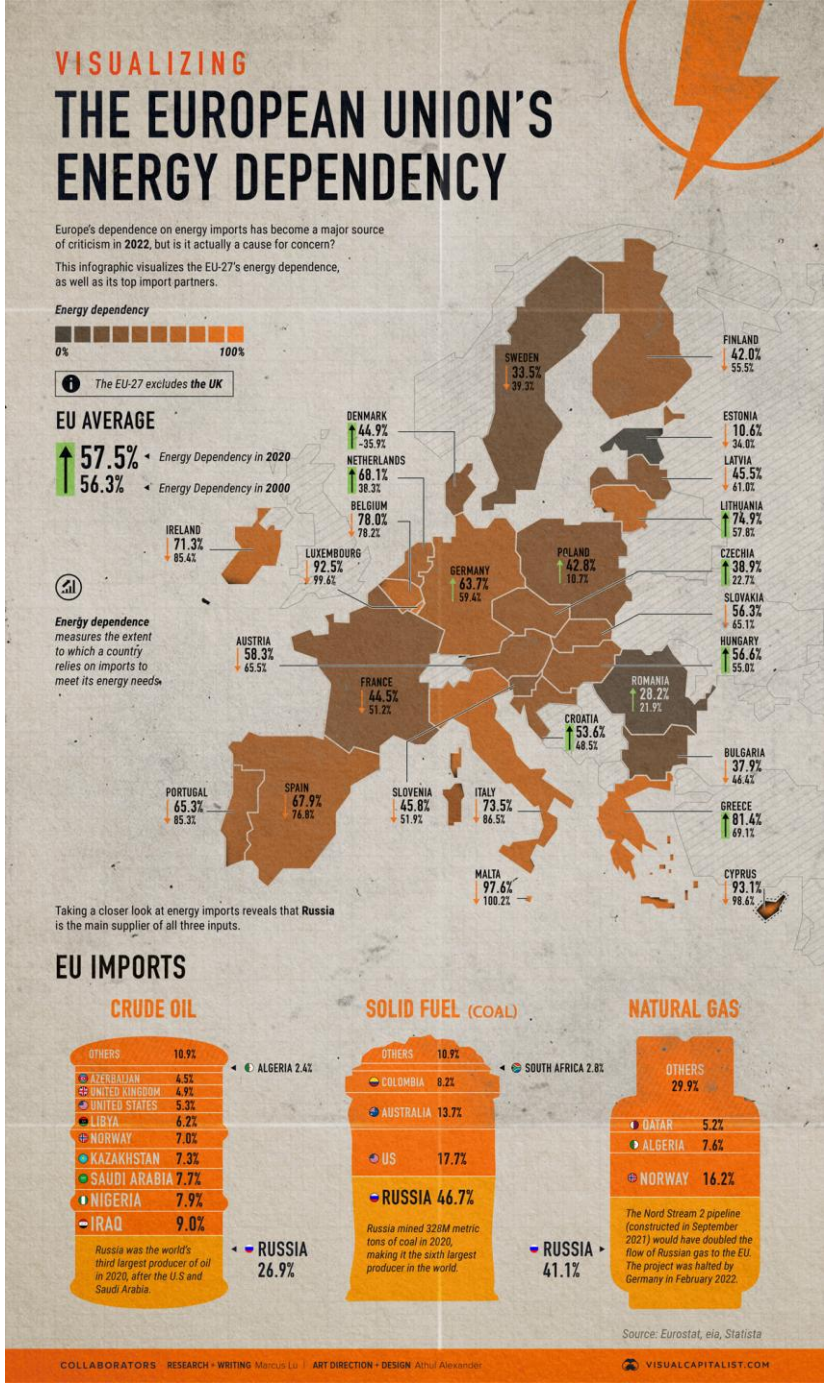
Historical turning point(s) for Europe?

