



The G7 Research Group presents the

2021 G7 Cornwall Summit Interim Compliance Report

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Prepared by
Matthew Kieffer and Gabrielle Regimbal
and the G7 Research Group

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www.g7.utoronto.ca
g7@utoronto.ca
[@g7_rg](https://twitter.com/g7_rg)

“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit

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17. Infrastructure: Build Back Better

“We will develop a new partnership to build back better for the world, through a step change in our approach to investment for infrastructure, including through an initiative for clean and green growth.”

Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communiqué

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.88 (94%)	

Background

Among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) devised by the United Nations (UN) in 2015, the importance of infrastructure is given significant weight – the UN notes that the development of proper infrastructure, partnered with continued and responsible industrialization and innovation, can “unleash dynamic and competitive economic forces that generate employment and income... [these phenomena] play a key role in introducing and promoting new technologies, facilitating international trade and enabling the efficient use of resources.”²¹⁴⁶

As the decade went on, the UN stressed the importance of infrastructure in tackling all of the SDGs – in March 2019, seven different UN entities released a joint statement emphasising that “quality, resilient, and sustainable infrastructure is also essential for achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development, eradicating poverty, enhancing resilience to climate hazards, promoting societal well-being, and realizing all human rights.”²¹⁴⁷

The COVID-19 pandemic has only aggravated current inequalities and has also “revealed the urgent need for resilient infrastructure.”²¹⁴⁸ In June 2021, prior to the G7 Summit in Cornwall, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) announced the creation of the Blue Dot Network’s Executive Consultation Group, which acknowledged that “quality infrastructure investment has a central role to play in driving a green and job-rich recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and supporting sustainable, resilient and inclusive economic growth... [and that] achieving global net-zero emissions globally will depend on the comprehensive roll-out of increasingly interconnected infrastructure systems ranging from solar power

²¹⁴⁶ Goal 9: Industries, Innovation, and Infrastructure, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/infrastructure-industrialization/>

²¹⁴⁷ Interagency Statement On Sustainable Infrastructure: How can integrated approaches help deliver the 2030 Agenda?, Green Growth Knowledge Platform (Geneva) March 2019. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <https://www.greengrowthknowledge.org/research/interagency-statement-sustainable-infrastructure-how-can-integrated-approaches-help-deliver>

²¹⁴⁸ Goal 9: Industries, Innovation, and Infrastructure, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/infrastructure-industrialization/>

plants and offshore wind turbines, to electric vehicle charging stations, electricity grids and green hydrogen networks.”²¹⁴⁹

The actions of the OECD were complemented by G7 members later that month, as the political forum announced the establishment of the Build Back Better World (B3W) Partnership as a key outcome of the 2021 G7 Summit in Cornwall.²¹⁵⁰ As described by the United States, the B3W Partnership is “a values-driven, high-standard, and transparent infrastructure partnership led by major democracies to help narrow the [over USD40 trillion] infrastructure need in the developing world, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.” This partnership forms the basis upon which the G7 Research Group will analyze the compliance of G7 members.

While the introduction of the B3W Partnership may be relatively recent, the G7/G8 summit have identified infrastructure as an area of interest in prior communiqués. At the 2005 Gleneagles Summit, the G8 committed to support African development and investment in infrastructure for local African businesses.²¹⁵¹ This was part of the G8’s cooperation with the UN and African leaders on the Africa Action Plan and the forum’s focus on addressing “issues such as escalating poverty levels, underdevelopment, and the continued marginalization of Africa.”

At the 2008 Hokkaido-Toyako Summit, G8 members reaffirmed their commitments made at the 2005 Gleneagles Summit, and also placed additional emphasis on the Aid for Trade initiative, which aimed to “help developing countries build supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure in order to implement and benefit from WTO agreements, as well as increase overall trade.”²¹⁵²

At the 2013 Lough Erne Summit, G8 members committed to partnering with other organizations to “invest in trade-related infrastructure projects in developing countries, with a focus on Africa.”²¹⁵³ This commitment emboldened G8 members to “explore and identify measures to facilitate institutional investments into bankable trade-related infrastructure projects in developing countries.”

At the 2014 Brussels Summit, G7 members, continuing their focus on African infrastructure, agreed to collaborate with African governments to “identify potential partnerships between the private sector, international financial institutions, and domestic polity, and to invest in energy-related infrastructure projects... [which included] working towards the establishment or upgrading of infrastructure for energy transport and storage; promotion of energy production, supply, use, transmission, and transit services; and investment in energy transportation routes and means of transport.”²¹⁵⁴

At the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit, the new emphasis placed on infrastructure as a result of the aforementioned SDGs caused the G7 to place “similar emphasis on the importance of sustainable infrastructure development, acknowledging the role of innovative infrastructure financing and development

²¹⁴⁹ Inaugural Meeting of the Blue Dot Network’s Executive Consultation Group, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 7 June 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/about/secretary-general/oecd-sg-remarks-at-blue-dot-network-meeting-7-june-2021.htm>

²¹⁵⁰ FACT SHEET: President Biden and G7 Leaders Launch Build Back Better World (B3W) Partnership, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 12 June 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/12/fact-sheet-president-biden-and-g7-leaders-launch-build-back-better-world-b3w-partnership/>

²¹⁵¹ 2005 Gleneagles Final Compliance Report, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 June 2006. Access Date: 22 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2005compliance_final/index.html

²¹⁵² 2008 Hokkaido Final Compliance Report, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 30 June 2009. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2008compliance-final/index.html>

²¹⁵³ 2013 Lough Erne Final Compliance Report, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 June 2014. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2013compliance-final/index.html>

²¹⁵⁴ 2014 Brussels Final Compliance Report, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 July 2015. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2014compliance/index.html>

in the long-term prosperity of developed and developing countries.”²¹⁵⁵ This new focus pushed members “to mobilize state resources to renew unfulfilled infrastructure projects or commission new programs and projects, which aim to improve the previous condition of infrastructure.”

At the 2019 Biarritz Summit, G7 members placed emphasis on digital infrastructure in Africa, with digital infrastructure being defined “as the basic physical and organizational structures and facilities needed for the operation of the internet.”²¹⁵⁶ As such, G7 members focused on investment to enable digital infrastructure in African and traditionally underserved regions and countries.

Commitment Features

The G7 commitment states that “we will develop a new partnership to build back better for the world, through a step change in our approach to investment for infrastructure, including through an initiative for clean and green growth.”²¹⁵⁷ This commitment has three interrelated pillars: first in developing a new partnership, second in taking a new approach to infrastructure investment and third in participating in clean and green growth.

In the first pillar, “we” refers to the G7 members. “Develop” is understood to mean to expand by a process of growth.²¹⁵⁸ “A new partnership” refers to the Build Back Better World (B3W) Partnership. B3W is focused on meeting the needs of low- and middle-income countries via infrastructure investment and is a point of strategic competition with China.²¹⁵⁹ The guiding principles of B3W are: values-driven, good governance and strong standards, climate-friendly, strong strategic partnerships, mobilize private capital through development finance, and enhancing the impact of multilateral public finance. For full compliance, a G7 member should express support for B3W and have contributed to its creation and development or continued development. This support can be through verbal affirmations from leaders in support of the strategic competition with China or guiding principles of B3W. Partial compliance will be assigned to members that only express support of B3W or contribute to its creation and development. Members that express doubt or criticism of B3W will fail to comply with this aspect of the commitment.

