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# POLICY KIT

**with regard  
to the Romanian Presidency of  
the Council of the EU  
1 January 2019 – 30 June 2019**

CEEP, the European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public Services and Services of General Interest, represents employers and enterprises providing public services and services of general interest, since 1961. Our members are organisations active in fields such as:

- Central & local administrations,
- Healthcare,
- Education,
- Housing,
- Waste management,
- Energy,
- Transport,
- Water,
- Environment,
- Communications.

Modern public services and services of general interest (SGIs) support the fundamental goals of the EU, enabling business, cohesion, economic and social solidarity and a better quality of life for citizens.

This Policy Kit prepared considering the priorities of the Romanian presidency of the European Union, aims at presenting key CEEP positions on the main files to be discussed at EU level in the next 6 months.

## COHESION, A COMMON EUROPEAN VALUE

### EUROPE OF CONVERGENCE

- CEEP unequivocally endorses an **ambitious Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2021-2027 (MFF 2021-2027)**. Citizens and public services' providers need adequate funding to implement public policies and tackle our present time's challenges.
- In 2018, CEEP joined the European Committee of the Regions' "[Cohesion Alliance](#)" and fully shares its political vision. **Cohesion Policy should remain amongst the most important choices to be made in shaping the MFF 2021-2027**. European policies are best able to serve the public interest and overcome the division of society, fostering a robust ecosystem for future investments, ensuring public policies are fit-for-purpose, enabling local and regional authorities...
- CEEP also supports improving the functioning of EU budget lines and funding programmes with respect to **efficiency, flexibility and relevance**. As any budget, the MFF 2021-2027 shall reflect key political choices and embody a vision of what the EU could and should become in the long-run.

**More:** [CEEP Opinion on the EU Multi-annual Financial Framework 2021-2027](#) | [Information on the European Committee of the Regions' Cohesion Alliance](#)

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### EUROPE, A STRONGER GLOBAL ACTOR

- CEEP supports every effort that aims at **shaping globalisation following more rules-based, balanced and sustainable patterns**. The EU indeed has the potential of being a powerful standard-setter at global level through combining a long tradition of such values and the necessary economic weight. **The principles of sustainability and innovation** provide the framework for citizens and businesses to be successful in any social or economic initiative.
- **The importance of services of general interest (SGIs) and services of general economic interest (SGEIs) in providing citizens of any social class with a decent lifestyle should find broader and better recognition** in trade and external policy overall.
- CEEP welcomes the principle of an EU trade political agenda pushing forward **ambitious social and environmental criteria**, through the inclusion of so-called **Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) chapters** in current and future trade agreements.

- CEEP presents the following recommendations:
  - **The EU should recognise the legislative provisions for services of general interest (SGI) as an Acquis+.** SGIs provide citizens with accessible and qualitative services, serve as safety nets and strengthen social cohesion. Simultaneously, they contribute to an entrepreneurship-friendly climate, necessary to any policy of economic development.
  - Considering that trade and domestic economic power are two sides of a same coin, the EU should also make better use of available resources to **adapt to demographic ageing. Facilitating inclusion of ageing and disadvantaged people into the workforce** could be a first step in this direction. Furthermore, differences between rural and metropolitan areas must be reduced through stronger **EU-wide cooperation**. For a balanced lifestyle, adapting **“best practices” and considering turning them into binding legislation is recommended.**