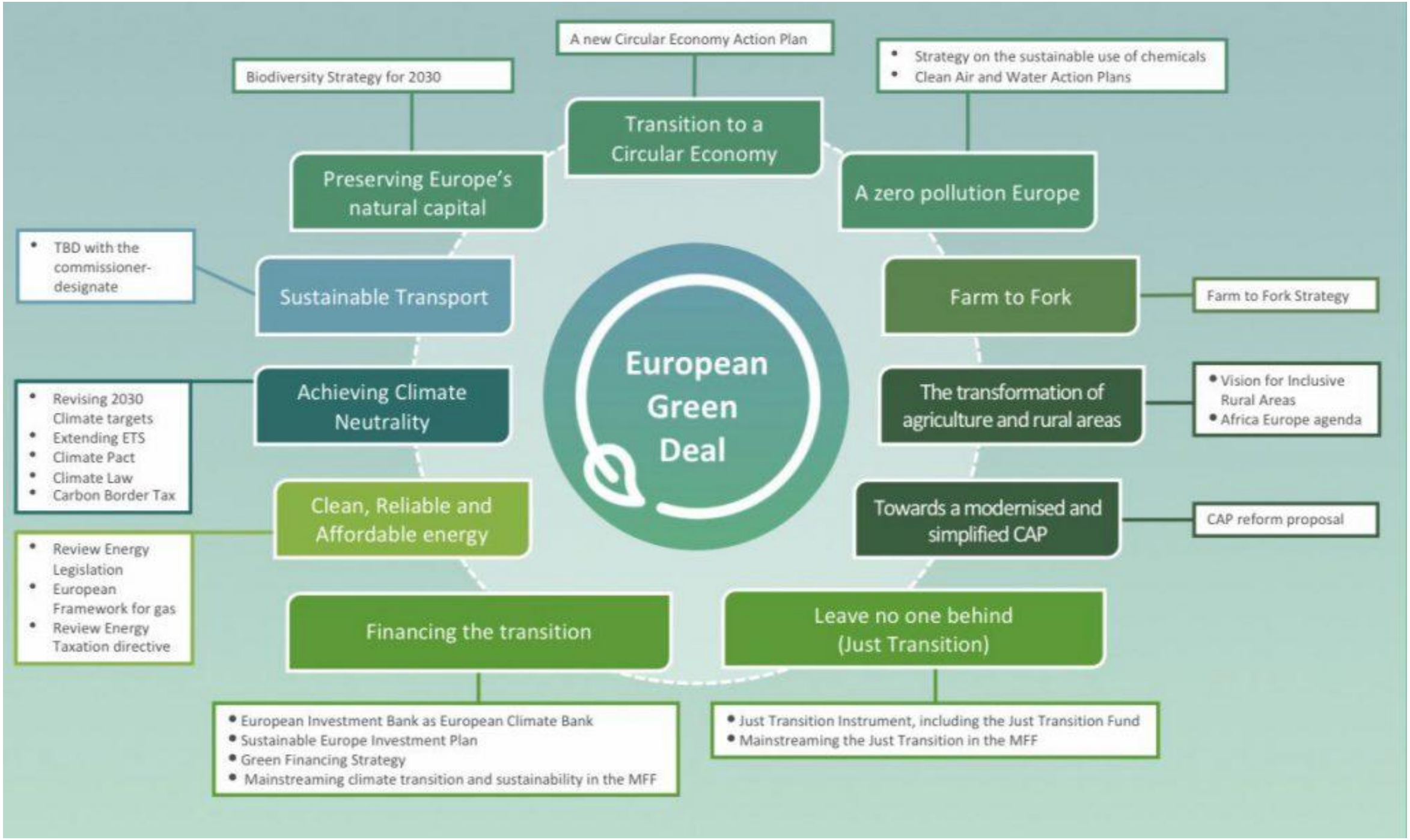
Current discussion within the G7. Discussion on how to reduce dependence on China



