

# OPERATIONALISING THE EXTERNAL DIMENSION OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

Workshop for policy makers delivered by adelphi and European Council on Foreign Relations

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## Background and purpose

**Asserting its international role and enhancing climate action** are critical to the foreign affairs of the European Union (EU). This should make the external dimension of the European Green Deal (EGD) the linchpin of the “geopolitical Commission” and the Union at large. The tasks emerging from this can be structured around four elements of a “Green Deal diplomacy”<sup>\*</sup>:

- Boost climate ambition globally, using the experiences with the EGD.
- Mitigate the risks that EU’s transition might generate outside its borders.
- Support the EU’s internal transition as it depends on actions of non-EU actors.
- Bring together transition-related with other goals of the EU in a challenging geopolitical landscape.

This workshop aimed to take operationalisation of the EGD further and advance the community of practice. We approached this in two steps: First, we explored what action policymakers already pursue and the needs that they still see. Based on this, we discussed specific entry points in the second part of the workshop.

## Tasks and challenges

We discussed where the EU is **“in credit”** – where work is already being done – and where it is **“in debit”** – where more work is needed to drive international climate action.

### Credit

- **Sharing solutions.** The EU pilots policies and shares experience with its partners (e.g. “do no harm” principle).
- **Knowledge hub.** The EU generates knowledge on climate policy and how to mainstream it.
- **Green finance pioneer.** As the biggest provider of green finance globally, the EU pilots green finance approaches.
- **A variety of instruments.** External action instruments of the EU already prioritise the EGD, and it has several other potentially useful tools to build upon.

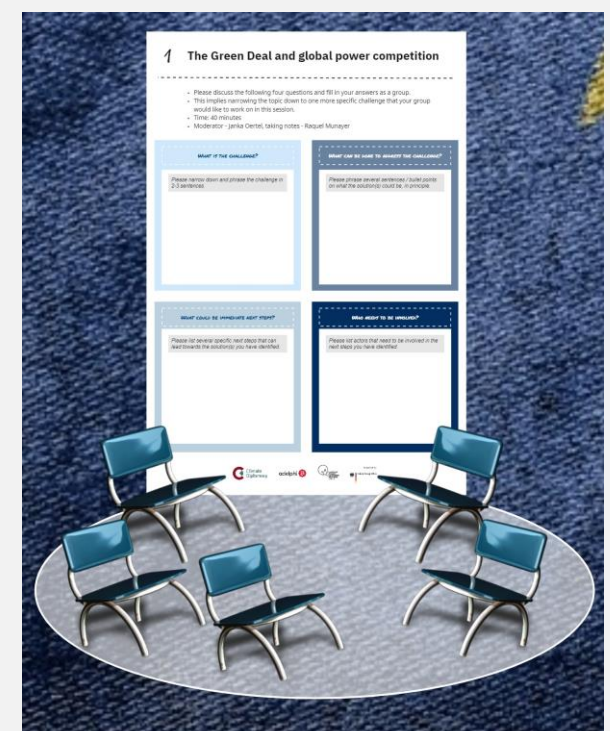
### Debit

- **Coherence:** The EU’s internal policies and external messaging should be more consistent, harnessing the diversity of its action (on the ground, among MS).
- **Partnerships:** The EU needs to tailor its action to partners’ demands, aligning different cooperation strands, as well as to address big emitters and power imbalances.
- **Finance:** The EU needs to help scale up (private) finance and wire the global finance system to promote green tech.
- **Adaptation and mitigating risks:** The EU needs to further strengthen risk analysis and adaptation action.

## Entry points

In the second part of the workshop, in breakout groups, we narrowed down the tasks and challenges and explored specific entry point through the lens of the following five topics:

1. **The Green Deal and global power competition.** Entry points include the Global Gateway and infrastructure initiatives, plus building partnerships beyond the main players.
2. **Offering green and just (policy) solutions to partners.** The EU must consider perspectives of all partners in the transition. At investment level, it can de-risk green financial flows.
3. **Advancing green connectivity partnerships.** The EU should provide a regulatory framework applicable to existing infrastructure and attractive for countries in the EU neighbourhood.
4. **Challenging partners.** The EU should be strategic during transition phase to shape future energy relationships. Build partnerships for clean energy.
5. **Trade policies and economic diplomacy appropriate for a global Green Deal.** The EU needs to apply the full of portfolio of economic diplomacy tools to support green transitions.



Example of Miro board participants used to brainstorm

<sup>\*</sup>For background information, please consult a recent [study](#), [podcast](#) and [report](#) on the EU climate diplomacy.