In the second pillar, “step change in approach” refers to the above guiding principles of B3W. “Investment” is understood to mean allocating funds or resources to achieve a result.²¹⁶⁰ “Infrastructure” within this commitment refers to the basic physical and organizational structures that a country needs to operate effectively.²¹⁶¹ Actions that provide new investment towards programmes and initiatives that support one of the guiding principles of B3W will be counted towards compliance. Existing investments or investments that were previously promised or announced will not be counted towards compliance. For full compliance, definitive policy action or a verbal affirmation of a specific monetary amount can suffice. Verbal affirmations without a commitment of a monetary amount will count towards partial compliance. Additionally, some actions must be to support the needs of low- and middle-income countries for full compliance. Members do

²¹⁵⁵ 2015 Schloss Elmau Final Compliance Report, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 May 2016. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2015compliance-final/index.html>

²¹⁵⁶ 2019 Biarritz Summit Final Compliance Report, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2019compliance-final/index.html>

²¹⁵⁷ Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-communique.html>

²¹⁵⁸ Develop, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 29 December 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/develop>

²¹⁵⁹ FACT SHEET: President Biden and G7 Leaders Launch Build Back Better World (B3W) Partnership, The White House (Washington D.C.) 12 June 2021. Access Date: 26 October 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/12/fact-sheet-president-biden-and-g7-leaders-launch-build-back-better-world-b3w-partnership/>

²¹⁶⁰ Investment, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 29 September 2021. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/investment>

²¹⁶¹ Infrastructure, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 29 September 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/infrastructure>

not need to take actions multilaterally for full compliance. Domestic actions will not be counted towards compliance.

In the third pillar, “clean” refers to a “low-pollution, low-emission world in which cleaner air, water, and oceans enable people to lead healthy, productive lives.”²¹⁶² “Green” refers to a “world in which natural resources, including oceans, land, and forests, are sustainably managed and conserved to improve livelihoods.” For full compliance, members must take strong actions in initiatives for clean and green growth, such as financial contributions or policy action. Members must also contribute to any G7 clean and green initiatives with relation to infrastructure. Some examples include financial contributions towards existing or new initiatives that support renewable energy, water-management systems, or other green infrastructure initiatives. Verbal affirmations or attendance of meetings will count towards partial compliance. Both domestic and multilateral actions may be considered. If a member does not take action to address both clean and green initiatives, they will receive partial compliance.

For full compliance, or +1, G7 members must take action in all three pillars and be fully compliant in at least two of the pillars. A member that fully or partially complies with one or two out of the three pillars or partially complies with all three pillars will be given a score of partial compliance, or 0. Members will be given a score of non-compliance, or -1, if they fail to comply on all three pillars.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member has NOT taken action in ANY of the three pillars in developing a new partnership, taking a new approach to infrastructure investment, and participating in clean and green infrastructure growth.
0	The G7 member has taken strong action on ONE OR TWO pillars in developing a new partnership, taking a new approach to infrastructure investment, and participating in clean and green infrastructure growth OR has partially complied with all three pillars.
+1	The G7 member has taken strong action in ALL three pillars in developing a new partnership, taking a new approach to infrastructure investment, and participating in clean and green infrastructure growth, OR the G7 member has taken strong action in TWO pillars and weak action in the other pillar.

*Compliance Director: Joy Fan
Lead Analyst: Jai Singh*

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to develop a new partnership to build back better for the world, through a step change in our approach to investment for infrastructure, including through an initiative for clean and green growth.

On 6 July 2021, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng met with US Trade Representative Katherine Tai. Both committed to cooperate to address shared goals of building back better.²¹⁶³

On 31 October 2021, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson attended and co-hosted the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) with UK COP26 President Alok

²¹⁶² Toward a Clean, Green, Resilient World for All, The World Bank Group (Washington D.C.) n.d. Access Date: 29 September 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment/publication/environment-strategy-toward-clean-green-resilient-world>

²¹⁶³ Readout of Ambassador Katherine Tai’s Meeting with Canada’s Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington D.C.) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 7 February 2022. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/july/readout-ambassador-katherine-tais-meeting-canadas-minister-small-business-export-promotion-and>

Sharma, to increase trust between developed and developing countries.²¹⁶⁴ The Minister gave verbal affirmation that Canada alongside its allies would take “urgent climate action” both domestically and internationally to make sure that developing countries have the tools to adapt to climate change. As a part of this affirmation, Canada had reiterated its intention to double its climate finance pledge from CAD2.65 billion in 2015 to CAD5.3 billion in 2021.

On 10 November 2021, Minister of Transport Omar Alghabra attended COP26 to build partnerships that would encourage the transition to electric vehicles.²¹⁶⁵ Additionally, Canada signed onto the Clydebank Declaration which works with the United Kingdom, the United States, and other G7 members to establish “green shipping corridors” or “zero-emissions maritime routes” between a minimum of two ports.²¹⁶⁶

On 10 November 2021, Canada became a signatory to the International Aviation Climate Ambition Coalition, a partnership including the US and the UK, among others, to promote infrastructure needed to reduce carbon emissions for air travel between countries.²¹⁶⁷ The partnership includes designing infrastructure to achieve limited competition between land use and water supply.

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to develop a new partnership to build back better for the world through a step change in our approach to investment for infrastructure, including through an initiative for clean and green growth. Canada has taken preliminary action in supporting B3W and taking a new approach to infrastructure investment by cooperating with other G7 members and reiterating its commitment to building back better. Additionally, Canada has participated in clean and green infrastructure growth by signing on to new partnerships. However, Canada has failed to take strong enough action in each of the three pillars to warrant full compliance.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Christopher X. Henry

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to develop a new partnership to build back better for the world, through a step change in our approach to investment for infrastructure, including through an initiative for clean and green growth.

On 23 June 2021, the French Development Agency (AFD) signed a letter of intent with the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality promising a loan of EUR93 million to assist with the construction of the final phase of Istanbul’s tramway line located within the Golden Horn.²¹⁶⁸ This funding will support the

²¹⁶⁴ Canada selected to co-lead work to build an international climate finance action plan ahead of COP26, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 05 December 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/07/canada-selected-to-co-lead-work-to-build-an-international-climate-finance-action-plan-ahead-of-cop26.html>

²¹⁶⁵ Minister of Transport advances Canada’s efforts to fight climate change at COP26, Transport Canada (Glasgow) 10 November 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2021/11/minister-of-transport-advances-canadas-efforts-to-fight-climate-change-at-cop26.html>

²¹⁶⁶ COP 26: Clydebank Declaration for green shipping corridors, UK Department for Transport (Glasgow) 10 November 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cop-26-clydebank-declaration-for-green-shipping-corridors/cop-26-clydebank-declaration-for-green-shipping-corridors>

²¹⁶⁷ COP26 declaration: International Aviation Climate Ambition Coalition, UK Department for Transport (Glasgow) 10 November 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cop-26-declaration-international-aviation-climate-ambition-coalition/cop-26-declaration-international-aviation-climate-ambition-coalition>

²¹⁶⁸ Final Phase of Istanbul’s Golden Horn Tramway On track with AFD Support, French Development Agency (Paris) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 10 November 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/final-phase-istanbuls-golden-horn-tramway-track-afd-support>

construction of two stations and 1.1 kilometers of tracks. Additionally, it will help reduce 115,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year over a 30-year period.

On 6 July 2021, the AFD signed an agreement with the EU and the World Bank to renovate water, sanitation and waste management systems in Turkey's municipalities located in the south of the country.²¹⁶⁹ Through its contribution to the joint fund, totaling EUR277 million, the AFD will support 19 out of 40 renovation projects.

On 19 July 2021, France issued a joint declaration following the Fifth France-Oceania Summit alongside "Heads of State, Government and Territories or representatives" from Pacific nations affirming their commitment to support infrastructure projects that are financially and environmentally sustainable.²¹⁷⁰ In this declaration, France also announces its intent to uphold the UN's 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

On 2 November 2021, France – together with the UK, the US, Germany and the EU – announced a partnership with South Africa to help transition their economy to a clean energy economy.²¹⁷¹ The partnership aims to help South Africa close coal plants by investing in clean energy infrastructure and providing aid to coal-reliant communities.

On 10 November 2021, France signed a call to action promising to achieve "zero-emission road transport" by deploying infrastructure to charge electric vehicles.²¹⁷² Additionally, France joined the International Aviation Climate Ambition Coalition, in which signatories pledge to reduce emissions in the aviation sector.