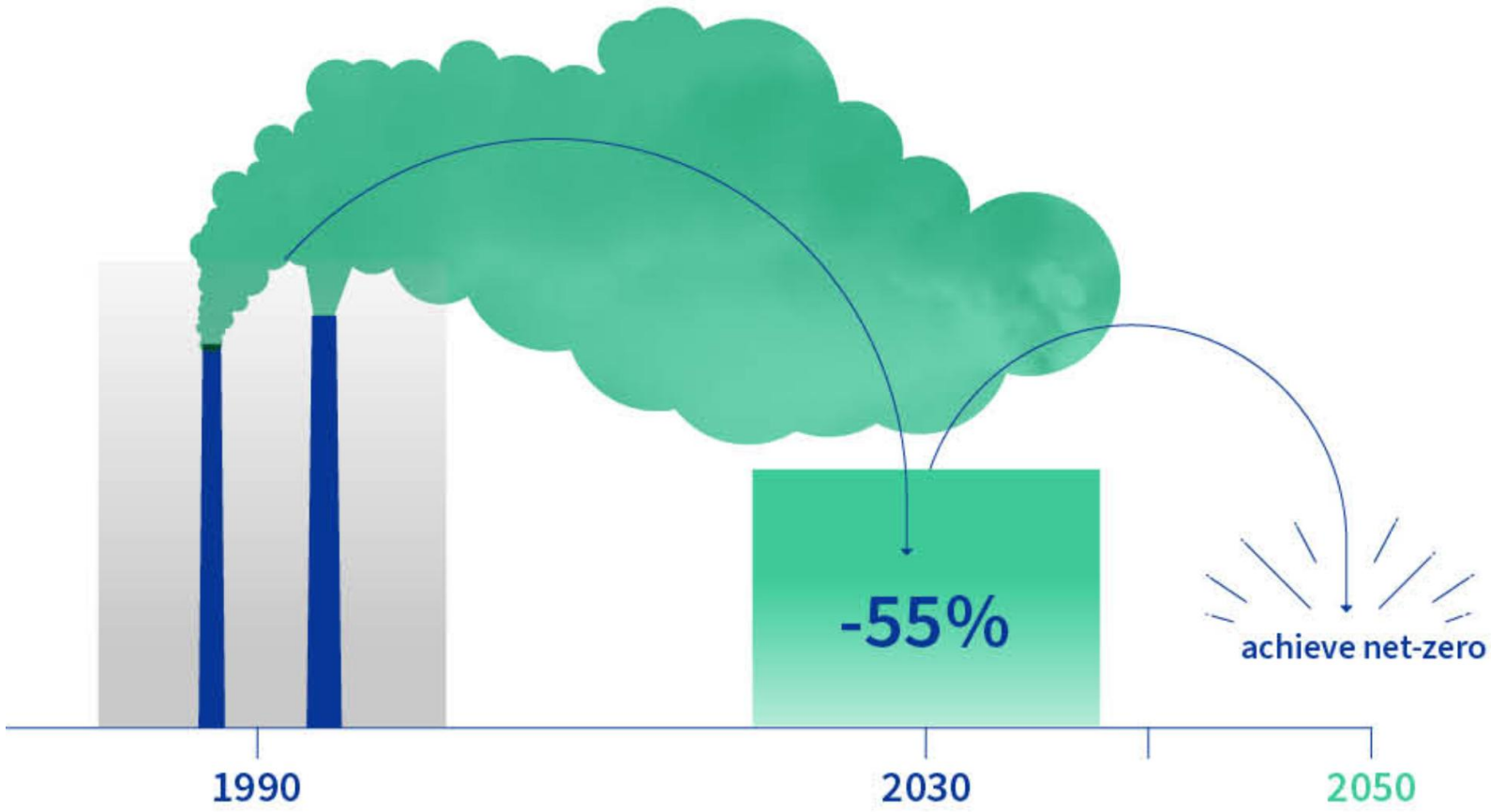
Russian War on Ukraine, 2022 –

Paradigm shift. Breaking dependency on Russia




European Green Deal
Transition to a Circular Economy
A new Circular Economy Action Plan
Biodiversity Strategy for 2030
Preserving Europe's natural capital
A zero pollution Europe
Strategy on the sustainable use of chemicals
Clean Air and Water Action Plans
Sustainable Transport
TBD with the commissioner-designate
Farm to Fork
Farm to Fork Strategy
Achieving Climate Neutrality
Revising 2030 Climate targets
Extending ETS
Climate Pact
Climate Law
Carbon Border Tax
The transformation of agriculture and rural areas
Vision for Inclusive Rural Areas
Africa Europe agenda
Clean, Reliable and Affordable energy
Review Energy Legislation
