



# ESCAPE ROOM 2: LET'S GO GREEN!

## Teacher's guide

### General information

- **Topics covered:** Functioning and role of EU institutions (Parliament, Commission, Council of the EU), elections and plenary procedures, European Green Deal.
- **Age group:** 13+
- **Timing:** About 30 minutes
- **ER function:** This escape room can be used as a “practical exercise” before or after a theoretical lesson on these topics in class.
- **Learning objectives:** At the end of this ER, the pupils will be able to know:
  - ✓ The main actions of the European Green Deal
  - ✓ The 7 groups in the European Parliament
  - ✓ The roles of the European Parliament, European Commission and Council of the European Union
  - ✓ The voting system to elect members of the European Parliament
  - ✓ The Ordinary Legislative Procedure

### Material

In order to implement this escape room, you will need the following material :

<input type="checkbox"/> “The European Green Deal: We need to act now!” (Document to fill in)	<b>Annex 1</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> At least one pen or pencil	<b>/</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> An envelope containing a set of cards describing each political group in the European Parliament (7)	<b>Annex 2</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Documents describing 3 concrete actions of the European Green Deal (3)	<b>Annex 3</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> A tablet, laptop, or computer with the “The European Parliament: Elections & roles” Genially presentation	<b>Annex 4</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Posters about environmental issues and climate change (9)	<b>Bonus</b>

## Detailed scenario

**Introduction:** The pupils are stuck in a room, preferably decorated with posters related to the environmental crisis or climate change. The teacher or Game Master tells them:

“We are in 2019, and an important document which is necessary for the European Union to approve the new European Green Deal has been stolen. The Commission members don’t have time to finish completing it, as the next Parliament meeting will start in less than an hour. They only have parts of the information required, and they need to prepare for the session too.

They have hired you to explore this office and complete the missing parts of the text so it can be presented to the Parliament at the beginning of the session, to convince all of the members to sign it in order to act in favour of the European Green Deal.

If you aren’t able to complete this document in time, the meeting will need to be postponed until new procedures are done to allow a new proposal, which could take time and reduce the process and impact of these necessary acts. So, search for the information and fill in the text as quickly as possible!”

The pupils will directly receive the document that they need to complete about the European Green Deal and the European Parliament elections (See **Annex 1**). They will thus need at least one pen or pencil to write down the information they’ll find.

**Step 1:** On a desk or table, they will easily find an envelope containing a set of 7 cards, each describing one of the political groups which are a part of the European Parliament, their political position and their number of seats in the Parliament (See **Annex 2**).

This may be used in different manners: either as a piece of information regarding the different parties involved in the decision-making regarding the European Green Deal or as a way to create smaller groups among participants, which may explore different documents at the same time in order to be more efficient. If the number of participants is already small, each pupil may be assigned one of the cards or groups and have an individual role or aspect to explore.

**Note:** This step may be skipped if you do not consider this information as pertinent or necessary based on the students’ prior knowledge of this topic and/or if you do not wish to separate them into smaller units due to their organisational skills.

**Step 2:** Also on the desk or table are 3 documents, each concerning one of the actions that are part of the European Green Deal (See **Annex 3**). Students may read these documents together or divide the task between 3 groups or individuals in order to fill in the first half of the Annex 1 text with details about each action.

They should also observe all 3 documents together at least once in order to notice the red shapes on each of them, which are a necessary hint for the next step.



**Step 3:** On the same desk or table is a laptop, computer or tablet with the Genially titled “The European Parliament: Elections & roles”, containing information about some EU institutions, voting systems and plenary procedures (See **Annex 4**). It requires a 4-digit code to be unlocked, as hinted at by 4 #s where the password should be typed and each of the shapes present in red on the Annex 3 documents of the previous step.

Students must count how many times each shape appears on those documents and type the numbers out in the order shown above the code box:  $\triangle \star \square \times$  would thus become 2342 (as there are 2 triangles, 3 stars, 4 squares and 2 crosses on the Annex 3 documents).

Once they type in the code, they will be able to read 2 slides of information: one about the elections of Members of the European Parliament, with additional information about the D’Hondt method and proportional representation (including the Single Transferable Vote system) and one about the Ordinary Legislative Procedure and the role of the European Parliament, with additional information about the composition and roles of the Council of the European Union and European Commission.

