President Ursula von der Leyen’s Political Guidelines committed the Commission to integrate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the European Semester.

Integrating the objectives of the SDGs in the European Semester, with a specific focus on the economic and employment aspects, provides a unique opportunity to put people, their health and the planet at the centre stage of economic policy. This is an integral part of the Commission’s strategy to build an economy that works for people and the planet.

The broader economic narrative put forward in the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy is the starting point of the European Semester. It will continue with the 2020 Country Reports, the Commission’s analysis of the Member States’ social and economic situation. The Country Reports will feature a reinforced analysis and monitoring on the SDGs, including on the contribution of macroeconomic policies to their delivery. Building on the Country Reports, the Commission’s proposals for the 2020 Country-Specific Recommendations, to be adopted in May, will highlight the contribution of national reforms to progress towards delivering on specific SDGs.

Where are we now?

Overview of the EU’s progress towards the SDGs over the past 5 years.

The SDGs are our global roadmap to a better world, giving us direction, offering us long-term perspective and helping us to reach a sustainable world, with human well-being and a healthy planet at its core.

Over the last five-year period, the EU has made evident progress towards almost all goals, but will need to further increase its efforts to be able to fully deliver, especially on environmental sustainability goals.