European Framework for gas
Review Energy Taxation directive
Towards a modernised and simplified CAP
CAP reform proposal
Financing the transition
European Investment Bank as European Climate Bank
Sustainable Europe Investment Plan
Green Financing Strategy
Mainstreaming climate transition and sustainability in the MFF
Leave no one behind (Just Transition)
Just Transition Instrument, including the Just Transition Fund
Mainstreaming the Just Transition in the MFF

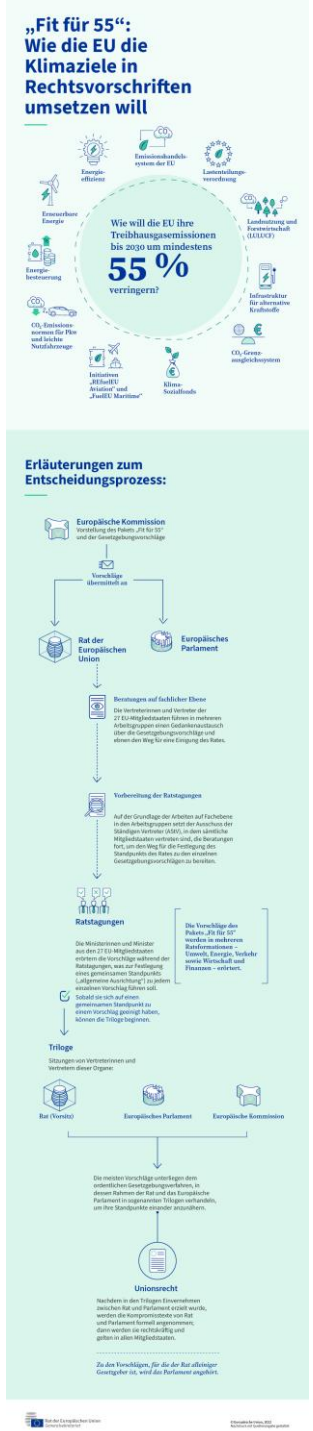
EU Climate Targets: 2050 Climate Neutrality Target

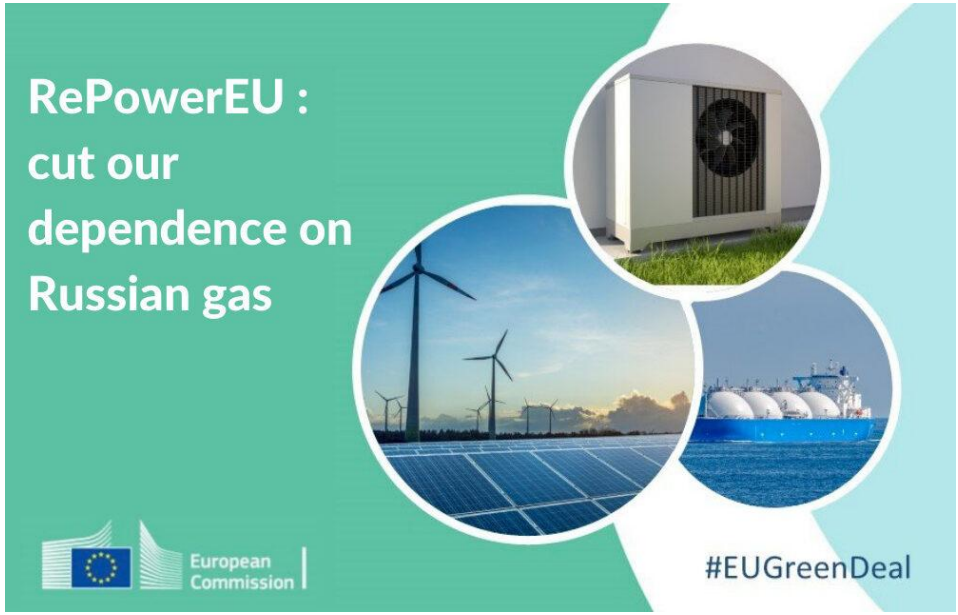


Europe

- EU Climate Law
- Fit for 55
- Hydrogen and Gas Package
- REPowerEU









EU Updated NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution)

