Circular Economy in the textiles sector

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Why urgent action is needed

From 1970 to 2017, the annual global extraction of materials **tripled** and it continues to grow.

Source: The International Resource Panel, Global Resources Outlook, 2019

More than **90%** of biodiversity loss and water stress come from resource extraction and processing.

Source: The International Resource Panel, Global Resources Outlook, 2019

EU's industry accounts for **20%** of the EU's emissions.

Source: European Commission, EU Climate Action Progress Report 2019

Only **12%** of the materials used by EU industry come from recycling.

Source: Eurostat, 2016 figures

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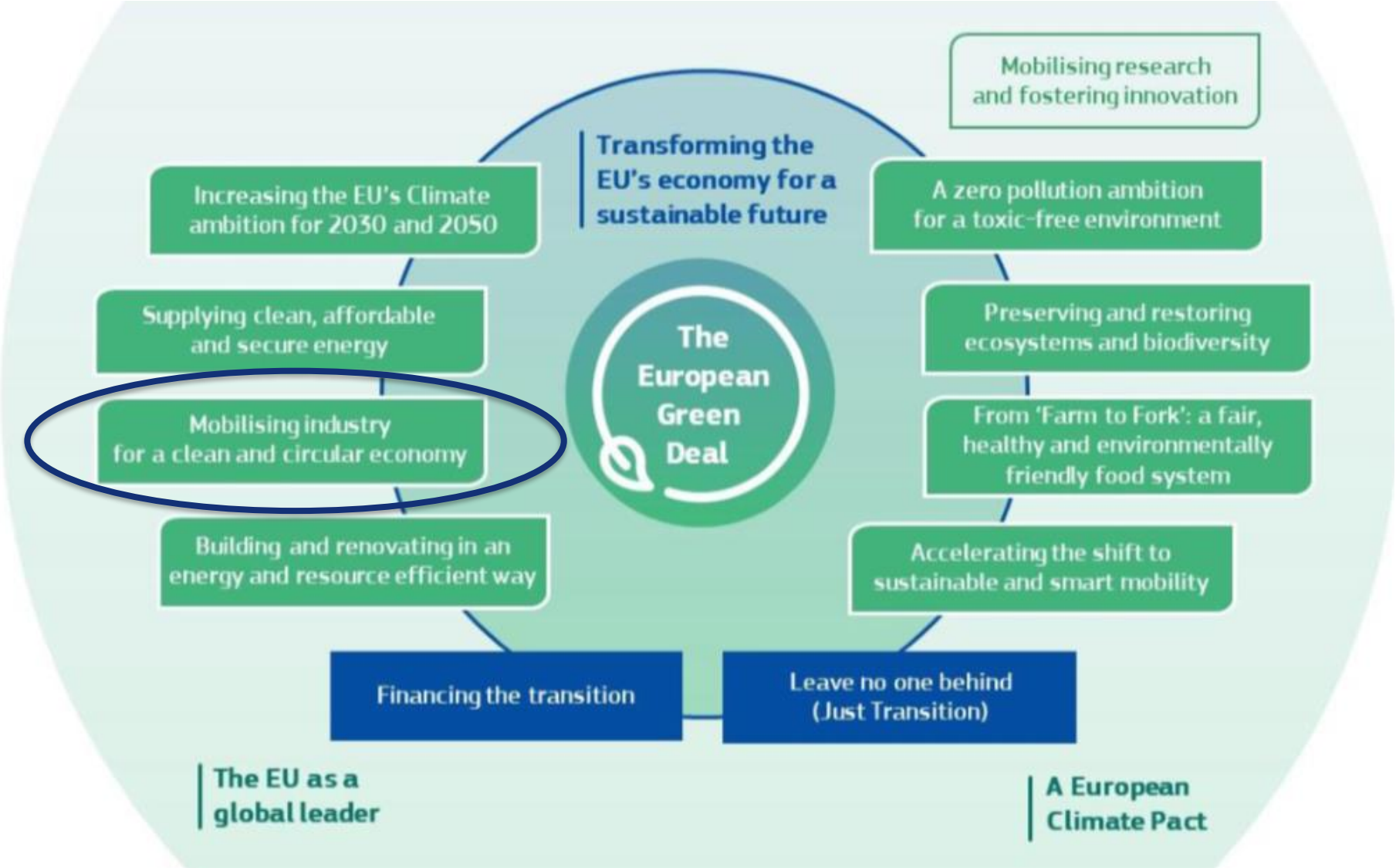
The European Green Deal



New Circular Economy Action Plan

35 actions, with a focus on:

- ***Sustainable products and production***
- ***Empowering consumers***
- ***Key product value chains***
- ***Reducing waste***
- ***Lead global efforts on circular economy***

