



The European Green Deal and its Impact on Regional Development Processes

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1. Introduction

The foundation defining the use of non-renewable resources is the principle of equal treatment of generations. When making decisions taking into account the social interest, there is no justification for treating the generations differently (Solow 1993, p. 57). Measures increasing the effectiveness of resource use or limiting the negative impact on the environment constitute only a shift of the boundaries of growth over time, and do not eliminate its barriers. Any consumption and increase in wealth, not justified by real needs, for the sake of enlargement, bring these limits closer. The mutually exclusive actions are the care for the needs of future generations and at the same time striving to increase wealth nowadays. Moving the boundaries of duration of human civilization on Earth requires broadly understood resignation from current consumption in favour of future consumption. In the light of the undisputed weaknesses characterising a market economy, the formulation of the following question remains justified: is it possible to decouple economic growth from negative environmental pressure and resource constraints?

A breakthrough in the perception of the processes of economy functioning was the publication of the 1st Report of the Roman Club "Limits to Growth" (Meadows 1972). The report initiated the creation of a concept for the functioning of the global economy, taking into account the resource constraint factor, the environmental consequences of management processes, and the development of global modelling. Concepts of functioning of the world economy expressing a new view on the process of management can be divided into those that challenge the idea of continuous economic growth (zero-growth theory) and those that anticipate the idea of continuous economic growth and give it a new dimension (sustainable development, Factor four, the EU concept of a low-carbon and

resource-efficient economy, and the subject matter of this paper, the European Green Deal doctrine).

The aim of the paper is to analyse the theoretical aspects of the European Green Deal and to identify its potential impact on the Community's regional development processes.

2. Characteristics of the European Green Deal

In 2010, the European Commission presented a proposal to build a low-carbon and resource-efficient economy. The concept was a response to the immanent reality of resource scarcity and uncertainty about the phenomenon of climate change unknown to man. Civilisation developed during the Holocene, an interglacial period lasting for the last 10,000 years, during which global temperature and ocean levels were relatively stable (Hansen 2011). The problem of human adaptation to climate change has therefore not been addressed in the genome of the species, and the changes taking place seem to be something completely new, unrecognised and not fully realised. In societies, even among scientists, there is a problem of understanding the essence of the processes taking place, as well as the consequences of actions aimed at combating climate change and adapting to the changes taking place. Uncertainty relates to: the real direction of climate change; the real causes of the changes taking place and, consequently, the validity of the assumptions made about the relationship between human activity and climate change; the validity of the thesis that taking action to reduce GHG (greenhouse gases) emissions will stop the processes taking place (Piontek 2015).

The analysis of the presented strategic documents (Europe 2020) indicated strictly economic objectives of the concept. Over the past 30 to 40 years, the factors of economic growth in the European Community have been cohesion policy and the accession of new Member States. The capacity for further enlargement of the Community and the continuation of the cohesion policy in its current form, as well as the outflow of jobs to emerging economies, have forced the European Community to seek new drivers of economic growth in the long term.

The ten-year period of shaping and implementing new values led to the formulation of the European Green Deal doctrine (COM(2019)640). The purpose of the doctrine was expressed by Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission: the European Green Deal is our new growth strategy – for a growth that gives back more than it takes away. It shows how to transform our way of living and working, of producing and consuming so that we live healthier and make our businesses innovative. We can all be involved in the transition and we can all benefit from the opportunities. We will help our economy to be a global leader by moving first and moving fast. We are determined to succeed for the sake of this planet and life on it – for Europe's natural heritage, for biodiversity, for our forests

and our seas. By showing the rest of the world how to be sustainable and competitive, we can convince other countries to move with us (EC Press release, 11 December 2019). According to the adopted assumptions, economic growth and development are to be decoupled from the economy's carbon and resource consumption. According to its supporters, the idea is justified by empirical data on the functioning of the European economy over the past thirty years. Between 1990 and 2018, the EU reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 23%, while the economy grew by 61% (COM(2019)640 p. 4). This objective is to be achieved through action to leading to European climate neutrality in all areas of social and economic life by 2050 (Fig. 1).