**More:** [CEEP Opinion on the Reflection paper ‘Harnessing globalisation’: The EU in a Globalised World](#)

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## GENERAL AFFAIRS

### A BALANCED BUDGET FOR A COHESIVE & COMPETITIVE UNION

- CEEP is convinced of the added value of the EU budget and believes that there are clear margins of manoeuvre to make it **more efficient and relevant**. The discussions for the MFF should be linked with the debates on the Future of the EU. It is **important to agree on the Europe we want for the future and attach corresponding resources to the established priorities**.
- CEEP highlights the following **transversal principles**:
  - **EU Added Value:** The EU added value should become one of the key criteria for the successful use of EU funds and the success of cohesion policy.
  - **Flexibility:** Funding committed should remain available in the budget and re-allocated to other programmes. This rule should be flexible enough to adapt to new political circumstances.
  - **Simplification and Administrative Barriers:** CEEP calls for reducing the burden of EU funds management. The EU budget is pressured by the need to be more efficient, to focus where its impact is greatest and to ensure that burdensome rules do not hinder its achievements.
  - **Going beyond GDP:** The distribution principles of the EU structural funding should not be exclusively based on the GDP criterion but cover alternative indicators – such as poverty rate, youth and long-term unemployment or the activity rate of vulnerable groups – in line with the principles proclaimed in the EU Pillar of Social Rights.
- **Our Priorities for the Future MFF:**
  - **Strategic Infrastructure:** Public investment in key physical and social infrastructures are the main levers to foster growth. The MFF provides a key opportunity for reinforcing their financing.
  - **Circular economy** should be a key feature in future funds because of its transversal aspects and multiple effects for citizens. Fostering innovation through circular economic solutions could enable to build a new way to make business, to promote research and to create new jobs.
  - **Economic and Social Governance:** CEEP favours greater technical assistance to Member States in improving institutional and administrative capacities for implementing structural reforms.
  - **Investing in Social Dialogue:** It is urgent to develop a mechanism for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Partnership by the Member States and make respect of its principles an ex-ante conditionality in the preparation and implementation of operational programmes.

More: [CEEP Opinion on the EU Multi-annual Financial Framework 2021-2027](#)

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## BREXIT

- Throughout this process of heated debates and laborious negotiations, CEEP has advocated in favour of a Brexit agreement that would allow the relationship between the EU and the United Kingdom to endure, **in the common interest of all, first of all citizens.**
- The deep impact of Brexit on both sides cannot be stressed too much. The consequences of the UK's departure from the EU will be both **deep and lasting** in many ways. They will play **politically, economically, legally, diplomatically and of course socially.** It is now the mutual task of EU and UK-side decision-makers to **shape these consequences in a fair and balanced way.**
- The operations of providers of public services and of services of general interest are based on their mission of **meeting the populations' essential needs** but also on their historical and cultural status. They rely critically on the constant supply of many different goods and services. Since much of this supply transits through the Channel, **Brexit clearly puts public services providers' ability to play their part in the service of social cohesion and economic competitiveness at high risk.**
- Whatever shape Brexit takes, it must ensure that **public services' providers still enjoy a level-playing field** on either shore whilst respecting the decision of exiting the EU. CEEP also cautions against the risk of a No-Deal Brexit, which would prove more damaging than any other.
- CEEP fosters establishing the agreement that will regulate future EU-UK relationships following the patterns of a **so-called comprehensive, but flexible free trade agreement with much EU acquis and deep and comprehensive content.**
- Such a model is most likely to meet interconnection requirements and foster cooperation and common policy-making as well as enable ambitious **standards of environmental, social and security policy.** Another key point is that such bilateral EU-UK agreement could be more easily amended in order to take likely political and economic evolutions into account in the future.

More: [CEEP Opinion on "Brexit, Trade and SGI – Reflection on Brexit and Trade: Possible Options"](#)

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## ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS STRENGTHENING THE EMU AND THE BANKING UNION AND FURTHER DEVELOPING THE CMU

- **The EMU should support a European economy that is modern, sustainable, socially just and globally competitive.** Structural improvements to the EMU should make the Eurozone more robust in the event of future shocks and support related policies such as the Pillar for Social Rights.
- Following the financial and economic crisis, **progress on the EMU architecture should be our first common objective.** The Banking Union must be completed if it is to deliver its full potential in making the EMU more stable and resilient to shocks, whilst limiting the need for public risk sharing.
- CEEP believes that a **macroeconomic stabilisation function at euro area level could potentially complement automatic stabilisers at national level under certain conditions.** It should take the form of **automatic stabilisation and not aim at fiscal fine-tuning** of the economic cycle. The stabilisation function would therefore not be a tool to actively steer the euro area fiscal stance, but rather to reduce the need for euro area countries to address large country-specific shocks by using discretionary policies.

- **Social Partners involvement allows for legitimacy, fairness and democratic accountability** of reforms. However, this involvement cannot happen without ensuring that enough support is provided for capacity building of social partners' organisations.
- **Long-term social investment is needed**, especially in regions at the lower end of the diverging economies, and it **should benefit people on lower incomes in the interests of promoting upward convergence**.