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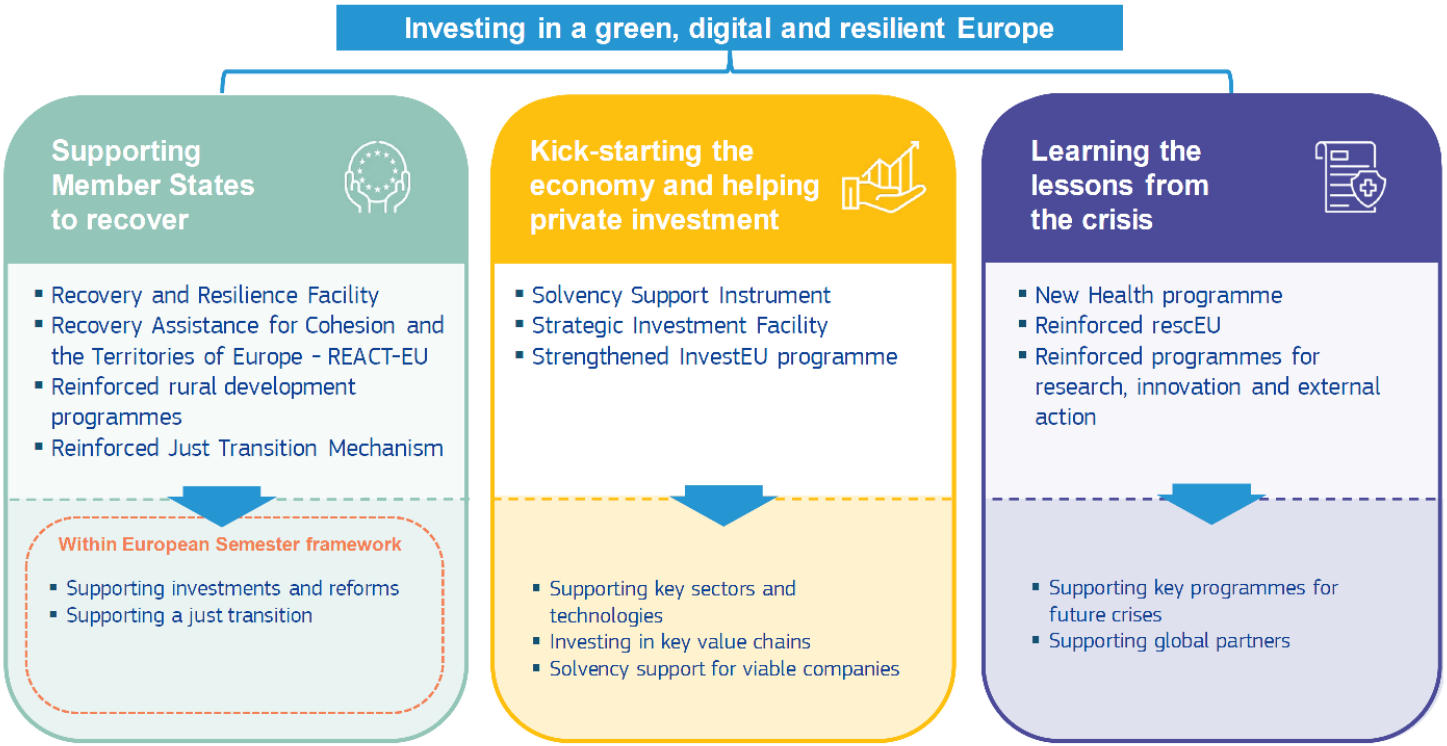
Repair and prepare for the next generation



Green and digital 'twin' transitions remain the focus

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Key product value chains

Food, water & nutrients

Electronics and ICT

Batteries & vehicles

Construction & buildings

Circular Economy Action Plan

For a cleaner and more competitive Europe

Textiles

Plastics

Packaging

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Why textiles?

Materials

- **fourth highest pressure category for use of primary raw materials and water** (after food, housing and transport)
- **One full truckload of textiles** goes to landfill or incineration every second, worldwide
- **Only 1% of material is recycled (garment to garment)**
- **Mandatory separate collection in EU** by 2025

Other environmental impacts

- **fifth highest contributor** to GHG emissions
- **Other emissions** (e.g. chemicals, microplastics)

Social impacts

- Concerns over global working conditions
  - **due diligence**

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An active sector…

Sustainable Apparel Coalition

circular textiles

FAIR & SUSTAINABLE TEXTILES
EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY STRATEGY