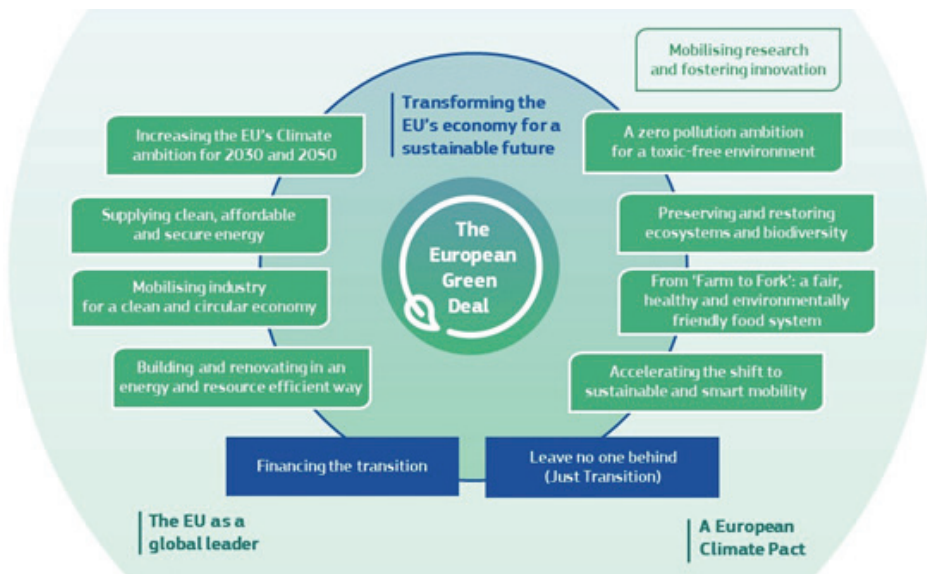


Fig. 1. Various elements of the European Green Deal

Source: (COM(2019) 640)

As political scene observers indicate, fighting with climate change gave the EU a new reason to exist. The very concept of the green deal is the result of the work of a network of experts and lobbyists in the fields of business, politics, and science (including Paul Polman, Laurence Tubiana, Teresa Ribera). The European Green Deal was presented under the conditions of a redefinition of investment strategies by the largest global corporations and a complete political reset in the EU following the simultaneous change of the European Parliament, the European Commission and the President of The European Central Bank

(Lombrana & Krukowska 2020). For example, in 2020, BlackRock, Inc.¹ CEO Laurence Fink in annual open letters (to chief executives of major companies – *A Fundamental Reshaping of Finance* (2020a) and to clients – *Sustainability as BlackRock's New Standard for Investing* (2020b)) announced that his firm would make investment decisions with environmental sustainability as a core goal (Fink 2020). At the same time BlackRock, Inc. declares the sales of \$500 million of coal-related investments (Gandel 2020). As part of the strategy presented in 2020, BP p.l.c. is planning to reduce oil and gas production (a 40% reduction on 2019 levels) and pour a 10-fold increase in annual low carbon investment to \$5 billion by 2030. BP p.l.c. tries to deliver on its promise of net zero emissions by 2050 and prepares for a world that uses much less oil (Ziady 2020). Particular attention is drawn to the statement of L. Fink, according to which *BlackRock has joined with France, Germany, and global foundations to establish the Climate Finance Partnership, which is one of several public-private efforts to improve financing mechanisms for infrastructure investment* (Fink 2020). It proves the close links between the European elite and global corporations. It also leads us to conclude that one of the hidden goals of the European Green Deal is to create new investment opportunities for global corporations redefining their strategies.

Implementation of The European Green Deal requires:

- redefining policies for clean energy supply across the economy, industry, production and consumption, large-scale infrastructure, transport, food and agriculture, construction, taxation and social benefits and
- increasing the value given to protecting and restoring natural ecosystems, to the sustainable use of resources and to improving human health (COM(2019)640).

The declared first action to build the European Green Deal is to set greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets ranging from 50 to 55% by 2030 (with reference to 1990). The existing binding target for the reduction of internal greenhouse gas emissions in the EU economy as a whole by 2030 is 40% and is distributed among Member States (OJ L 156/26).

A broad package of measures is provided for in order to achieve climate neutrality. The most important of these proposals is the use of the provisions of the Treaties, which allow the European Parliament and the Council to adopt proposals by ordinary legislative procedure, by qualified majority rather than by unanimity. As it should be concluded, the aim of the proposal is to minimise the possibility for individual Member States to object. The proposal substantially changes the conditions for membership of the Community, condemning

¹ BlackRock, Inc. – world's largest asset manager.

individual countries to the dictate of the majority. In addition, the following action is proposed:

- the creation of a European “climate law” that will create a strong commitment to the objective of climate neutrality and direct all EU policies towards the objective of climate neutrality, with all sectors playing their part in this process,
- carrying out changes to adapt climate policy instruments, including: consideration will be given to including new sectors in the EU ETS², Member States' emission reduction targets for sectors not covered by the ETS, the Regulation on emissions from land use, land use change and forestry and the Energy Taxation Directive (OJ L 283), will be revised,
- implementing policy reforms to encourage business and consumers to change their behaviour and sustainable public and private investment,
- as many countries contest the objectives set by the EU, there is a risk of carbon leakage. The Commission will propose a carbon border adjustment mechanism, for selected sectors, to reduce the risk of carbon leakage. The mechanism is to comply with World Trade Organisation rules and other EU international obligations. It will be an alternative to measures aimed to reduce carbon leakage existing under the EU ETS,
- introducing equitable transformation mechanisms, including the Just Energy Transition Fund (JET Fund). In the growth mechanism, the Fund will fulfil the functions currently performed by the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund.

