

THE GREEN DEAL

RESEARCH STUDY

Booklet

FRONT

The Green Deal and the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG)





Frontex

devoted considerable time and resources in 2021 to researching the best way to embark on a path to carbon neutrality by 2050, commissioning a research study on the Green Deal and the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG). The study was launched to develop a shared understanding of how the EBCG impacts the environment and propose measures to reduce adverse effects that could otherwise surface decades later. Given the size and geographic reach of the EBCG, as well as its multi-dimensional objectives and multi-stakeholder environment, there are two preconditions for success: proper governance and concrete, fact and science-based sustainability targets that do not impede the performance and reliability of mission-critical capabilities. The research study is a solid step in

initiating this process, inspiring the community, and motivating stakeholders to follow the same sustainability path.

The results presented in the final research report and summarised in this booklet will enable the EBCG to play its part in achieving the objectives set in the European Commission's Green Deal. More specifically, under the Green Deal, Europe plans to reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases to zero by 2050, to decouple economic growth from the use of finite resources, and at the same time to ensure that no person and no place is left behind.

The EBCG consists of the national authorities of Member States responsible for border management, including coast guards to the extent that they carry out border control tasks, the national authorities responsible for return and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex).



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THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL TARGETS FOR 2050

Just transition

Mobilising research & fostering innovations

Financing the transition



1 Pursuing climate neutrality



2 Supplying clean and affordable energy



3 Mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy



4 Building and renovating in an energy and resource efficient way



5 Shift to sustainable and smart mobility



6 Fair, healthy and environmental-friendly food system



7 Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity



8 Zero-pollution and toxic-free environment



THE PRINCIPLES COULD BE TREATED AS A GUIDE

to support the EBCG in setting the direction and decision-making processes associated with environmental sustainability



1 Environmental issues should be embedded in strategies and decision-making processes



2 To reduce the organisation's environmental footprint effectively, **targets should be science- and fact-based**



3 **The development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies should be encouraged** and embedded in decision-making processes



4 The organisation's **environmental impact should be monitored and reported**



5 **Accountability and transparency should be demonstrated** by regularly disclosing publicly the progress in implementing the sustainability targets



6 **Climate awareness and environmental issues should be raised** with and amongst the stakeholders and community

SIX HIGH-LEVEL PRINCIPLES

were defined for the EBCG to improve the environmental sustainability of its operations, across buildings ranging in size from small border crossing points to Frontex's headquarters in Warsaw, from the day-to-day management of the external borders to the work of the relevant national authorities in the EU Member States, across its fleets of vehicles, vessels and aircraft of all sizes, and the purchase of everything from uniforms to specialised equipment. The principles provide guidance that is applicable to this very heterogenous range of areas and activities.



WHAT THE PRINCIPLES MEAN

1. Environmental issues should be embedded in strategies and decision-making processes

The first principle is crucial for an environmentally sustainable strategy. It will lead to more self-regulation to go beyond compliance with regulation. A sustainable vision in line with strategic ambitions is a prerequisite before establishing a baseline, setting targets, and implementing a change management plan.

2. Targets should be science- and fact-based

Targets are often not ambitious enough or too vague to be actionable. Targets and initiatives on reducing EBCG's environmental footprint should rely on science- and fact-based evidence. In other words, knowledgeable people using recognised tools should be responsible for paving the way to environmental sustainability, securing reasonable, ambitious and achievable goals in the form of an operationalised roadmap.

3. Development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies should be encouraged

This is a principle inspired by the UN Global Compact, a voluntary initiative in which industry commits to sustainability and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This principle encourages the use of technologies that mitigate or compensate for negative impacts on the environment. It implies the EBCG using such technologies in their daily operations.

4. Environmental impact should be monitored and reported

Monitoring and reporting from pre-determined baselines will make it possible to measure progress towards targets and identify bottlenecks. Monitoring and reporting create transparency, which brings with it accountability. This will increase trust from stakeholders.

5. Accountability and transparency should be demonstrated

Disclosing all the information about EBCG's environmental footprint and impact should be the norm. It is crucial for the credibility of the ecosystem it is building. It is also an essential element for accountability vis-à-vis personnel, stakeholders and the wider community.

6. Climate awareness and environmental issues should be raised

Change management and leadership in climate adaptation need open and timely communication and knowledge exchange on environmental and sustainability plans, as well as on progress, to inspire the community and stakeholders.





THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: THE “AS-IS”

Compliance with international and European rules is the starting point. There is already a dense patchwork of international commitments and EU legislation with which all public organisations (or the governments under whose jurisdiction they fall) must comply.

The most overarching and fundamental international commitments are the Paris Agreement and the UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s). The Paris Agreement is an internationally binding agreement to limit global warming to well below 2, and preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels. The 17 SDG’s set 2030 targets in areas such as affordable and clean energy or responsible consumption and production.

In addition, the EBCG is bound by a wide range of EU requirements or initiatives. There are mandatory climate targets for governments and requirements for organisations in a wide range of areas, including energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy, CO2 emissions from vehicles and ships, batteries and building standards. Compliance with these requirements should be part of “business-as-usual” for Frontex and EBCG community.



INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS & EU REGULATION

- Paris Agreement
- 2030 Agenda including Sustainable Development Goals
- European Green Deal
- European Climate Law
- Green Public Procurement Criteria
- Renewable Energy Directive
- Energy Efficiency Directive
- Energy Performance of Buildings Directive
- Batteries Directive
- Single-Use Plastics Directive
- System to Monitor, Report and Verify CO2 Emissions from Ships
- Regulation on CO2 emissions from passenger cars and for light commercial vehicles



THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: GOING BEYOND COMPLIANCE

Frontex and the EBCG community should not stop at compliance with the baseline, but continuously monitor what is in the regulatory pipeline. Key areas where new legislation is expected within the next couple of years include the circular economy, aviation and maritime fuel, and stricter regulation than now in terms of energy-efficient buildings.

To underpin the desire of the EBCG to be leaders in environmental sustainability, the horizon scanning for the research study included EU action plans and strategies such as:

- the New Bauhaus Initiative, which could spark ideas for innovation in buildings;
- the Smart Mobility and Sustainability Strategy, which will help the EBCG stay at the forefront in its vehicles and the way it uses all forms of transport, and in the use of sustainable fuels in vehicles, ships and planes;
- the Energy System and Integration Strategy, which will, for example, ensure an efficient balance between generating power onboard and hooking up to onshore sources of renewable energy in port;
- the Renovation Wave Strategy, making sure older buildings meet the highest standards.



EU STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS, PROPOSALS

- European Climate Pact
- 2030 Climate Target Plan
- Energy System Integration Strategy
- 8th Environment Action Programme
- Shaping Europe's Digital Future
- Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy
- Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment
- Renovation Wave Strategy
- New Circular Economy Action Plan
- New European Bauhaus Initiative
- Refuel EU Aviation
- Fuel EU Maritime
- Batteries Regulation
- Revision of Renewable Energy Directive
- Revision of Energy Efficiency Directive
- Revision of Energy Performance of Buildings New Directive
- Revision of System to Monitor, Report and Verify CO2 Emissions from Ships
- Level(s)- European framework for sustainable buildings

THE EBCG SHOULD CONTINUE ASSESSING

- how to implement European Commission recommendations on green public procurement when they tender for everything from cleaning services to field rations, and with which eco- and energy labels to comply;
- which EU or international standards should be adopted, e.g. on quality, environmental management systems (EMS), fair trade or sustainable events.

EU programmes funding science and innovation (e.g. Horizon Europe) can provide knowledge on the latest technologies. Furthermore, the programmes to promote economic resilience and green growth can be tapped to support the EBCG's efforts (e.g. the European Green Deal Investment Plan and the Next Generation EU Recovery Plan).



LEARNING FROM THE PIONEERS

The research study highlighted that there is already a wide range of good practice both within the EBCG and in similar organisations facing similar challenges. Many of these organisations already have full-scale environmental management systems in place, from which Frontex and the EBCG community can learn.



CASE STUDIES OF BEST PRACTICE

- Deloitte Netherlands - The Edge office
- European Central Bank
- European Defence Agency
- French Ministry of Interior
- Portuguese Navy
- Swedish Coast Guard
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security

By looking at these and other organisations, the study identified a wide range of best practice in specific areas that could be worth adopting as part of the wider strategies, for example:

- Using diesel engine cooling water in ship's heating
- Smart monitoring on energy use across a wide spectrum of activities
- Concentrating cleaning on areas with the highest footfall
- Rainwater harvesting and sustainable drainage systems
- Training personnel in eco-driving
- Using solar panels on vehicle roofs to power communications
- Donating obsolete IT equipment
- Designing uniforms to last longer and recovering the textiles from old uniforms
- Using electric vehicles
- Establishing sustainability incubators to develop and test innovation.



The change management that the EBCG should now put in place in order to become pioneers will ensure that innovation like these are mapped and piloted systematically in the future. This will accelerate the rate at which change is introduced and progress made towards green targets.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Change on the scale that climate adaptation requires is complex. It affects every part of an organisation from data collection to training, from communication to purchasing, from building management to travel, from budgets to having personnel with qualifications in environmental management. This requires a structured

