

5-minute guide to:

The EU Green Deal & its key Directives 2025

February 2025 By Jörg Dogwiler & Bruno Gretler



The European Green Deal, adopted in December 2019, is the European Union's ambitious roadmap to transform Europe into the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.

It's a bold response to the climate crisis, emphasising sustainable growth, reduced environmental impact, and economic competitiveness.

The comprehensive plan spans multiple sectors, addressing climate change, energy efficiency, and biodiversity while fostering a fair transition to a greener economy.

In this 5-minute guide, our Founder Jörg Dogwiler and Head of Regulatory Bruno Gretler summarise the Green Deal's overarching objectives, the key directives for MedTech companies that underpin the Deal, and the implications for Swiss medical device manufacturers.





Goals & Strategies

To facilitate the overarching climate-neutral goal, intermediate milestones include a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and a 90% cut by 2040.

To achieve these targets, the Green Deal introduces a host of initiatives aimed at transforming energy, transportation, agriculture, and manufacturing systems.

Investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency take centre stage. The EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) has been enhanced to encourage carbon reduction across heavy industries, while funds like the Just Transition and Social Climate Funds support green projects and reskilling efforts, particularly in regions heavily dependent on fossil fuels.



Goals & Strategies

Central to the EU Green Deal is its commitment to social equity through a fair and inclusive transition.

The **Just Transition Mechanism** is designed to assist regions and workers most affected by the transition. It supports reskilling initiatives and the creation of sustainable jobs, ensuring that the benefits of a green economy are widely shared.

Key Directives underpinning the EU Green Deal

To operationalise its vision, the EU has introduced several directives and regulations. The three Directives below are the most relevant for MedTech companies in the context of the EU Green Deal:

Corporate Sustainability
Reporting Directive
(CSRD)

Corporate Sustainability
Due Diligence Directive
(CSDDD)

Eco-Design for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)

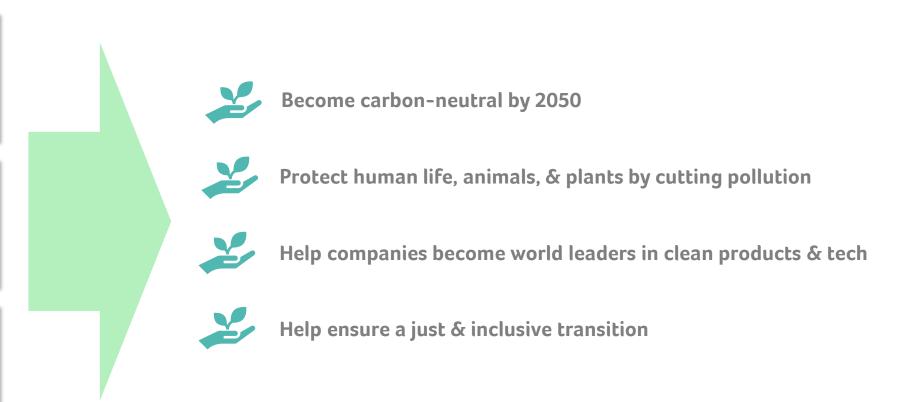
Key Directives underpinning the EU Green Deal

The Directives aim to support the overall goals of the EU Green Deal:

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Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)

This directive significantly raises the bar for sustainability reporting among EU companies.

By mandating detailed disclosures on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) performance, the CSRD seeks to integrate sustainability into corporate strategies and enhance transparency.



Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD)

The CSDDD mandates sustainable practices across corporate supply chains, emphasising human rights and environmental protection.

This directive addresses the global impact of EU businesses, ensuring adherence to ethical practices.



Eco-Design for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)

Aimed at promoting eco-friendly product designs, the ESPR focuses on reducing waste and enhancing product sustainability.

This regulation enforces stricter standards for materials and lifecycle management, urging industries to innovate and align with circular economy principles.

Challenges & opportunities

While the Green Deal presents significant challenges for businesses, including increased compliance costs and operational changes, it also opens avenues for innovation and competitiveness.

Companies investing in green technologies and sustainable practices can gain a competitive edge in the evolving market landscape.

And with over €1 trillion pledged by the EU to be mobilised through the EU Green Deal Investment Plan to facilitate the transition, businesses will be offered resources to innovate and adapt.





Implications for Swiss medical device companies

The Green Deal's reach extends beyond the EU, affecting international companies operating within its markets. As such, Swiss medical device companies will face challenges aligning with the new directives.

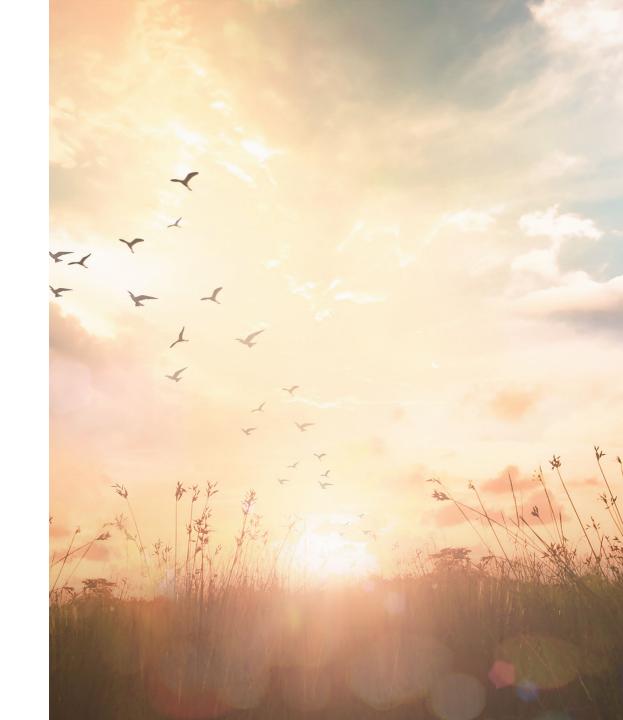
The CSRD compels detailed reporting on sustainability efforts, which may require overhauling internal processes and establishing new metrics. Meanwhile, the CSDDD's supply chain focus demands rigorous due diligence, potentially affecting procurement and manufacturing practices. Furthermore, compliance with the ESPR may necessitate redesigning medical devices to meet eco-design requirements.

In summary...

The European Green Deal represents a paradigm shift in how the EU approaches growth and sustainability.

By setting clear targets and implementing robust policies, it aims to balance economic development with environmental responsibility. The Green Deal not only addresses the urgent challenges of climate change but also positions Europe as a leader in the global transition to sustainability.

The success of the Green Deal depends on action from government, industry, and citizens alike. For MedTech businesses, that means understanding and adapting to the new requirements to ensure sustainable success for their organisation, and to join the collective effort to forge a future that's both prosperous and resilient.



Should you have a sustainability challenge related to a medical device, our team is ready and happy to help. Simply get in touch to start the conversation.



Contact us:

E: info@congenius.ch

T: +41 44 741 04 04

Congenius AG

Riedstrasse 1

CH-8953 Dietikon