3. Economic and social dimension of the doctrine

The presented doctrine is an attempt to build a new economic, social and political order based on new paradigms, contesting the laws of physics, biology, and what is particularly important from the point of view of the undertaken problem of research law of economics. An example is the contestation of the Second Law of Thermodynamics. In the circular economy being part of the European Green Deal, recycling is intended to ensure the endless availability of resources for the growing European economy. Robert Solow, referring to the Second Law of Thermodynamics, indicates that the amount of non-renewable resources can only decrease (remain at the same level if they are not currently extracted). Recycling is only a tool to shift the barrier of resource scarcity and cannot be seen as a way to finally overcome it. *It is true even with regard to recyclable raw materials (...) that we will never get the whole pound of copper for secondary use from the pound initially used, nor the whole pound of copper from the pound after it has been used*

² EU Emissions Trading System

twice. (...) Thus, copper remains an exhaustible resource, despite the possibility of partial recycling (Solow 1993, p. 49).

The European Green Deal seeks internal re-coding. Creating an image of the world by deducing from a priori assumptions and treating its point of view as excluding competitive perspectives (similar features were also characteristic of earlier socio-economic concepts based mainly on Marxism) (Rojek 2008, p. 171). Following the example of Manicheism, he proposes a dichotomous perception of a world in which good (theorems, assumptions and dogmas forming the doctrine) are contrasted with evil (traditional values). The Green Deal doctrine is morally correct because it serves to eliminate the evil that results from the processes of man's management and existence.

It is characterized by apriorism and monism. The authors of the doctrine state the following apriori: *the atmosphere is warming and the climate is changing with each passing year. One million of the eight million species on the planet are at risk of being lost. Forests and oceans are being polluted and destroyed. The European Green Deal is a response to these challenges* (COM(2019) 640 final, p. 2). The theory of climate warming as a result of human activities and the possibility of counteracting it as a result of specific actions is considered to be the only "scientific world view" and points out to the public to believe as an unchanging and unquestionable dogma (see Annex 1). All different views (including results of scientific research) are rejected, while their authors are stigmatised and forbidden to express their views³. The climate truths expressed by the EU apply always, everywhere, and are final. There is an increasing tendency – already pointed out by Ludwig von Mises – to spread the paradigm that a country or government (in this case the EU) embodies everything good. Whoever accepts such a paradigm is considered to be an impartial researcher of social sciences, an educated and modern man. All those who oppose the paradigm are considered to be biased, steadfast, and biased (Mises 2012, p. 11). The media play a special role in promoting this paradigm. The European Commission declares that: *the EU can use its influence, expertise and financial resources to mobilise its neighbours and partners to join it on a sustainable path. The EU will continue to lead international efforts and wants to build alliances with the like-minded. It also recognises the need to maintain its security of supply and competitiveness even when others are unwilling to act* (COM(2019) 640, p. 2).

The European Green Deal was built on a dialectical approach, according to which the process of development of a society consists of three dialectical processes:

³ See: The Appeal of the Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland to take urgent, effective actions in response to the climate and environmental crisis, Warsaw, 27 September 2019.

- the creation of contradictions in the interaction between man and nature (i.e. contradictions in the process of exchange of human matter with nature),
- the emergence of contradictions between new and old production forces,
- the emergence of a contradiction between the new production relations (new economic base) and the old superstructure (Lange 1963).

The doctrine substantially rejects free market values, which are replaced by strong state (EU) interventionism in the course of management processes. Analysing the doctrine from the point of view of the theory of economic thought, it should be classified as an intermediate form combining features of Keynesism and centrally planned economy. As in the Keynesian theory, the basic assumption is to keep the welfare state and full employment with taxpayers' money. The responsibility for achieving the main goal lies with the public authority, which is granted the right to interfere in the entire economic life and shape the market processes taking place. The principle of effective demand is used, according to which the amount of national income and employment is determined by consumer and investment expenditure. Achieving full employment requires stimulating demand and shaping the propensity to consume (Keynes 2011, Wapshott 2013).