More: [CEEP Opinion on the Reflection paper on the future the EMU](#)

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## ENSURING COORDINATION OF ECONOMIC POLICIES

- **CEEP supports the strengthening of the European Semester.** The EU has since long developed its monetary union and has in its wake developed the **open method of coordination to ensure that Member States' budgetary policies follow a similar direction**. The crisis provided more opportunities for soft coordination between Member States through the Semester. Member States also developed **peer learning activities** whilst identifying common challenges. Member States need to remain conscious of how their policies may affect one another in an integrated EU.
- **CEEP is in favour of greater technical assistance with certain conditions.** In November 2015, the European Commission proposed to provide Member States with technical assistance in designing and implementing structural reforms. **CEEP advocates for further strengthening the position of Member States in requesting, implementing and monitoring this kind of support.**
- **Work on convergence standards:** The importance of benchmarking as a tool to support structural reforms and foster upward convergence in the employment and social fields was recognised by the EU institutions. CEEP is in favour of the **definition of standards and benchmarks on common objectives that Member States would aim for**. However, CEEP is **not in favour of convergence of policies which would tend to indicate that there are one size fits all measures**. CEEP supports the work accomplished by the Employment Committee and by the Social Protection Committee of the EPSCO Council on the establishment of benchmarks on unemployment benefits and active labour market policies, and on minimum income schemes used for the first time in 2018.

More: [CEEP Opinion on the Reflection paper on the future the EMU](#)

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## EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH & CONSUMER AFFAIRS LABOUR MOBILITY AND FAIR WORKING CONDITIONS

- CEEP supports the three flagship initiatives of the EU 2020 strategy related to employment and social affairs: Youth on the move, an agenda for new skills and jobs and the European platform against poverty and social exclusion were meant to provide the EU Member States with a comprehensive framework of tools for EU Member States and European Institutions to act.
- CEEP deems important to state that the EU institutions **should remain careful and fully take into consideration the positive as well as the adverse effects of mobility**. Indeed, mobility can improve the allocation mechanism of the labour markets by ensuring the right conditions for people to move across sectors, occupations and borders.

- To facilitate the use of mobility policies, CEEP deems essential to **improve language learning in the EU at all ages and all educational levels**. In order to ensure a better information and enough support and advice, EU mobile citizens need to be **fully informed when they engage into mobility**, in line with the directive on the enforcement of existing rights for mobile workers.
- In order to fully take into account the positive and adverse effects of mobility, it is essential to **assess through proper statistical analysis the impact of workers and students' mobility** in order to develop informed and facts-based mobility policies at EU level. Indeed, mobility brings into consideration the **important issue of "brain drain"**, with potential severe social consequences.

More: [CEEP Opinion on the Mid-term review of the EU2020 Strategy](#)

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## PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

- CEEP and its members are committed to **promoting gender equality both in their role as employers and as service providers**. A balanced way forward to meet the gender equality challenges would be to take a **holistic approach and focus on supportive and encouraging measures**.
- The interconnection between work-life conditions greatly influence the situation of women and men in the labour market and their private life. **Economic independence is a prerequisite** for enabling both women and men to exercise control over their lives and to make genuine choices. Increasing female labour market participation has a significant potential **in terms of employment, economic growth and social inclusion**.
- The **skills and competences** that women acquire through education **are not sufficiently used**. Women's economic engagement is central to their personal financial independence and protection from the risk of poverty, particularly for ensuring an adequate old-age pension. Thus, **there is a strong economic case for supporting women's careers in the labour market**.
- The current European legislative framework on gender equality is robust and provides protection. There is no need, therefore, to amend the current European legislation or to introduce new instruments. It is **better to focus on the implementation on existing regulations**.
- CEEP believes that it is important to have a **multiannual European strategy for Gender Equality** in place in order to keep these issues high on the European agenda. In conclusion, CEEP emphasizes how **important it is to acknowledge the role of the social partners in promoting gender equality**.

More: [CEEP opinion on Gender Equality "progressing to 2020"](#)

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## GUARANTEEING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

CEEP counts amongst its members the European Hospital and Healthcare Employers' Association (HOSPEEM) which represents the interests of European hospital and healthcare employers. In line with its sectoral member, CEEP:

- Underlines the **important nature of health services and the requirement for access to quality health services for all citizens**. It is the responsibility of Member States to define and to organise the services in question as well as the scope of coverage of the health and social needs to be satisfied, **in line with the principles of subsidiarity and of universal access to healthcare services**.
- Believes that **any action at European level on health should aim to improve healthcare for all patients** and should not have the unintended consequence of lowering standards of existing

healthcare systems in Member States or of reducing access to healthcare and destabilising the health system.