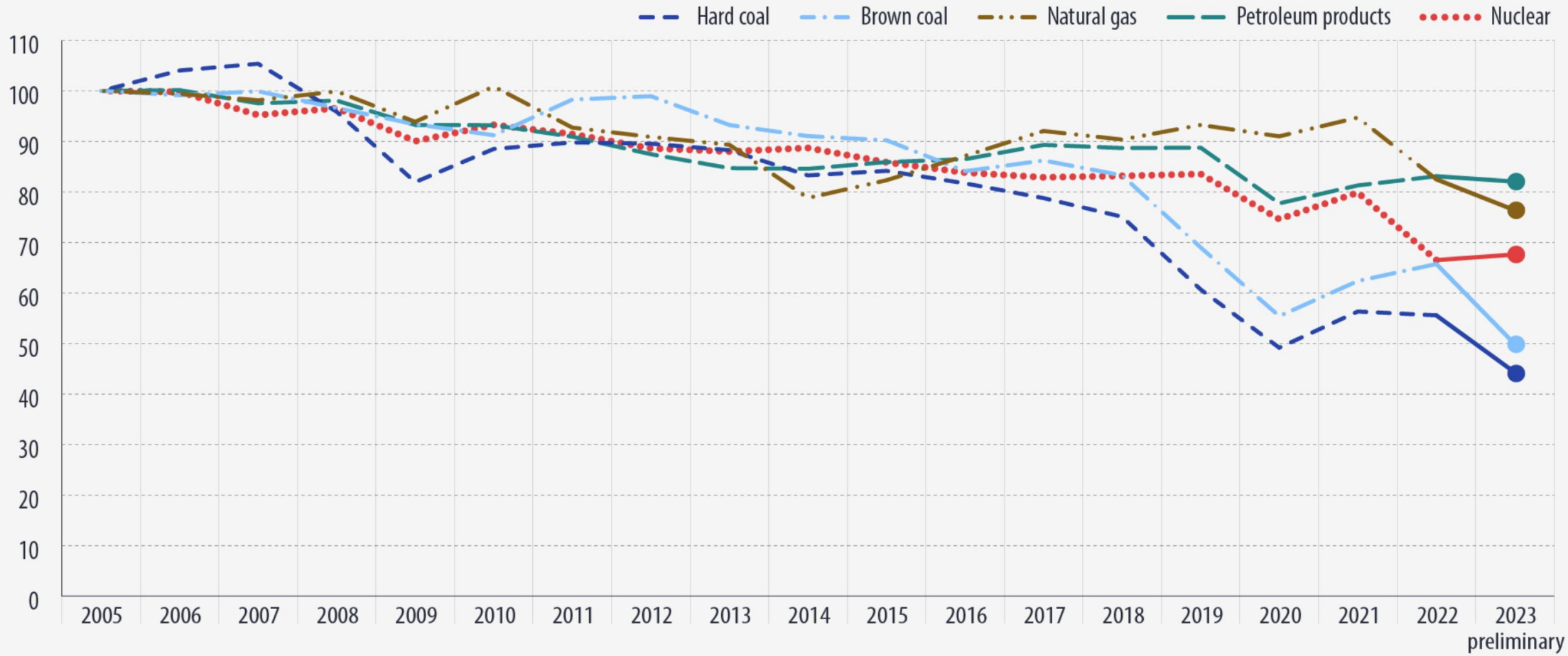
- 55% reduction of CO2 by 2030 (compared to 1990 base)
- 66.25 to 72.5% reduction of CO2 by 2035 (indicative target)

- Tripling renewable energy capacity globally and doubling the rate of global energy efficiency by 2030