Intervention in the market mechanism is carried out using a wide range of instruments, including:

- instruments directly interfering with the market mechanism: restrictions on emissions, production restrictions, restrictions on use, market restrictions,
- instruments indirectly interfering with the market mechanism: design requirements, labelling requirements, extended producer responsibility, separate collection targets, dissemination of knowledge.

Using environmental protection to stimulate income- and employment-generating investments, eco-innovations are expected to become epoch-making and initiate the next Kondratiev cycle (Table 1).

Unlike earlier Kondratiev cycles initiated by technological innovations of exogenous type, the sixth cycle initiated by the EU is endogenous in nature. According to the Romer model, they are a response to market stimuli as well as to those contained in EU law (Romer 1990). Under the conditions of the European Green Deal, economic growth will be stimulated by factors created by the European Union. The speed and effectiveness with which the growth factors will be created, updated and implemented will determine how quickly and effectively the competitive advantage is achieved and maintained. The emergence of epochal innovations in environmental protection will be accompanied by the evolution of energy sources to meet the growing demand of the expanding economy. In the

early part of the cycle, the energy demand is still met by fossil fuels and increasingly used nuclear energy. There is an ongoing effort to improve the energy efficiency of fossil fuel use processes. The use of traditional energy sources is accompanied by the development of renewable energy sources. Their importance in the energy balance continues to grow and in the final phase of the cycle they become the primary energy source.

Table 1. The sixth Kondratiev cycle in the concept of the European Green Deal

Cycle	Years	Growth phase	Duration	Epoch-making innovations	Basic fuels	Technological leaders	Economic leader
VI	2010 – 2060	2040/2050	50 years	Low carbon technologies Technologies that make economic growth independent of environmental resources	till 2035 – fossil fuels, nuclear energy from 2035 – renewable energy	Germany	European Community

Source: author's own work.

The EU's attempts at internal re-coding involve dangerous social and cultural changes which undermine the overarching human value and the traditional system of values derived from Europe's Christian roots. The social and political system that is being created has the characteristics of a religious state. Verification of the above mentioned claim requires carrying out:

- a) an analysis of The European Green Deal in the context of the definition of religion,
- b) a comparative analysis of the characteristics of a religious state with those of a socio-economic and political system as defined by The European Green Deal.

The European Green Deal meets the criteria of religion as defined by Erich Fromm. It constitutes a system of thoughts and actions shared by a certain group, which provides the individual with a system of orientation and an object of worship, the need for which is the original equipment of the human psyche. In this sense, objects of worship can be Christian God, an idea, a person, as well as the natural environment (Kamiński & Zdybicka 1974). As Nathan Söderblom points out, religion is the relationship of man to the transcendence in which they believe, on which they feel dependent, to which they express their attitude in prayer, trust, fear, sacrifice, and ethical behaviour (Kamiński & Zdybicka 1974). In the European Green Deal doctrine the absolute being is the Planet (Mother Earth, the environment). The man, expressing fear and caring for its good, should be oriented towards pro-ecological actions, able to make sacrifices and act ethically.

The religious character of the European Green Deal doctrine is proved by a comparative analysis of selected features of a religious state with features of the socio-economic and political system shaped by the EU, as presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Comparative analysis of the characteristics of a religious state with those of the European Green Deal

Selected features of a religious state	Features of the European Green Deal
Rejection by the state of neutrality (impartiality) in religious matters and adoption of a certain religious doctrine as state-related, official or dominant. An open declaration of a religious nature by the legislator of a given provenance is not a rule. Constitutions of religious states sometimes indicate the disappearance of the functional separation between the state and the official religion. The state assumes in particular the obligation to promote it	Climate action is the official and dominant area of interest and action of the European Union. The Union's institutions have taken on the responsibility of promoting it Compliance with the doctrine of climate change and ways to counteract it is the basis for setting and evaluating actions

Table 2. cont.

Selected features of a religious state	Features of the European Green Deal
<p>Declaration in the constitution that a particular religion is a state religion</p>	<p>It is proposed to create the first European “climate law.” In this way, the goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050 will find its legal basis. In addition, climate law will ensure that all EU policies contribute to the objective of climate neutrality and that all sectors play their part in this process. References to environmental protection, Earth’s sustainable development and climate change are already included in most of the EU legislation</p>
<p>In a religious state, broadly understood religious doctrine at least inspires the state law, including constitutional content. In extreme cases, the autonomy of the law established in relation to norms of a religious nature is excluded</p>	<p>Environmental values and objectives are governed by the EU law</p>
<p>The concern for the family resulting from religious motivations is also visible in the constitutions of Islamic states. The family is seen as a place for shaping traditionalist attitudes</p>	<p>The family and the individual are identified as a key factor in achieving climate objectives through their sacrifice. It is proposed that the family should not have children, that they should not consume products considered to be harmful to the climate (cessation of meat consumption, causing shame about flying planes, the so-called “flygskam” in Sweden)</p>
<p>A relatively frequent manifestation of their confessional character in the constitutions of religious states is the requirement of belonging to the official religion of the person holding the post of the head of state. Exceptionally, there is a requirement for the officers to practice the official religion</p>	<p>The values of green governance are accepted and supported by the vast majority of EU politicians as well as those in the Member States</p>

Table 2. cont.