On 17 December 2021, the AFD and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) announced that they had signed an agreement with Serbia to finance the expansion and creation of eight landfills in total.²¹⁷³ To honour this agreement, the AFD will commit EUR75 million through a sovereign loan to Serbia while the EBRD invests an identical amount also as a sovereign loan. Through this initiative, the AFD will help reduce 178,000 tonnes of emissions and increase recycling capacity "by more than 19,000 tonnes" annually. Lastly, this agreement complies with the EU's standards for "biodegradable waste treatment and recovery" in addition to advancing the "circular economy of recyclable waste," making it a green and clean infrastructure initiative.

France has fully complied with its commitment to develop a new partnership to build back better for the world, through a step change in our approach to investment for infrastructure, including through an initiative for clean and green growth. Although France has taken weak action towards supporting the development of B3W, France has taken strong action to support initiatives that align with the values of the Build Back Better Partnership and promoted green infrastructure.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Dael Sebastian Vasquez-Hernandez

²¹⁶⁹ An Ambitious Project to Improve Water and Sanitation Infrastructure in Southern Turkey, French Development Agency (Paris) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 8 November 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/ambitious-project-improve-water-sanitation-infrastructures-cities-southern-turkey>

²¹⁷⁰ Fifth France-Oceania Summit, Embassy of France in the United States (Washington) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 8 January 2022 <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article10382>

²¹⁷¹ Remarks by President Biden in Meeting on the Build Back Better World Initiative, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 16 November 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/11/02/remarks-by-president-biden-in-meeting-on-the-build-back-better-world-initiative/>

²¹⁷² Adoption of the Glasgow Climate Pact at COP26: building on the momentum, Embassy of France in the United States (Washington D.C.) 15 November 2021. Access Date: 9 January 2022. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article10569>

²¹⁷³ EBRD and AFD Finance Serbia's Regional Landfills, French Development Agency (Paris) 17 December 2021. Access Date: 10 January 2022. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/communique-de-presse/ebrd-and-afd-finance-serbia-regional-landfills?origin=/en/actualites/communique-de-presse>

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to develop a new partnership to build back better for the world, through a step change in our approach to investment for infrastructure, including through an initiative for clean and green growth.

On 8 November 2021, during the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), Germany pledged an additional EUR150 million towards adaptation finance for infrastructure addressing climate change.²¹⁷⁴

On 12 November 2021, during the COP26 summit, Germany pledged EUR10 million to address losses and damage in developing countries that arises from climate change.²¹⁷⁵ Minister of Environment Svenja Schulze stated Germany's intention of supporting developing nations and sending a message that "developed countries are taking the matter seriously."

On 22 June 2021, the European Commission endorsed Germany's plan for using EUR25.6 billion in grants from the Recovery and Resilience Facility to address the needs of the German and European economy during the financial recovery.²¹⁷⁶ The plan highlights that the funds will be used to transition old infrastructure towards digital and environmentally sustainable systems, which Germany believes will enhance the resilience of the European Single Economy. The Commission noted that Germany's plan will feature a 42 per cent allotment of funds to green infrastructure and 52 per cent towards digital transitions.

On 29 July 2021, Minister of State Dorothee Bär signed a joint declaration with Spain to "[build] an ecosystem of digital identities across borders."²¹⁷⁷ This system of digital identities, Germany believes, will be the first step towards successful digitisation and protection of individual data sovereignty.

On 27 August 2021, in a speech to the G20 Investment Summit, Chancellor Angela Merkel reaffirmed Germany's commitment to the Compact for Africa program. She highlighted three pillars of "development investment funds" that were guiding Germany's engagement with the African Market.²¹⁷⁸ These pillars (AfricaConnect, AfricaGrow and Africa Business Network) are backed by a EUR500 million investment by Germany. Through these networks, Germany has also promoted the expansion of German businesses into developing infrastructure for African members of Compact.

On 2 November 2021, Germany – together with the UK, France, the US and the EU – announced a partnership with South Africa to help transition their economy to a clean energy economy.²¹⁷⁹ The

²¹⁷⁴ Germany commits 150 million euros for climate change adaptation in developing countries, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Glasgow) 8 November 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germany-commits-150-million-euros-for-climate-change-adaptation-in-developing-countries>

²¹⁷⁵ 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference: End of the fossil fuel era, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Glasgow) 13 November 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/26th-united-nations-climate-change-conference-end-of-the-fossil-fuel-era>

²¹⁷⁶ NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Germany's recovery and resilience plan, European Commission (Brussels) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3133

²¹⁷⁷ Germany and Spain push digital identity agenda forward, The Federal Government (Berlin) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/digital-identity-ecosystem-1947474>

²¹⁷⁸ Speech by Federal Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel at the G20 Investment Summit – German Business and the Compact with African Countries on 27 August 2021, The Federal Government (Berlin) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-at-the-g20-investment-summit-german-business-and-the-compact-with-african-countries-on-27-august-2021-1956784>

²¹⁷⁹ Remarks by President Biden in Meeting on the Build Back Better World Initiative, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 16 November 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/11/02/remarks-by-president-biden-in-meeting-on-the-build-back-better-world-initiative/>

partnership aims to help South Africa close coal plants by investing in clean energy infrastructure and providing aid to coal-reliant communities.

On 25 November 2021, the KfW Development Bank, a subsidiary of the state-owned KfW bank, awarded a contract to GOPA Intec, an independent energy consulting company, to support the construction of an electricity project in Côte d'Ivoire.²¹⁸⁰

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to develop a new partnership to build back better for the world, through a step change in our approach to investment for infrastructure, including through an initiative for clean and green growth. Germany has taken action by creating and supporting several programs with the purpose of strategic partnerships in the developing world, along with mobilizing private finance for climate-friendly projects.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Aviral Dhamija

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to develop a new partnership to build back better for the world, through a step change in our approach to investment for infrastructure, including through an initiative for clean and green growth.

On 22 June 2021, Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs Manlio Di Stefano hosted the Economic and Technical Commission between Italy and Mongolia. The consultations expanded collaborations between the two countries on infrastructure and energy. The undersecretary stated that Italy will “contribute to the responsible use of resources and the transition to sustainable energy sources” in Mongolia.²¹⁸¹

On 28 July 2021, Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Marina Sereni hosted the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean Nasser Kamel. The meeting underlined “the excellent level of mutual collaboration in the context of initiatives in priority sectors, such as, among other things, those of the blue economy, the energy transition and the fight against climate change.”²¹⁸²

On 20 September 2021, Prime Minister Mario Draghi addressed the UN General Assembly’s ‘Climate Moment’ Round Table, speaking on the importance of encouraging the green transition on an international scale, particularly in emerging markets and developing economies.²¹⁸³ Prime Minister Draghi announced Italy’s intent to invest in renewed clean and green infrastructure, stating that in this international effort, “public investments aimed at research and development need to become priorities for critical areas such as electrification, hydrogen, bioenergy and carbon capture.”