With this information, they will be able to fill the second half of the Annex 1 text.

**Note:** The red question marks provide additional information which is not necessary to complete the document and may be skipped or dismissed by students without issue unless you wish for them to pay attention to those elements as well, in which case you should specify it beforehand, include some of them in the Annex 1 text or go back to those points during the debrief of this activity.

**Final step:** Once the participants have completed the Annex 1 document correctly, the game ends as the Game Master tells them:

“Congratulations, you have found the missing information! Thanks to your help, the Commission will now be able to present this document to the Parliament and the Council in order to get the European Green Deal approved and acted upon by EU institutions and member states! Good job! You can now leave the room.”

## Tips and tricks

### MATERIAL

- ✓ Depending on the difficulty you wish for this activity and on the students’ prior knowledge, you could **adapt the Annex 1 document** to make it simpler or more complex with more specific elements present in the other annexes, such as details about various political groups (Annex 2), budgets or acts (Annex 3) or voting systems (Annex 4).
- ✓ If you wish to decorate the classroom with posters about the environmental crisis or climate change, you may find many such elements on websites such as [Pinterest](#), along with free educational resources on the [GreenPeace website](#). You will also find examples from Canva as a bonus Annex, which you may print and use as you wish.

## IMPLEMENTATION

- ✓ As all of the steps occur around a small number of elements to interact with, you will not need a big room to implement this escape room. You may use only **one side or corner of a classroom** with a desk or table for the documents and screen.
- ✓ For the same reasons as above and considering that the steps should preferably be followed in a specific order, it may be best to play this escape room with a **small group of students** to avoid crowding or scattering their focus.
- ✓ If too much time passes and the students have not yet completed the document required to escape the room, and if you don't wish to end the activity in a failure, you may decide to either give them **more time** to figure out the missing information, or you may **provide hints** to help guide them.

## Annexes

The following pages show the visuals of each document. You can click the links below to download and print them.

<b>Annex 1</b>	Introduction: "The European Green Deal: We need to act now!" (Document to fill in + Answers)	Download <a href="#">here</a>
<b>Annex 2</b>	Step 1: EP group cards (7)	Download <a href="#">here</a>
<b>Annex 3</b>	Step 2: Documents about European Green Deal (3)	Download <a href="#">here</a>
<b>Annex 4</b>	Step 3: "The European Parliament: Elections & roles" (interactive Genially)	Download <a href="#">here</a>
<b>Bonus</b>	Posters on environmental issues and climate change (9)	Download <a href="#">here</a>

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# ANNEX 1



 **The European Green Deal  
We need to act now!** 

The European Green Deal is necessary to tackle urgent environmental issues and possibly make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.

The European Commission has prepared 3 concrete actions as a basis for the new deal:

\_\_\_\_\_

This plan is based on three dimensions: \_\_\_\_\_, enabling and practical support. It will mobilise an investment of \_\_\_\_\_ € over the next decade.

\_\_\_\_\_

This action sets a legally binding target of zero \_\_\_\_\_ emissions by 2050, reducing them by at least \_\_\_\_\_ % by 2030.

\_\_\_\_\_

This fund will be involved in projects by Member States to create and improve public infrastructures, such as \_\_\_\_\_ energy and effective transport. Its duration would be from 2021 to \_\_\_\_\_.

Among the \_\_\_\_\_ members of the European Parliament, many have already taken a stand in favour or against various policies related to climate change.

Some parties have more or less \_\_\_\_\_ in the Parliament depending on their number of votes across European countries, such as \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

Therefore, some groups will have a bigger influence on the final decisions.

As the Parliament meets in \_\_\_\_\_ sessions regularly in order to conduct \_\_\_\_\_ and votes, this session will include decisions about which policies to enact and which laws to consider in order to implement the European Green Deal.

 We must stand united and act together for a better future! 

 **The European Green Deal  
We need to act now!** 

**ANSWERS**

The European Green Deal is necessary to tackle urgent environmental issues and possibly make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.

The European Commission has prepared 3 concrete actions as a basis for the new deal:

Sustainable European Investment Plan

This plan is based on three dimensions: financing, enabling and practical support. It will mobilise an investment of one trillion € over the next decade.

European Climate Law

This action sets a legally binding target of zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, reducing them by at least 55 % by 2030.

