

What opportunities does the European Union offer for Gemer region in context of combating climate change

New MFF should include: 30% climate spending target, biodiversity spending target of 7,5% from 2024 and 10% in 2026 and 2027

Opportunities for Slovakia:

1. Primárně kohezní politika - v rámci 2014-2020 to vypadalo takto https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/themes/climate-change/
 - vyjednává se s MFF nový rámec
 - EP: position that at least 35% of resources under the ERDF and 40% under the Cohesion Fund should support the Union climate objectives;
 - European Council agreement to contribute at least 30% of the ERDF to the policy objective to the policy objective "Greener Europe"
2. Recovery and resilience - Recovery of Slovakia must be green
3. Renovation wave (Financial support for renovation of buildings) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1603122220757&uri=CELEX:52020DC0662>
4. Circular economy action plan - (European Urban Initiative, the Intelligent Cities Challenge Initiative, and the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative will provide key assistance to cities. Circular economy will be among the priority areas of the Green City Accord.) <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/>
5. Just transition fund
6. EU Adaptation Strategy -bude updatovaná https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation/what_en
7. Taxonomy - minulý týden vyšly delegované akty, jeden z nich je zaměřený na investice, které přispívají "climate adaptation" a další "climate mitigation" ---> může sloužit investorům k identifikování vhodných investic

1) Climate spending a mainstreaming

- The study and past ECA reports (on climate spending, biodiversity on farmland, pollinators, etc.) are clear. They propose several improvements, including counting expenditure per each programme, let's work with those
- If we are serious about fighting climate change, about saving nature for future generations, we must make sure we invest accordingly
- Otherwise, it means we just use empty words. Nothing more, nothing less

2) Climate and CAP speaking:

- The UN reports +38 degrees Celsius within the Arctic Circle
- Slovakia, my home country, is no exception and has to face extreme weather conditions and storms as well
- As incompatible as it may sound, the storms do not change anything about the fact that my country is drying up
- If we are counting victims, I believe that no more concrete evidence can be provided that our continent, our planet is not doing well
- Agriculture is often perceived as the source of the problem and possibly, considering all factors named, one can say it is so
- Nevertheless, what we need is to change the optics. We need to see the CAP as a tool which makes a change possible
- In this regard, I would like to repeat what I have been calling for in the Parliament
 - o while respecting bigger flexibility of Member States and their particular contexts within the New Delivery Model, I do believe that Green Deal-related targets must be translated optimally and legally into concrete national efforts
 - o ending harmful subsidies and introducing functioning greening this time via ring-fenced eco-schemes
 - o genuine climate & environmental proofing and tracking which seems to be the Achilles heel of budgetary efforts of the EC. This was confirmed once more by ECA in its recent assessment of EU expenditure and the state of farmland biodiversity
- It all comes back to my favourite 2 key words: **policy coherence**
- We can talk about climate law, just transition or other instruments which should help us to be climate neutral and maintain ecosystem services but if we do not make sure the overall setup is correct, we will not reach the “sustainable” destination we desire
- Our **role as MEPs** is clear: we may not let CAP backslide
- This was confirmed by the EC itself in its recent **CAP/Green Deal assessment** which calls for further improvement in order to meet the Green Deal commitments
- We are all standing on the same side here or let’s say we live on the same heating planet which- as cliché as it sounds - we must preserve. It is our responsibility