Selected features of a religious state	Features of the European Green Deal
<p>The religious nature of the state results in undermining the organisational or functional distinctiveness of the state apparatus and the official faith, as indicated by some fundamental laws. An extreme case is the assumption by the religious authorities of the functions of state bodies</p>	<p>The implementation into the real sphere of the system of values expressed in Agenda 2030, The Paris Agreement and The European Green Deal is accompanied by the significant involvement of religious institutions, particularly Christian churches. In the teaching of the Catholic Church there is a gradual reorientation of teaching from God to the problems of the planet. The beginnings of the process are connected with Vaticanum II and <i>Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World Gaudium et spes</i>. As Jarosław Babiński points out, the documents and teachings of the post-conciliar popes have resulted in ecological issues occupying one of the main places in the teaching of the Catholic Church. They are particularly highlighted during the pontificate of Pope Francis, who constantly calls for ecological conversion, protection and care of all creation, action to halt global warming, and listening to the voice of the earth. As the Pope points out, humanity must not forget the history of exploitation of the South of the planet. It has caused a huge environmental debt as a result of the pilaging of resources and the excessive use of common environmental space for waste disposal. New concepts have been introduced to the teaching of the Catholic Church, such as ecotheology, integrative ecology, ecological culture, and ecological sin. Since 2015, the Catholic Church has celebrated the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on September 1. Between 1 September and 4 October, within the international ecumenical initiative established by The World Council of Churches, the so-called Season of Creation (originally established in 1989 by Patriarch Dmitri I for Orthodox believers) is celebrated, where Christians of different faiths around the world unite in prayer, advocacy, and practical action to protect creation. The Catholic Church has also participated in this initiative since 2015. In connection with Lent in Germany in 2020, the Archdiocese of Berlin and the dioceses of Eichstätt, Hildesheim and Rottenburg-Stuttgart encouraged ‘climate fasting’ (Fastenaktion für Klimaschutz und Klimagerechtigkeit 2020). Protestant Church also participates in this initiative</p>

Table 2. cont.

Selected features of a religious state	Features of the European Green Deal
A particular expression of the state's commitment to the promotion of religious doctrine is the organisation of religious education in public education	Teaching about climate change is an integral part of the teaching of children and young people. The authors of the European Green Deal declare that the European Commission will prepare a European Competence Framework to help develop and evaluate knowledge, skills and attitudes on climate change and sustainable development
The religious nature of the state often results in restrictions on freedom in religious matters	The EU introduces legal bans and restrictions on the use of products considered harmful to the climate. A representative example is the imposition of a new dietary pattern based on veganism
Saints have played an important role in shaping the European civilisation and the Catholic Church. Politically, they have contributed to the integration of the heritage of different cultures, to the spread of new styles of governance that depart from autocratic patterns, to the combination of politics and sanctity, or at times of crisis, to spiritual, philosophical, and political renewal. At the religious level, they teach faith, they are an example to follow for the faithful, they help believers to understand their own lives	The emerging climate religion is also looking for saints. The Swedish activist Greta Thunberg is one of the first 'saints'. For example, in Maria Poprzęcka's column entitled <i>Na oko: Greta d'Arc [Roughly: Greta d'Arc]</i> , Greta Thunberg is compared to the Catholic St. Joan of Arc. By comparing the two characters, the author points out their ability to move the wealthiest world, the fact that their contemporaries question their mental health, and the similarity of punishment. As indicated by the author, in the layman world the saints of the Lord were replaced by the Asperger syndrome and ADHD, and death at the stake has been replaced by the fire of hateful tweets, the immersion in a wave of disgusting memes, and annihilation by contemptible disregard. The equivalent of Joan of Arc's canonisation, in the case of Greta Thunberg, are to be her subsequent Nobel Prize nominations. This column was mentioned in one of the Polish textbooks for the second grade of high school. By placing the figure of the Swedish activist in the school textbooks, she performs the function of saints of the Catholic Church. She teaches faith, becomes an example and inspiration for the young generation, and helps them to understand and re-evaluate their lives