Just Transition Fund

This fund will be involved in projects by Member States to create and improve public infrastructures, such as renewable energy and effective transport. Its duration would be from 2021 to 2027.

Among the 705 members of the European Parliament, many have already taken a stand in favour or against various policies related to climate change.

Some parties have more or less seats or MEPs in the Parliament depending on their number of votes across European countries, such as EPP or S&D.

Therefore, some groups will have a bigger influence on the final decisions.

As the Parliament meets in plenary sessions regularly in order to conduct debates and votes, this session will include decisions about which policies to enact and which laws to consider in order to implement the European Green Deal.

 We must stand united and act together for a better future! 

## ANNEX 2



# GREENS/EFA

Greens/European Free Alliance,  
regionalists, centre-left



**71**  
Parliament seats



# S&D

Progressive Alliance of Socialists and  
Democrats, centre-left



**144**  
Parliament seats



# EPP

European People's Party, Christian  
conservative democrats, centre-right



**176**  
Parliament seats



# RENEW EUROPE

Successor to the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, centre



102  
Parliament seats



# ID

Identity and Democracy, nationalists, right-wing to far right



64  
Parliament seats



# ECR

European Conservatives and Reformists, centre-right



64  
Parliament seats



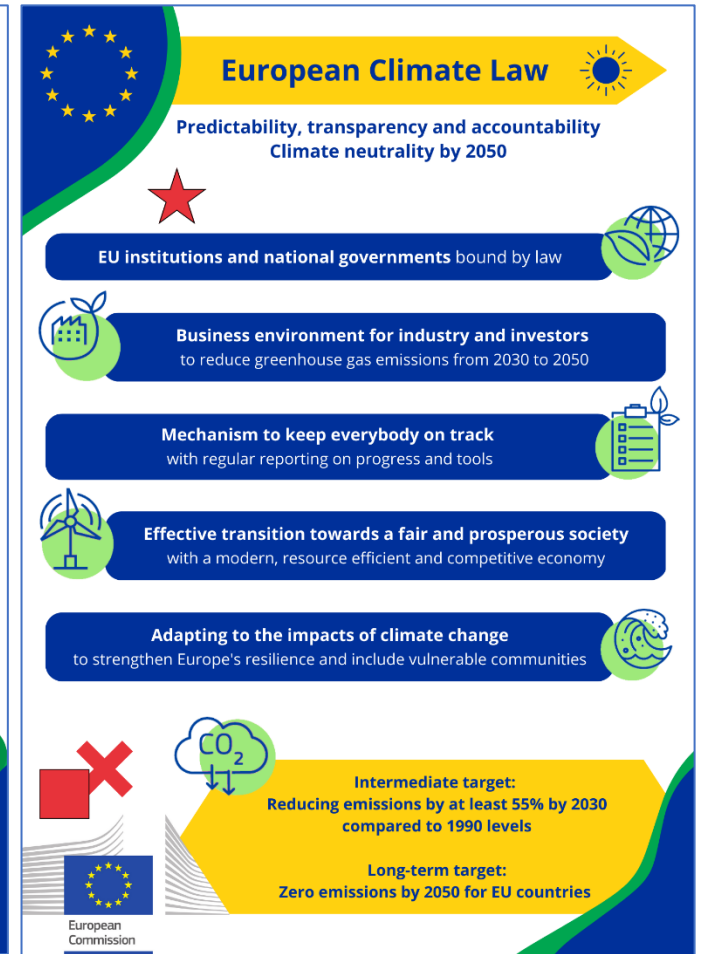
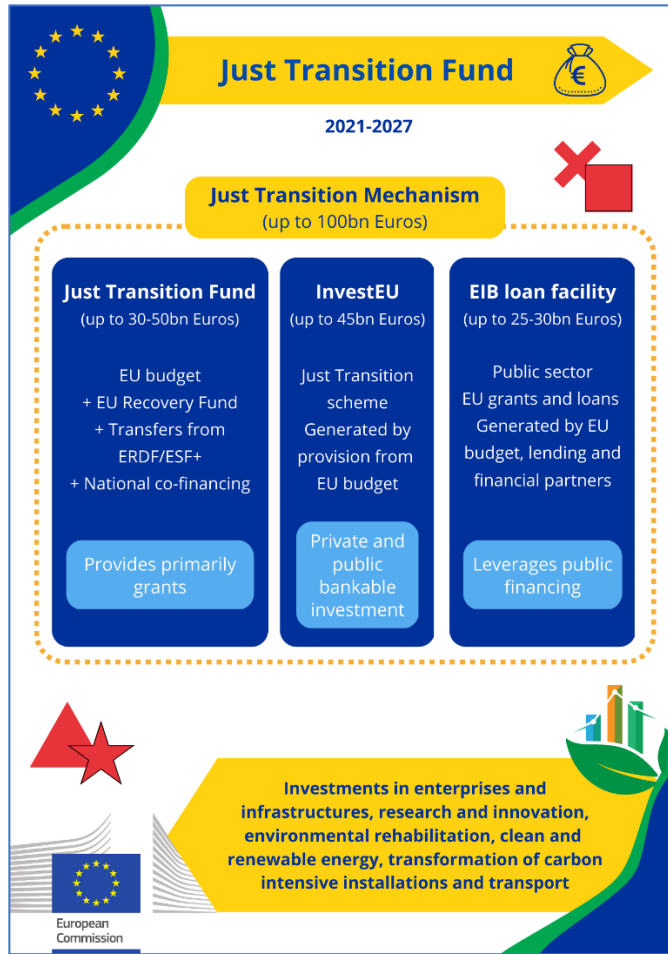
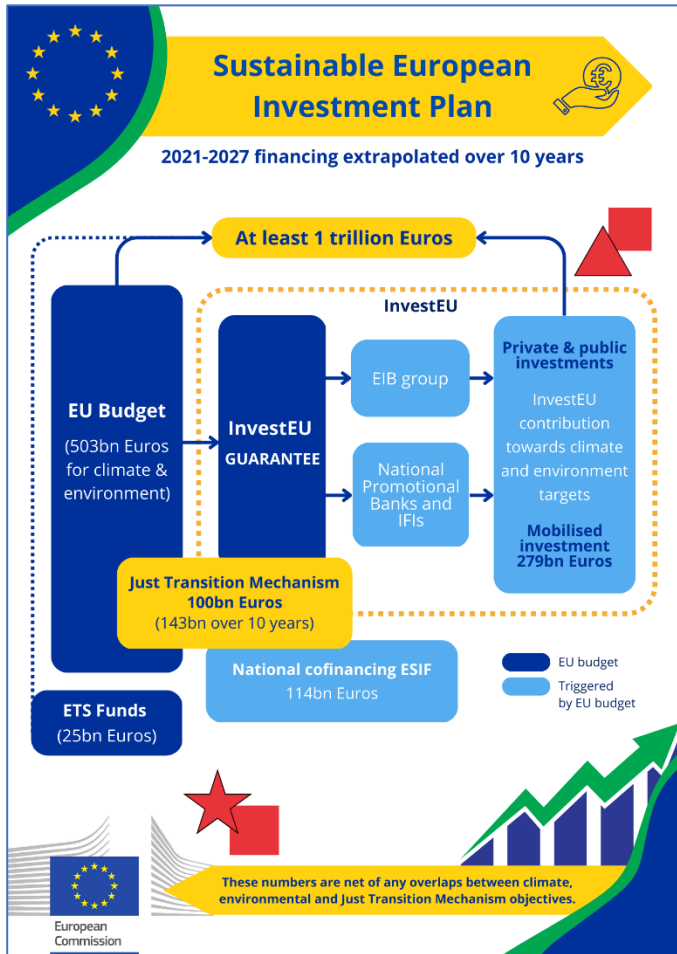
# GUE/NGL

The Left in the European Parliament, confederal Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left



38  
Parliament seats

### ANNEX 3







## ANNEX 4


**The European Parliament:  
Elections & roles**














**Type the password  
and press Enter**









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-  Since the first direct elections in **1979**, European Parliamentary elections are held every **5** years.
-  Each member country is allocated a fixed number of seats or members of the European Parliament (**MEPs**) depending on its population. 
-  **751** MEPs were elected in May 2019 but that number was reduced to **705** following a reshuffle in February 2020 due to the UK's departure from the EU.
-  Elections to the European Parliament vary slightly depending on the country and are largely governed by national electoral **laws** and traditions. 
-  Seat allocation varies for each party based on the number of European **votes** they receive. For example, the European People's Party (EPP) and the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) have the highest number of **seats**. 