- Feels that **access to healthcare in the ‘receiving’ country also needs to be clarified**. Patients who travel abroad for treatment should not be able to gain access to healthcare quicker than patients already on waiting lists with greater clinical need. **Member States should continue to have the freedom to manage their waiting lists and allocate resources as they see fit.**
- Believe that the **principle of equal access to healthcare services must be ensured for both foreign and national patients who live in that country.**

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## COMPETITIVENESS

### A FAIR LEVEL-PLAYING FOR ALL SMES

- With respect to the level-playing field between public and private sector entities, CEEP raises the issue of **differentiating between public and private SMEs in the current EU SME Definition**. This legal provision appears to be **contrary to Article 345 TFEU** which states that “the Treaties shall in no way prejudice the rules in Member States governing the system of property ownership”.
- **Many local-level providers of public services and SGIs need targeted measures just like typical private-sector SMEs**. They fulfil all criteria of the current SME Definition, including their number of employees and level of turnover – except for the last one, which states that SMEs with a public ownership of more than 25% are excluded from the Definition’s scope (Article 3, Paragraph 4 of the Definition’s Annex). Because of this exclusion, **local public services’ enterprises** are excluded from the Definition’s scope and face **large undue regulatory and financial burden**.
- These SMEs must also cope with **increasing challenges in accessing financing**. In several Member States, local public services’ providers that are SMEs have reported difficulties in accessing bank loans despite their public ownership and are increasingly engaged in “risky investments”.
- Therefore, CEEP continues to call for an **amendment to the European SME Definition, guaranteeing equal treatment of all SMEs which fulfil the criteria regarding their number of employees and turnover, irrespective of their ownership structure.**

**More:** [CEEP Opinion “For an Inclusive EU SME Policy”](#)

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## TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

### SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY AS A DRIVER FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS

#### Access to the market for International Coach and Bus Services Regulation

- CEEP believes that the European Commission’s proposal for the revision of Regulation (EC) No 1073/2009 **affects local and regional public transport and is not consistent with the principle of subsidiarity**. Even reduced on aspects for long-distance regular services, the proposal is not **convincing**. Therefore, CEEP welcomes the vote outcome on 22 January 2019 at the European Parliament Transport Committee, calling for **limiting the scope to long distance services**.
- The existing Regulation 1073/2009 gives a enough legal framework for international coach and bus services. The international long-distance coach and bus market is in fact already liberalised to a great

extent: **International coach and bus operators need an authorization for international regular services, but there are only very limited reasons for rejecting it.**

- Regulation 1370/2007 entitles local authorities to grant exclusive rights to operators. The proposal does not refer to the notion of exclusive rights. The **proposed “economic equilibrium test” is not a sufficient answer to this problem**, especially as it shifts the burden of proof to the disadvantage of local authorities and operators already working under a public service contract.

**More:** [CEEP Statement on the European Commission’s Proposal on Access to the Market for International Coach and Bus Services \(Revision of Regulation \(EC\) No 1073/2009\)](#)

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### Clean Vehicle Directive

- **CEEP welcomes the ambitions to decarbonize** the European economy in general, and the transport sector in particular.
- In the past CEEP members (such as public transport operators and municipalities) were already **eager to improve air quality and abate emissions via different strategies**. For instance, by strengthening urban public transport, introducing congestion charges, using sustainable biofuels / hybrids, further electrifying the fleet by extending the tram and/or metro system and / or by procuring e-buses.
- Given these facts, it came to CEEP’s great surprise that the proposal for the Clean Vehicles Directive (CVD) **burdens primarily the public transport sector with the highest targets (for buses)**. Whilst CEEP shares the good intentions of the CVD, some of the concrete measures are capable of creating negative effects on public transport, therefore, aggravating the situation.
- **Public Transport is the best De-Carbonization Strategy and must not be jeopardised:** reliable, affordable and accessible public transport is a crucial success factor when attempting to decarbonize the city. Obliging public transport operators (PTO) to buy a high share of alternatively fuelled buses in the future (as foreseen in the directive) might lead to an increase of the costs for users or a reduction of services, which could drive users back to individual cars.
- **Cities and PTO need flexibility and a technological-neutral approach:** Cities have always applied different solutions according to their specific needs, historical legacies and conditions. Some countries – rich in forest – prefer sustainable biofuels, whilst others diversify their already very electrified system of trams and metros with Diesel EURO VI buses, or other LNG-busses. Although different systems are in place, all share the twin goal of **providing clean and cost-effective services**.
  - **Legal certainty is pivotal, and less administrative burden and complexity is needed:** The transposition of the directive in national law is currently a conundrum. Some parts of the text are very vague, increasing legal uncertainty for cities and municipalities.