Source: author's own work; features of a religious state on the basis of (Borecki 2017) and (Misztal 2001); (Poprzęcka 2020); (Babiński 2011); (Laudato Si 2015); (Pope Francis 2020), (EURACTIV.com 2015); (EURACTIV.com 2019); (Morgan 2018); (Season of Creation 2020); <https://www.klimafasten.de/>

The attempts at internal re-coding are also connected with dangerous cultural transformations, in which the superior value of man over nature is questioned. In extreme cases, the coding takes the form of equating the suffering of Holocaust victims with the fate of farm animals⁴. Jennifer White, Senior Media Officer at PETA, during an interview on “*Good Morning Britain*,” called for an end to addressing animals in ways that suggest species superiority. Among others she has called on animal owners to stop using the word claiming it's a patronising term comparable to the treatment of women before feminism. (GMB, 4 Feb. 2020) A Ukrainian woman in Wuhan stricken by SARS-Cov-2 coronavirus refused to evacuate because of a dog she could not take with her. (TVP INFO 2020) Attention should also be paid to the ideology of species equality, which fights against the belief in the superiority of human species and the resulting discrimination against animals (so-called speciesism). Those in favour of speciesism compare it with racism, sexism or the injustices of the feudal system. This ideology, among other things, states that: *discrimination based on species is just as arbitrary as any other discrimination based on an illogical criterion. Equality tainted by exclusions and arbitrary discrimination is by definition inequality, injustice. Therefore all sentient beings, regardless of species, must be included within the circle of moral consideration. This does not mean treating them all in an identical way but really taking their interests into account as if they were our own.* One of the forms of promoting ideology has been *World Day for the End of Speciesism* organised for six years on 29 August (WoDES 2020). Magdalena Środa in an interview given on 6 December 2019 on the Polish Radio Zet, recalling a book by Sue Donaldson and Will Kymlicki Zoopolis. *A Political Theory of Animal Rights* called for animals to be granted citizenship. She stated that: There are domesticated animals which should be treated as co-citizens, then there are liminal, border animals which live with us, for example, rats, cockroaches or something like that and they should have refugee status. And there are wild animals that should have the status of citizens of sovereign states (Radio Zet 2019). As Paweł Jędrzejewski points out, *the complex cultural mechanism of people's perception of themselves and animals, however, acts as a two-person swing on playgrounds for children. When one child rises, the other has to fall down.* When – even for humanitarian reasons – one wants to raise the status of an animal, comparing it to a human being, the status of a human being has to decrease. There is no escape from this (Jędrzejewski 2019). The opposition expressed to equating the status of humans and animals cannot be interpreted as acceptance of the abuse of animals, the lack of concern for their welfare or the destruction of biodiversity.

⁴ See: publication by Sylwia Spurek, MEP, of a graphic by Jo Frederiks depicting cows in camp striped uniforms of Auschwitz-Birkenau prisoners.

4. Influence of the European Green Deal on regional development processes in Member States

The implementation of the European Green Deal in the real world will have significant consequences for the Community's regional development. These consequences will undoubtedly be both positive and negative. They are currently not sufficiently identified and recognised. The declared effects of the realisation of the European Green Deal are: providing clean, affordable and secure energy; mobilising the industry sector for a clean, closed-loop economy; building and renovating in an energy and resource-efficient way; speeding up the transition to sustainable and intelligent mobility; creating a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system; protecting and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity; zero emissions for a non-toxic environment. Achieving the effects requires an additional investment of €260 billion per year, which represents about 1.5% of the Community GDP in 2018. This expenditure will have to be sustained over the next thirty years (COM(2019) 640).

In further considerations, regional development will be defined as the process of development of economic potential, increase in competitiveness of economic entities and the standard of living of the countries' inhabitants, in their regional decomposition, which takes place as a result of transforming factors and resources into goods and services, ensuring economic security (cf. Gorzelak 1989, Serafin 2001, Nelson 2013, Płaziak Rachwał 2015). Regional development factors are divided into exogenous and endogenous factors. The detailed analysis of regional development process factors (with particular emphasis on entrepreneurship) presented by Tomasz Rachwał covers three groups, the first two of which are exogenous and the third one is endogenous:

- general tendencies of civilisation development: development of information society; building the knowledge-based economy; volatility of market systems under the influence of innovative processes; increased importance of advanced technology products,
- global (international): international economic, social and political situation; affiliation to international groupings (mainly economic and political, e.g. the EU); economic and political relations between countries, including neighbours; conditions and possibilities of international flows (products, services, capital, knowledge/technology, population/labour resources); European Union development policies (including regional policy, in relations to the SME sector and others), as well as the quality and effectiveness of EU institutions and instruments; infrastructural development (with supranational functions),

- internal (national, regional, local): political and social system, internal political power and stability of the political scene; quality and level of qualifications of political elites (legislative and executive); efficiency of administrative structures and relations between society and power (trust level); size, quality and structure of resources: natural, capital, human (employment); social structures – the intellectual potential of society and the resources of human and social capital; social climate for stimulating and developing entrepreneurship; population structures (including age, nationality, education) (Rachwał 2018).