-  Each member state returns a fixed number of MEPs, from 6 for smaller countries like Malta, Luxembourg and Cyprus, to 96 for Germany.
-  European elections must be based on proportional representation, reflecting the distribution of public support for each party, and must use the list system or the Single Transferable Vote system, where voters rank candidates in order of preference.
-  The D'Hondt method is used by 16 EU member states and is also called the Jefferson method or the greatest divisors method. Each party's total number of votes is repeatedly divided by 1 + the number of seats already allocated. Each division produces an average, and the list with the highest average vote is awarded the first seat, then the highest for the next division gets the second seat, and so on until all seats have been allocated.


-  Since its election by direct universal suffrage and thanks to the active work of its members, the Parliament has been able to secure greater **powers**. 
-  It has now gained the status of equal partner in EU decisions with the **Council** and holds legislative, supervisory, and budgetary responsibilities.
-  MEPs and other officials meet during plenary sessions to pass legislation at EU level, following general rules and the "**Ordinary Legislative Procedure**". 
-  Said procedure starts with a legislative proposal from the **Commission** and consists of up to three readings, the first one being dedicated to the Parliament and Council examining the proposal.
-  The Parliament must then debate and **vote** to accept the proposal with or without amendments, then it is the Council's turn to do so as well, back and forth with a **Conciliation committee**, until an agreement is reached between the two to approve or reject the new Act. 

PREVIOUS PAGE



 The Council of the European Union, not to be confused with the European Council, is composed of government ministers from each EU country, according to the policy area to be discussed, and is in charge of adopting EU laws and coordinating policies.

 The European Commission is composed of 27 Commissioners, 1 from each EU member country, and promotes the general interest of the EU by proposing and enforcing legislation and by implementing policies and the EU budget.

 The conciliation procedure starts on the third reading if the Council cannot accept the Parliament's decisions. Negotiations occur to reach an agreement in the form of a joint text, which has to be confirmed by both the Parliament and the Council.

BONUS




Climate Change 101:  
**Understanding the basics**





- 1** Climate change refers to the long-term changes in the Earth's climate, including rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and more frequent and severe weather events.
- 2** The primary cause of climate change is human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas, which releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and traps heat.
- 3** Climate change has a wide range of impacts on natural and human systems, including melting glaciers and ice caps, rising sea levels, more frequent and severe heatwaves and droughts, and increased intensity of storms and flooding.



**HOW TO STOP**



**CLIMATE CHANGE**

<p><b>IMPLEMENTING REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE</b></p> 	<p><b>PLANT TREES</b></p> 
<p><b>REDUCE USE OF PRIVATE VEHICLES</b></p> 	<p><b>INVITE OTHERS TO PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT</b></p> 

**5 SMALL ACTS WITH BIG IMPACTS TO SAVE OUR EARTH**

- 1 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**  
Cut down on what you throw away. Follow The Three Rs to conserve natural resources and landfill space.
- 2 Shop Wisely**  
Buy less plastics and bring reusable shopping bags.
- 3 Conserve Water**  
The less water you use, the less runoff and wastewater that eventually end up in the ocean.
- 4 Plant More Trees**  
Trees provide food and oxygen. They help save energy, clean the air, and help combat climate change.
- 5 Don't Throw Chemicals Into Waterways**  
Choose non-toxic chemicals in the home and office. Use biodegradable chemicals for daily needs.

Global warming

# WE NEED TO STOP IT

750 billion tons of ice are melting due to global warming every year

<b>Greenland:</b>	
- 286 gt/y	
<b>Antarctic:</b>	
- 127 gt/y	
<b>Other glaciers:</b>	
- 335 gt/y	




# Arctic sea ice is melting rapidly.

By 2040, or even earlier, the region is expected to have a completely ice free summer.

[www.conserve-energy-future.com](http://www.conserve-energy-future.com)

Visit [savepolarbears.com](http://savepolarbears.com) to learn more about global warming.



# 4500

acres of forests are cleared every hour by forest fires, bulldozers, machetes, etc.\*

\*[www.conserve-energy-future.com/various-deforestation-facts.php](http://www.conserve-energy-future.com/various-deforestation-facts.php)

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**The total world forest loss till date is 7.3 million hectares per year.**  
Let's make a stand now and stop this.

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To learn how to help, visit our website  
[www.savetrees.com](http://www.savetrees.com)