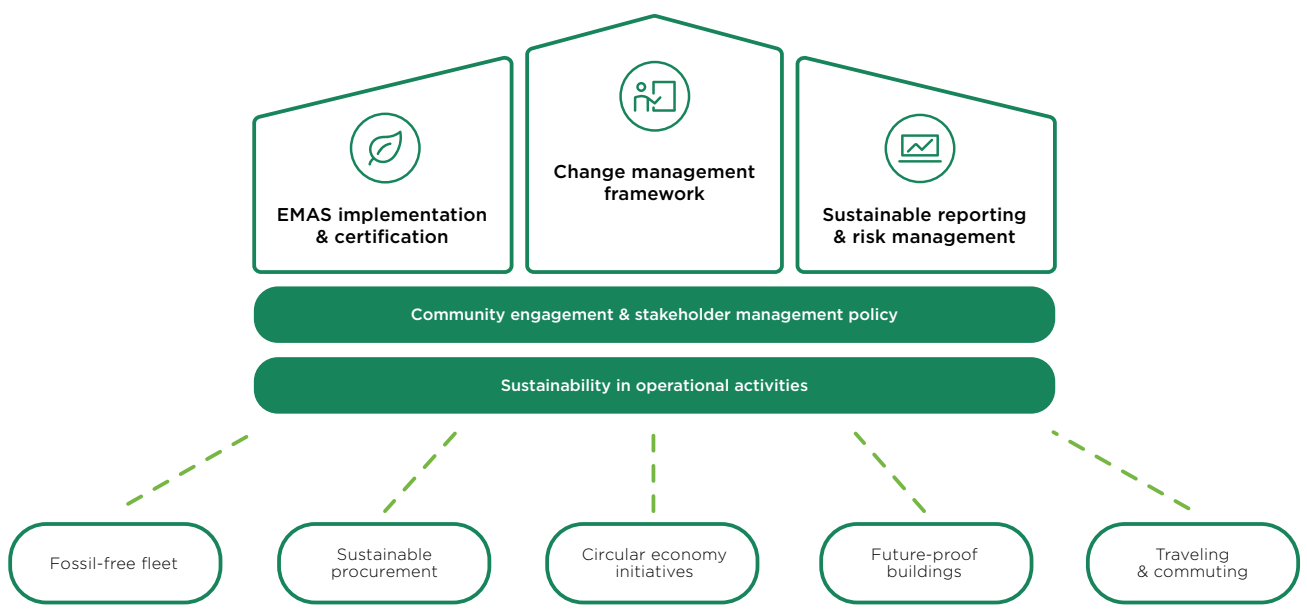
approach, but a flexible one which will work within Frontex and across the EBCG community. Frontex has grouped the key themes in ten different areas with roadmaps for short, medium and long-term horizons.

- 1 Foundation for Transformation; Change management framework:** defining practical steps to support the EBCG authorities in managing this major change within their entities.
- 2 Sustainable Reporting and Risk Management:** introducing internal reporting to track progress and external reporting to meet international norms and to identify risks that could lead to targets not being met.
- 3 EMAS Implementation and Certification:** adopting EMAS certification implies signing up to a premium management instrument and standard to evaluate, report and improve environmental performance.
- 4 Sustainability in Operational Activities:** integrating sustainability into operational strategy by understanding current impacts and emissions, defining ambitions, carrying out cost-benefit analysis of possible measures, and drawing up roadmaps for each measure.
- 5 Local Community Engagement and Stakeholder Management Policy:** being transparent about and accountable for all the sustainability actions undertaken by the EBCG and working with local communities to maximise their positive impact in the interests of both.
- 6 Fossil-free Fleet:** drawing up decarbonisation guidelines for operational vehicles, electrification, biofuels integration, investigation into hydrogen fuel capabilities, route management and planning, and vessel retrofitting, modification and maintenance.
- 7 Sustainable Procurement:** promoting and following sustainable procurement guidelines, including incentivising the development of green technologies and products by requiring suppliers to include them in tenders.
- 8 Circular Economy Initiatives for the Standing Corps:** developing a strategy on circularity, including increasing the lifespan of equipment and uniforms, recyclability and plastics reduction in field supplies and operational equipment, ammunition downcycling, etc.
- 9 Future-proofing Buildings; Sustainable Retrofitting:** optimising property assets and building performance by introducing and improving sustainability metrics.
- 10 Sustainable Travel and Commuting:** revising policy on remote meetings vis-à-vis travel, preparing and promoting personal CO2 impact calculators, the installation of charging infrastructure, the training of employees and more.



THESE CHANGES ARE ON THREE LEVELS

- management level (change management, an environmental management system, and a reporting and risk management framework);
- two cross-cutting areas (community engagement and stakeholder management, and sustainability in all operations), and
- five thematic areas (the fleet, sustainable procurement, circular economy initiatives, future-proofing buildings, and travelling and commuting).



The change management framework is fundamental. Implementing environmental management and reporting as well as risk management systems go hand in hand with the change management. These two are important supportive mechanisms. They help avoid common pitfalls and barriers to sustainable transformation, and so increase the chances of success in meeting environmental goals. Together they enable change.

The EBCG authorities cannot achieve this transformation in a vacuum. They need to work with their stakeholders and with local communities to identify synergies in everything they do and build an eco-system. Integration of sustainability into operational activities is another topic that will cut across everything the EBCG does, making sustainability a must-have not a nice-to-have in all operations.

The thematic areas are those which collectively represent the areas where the EBCG has the highest impact on the environment: its fleet of vehicles on land, at sea and in the air; its purchases of equipment, goods and services; waste from not yet going far enough in reducing consumption, re-using, re-purposing and re-cycling equipment; its buildings, old and new; and travel by its personnel, whether commuting or travelling for professional reasons. Collectively they are a guarantee of green operations and green offices across the EBCG.



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 EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY

Final research study report and other supporting materials are now available on frontex.europa.eu



Scan QR code to view the final research report