²¹⁸⁰ Energy Consulting for electricity project in Côte D'Ivoire, Africa Business Guide (Berlin) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.africa-business-guide.de/abg-de/meldungen/energieberatung-fuer-stromprojekt-in-cote-d-ivoire-761806>

²¹⁸¹ Undersecretary Di Stefano chairs the Economic and Technical Commission and the Italy-Mongolia Political Consultations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 22 June 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 November 2021. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/06/sottosegretario-di-stefano-presiede-la-commissione-economica-e-tecnica-e-le-consultazioni-politiche-italia-mongolia/

²¹⁸² Meeting of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Marina Sereni, with the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, Nasser Kamel, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 29 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 November 2021. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/07/incontro-della-vice-ministra-degli-esteri-e-della-cooperazione-internazionale-marina-sereni-con-il-segretario-generale-dell-unione-per-il-mediterraneo-nasser-kamel/

²¹⁸³ Prime Minister Draghi’s remarks to UN climate roundtable, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 20 September 2021. Access Date: 19 November 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/onu-intervento-del-presidente-draghi-alla-tavola-rotonda-sul-clima/17938>

On 28 September 2021, Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio hosted the first Italian-Korean Strategic Meetings on Industry, Energy and Commerce, in which the two countries coordinated new intergovernmental cooperation, particularly concerning decarbonization and renewable energy initiatives on the global level.²¹⁸⁴

On 1 October 2021, Minister Di Maio attended the Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity and encouraged new solutions for the global steel sector to transition to a green economy and innovative technologies to aid in the reduction of steel overcapacity in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.²¹⁸⁵

On 7 October 2021, Undersecretary Di Stefano met with the Deputy Minister for Asia of the United Kingdom at the Ministerial Council of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The undersecretary announced that Italy is “doing everything possible so that the negotiations [at the 26 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change] bring tangible results...and multilateral economic support for the ecological transition by countries in progress of development.”²¹⁸⁶

On 9 October 2021, the government commenced its third session of “Encounters with Africa,” uniting public and private actors from across the African continent and the Italian peninsula.²¹⁸⁷ The conference aligns with G7 commitments to build back better, featuring panels intended to stimulate discussion on African infrastructure innovation in renewable energy, green finance, sustainable environment and the blue economy.

On 9 October 2021, the government hosted the first day of the G20 Innovation League, for which Italy united 100 G20 startups to generate solutions to several current global challenges, such as Cleantech.²¹⁸⁸ Minister Di Maio stated that this framework “is a valuable model to be exploited: cooperation, innovative ideas, massive investments and courageous policies are the ingredients to guarantee future generations a sustainable, inclusive and resilient future.”

On 25 October 2021, Minister Di Maio attended the Middle East Green Initiative Summit and expressed Italy’s interest in aiding developing countries in green infrastructure innovation.²¹⁸⁹ The minister iterated that

²¹⁸⁴ Undersecretary Di Stefano chairs the 1st session of the South Korean-Italian Strategic Meetings on Industry, Energy and Commerce, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 28 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 November 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/09/sottosegretario-di-stefano-presiede-la-1-sessione-degli-incontri-strategici-italo-sudcoreani-in-materia-di-industria-energia-e-commercio/

²¹⁸⁵ Ministerial Conference of the “Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity” (GFSEC) – Press release by the President, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 1 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 November 2021. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/10/conferenza-ministeriale-del-global-forum-on-steel-excess-capacity-comunicato-stampa-del-presidente-ita/

²¹⁸⁶ Undersecretary Di Stefano in conversation with UK Deputy Minister for Asia, Amanda Milling, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 7 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 November 2021. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/10/il-sottosegretario-di-stefano-a-colloquio-con-la-vice-ministra-per-l-asia-del-regno-unito-amanda-milling/

²¹⁸⁷ “Encounters with Africa” kicks off – Rome, 7-8 October, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 7 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 November 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/10/nota-farnesina-al-via-incontri-con-l-africa-roma-7-8-ottobre/
²¹⁸⁸ G20 Innovation League (Sorrento, 9-10 October 2021), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 6 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 22 November 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/10/g20-innovation-league-sorrento-9-10-ottobre-2021/
²¹⁸⁹ Undersecretary Di Stefano speaks at the Middle East Green Initiative Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 25 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 22 November 2021. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/10/sottosegretario-di-stefano-interviene-al-summit-middle-east-green-initiative-a-riad-arabia-saudita/

“it will be essential in this sense that developed countries concretely help developing countries to ‘skip’ the fossil era and industrialize directly on sustainable logics.”

On 29 October 2021, Prime Minister Draghi spoke with UN Secretary General Guterres at the G20 Summit and reaffirmed Italy’s interests in “combating climate change, economic and social recovery with special attention to the most vulnerable countries.”²¹⁹⁰

On 31 October 2021, Prime Minister Draghi closed the G20 Summit by delivering host country Italy’s final remarks. He announced that Italy will uphold a five-year commitment of EUR1.4 billion per annum within a greater G20 collaborative fund to finance clean and green initiatives in the poorest developing countries.²¹⁹¹

On 17 December 2021, Deputy Minister Sereni concluded the 2021 Joint Committee for Development Committee and approved a EUR86.3 million development aid package to countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.²¹⁹² The package started new initiatives to support emerging sectors in agriculture security, health and education infrastructure.

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to develop a new partnership to build back better for the world, through a step change in our approach to investment for infrastructure, including through an initiative for clean and green growth. Italy has taken strong action in upholding its commitments to B3W pledges, demonstrating global leadership and developing new partnerships through its organization of both the G20 and COP26 Summits. Additionally, Italy has specifically engaged in cooperative projects that specifically target clean and green growth in developing countries.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Timothy Tennant

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to develop a new partnership to build back better for the world, through a step change in our approach to investment for infrastructure, including through an initiative for clean and green growth.

On 18 June 2021, the government endorsed the Growth Strategy Action Plan. The plan will establish a JPY2 trillion fund to support the research and development of decarbonization technologies.²¹⁹³ The purpose of the Growth Strategy Action Plan is to maximize the introduction of renewable energy. The Investment Promotion Tax System and regulations will be geared towards promoting investment in products with high decarbonization potential. If necessary, the government will consider measures to encourage further investment to meet the 2030 emission reduction target.

²¹⁹⁰ G20, President Draghi meets UN Secretary General Guterres, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 29 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 22 November 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/g20-il-presidente-draghi-riceve-il-segretario-generale-delle-nazioni-unite-antonio-guterres>

²¹⁹¹ G20 Rome Summit, the final press conference by President Draghi, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 31 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 26 November 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/g20-rome-summit-la-conferenza-stampa-conclusiva-del-presidente-draghi/18429>

²¹⁹² Nota Farnesina – Development Cooperation, Deputy Minister Sereni chairs the Joint Committee (Rome) 17 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 14 January 2021. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/12/nota-farnesina-cooperazione-allo-sviluppo-vice-ministra-sereni-presiede-comitato-congiunto-2/

²¹⁹³ Green Growth Strategy Through Achieving Carbon Neutrality in 2050, Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (Tokyo) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/energy_environment/global_warming/ggs2050/pdf/ggs_full_en1013.pdf

On 2 July 2021, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga attended the Ninth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM9).²¹⁹⁴ At PALM9, Prime Minister Suga affirmed Japan's commitment to promoting infrastructure projects throughout Pacific Island states. These infrastructure projects include the development of roads, communication networks, ports and more.

On 2 July 2021, Prime Minister Suga reaffirmed Japan's commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2050 and to reduce Green House Gas Emissions (GHGE) by 46 per cent in 2030, relative to fiscal year 2013.²¹⁹⁵

On 19 July 2021, Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi announced Japan's support for the construction of infrastructure in Panama.²¹⁹⁶ Minister Motegi and Panama's Minister of Foreign Affairs Erika Mouynes mutually expressed the importance of increasing infrastructure cooperation to ensure the prosperity of both nations.

On 21 July 2021, Japan announced its intention to increase its share of non-fossil fuel energy sources, including both renewables and nuclear resources, to 60 per cent by fiscal year 2030.²¹⁹⁷ This announcement marks a 2.5 times increase of 2021 non-fossil fuel energy source levels.

On 1 September 2021, Japan and the US reaffirmed their commitment to limiting global warming to under 1.5 degrees Celsius.²¹⁹⁸ Japan and the US agreed to enhance their cooperation on renewable energy projects and end government support for coal-fired power producers by the end of 2021. Both countries also emphasized the need to utilize the private and public sector to achieve their USD100 billion joint mobilization goal intended to help achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

On 16 September 2021, the Government of Japan updated their current trajectories in achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.²¹⁹⁹ Japan announced that their initiative to assist cities in their goal to become zero-carbon cities has resulted in 444 local governments signing on to the initiative as of August 2021, which constitutes 88 per cent of Japan's population.

