



Euro-CASE

**European Council of Academies of Applied Sciences,
Technologies and Engineering**

Euro-CASE position paper on the economic recovery

In early 2020, just before the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic, a broad consensus had emerged within the political and economic world as well as among the European populace on the need to react to the present climate crisis.

Facing this very serious challenge, in Autumn 2019 the European Commission published in its strategic "Green Deal", with the primary objective of making Europe climate-neutral by 2050. This pact constitutes an ambitious strategy requiring major challenges both in terms of policies and collective behaviour. However, observers noted that the corresponding funding seemed impossible to mobilize: the financial support officially proposed was approximately one order of magnitude lower than required.

However, faced with the COVID 19 pandemic, countries around the world have now urgently released very large financial support packages to manage the economic and social crisis that has ensued. The European Union itself has unlocked financial resources of unprecedented magnitude to limit the impact of the crisis and revive the European economy: the so-called "Recovery Plan".

These exceptional financial resources are of the order of magnitude of what is necessary to ensure the transition to the European carbon neutrality in 2050. This is why the European Commission has made the "Green Deal" a fundamental element of its "Recovery Plan". This is a unique opportunity to restart our economy and follow the necessary transition that will limit global warming and avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Reluctance to change from various political, economic and social groups may be expected, but trying to re-start the economy in a pre-crisis mode and then tackling the climate problem afterwards would be to fail to acknowledge the urgency of battling climate change. The climate problem would inevitably lack proper financial support, as it did under pre-pandemic conditions.

From emerging scientific diagnostics to the implementation of practical solutions, a long but stimulating journey is ahead of all of us, a path paved with technology, engineering and social care. Major technologies already exist, others are emerging and roadmaps for developing and implementing these technologies have been proposed by numerous actors. The climate change mitigation is a unique opportunity for Europe to join forces, both to build economic strength and to contribute to solving the greatest challenge the world has ever encountered.

Members :

Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW)

Académie Royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique (ARB)

Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (KVAB)

Croatian Academy of Engineering (HATZ)

Engineering Academy of the Czech Republic

(EA CR)

Danish Academy of Technical Sciences (ATV)

The Council of Finnish Academies (CoFA)

National Academy of Technologies of France (NATF)

National Academy of Science and Engineering (acatech)

Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG)

Hungarian Academy of Engineering (HAE)

Irish Academy of Engineering (IAE)

CNR, INFN, ITT and Politecnico di Torino consortium

Netherlands Academy of Technology and Innovation (AcTI)

Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences (NTVA)

Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN)

Portuguese Academy of Engineering (PAE)

Romanian Academy of Technical Sciences (ASTR)

Academy of Engineering Sciences of Serbia (AESS)

Engineering Academy of Slovenia (IAS)

Real Academia de Ingeniería (RAI)

Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA)

Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW)

Royal Academy of Engineering (RAEng)

Euro-CASE, the association of 23 Academies of Technologies and Engineering in Europe, has already demonstrated its value in influencing such major global policy challenges. It has expressed specific opinion on two major issues, either directly or through the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM), both of which have directly impacted the Commission's policy:

- The SAM Opinion on "Cybersecurity in the European Digital Single Market" (March 2017) has been clearly recognised as one of the most important contributions leading to the General Data Protection Regulation implemented in May 2018¹.
- The Euro-CASE report "Energy Transition in Europe: common goal but different paths"² was issued in Spring 2019. Within the SAM/SAPEA framework, Euro-CASE had the opportunity to discuss the topic collectively with several of the Commission's Directorates. A number of these topics can be found in the recent European Commission communication: "Powering a climate-neutral economy: An EU Strategy for Energy System Integration"³.

Technology is undoubtedly an essential element of the energy transition path, but the integration of social and economic aspects is also a crucial requirement. In this context, Euro-CASE and its members, on its own or associated within the SAPEA consortium, is firmly engaging the expertise of its members in providing scientific advice to both national and European decision makers.



Reinhard F. Hüttl
Chairman



Yves Caristan
Secretary General

Paris, 07.10.2020

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/support-policy-making/scientific-support-eu-policies/group-chief-scientific-advisors/cybersecurity_en

² <https://www.euro-case.org/platforms/platform-energy/>

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1259