- EU remains world‘s largest climate financer

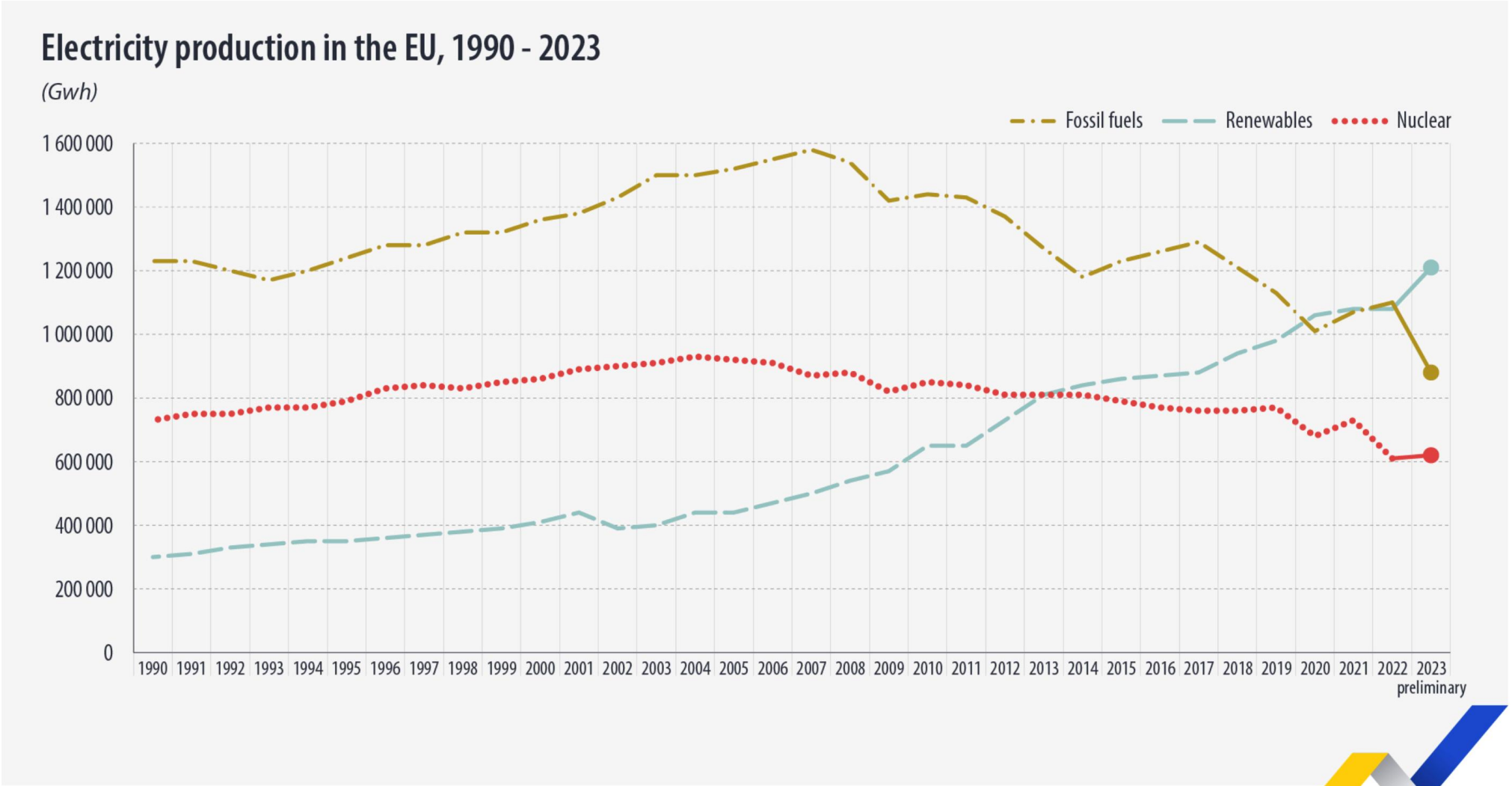
Supply of fossil fuels and nuclear energy in the EU, 2005 - 2023

(2005=100)



eurostat

Renewables 44% of electricity generation 2023, estimated 47% 2024.



eurostat