On 28 October 2021, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Ishii Masahiro encouraged the International Renewable Energy Agency to continue to work collaboratively to reach decarbonization targets, suggesting that as an international goal, decarbonization requires international cooperation.²²⁰⁰ Minister Masahiro once again reaffirmed Japan's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2050.

²¹⁹⁴ The Ninth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM9) (Overview of Results), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 30 November 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/a_o/ocn/page3e_001123.html

²¹⁹⁵ The Ninth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM9) (Overview of Results), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 30 November 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/a_o/ocn/page3e_001123.html

²¹⁹⁶ Japan vows support for Panama in quality infrastructure development, The Japan Times (Kyoto) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 30 November 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/07/19/national/japan-panama-cooperation/>

²¹⁹⁷ Japan sets 60% target for nonfossil fuel energy sources by fiscal 2030, The Japan Times (Kyoto) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 30 November 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/07/21/business/japan-basic-energy-plan-2030/>

²¹⁹⁸ Japan-U.S. Joint Media Statement on the occasion of Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry's visit to Japan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 30 November 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000323.html

²¹⁹⁹ Zero-Carbon Cities Herald Carbon Neutrality, Kizuna (Tokyo) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 30 November 2021. https://www.japan.go.jp/kizuna/2021/09/zero-carbon_cities.html

²²⁰⁰ State Minister Ishii Attends the 22nd Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 28 October 2021. Access Date: 30 November 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/1028_001.html

On 8 November 2021, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida outlined a proposal of a new form of capitalism focused on “sustainability and people to generate new investment and growth.”²²⁰¹ The proposal describes a growth strategy including provisions to establish domestic storage battery production; implement electric vehicle recharging facilities and hydrogen stations; improve the energy efficiency of houses and buildings; promote the research and development of nuclear energy and develop a clean energy strategy.

On 30 November 2021, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization launched the Green Innovation Fund.²²⁰² JPY2 trillion will be invested over 10 years in companies who support the goals of the Green Innovation Fund. The Green Innovation Fund aims to accelerate ongoing initiatives in order to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

On 7 December 2021, Japan launched the second Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum and held a discussion on green and digital infrastructure.²²⁰³ Representatives from Japan and Africa acknowledged the efficacy of off-grid and mini-grid systems in Africa and the challenges associated with human resource development in electrical engineering.

On 8 December 2021, Prime Minister Kishida reiterated Japan’s commitment to developing green infrastructure.²²⁰⁴ Prime Minister Kishida reaffirmed Japan’s commitment to transitioning towards thermal power, adding that Japan will enhance its infrastructure and support the decarbonization of other countries, especially in Asia.

On 21 December 2021, Prime Minister Kishida reaffirmed Japan’s commitment to a 46 per cent reduction in GHGE by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050.²²⁰⁵ Additionally, Prime Minister Kishida stated that he intends to further develop the new form of capitalism he is advancing and deepen his cooperation with US President Biden and the Build Back Better initiative. In his remarks, Prime Minister Kishida expressed support for Build Back Better World, achieving carbon neutrality and moving forward on discussions on climate change.

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to develop a new partnership to build back better for the world, through a step change in our approach to investment for infrastructure, including through an initiative for clean and green growth. Japan has demonstrated support for the Build Back Better Partnership, made strong verbal commitments through numerous international summits for infrastructure investments abroad and committed funds towards clean and green initiatives.

Thus, Japan received a score of +1.

Analyst: Julia Rychlik

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to develop a new partnership to build back better for the world, through a step change in our approach to investment for infrastructure, including through an initiative for clean and green growth.

²²⁰¹ Outline of Emergency Proposal Toward the Launch of a "New Form of Capitalism" that Carves Out the Future, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 8 November 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2021.

https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/_00001.html

²²⁰² Siemens Energy K.K. selected for Green Innovation Fund project, Japan External Trade Organization (Tokyo) 30 November 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2021. <https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/newsroom/2021/c169f05dbdb8de4d.html>

²²⁰³ Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum (Online), Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (Tokyo) 8 December 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/pdf/1209_Summary_of_the_2nd_JAFEF.pdf

²²⁰⁴ Opening Speech by Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio at the GZERO Summit 2021, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 8 December 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/statement/202112/_00006.html

²²⁰⁵ Press Conference by Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 21 December 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/statement/202112/_00014.html

On 15 July 2021, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced a strategic partnership between the UK and Saudi Arabia.²²⁰⁶ Among the four clusters of collaborative elements was energy, industry and environment.

On 27 July 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced KES5.2 billion in aid to finance the construction of 10,000 “green affordable homes” in Kenya.²²⁰⁷ This investment was designed to benefit low and middle-income families and help the Kenyan government in achieving its “Big Four” commitment of building 500,000 affordable homes by 2022. In addition, KES550 million in aid was announced in order to support and expedite Kenya’s green transition, including “projects supporting renewable energy, clean cooling, and forest restoration - including Kaptagat Forest.” In keeping with the UK Government’s approach to fulfilling its B3W commitments, wherein public funding is used to supplement private investment, the KES5.2 billion in UK government funding for affordable housing in Kenya was accompanied by KES3.5 billion in UK corporate investment.

On 11 August 2021, the UK announced GBP1.4 million in funding for five climate projects in Malaysia through the Malaysia-UK PACT programme.²²⁰⁸ These five projects include improving access to “green finance,” and accelerating Malaysia’s energy transition through the development of “community renewable energy access and generation” initiatives.

On 17 August 2021, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced a GBP105 million funding package to be offered through the government’s Net Zero Innovation Portfolio, with the intention that it be used to finance the development of the UK’s low carbon hydrogen economy.²²⁰⁹

On 25 August 2021, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced GBP4 million in funding to accelerate the development of 24 domestic biomass production projects.²²¹⁰

On 1 September 2021, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced GBP146 million in funding for 150 “flood coastal erosion schemes” in Yorkshire and the Humber.²²¹¹

On 2 September 2021, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and India released a joint statement announcing the establishment of the Climate Finance Leadership Initiative India partnership.²²¹²

²²⁰⁶ United Kingdom and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership: joint statement (Economic and Social Pillar), Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 2 December 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/united-kingdom-and-kingdom-of-saudi-arabia-strategic-partnership-joint-statement-economic-and-social-pillar>

²²⁰⁷ UK mobilises KES 20 billion investment into Kenya’s Big Four projects, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-mobilises-kes-20-billion-investment-into-kenyas-big-four-projects>

²²⁰⁸ UK PACT backs low-carbon transition in Malaysia with £1.4 million in support, British High Commission Kuala Lumpur (Kuala Lumpur) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pact-backs-low-carbon-transition-in-malaysia-with-14-million-in-support>

²²⁰⁹ UK government launches plan for a world-leading hydrogen economy, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-launches-plan-for-a-world-leading-hydrogen-economy>

²²¹⁰ £4 million funding to boost UK biomass production, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/4-million-funding-to-boost-uk-biomass-production>

²²¹¹ Floods Minister chairs roundtable to address flood risk along the Aire & Calder, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Environment Agency (London) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/floods-minister-chairs-roundtable-to-address-flood-risk-along-the-aire-calder>

²²¹² Joint statement by Government of India, UK government and the CFLI on mobilising climate finance in India, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-by-government-of-india-uk-government-and-the-cfli-on-mobilising-climate-finance-in-india>

This partnership will manage USD6.2 trillion in funding for “sustainable infrastructure projects in specific low-carbon sectors.”

On 7 September 2021, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced GBP270 million in support for the establishment and funding of a “Green Heat Network Fund,” to be used to expand the use of “low-carbon technologies like heat pumps, solar and geothermal energy in the roll out of the next generation of heat networks.”²²¹³

On 13 September 2021, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced GBP200 million in support for offshore wind projects, in addition to GBP55 million for the development of emerging renewable technologies.²²¹⁴ Of the GBP55 million, GBP24 million is designated for floating offshore projects. This round of investment is expected to result in renewable capacity increases sufficient to power at least eight million homes.