GFA
GLOBAL FASHION AGENDA

EuRIC

design for circularity

mistra future fashion

And many more…

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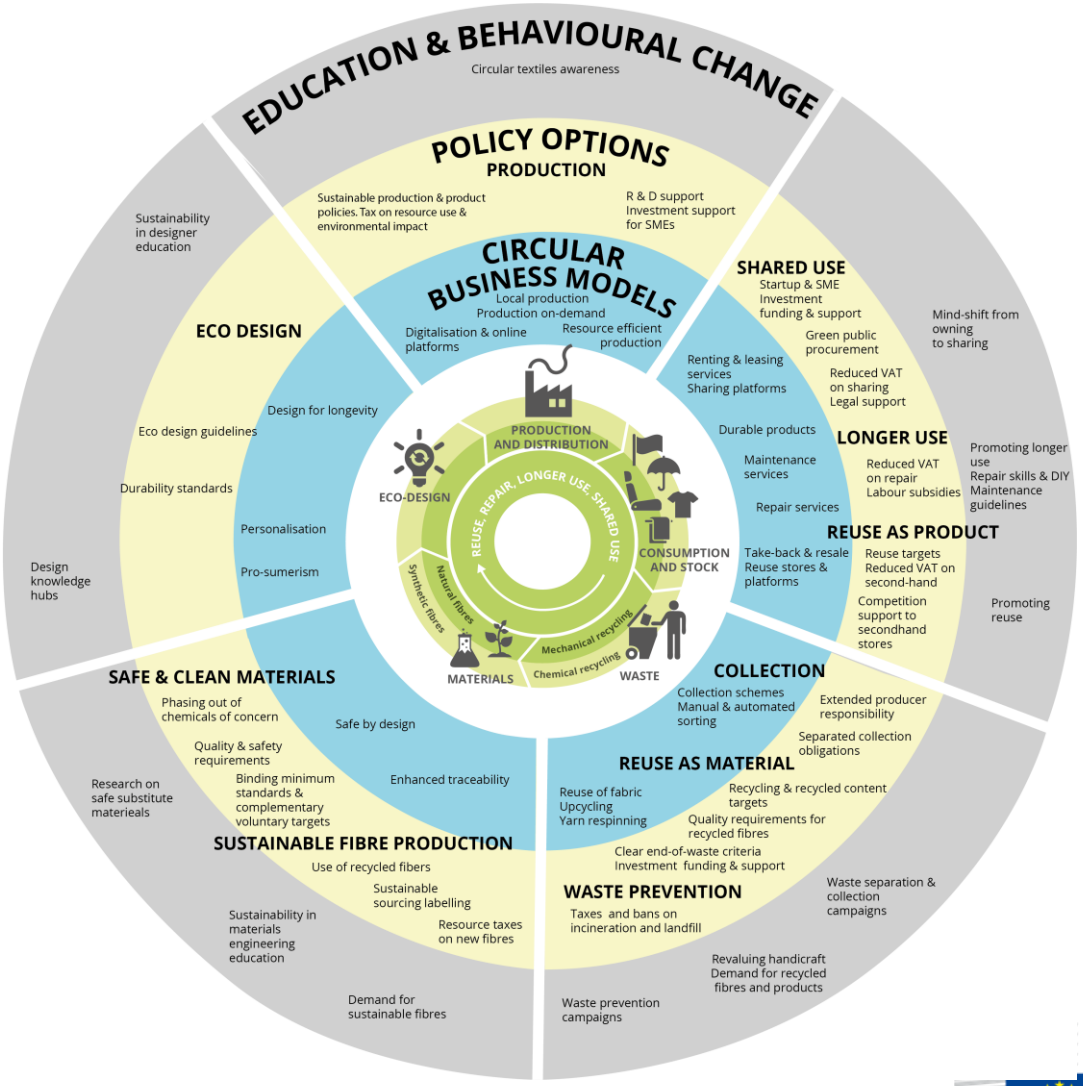
Comprehensive strategy?



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Designing Sustainable Products

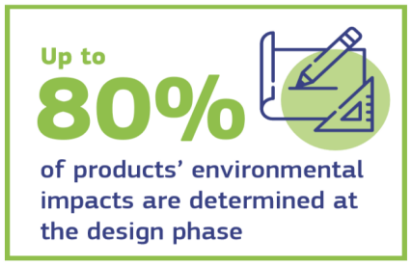
Sustainable Product Policy Initiative aimed at:

- **Extending product lifetime *(durability, reparability, upgradability, counter premature obsolescence)***
- **Improving overall 'circularity' *(remanufacturing, recyclability, recycled content, restrict single use)***
- **Reducing emissions, pollution and waste *(chemicals, carbon/env footprint, efficiency, etc)***
- **More circular 'handling' *(destruction unsold goods, product-as-a-service, reward sust. performance)***

Digitalisation is a key enabler: *digital product passport, supported by European Dataspace*

Approach: widen Ecodesign directive

(and further proposals as needed)



« Sustainable products should be the norm, not the exception »

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EPR for textiles?

- Already in place in FR, under development in SE and NL
- Would cover costs of handling of separately collected textile waste
- Could help textile reuse centres stay economically feasible
- Modulation of EPR fees to reward sustainable behaviour

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Thank you

More here:
https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm

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