In the processes of regional development, endogenous and exogenous factors coexist and there are two-way interactions between them. The economic policy is based on the use of exogenous factors to strengthen endogenous factors.

Factors of national competitiveness should be sought by asking what determines productivity and the rate of its growth at the level of individual industries and countries. A detailed analysis of economies makes it possible to indicate significant differences between them, and consequently to identify the characteristics of a nation that contribute to the competitive advantage of its enterprises. These features are at the same time factors of a country's competitive advantage. The European Green Deal is an exogenous factor through which the European Commission aims to impose a single development scenario on all Member States and their regional systems. As a result, there is a real threat of destroying the national characteristics which are indicated by Michael Porter in the theory of competitive advantage of particular nations (Porter 1990). The threat requires particular attention in the context of potential further EU exits and the break-up of the Community in the 2050 perspective.

Among the positive effects of the implementation of the doctrine one should indicate the development of new industries and related jobs. Industries with a strong potential for development and job creation are: research and development, IT, renewable energy, organic farming, electromobility, and construction. An increase in employment is also to be expected in the government and local government administration, which will be directly related to new administrative, reporting and control responsibilities. The development of the sectors indicated will be accompanied by a drop in demand and a collapse in the sectors currently operating (e.g. traditional car industry, animal husbandry). Thus, the use of development opportunities resulting from the European Green Deal by individual countries and regions is conditional on becoming a leader in pro-climate innovation and requires rapid adaptation processes. This particularly applies to countries and regions characterised by a high share of declining industries in the economy. Failure to meet this condition will result in countries and regions becoming recipients of technologies and products only, and their opportunities for

development will be limited. The political risk of dominance of large Community countries (the Germany-France duo) over other countries is confirmed by the path of adoption of new regulations without unanimity, as indicated in the guidance document.

As already indicated, the pursuit of climate neutrality will require significant financial resources from individual countries and regions. These funds will be European Union funds provided under the support programmes, as well as own resources of the individual entities. The future resources of the EU budget will come from new own revenues provided by the Member States and will consequently deplete their national budgets. The concentration of Member States' and their constituent regions' own resources on climate neutrality objectives also raises a real risk of underfunding of alternative development areas.

The European Green Deal involves revolutionary changes in both public and private value systems. According to the theory of competitive advantage of Michael Porter's economy nations, evolving economies go through four stages of development: development stage based on production factors (land, labour, capital), development stage based on investments and the currently ongoing development stage based on innovations. The last development stage indicated will be the one based on national assets (e.g. natural resources). Countries without access to resources will be deprived of development opportunities (Porter 1990). The implementation of the European Green Deal leads to the destruction of the value of natural resources and national assets (buildings, infrastructure) owned by states and regions. Those considered harmful to the climate become useless and worthless (e.g. fossil fuels). They require cessation of use and/or replacement with new ones ensuring climate neutrality. As a consequence, wealth will be transferred to countries offering new technologies.

A similar process will apply to private property. Currently, it can be traced back to the impairment of electric cars currently offered on the market. The life span of the cars offered on the market with traditional internal combustion drive ranges from several to over twenty years. The life of electric vehicles has been reduced to 8 years, which is directly related to the battery life and cost of battery replacement (Table 3).

The range of offered cars decreases with each subsequent charge, and thus their usefulness decreases. For example, in the Nissan Leaf, a 24 kWh battery loses around 20% of its capacity within 5 years. The capacity loss rate of the newer 30 kWh battery is even higher, reaching 20% in the first 2 years of use. The exception is Tesla cars, where during the first 50,000 miles (80,000 km) there is a decrease in battery capacity of about 5%. The 10% drop in battery capacity only occurs after about 186,000 miles (300,000 km) (Nowak 2018).