On 28 September 2021, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced GBP130 million of combined government and private investment in offshore wind production in the North-East of England.²²¹⁵ This investment will be used to construct facilities to develop and build components for new iterations of wind turbines.

On 8 October 2021, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, in a joint statement with the Government of India, announced the intention to form “a joint programme on smart power, renewable energy and storage.”²²¹⁶ Specific areas of interest for development within India’s renewable energy market include offshore wind, “digital solutions for power distribution companies,” “improving industrial energy efficiency,” and “boosting electric mobility in ways that maximise business opportunities and investments.”

On 26 October 2021, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced the creation of a new funding model for nuclear power projects called the Regulated Asset Base, which will save consumers more than GBP30 billion on each new large-scale station constructed.²²¹⁷

On 1 November 2021, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a GBP3 billion investment in the establishment and funding of the UK’s new Clean Green Initiative, designed to increase both public and private investment in “quality, sustainable infrastructure globally.”²²¹⁸ The GBP3 billion is intended to fund initiatives in developing countries for the next five years, including GBP200 million allotted specifically for a “Climate Innovation Facility.”

²²¹³ Next generation of heat networks to power UK’s green revolution, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-generation-of-heat-networks-to-power-uks-green-revolution>

²²¹⁴ Biggest ever renewable energy support scheme backed by additional £265 million, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 2 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biggest-ever-renewable-energy-support-scheme-backed-by-additional-265-million>

²²¹⁵ Offshore wind powers North-East jobs in a boost for UK supply chain, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 28 September 2021. Access Date: 2 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/offshore-wind-powers-north-east-jobs-in-a-boost-for-uk-supply-chain>

²²¹⁶ UK and India agree ambitious collaboration on clean energy, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 8 October 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-india-agree-ambitious-collaboration-on-clean-energy>

²²¹⁷ New finance model to cut cost of new nuclear power stations, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 26 October 2021. Access Date: 2 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-finance-model-to-cut-cost-of-new-nuclear-power-stations>

²²¹⁸ PM launches new initiative to take Green Industrial Revolution global, Prime Minister’s Office (Glasgow) 1 November 2021. Access Date 16 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-launches-new-initiative-to-take-green-industrial-revolution-global>

On 1 November 2021, Prime Minister Johnson announced the Room to Run guarantee of the African Development Bank, which is expected to free a maximum of GBP1.45 billion in financing for projects in Africa, including those designed to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis.²²¹⁹

On 1 November 2021, Prime Minister Johnson announced the creation of an India Green Guarantee of the World Bank, with the intention to free GBP750 million for “green projects” throughout India, including those for “clean and resilient infrastructure in sectors such as clean energy, transport and urban development.”²²²⁰

On 2 November 2021, Prime Minister Johnson attended a meeting hosted by US President Joe Biden and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow to discuss the B3W initiative, among other topics.²²²¹ While in attendance, Prime Minister Johnson endorsed “five key principles for infrastructure development,” which were as follows: “infrastructure should be climate resilient and developed through a climate lens,” “strong and inclusive partnerships between host countries, developed country support, and the private sector are critical to developing sustainable infrastructure,” “infrastructure should be financed, constructed, developed, operated, and maintained in accordance with high standards,” “a new paradigm of climate finance—spanning both public and private sources—is required to mobilise the trillions needed to meet net-zero by 2050 and keep 1.5 degrees within reach,” and “climate-smart infrastructure development should play an important role in boosting economic recovery and sustainable job creation.”

On 2 November 2021, the UK – together with the US, France, Germany and the EU – announced a partnership with South Africa to help transition their economy to a clean energy economy.²²²² The partnership aims to help South Africa close coal plants by investing in clean energy infrastructure and providing aid to coal-reliant communities.

On 2 November 2021, the Prime Minister’s Office announced a new joint initiative with India named the “Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid.”²²²³ The initiative is aimed at accelerating the pace of development and deployment of interconnected electricity infrastructure across the globe and improving access through mini-grid and off-grid solutions.

²²¹⁹ PM launches new initiative to take Green Industrial Revolution global, Prime Minister’s Office (Glasgow) 1 November 2021. Access Date 16 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-launches-new-initiative-to-take-green-industrial-revolution-global>

²²²⁰ PM launches new initiative to take Green Industrial Revolution global, Prime Minister’s Office (Glasgow) 1 November 2021. Access Date 16 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-launches-new-initiative-to-take-green-industrial-revolution-global>

²²²¹ U.S. President Biden, European Commission President Von Der Leyen, And UK Prime Minister Johnson Announce Commitment To Addressing Climate Crisis Through Infrastructure Development, The White House (Washington D.C.) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/11/02/u-s-president-biden-european-commission-president-von-der-leyen-and-uk-prime-minister-johnson-announce-commitment-to-addressing-climate-crisis-through-infrastructure-development/>

²²²² Remarks by President Biden in Meeting on the Build Back Better World Initiative, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 16 November 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/11/02/remarks-by-president-biden-in-meeting-on-the-build-back-better-world-initiative/>

²²²³ UK and India launch new grids initiative to deliver clean power to the world, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 2 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-india-launch-new-grids-initiative-to-deliver-clean-power-to-the-world>

On 2 November 2021, Minister for the Middle East and North Africa James Cleverly announced GBP50 million in funding for the High Impact Partnership on Climate Action, to be used in the mobilisation of private funding for green infrastructure and the energy transition in the Middle East and North Africa.²²²⁴

On 2 November 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced GBP110 million in financing for clean infrastructure development in South East Asia.²²²⁵

On 3 November 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced GBP66 million in financing for “Mobilising Institutional Capital Through Listed Product Structures,” the UK’s “flagship programme to mobilise large scale investment through publicly listed markets,” specifically for projects pertaining to green infrastructure, technology and business.²²²⁶

On 4 November 2021, the UK announced more than GBP55 million in funding to assist Pakistan in the country’s transition towards a green economy.²²²⁷ The three key features of this funding package are GBP38 million for a five-year “climate resilience programme,” GBP15 million for a five-year “water governance programme,” and GBP2.5 million “to support new ways of attracting much needed climate investment to Pakistan.”

On 5 November 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced the signing of a Green Growth Compact agreement between the UK and Zambia in order to drive sustainable growth and continue the work of COP26.²²²⁸ This agreement sets targets for increased levels of trade and new investments including a GBP100 million investment in small and medium sized enterprises.

On 8 November 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced GBP290 million in new funding to address the impacts of climate change, including GBP274 million for countries in Asia and the Pacific to “plan and invest in climate action, improve conservation and deliver low carbon investment,” GBP15 million for an “Adaptation Fund” to support developing countries in taking leadership in their own projects, and GBP1 million for humanitarian aid.²²²⁹

On 8 November 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced GBP274 million in funding for the improvement of climate resilience in the Indo-Pacific region.²²³⁰ This investment is

²²²⁴ UK announces funding for climate and the environment in the Middle East and North Africa, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-funding-for-climate-and-the-environment-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa>

²²²⁵ Truss announces major investment in clean infrastructure in Asia, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 3 November 2021. Access Date: 2 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/truss-announces-major-investment-in-clean-infrastructure-in-asia>

²²²⁶ UK’s flagship green investment programme receives £66 million funding increase, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 3 November 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uks-flagship-green-investment-programme-receives-66-million-funding-increase>

²²²⁷ COP 26: UK pledges over £55m to partner with Pakistan to fight climate change, manage water more sustainably and unlock climate investment, British High Commission Islamabad (Islamabad) 4 November 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cop-26-uk-pledges-over-55m-to-partner-with-pakistan-to-fight-climate-change-manage-water-more-sustainably-and-unlock-climate-investment>

²²²⁸ Green Growth Compact agreement between the UK and Zambia, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 5 November 2021. Access Date: 2 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/green-growth-compact-agreement-between-the-uk-and-zambia>

²²²⁹ UK calls for world to be ‘climate resilient’ by 2030 as COP26 delivers billions for most vulnerable, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 8 November 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-calls-for-world-to-be-climate-resilient-by-2030-as-cop26-delivers-billions-for-most-vulnerable>

²²³⁰ UK announces £274m boost to climate resilience across Indo-Pacific, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 8 November 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-274m-boost-to-climate-resilience-across-indo-pacific>

specifically designed to be used in partnership with “governments, regional institutions, cities, local communities, and the private sector,” and is intended to improve “climate change policy and planning, enhance weather and climate forecasting services, and support urban resilience.” It is estimated that the funding will support up to 14.4 million people.

