

#11 - February 2022

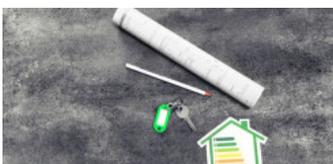
In this issue

- Editorial : From justice to fairness?
- ‘Fit for 55’ December package
- Commission guidelines on environmental state aids: A ‘Just Transition’ perspective
- ‘Is Artificial Intelligence (AI) good for the planet?’ Book review
- Green competences for trade unionists
- GreenReads: EU’s Green Taxonomy - Climate Clubs – McKinsey report on climate costs
- Publications, trainings and events

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Editorial : From justice to fairness?

The policy language is hardly neutral. Concepts drive political visions. They influence policy interpretation, assessment and implementation. Ultimately, they affect the lives of millions of people falling within the scope of policy.. [read](#)



‘Fit for 55’ December package

On 15 December, the European Commission presented additional Fit for 55 proposals, including an “energy, climate and nature protection” package, and the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. Compared to the release of the first part of the package in July, the socio-economic and political context has changed considerably. [read](#)



Commission guidelines on environmental state aids: A ‘Just Transition’ perspective

On 21 December 2021, the European Commission endorsed new Guidelines on State aid for climate, environmental protection and energy (the ‘Guidelines’). These were formally adopted in January, with immediate effect. The Guidelines are intended to bring state aid rules in line with the objectives of the European Green Deal (‘EGD’), which will require very significant investment, public as well as private. [read](#)



‘Is Artificial Intelligence good for the planet?’ Book review

‘Is AI good for the planet?’ is an early 2022 book in which Benedetta Brevini, journalist, media activist and Associate Professor of communication at the University of Sydney, examines AI through the lens of the environment. Claiming that AI has been framed in a ‘save the planet’ -and the humans- narrative, she takes the reader onto a journey and describes how AI innovations are born and developed. [read](#)



Green competences for trade unionists

We are living in a climate emergency that is hurting workers and their livelihoods – especially in unionised sectors such as energy, transport and agriculture. As trade unionists, what can we do to build sustainable jobs for our members? [read](#)

GreenReads:

The EU’s ‘Green’ Taxonomy - Do we need ‘climate clubs’? - Costs of climate emergency: new report

On 2 February 2022, the EU Commission decided, under strict conditions, to accept specific nuclear energy and natural gas activities in its classification scheme for investments that can be labelled as ‘green’. The controversial classification scheme also called the ‘green taxonomy’, was set up as a result of the 2020 Taxonomy Regulation and should make it easier for investors and companies to evaluate which activities are in line with the EU’s aim to make its economy climate-neutral by 2050 and which should be qualified as ‘greenwashing’. [read](#)

Recent publications, upcoming trainings and events

Events:

- [Challenges and perspectives of a just transition in Europe](#)
- [Addressing transport poverty: the key to a socially balanced green transformation](#)

Training activities:

- [Green competences for trade unionists](#)
- [Green Competences for a Just Transition](#)
- [Green transformation of the transport sector](#)

Publications:

- [Valenduc C., The carbon pricing proposals of the 'Fit for 55' package. An efficient and fair route to carbon neutrality \(2022\)](#)
- [Bruyninckx H., Karadeniz G. and Martin J. \(2022\) The European Green Deal: opportunities and prospects after the Covid-19 crisis, in Vanhercke B. and Spasova S. \(eds.\) Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2021. Re-emerging social ambitions as the EU recovers from the pandemic, Brussels, European Trade Union Institute \(ETUI\) and European Social Observatory \(OSE\).](#)
- [Černý M., Bruckner M, e.a., Employment effects of the renewable energy transition in the electricity sector, An input-output approach \(2022\)](#)
- [Krein H., The divergent narratives and strategies of unions in times of social-ecological crises: fracking and the UK energy sector \(2021\), Transfer, volume 27 issue 4](#)

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etui.greennewdeal is a periodical newsletter on EU socio-ecological ambitions produced by the ETUI.

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The ETUI is financially supported by the European Union. ETUI, aisbl
2022

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