**More:** [CEEP Key Messages and Amendments to the Commission Proposal for the Revision of the Clean Vehicle Directive \(2009/33/EU\)](#)

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### A BORDERLESS & CONTINUOUSLY TRANSFORMING DIGITAL EU

- **CEEP supports the overall objective to set a European regulatory framework that fosters the development of the European data economy.** Public services’ enterprises in all sectors are on a firm path towards digitalisation whilst their resources to support this development are scarce. Data is increasingly recognised for its economic value. Data-based products or the trading of data can provide

additional income to public services' providers, which can be re-invested with the aim to accelerate their digitalisation process.

- CEEP welcomes the efforts of the Romanian Presidency to find along with the European Parliament and the European Commission an agreement, particularly welcoming the decision to change from Delegated Act to Implementing Act, allowing more transparency and scrutiny when taking decisions on High-Value datasets.
- CEEP has always promoted a **fair level-playing field for all market actors independently of their ownership**. The exclusion of private companies in the scope and only setting conditions for public services to make data available for re-use creates a substantially **unequal treatment between public undertakings and private companies which operate in many fields in the same market**. As the companies which tend to benefit from open datasets are not small, local start-ups, but large platforms that want to compete with European local, regional and national public services' enterprises, it is essential to include the protection of the rights of public services' providers. This could now not be guaranteed as only public undertakings have to share data with private ones.
- **CEEP calls for clarity on how these provisions play together with those asking public undertakings to publish data in certain cases, especially through the implementing acts on high-value data sets.**
- CEEP expects to see clarification on the terms and conditions, as well as on which data should be made available for re-use and if any exemption may fall to set a fair level-playing field for all market player and **help the PSI Directive to become a true support tool for ongoing digitalisation, innovation and investments by public services' enterprises.**

More: [CEEP Key Messages on the PSI Directive](#)

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## TOWARDS A GENUINE ENERGY UNION

- CEEP welcomes the deal reached on the Clean Energy Package (CEP) mainly on the Electricity Market Design file. CEEP has been calling for a **functioning European internal energy market as the basis for the achievement of the EU's climate and energy objectives in the short and long term, whilst creating a fair and level-playing field for all market actors** and ensuring a well-balanced competitive energy market.
- CEEP has positively received the European Commission proposal for a "Clean Energy for all Europeans" Package and its overall direction. It puts **consumers and CO2 emissions' reduction at the heart of the energy system** and contributes in a substantial way to the **functioning of the internal energy market**, basis for the achievement of the EU's climate and energy objectives.
- CEEP supports the ambition to give the **Energy Union a reliable governance system, aiming at higher regulatory stability and predictability through coherent and transparent European coordination**. CEEP agrees that the objectives of climate action, competition and security of supply can be better achieved at European level. However, **following the principle of subsidiarity, Member States should keep sufficient leeway for national climate and energy policies.**
- CEEP recalls that, in addition to the **market integration of power from mature renewable energy sources, a well-functioning market for CO2 is an essential tool to drive investments in low carbon energy infrastructure** at the least cost for consumers and tax payers and to implement the European climate ambitions. Therefore, the "Clean Energy for all Europeans" Package cannot be isolated from the ETS reform.

- CEEP pleads for the ongoing review of the energy market design to recognise that system adequacy is vital to the functioning of the European electricity system and that capacity mechanisms are a tool to guarantee that enough capacity will always be available, especially at peak periods.
- CEEP welcomes the creation of a **DSO entity** ensuring that all DSOs are included.
- CEEP supports the explicit recognition of **new participants in the energy market, such as aggregators, active consumers and local energy communities**. In this context, it is crucial to ensure a level-playing field and non-discriminatory treatment that does not privilege certain actors.