On 11 November 2021, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced GBP27.5 million in funding for the Urban Climate Action programme to “support cities across Africa, Asia and Latin America to tackle climate change.”²²³¹ Key features of this investment include a desire to see major cities “become carbon neutral by 2050,” and “prepare low-carbon infrastructure projects.” The funding will assist “cities like Nairobi, Kuala Lumpur, and Bogotá develop low-emission public transport systems, renewable energy generation, sustainable waste management, new climate-smart buildings codes and climate risk planning.”

On 15 November 2021, the International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan announced an agreement with GE Energy Financial Services to partially finance the construction of the largest solar facility in Turkey.²²³² This investment amounts to GBP217 million. Once completed, the facility will power two million households.

On 16 November 2021, the Rural Payments Agency launched the Farming Transformation Fund Water Management grant program, which supplies farmers growing irrigated food crops with anywhere from GBP35,000 to GBP500,000 to cover up to 40 per cent of the eligible costs of a water resource management project.²²³³

On 22 November 2021, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy announced a GBP9.4 million investment in the Whitelee green hydrogen project.²²³⁴ This project will use wind-generated power from the adjacent ScottishPower WhiteLee Windfarm to convert water into hydrogen gas to be used as a zero-carbon fuel alternative and a method of power storage.

On 24 November 2021, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced its investment of GBP20 million per year in tidal stream electricity infrastructure.²²³⁵

On 24 November 2021, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced GBP11.3 million in funding to help distilleries halt their use of fossil fuels and develop low carbon heating systems.²²³⁶

On 25 November 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced a restructuring of the UK’s development finance institution.²²³⁷ British International Investment was given a new mandate of

²²³¹ UK funding to support developing cities and regions transition to net zero by 2050, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 11 November 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-funding-to-support-developing-cities-and-regions-transition-to-net-zero-by-2050>

²²³² UK to provide £217 million for Turkish solar project, UK Export Finance (London) 15 November 2021. Access Date: 2 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-provide-217-million-for-turkish-solar-project>

²²³³ Farming Transformation Fund Water Management grant manual, Rural Payments Agency (Reading) 16 November 2021. Access Date: 2 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/farming-transformation-fund-water-management-grant-manual/how-the-farming-transformation-fund-grants-work>

²²³⁴ Glasgow to be home to first-of-a-kind hydrogen storage project, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 22 November 2021. Access Date: 2 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/glasgow-to-be-home-to-first-of-a-kind-hydrogen-storage-project>

²²³⁵ UK government announces biggest investment into Britain’s tidal power, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 24 November 2021. Access Date: 2 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-announces-biggest-investment-into-britains-tidal-power>

²²³⁶ Funding helps UK distilleries fuel a greener future, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 24 November 2021. Access Date: 2 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-helps-uk-distilleries-fuel-a-greener-future>

helping the government to invest up to GBP8 billion a year by 2025 in infrastructure and technology for low- and middle-income countries in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean.

On 20 December 2021, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced GBP26 million in funding for domestic biomass projects.²²³⁸

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to develop a new partnership to build back better for the world, through a step change in our approach to investment for infrastructure, including through an initiative for clean and green growth. Although the UK has taken weak action in regards to voicing and demonstrating their support for the B3W initiative, strong action has been taken towards clean and green infrastructure and the values of build back better through numerous investments.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Aidan Thompson

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to to develop a new partnership to build back better for the world, through a step change in our approach to investment for infrastructure, including through an initiative for clean and green growth.

On 16 September 2021, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin hosted the 31st Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations.²²³⁹ During the consultation, the US and Australia committed to increasing climate financing by strengthening climate-resilient infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific through the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

On 5 October 2021, Secretary Blinken announced a new partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to improve their infrastructure development through the Blue Dot Network, an existing trilateral partnership with Australia and Japan.²²⁴⁰ “Connecting the Dots: Building Trusted Systems to Address Corruption in Infrastructure” aims to improve the program by combating corruption in infrastructure projects tied to the Blue Dot Network.

On 7 October 2021, Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and Singapore Minister for Trade and Industry signed a Memorandum of Understanding to implement the US-Singapore Partnership for Growth and Innovation.²²⁴¹ The partnership aims to deepen economic integration between the US and Southeast Asia with one of four key pillars being clean energy and environmental technology. Under this pillar they aim to

²²³⁷ Truss revamps British development finance institution to deliver jobs and clean growth, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 24 November 2021. Access Date: 2 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/truss-revamps-british-development-finance-institution-to-deliver-jobs-and-clean-growth>

²²³⁸ £26 million government funding to boost biomass in UK, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 20 December 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/26-million-government-funding-to-boost-biomass-in-uk>

²²³⁹ Joint Statement on Australia-U.S. Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN) 2021, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 21 November 2021. <https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-on-australia-u-s-ministerial-consultations-ausmin-2021/>

²²⁴⁰ U.S. and OECD Co-Host Panel on Quality Infrastructure and the Blue Dot Network, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 5 October 2021. Access Date: 20 November 2021. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-and-oecd-co-host-panel-on-quality-infrastructure-and-the-blue-dot-network/>

²²⁴¹ U.S.-Singapore Partnership for Growth and Innovation: A Joint Statement by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and Singapore Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 7 October 2021. Access Date: 28 December 2021. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/10/us-singapore-partnership-growth-and-innovation-joint-statement-us>

create “a regional roundtable for businesses to network across the region and explore room for collaboration in areas such as clean energy deployment, carbon capture, and utilization.”

On 2 November 2021, President Joe Biden, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the UK's Prime Minister Boris Johnson hosted a discussion on addressing the climate crisis through infrastructure development.²²⁴² Other G7 members participated in the discussion including Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. Through the event, the US committed to building low- and zero-carbon infrastructure systems through strong, inclusive partnerships between host countries, developed countries and the private sector by mobilizing trillions of dollars in capital by 2050.

On 2 November 2021, the US – together with the UK, France, Germany and the EU – announced a partnership with South Africa to help transition their economy to a clean energy economy.²²⁴³ The partnership aims to help South Africa close coal plants by investing in clean energy infrastructure and providing aid to coal-reliant communities.

On 3 November 2021, the US launched a Net-Zero World initiative, a series of partnerships with Argentina, Chile, Egypt, Indonesia, Nigeria and Ukraine, which seeks to accelerate transitions to net-zero energy systems.²²⁴⁴ The US Department of Energy will work to create and implement technology roadmaps and investment strategies that make net-zero emissions achievable. As part of the initiative, partners commit to mobilizing at least USD10 billion in clean energy infrastructure investment by 2024.

On 3 December 2021, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan made a statement discussing the government's continued support of the B3W infrastructure partnership.²²⁴⁵ Sullivan notes that the government recognizes “that robust, meaningful partnerships, long-term focus, and sustained investment will be critical to ensure that Build Back Better World.” He further mentions how President Biden believes that the B3W “can offer a better alternative through transparent, sustainable financing that responds to low- and middle-income countries' needs and upholds high labor and environmental standards.”