More: [CEEP Opinion on the Clean Energy Package](#)

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## ENVIRONMENT

### IMPLEMENTING THE PARIS AGREEMENT

- Reducing the EU GHG emissions is more than a goal: it is an obligation. This pledge to reduce GHG in Europe materialized by the commitment undertaken in Paris in 2015 and in the adoption of the Clean Energy Package.
- As one of the EU cross-industry social partner, CEEP underlines that, together with digitalization, **the energy transition is a revolution for companies and employees, and that it must be just**. ‘Just transition’ means, amongst others, that any compulsory closure of industrial installations before the end of their economic life implies accompanying companies, workers and territories. For instance, specific training for adults would benefit to workers, employers and the whole society. European regional policy should facilitate the transition of strongly impacted territories.
- Competitiveness is included in the 5<sup>th</sup> dimension of the Energy Union. For this reason, CEEP pleads for a long-term strategy where **all decarbonization technologies compete on an equal level-playing field**. Public financing must be deployed in line with that principle.
- The recent Clean Energy Package and the revision of the ETS directive happened at different moments, leading to overlaps between the EU climate and the energy policies. **CEEP calls for a realignment of those two policies within the Strategy for long-term EU greenhouse gas emissions reductions**, especially by giving to carbon an efficient and predictable market price.
- Electricity covers about 22% of the EU energy needs. These figures show that **there is a lot of room in Europe to increase decarbonized energy based on decarbonized electricity**. Going higher than 35 % is likely in the long-term with, among others, the electrification of (light) vehicles. Combining a significant step forward in electrification with deep decarbonisation of electricity must be an objective, and can be achieved in a cost-effectively way, especially with the recent decrease of costs of renewables and batteries.
- Finally, with the growing share of dispersed low-cost generation, **CEEP insists on the roles of local actors, especially towns and local authorities, in the energy transition**. They are in the best place to combine advantageously district heating, gas and electricity systems and take advantage of all new decarbonization technologies

More: [CEEP Response to the European Commission Consultation “Strategy for long-term EU greenhouse gas emissions reductions”](#)

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## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE 2030 AGENDA

- CEEP supports ambitious climate action. They are committed to climate action through their **business culture** and their sectors of activity. Their approach is based on the logics of sustainability, taking into account its environmental aspects, as well as its economic and social dimensions.
- **Mitigation** policies should take a comprehensive approach and be structured around **resource efficiency** and **decarbonisation**. Public services' sectors such as transport, telecommunications, energy, waste management and water treatment, as well as R&D have an important mitigation potential. In order to fully exploit this potential, the current orientation in Europe to put into place a European Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) must imperatively provide a true and fair carbon price, creating a level-playing field in order to incentivise investments that foster the decarbonisation of the European economy.
- **Adaption** policies should be seen as complementary to mitigation policies as they provide measures needed to **tackle the negative consequences due to climate change**. Adaptation measures should include the protection of infrastructure in order to increase their resilience. The implications of climate change on sectors such as water, energy and transport, need to be urgently considered.
- **Climate change policies cannot ignore the investment challenge**. There is a strong economic case for investing in climate action as this will create the sustainable growth and jobs Europe needs. In order to unleash the full potential of investments in climate-friendly solutions, private investment needs to be underpinned by public investment.

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## WATER MANAGEMENT

- CEEP members have worked intensively on the **DWD and welcome the fact that MEPs have voted to support the policy for a high-level protection regarding the drinking water standards** and therefore encouraging Member States to take responsibility for protecting drinking water resources for all European citizens.
- CEEP very much supports the creation of the **long-awaited link between the DWD and the WFD (and its Daughter Directives)** which clarifies the Member States' responsibility to protect drinking water resources. It is a crucial step in achieving policy coherence and coordination in the water legislation.
- Although some CEEP members promoted and supported the objectives of the ECI **"Right2Water"** and appreciated the democratic aims of this initiative, CEEP stresses that Article 14 (and Annex IV) and the requirements on information to the public with aspects such as tariffs, investment decisions, waste water collection and treatment, and leakage rates are going beyond the scope and the objectives of the DWD, which should focus on water quality and the protection of human health as determined by Article 1.
- The **principle of subsidiarity should be respected to foster the "tap water trust" amongst citizens**. As wide consultations' results demonstrated, over 80% of citizens had a strong confidence in water quality near them compared to water quality in other countries. If the purpose of the DWD is "building consumer trust" in water quality, the best place to promote it is at local level, following the original and authentic ECI aim.

**More:** [CEEP Key Messages on the Drinking Water Directive](#)

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