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to develop a new partnership to build back better for the world, through a step change in our approach to investment for infrastructure, including through an initiative for clean and green growth. The US has taken strong action towards supporting B3W through verbal reaffirmations and infrastructure development in accordance with the guiding principles of B3W. Additionally, the US has initiated new partnerships to promote investment in clean and green infrastructure in developing countries.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Donell Rodrigues

²²⁴² U.S. President Biden, European Commission President Von Der Leyen, And UK Prime Minister Johnson Announce Commitment To Addressing Climate Crisis Through Infrastructure Development, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 20 November 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/11/02/u-s-president-biden-european-commission-president-von-der-leyen-and-uk-prime-minister-johnson-announce-commitment-to-addressing-climate-crisis-through-infrastructure-development/>

²²⁴³ Remarks by President Biden in Meeting on the Build Back Better World Initiative, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 16 November 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/11/02/remarks-by-president-biden-in-meeting-on-the-build-back-better-world-initiative/>

²²⁴⁴ U.S. Launches Net-Zero World Initiative to Accelerate Global Energy System Decarbonization, US Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 3 November 2021. Access Date: 16 November 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/us-launches-net-zero-world-initiative-accelerate-global-energy-system-decarbonization>

²²⁴⁵ Statement by National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan on G7 Collaboration and Build Back Better World, the White House (Washington D.C.) 3 December 2021. Access Date: 7 January 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/03/statement-by-national-security-advisor-jake-sullivan-on-g7-collaboration-and-build-back-better-world/>

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to develop a new partnership to build back better for the world, through a step change in our approach to investment for infrastructure, including through an initiative for clean and green growth.

On 7 July 2021, the European Parliament implemented a revised version of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) programme.²²⁴⁶ This version of the programme commits EUR30 billion between 2021 and 2027 to facilitate the construction of Trans-European projects scheduled for completion by 2030. Through the CEF, the European Parliament aims to finance “cross-border renewable energy projects.” Moreover, 60 percent of the fund is targeted towards accomplishing zero pollution and climate neutrality objectives by 2050.

On 12 July 2021, the European Council accepted conclusions on the “Globally Connected Europe” investment strategy.²²⁴⁷ This strategy exhorts the formation of new partnerships between the European Union, the United States and the Association of Southeast Asia. Additionally, it highlights the significance of expanding investment in the physical infrastructure of these partners.

On 14 July 2021, the European Commission published a report concerning the EU’s transportation, infrastructure and fuel policies.²²⁴⁸ Most pressing to the commitment on infrastructure was the European Commission’s revision to the Directive on Alternative Fuels and Infrastructure.²²⁴⁹ In addition to amending the title to the “Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation” (AFIR), the revisions consolidate new environmental policies affecting European infrastructure. These policies include expanding charging and refueling infrastructure to comply with zero-emission car sales quotas - this includes deploying new hydrogen refueling stations for light and “heavy duty vehicles.”^{2250,2251} Additionally, the AFIR calls on EU members to ensure clean electricity access for aircraft and ships at major air and seaports.²²⁵²

On 18 July 2021, President of the European Council Charles Michel delivered remarks on his meeting with the president of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev.²²⁵³ During their meeting, President Michel reaffirmed the importance of the EU’s partnership with Azerbaijan. President Michel also discussed the role that the EU could play in “encourag[ing] regional cooperation” regarding the construction of transport corridors in Azerbaijan.

²²⁴⁶ €30 Billion for Infrastructure Projects Connecting EU Regions, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 11 November 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210701IPR07504/EU30-billion-for-infrastructure-projects-connecting-eu-regions>

²²⁴⁷ A globally connected Europe: Council approves conclusions, European Council (Brussels) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 12 November 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/07/12/a-globally-connected-europe-council-approves-conclusions/>

²²⁴⁸ Questions and Answers – Sustainable transport, infrastructure and fuels, European Commission (Brussels) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 15 November 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_3525

²²⁴⁹ Deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure: Fit for 55 package [EU Legislation in Progress], European Parliament Research Service (Strasbourg) 22 November 2021. Access Date: 15 November 2021. <https://epthinktank.eu/2021/11/22/deployment-of-alternative-fuels-infrastructure-fit-for-55-package-eu-legislation-in-progress/>

²²⁵⁰ European Green Deal: Commission proposes transformation of EU economy and society to meet climate ambitions, European Commission (Brussels) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 17 November 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_3541

²²⁵¹ Questions and Answers – Sustainable transport, infrastructure and fuels, European Commission (Brussels) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 15 November 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_3525

²²⁵² European Green Deal: Commission proposes transformation of EU economy and society to meet climate ambitions, European Commission (Brussels) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 17 November 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_3541

²²⁵³ Remarks by President Charles Michel after his meeting in Baku with the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, European Council (Brussels) 18 July 2021. Access Date: 12 November 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/07/18/remarks-by-president-charles-michel-after-his-meeting-with-azerbaijan-president-ilham-aliyev-in-baku/>

On 19 August 2021, the European Commission released 13 per cent of the funds allocated to France under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), totalling EUR5.1 billion.²²⁵⁴ Through the RRF, the European Commission aims to support France’s energy efficiency and renovate its medical infrastructure. The funds include EUR1.9 billion towards developing France’s decarbonized hydrogen production capacity and EUR2.5 billion for “renovating healthcare facilities.”

On 16 September 2021, the European Commission opened applications for proposals aimed at improving transportation infrastructure.²²⁵⁵ The initiative is linked to the Connecting Europe Facility for Transport Program and offers a total of EUR7 billion to successful applicants who develop improved, upgraded or new infrastructure. EUR5.175 billion is reserved for proposals targeting “core” infrastructure projects such as railways, ports and waterways; EUR1.575 is allocated for proposals which address alternative fuel infrastructure facilities and EUR330 million are withheld for infrastructure projects that can be utilized by civilian and military personnel. Through this initiative the European Commission aims to satisfy the EU’s goal to reduce “transport emissions by 90 [per cent] by 2050.”

On 2 November 2021, President von der Leyen delivered a speech on how infrastructure investments can respond to climate change.²²⁵⁶ In her speech, President von der Leyen expresses the importance of working with international partners – G7 members among them – to develop “climate positive infrastructure.” Noting the disparities in this type of infrastructure that exist between countries, President von der Leyen praises B3W as a vehicle to reduce international gaps in “climate positive” infrastructure.

On 17 December 2021, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the French Development Agency (AFD) announced that they had signed an agreement with Serbia to finance the expansion and creation of eight landfills in total.²²⁵⁷ To honour this agreement, the EBRD and the AFD will commit EUR75 million each via sovereign loan to Serbia. Through this initiative, the EBRD will help reduce 178,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions and increase recycling capacity “by more than 19,000 tonnes” annually. Lastly, this agreement complies with the EU’s standards for “biodegradable waste treatment and recovery” in addition to advancing the “circular economy of recyclable waste,” making it a green and clean infrastructure initiative.

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to develop a new partnership to build back better for the world, through a step change in our approach to investment for infrastructure, including through an initiative for clean and green growth. The EU has verbally expressed of support for B3W, worked with other countries on developing infrastructure and supported initiatives for clean and green growth.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Dael Sebastian Vasquez-Hernandez

²²⁵⁴ NextGenerationEU European Commission disburses €5.1 billion in pre-financing to France, European Commission (Brussels) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 17 November 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4225

²²⁵⁵ Transport: €7 billion for key infrastructure projects: key missing links & green transport, European Commission (Brussels) 17 September 2021. Access Date: 18 November 2021. https://transport.ec.europa.eu/news/transport-eu7-billion-key-infrastructure-projects-key-missing-links-green-transport-2021-09-17_en

²²⁵⁶ Speech by President von der Leyen at side event co-hosted by the US and the European Commission in COP26 on addressing climate change through infrastructure investment, European Commission (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 10 January 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_21_5763

²²⁵⁷ EBRD and AFD finance Serbia’s regional landfills, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (London) 17 December 2021. Access Date: 11 January 2021. <https://www.ebrd.com/news/2021/ebrd-and-afd-finance-serbias-regional-landfills-.html>