Table 3. Examples of battery replacement costs in electric cars

Make of vehicle	Purchase price (in PLN)	Cost of battery replacement (in PLN)	Manufacturer's guarantee
Nissan LEAF	from 155,000 (promotional from 118,000)	96,950	8 years / 160,000 km
Renault ZOE	from 124,900	approx. 90,000	8 years / 160,000 km
BMW I3	from 168,900	80,091	8 years / 100,000 km
SMART EQ	from 96,900	from 36,700; original 54,000	8 years / 100,000 km
Volkswagen GOLF	from 165,690	86,373	8 years / 160,000 km
Hyundai KONA electric	from 152,900	149,600	8 years / 200,000 km

Source: author's own work with the use of: (Żuchowski 2019), dealer offers as of 18 February 2020

After 8 years of use or driving, depending on the brand, from 100,000 to 200,000 km, the manufacturer's battery warranty ends. The possible replacement of batteries involves a cost to the owner of the car equivalent to 50% to 100% of the value of the new car. Thus, the market value of the car falls to zero. It is more advantageous for the consumer to buy a new car than to invest in battery replacement in a worn-out vehicle. Forcing consumers to replace their vehicles frequently causes negative environmental effects related to unjustified production of new cars and their transport to future users to be completely ignored.

The environmental performance of the activities and technological solutions proposed under the European Green Deal also raises important questions. For example, GHG emissions from electric cars over their entire life cycle are determined by the following factors: the technology used to produce the energy consumed during the production and operation of the car, the process of production and recycling of batteries (including the acquisition of raw materials).

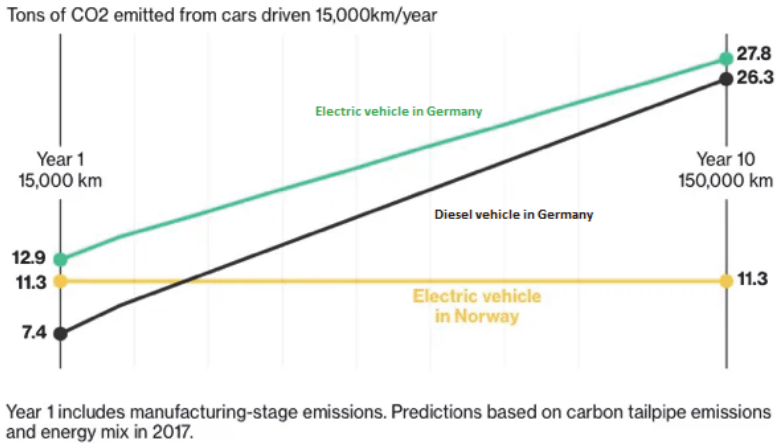


Fig. 2. Benchmarking analysis of emissions from electric and conventional cars in Germany and Norway
Source: (Rolander, Starn, Behrmann 2018)

According to Berryll Strategy Advisors' study, building a 500 kilograms EV car battery in a fossil fuel-powered factory would result in up to 74% more carbon emissions than producing an efficient traditional vehicle (Rolander, Starn, Behrmann 2018). For example, with the current structure of energy sources in Germany, the total emissions of an electric car (carbon footprint including the production stage) will be lower than those of a conventional car after more than 10 years of operation (over 150,000 kilometres). In Norway, where about 98% of electricity is obtained from hydropower, the period is about 2.5 years (Figure 2) (Rolander, Starn, Behrmann 2018). It should be noted that the geographical conditions in Norway affecting the structure of energy production are unique.

The use of electric cars by both individuals and businesses also entails significant costs for the loss of time spent recharging vehicles. Unlike traditional vehicles, charging an electric vehicle in fast charging stations to the level of 80% takes about an hour, using a 7.2 kW wallbox – 4 hours, and less than 13 hours from the home network (values for Skoda Citigoe Iv) (Skoda-Auto 2020). The use of electric cars at their current range and recharging time significantly extends the travel distance. For companies, it is associated with a loss of efficiency and competitiveness. Employees who use electric cars in the course of their work will have to take numerous and long breaks to recharge their cars. Until progress is made on battery capacity and durability, electric cars should be seen as urban vehicles for individuals. The basic category of cars used should be hybrid cars. They make it possible to reduce the negative impact of transport on the

environment, while at the same time their usefulness corresponds to that of traditional cars. In the long term, it seems justified to postulate the development of hydrogen drive technology.

5. Conclusions

The concept of planned obsolescence, presented by Bernard London in 1932, was used to stimulate the economy in the European Green Deal doctrine, as an attempt to counteract the Great Depression of the 1930s. In his study, diagnosing the causes and course of the crisis, he observes that: *I would have the Government assign a lease of life to shoes and homes and machines, to all products of manufacture, mining and agriculture, when they are first created, and they would be sold and used within the term of their existence definitely known by the consumer. After the allotted time had expired, these things would be legally "dead" and would be controlled by the duly appointed governmental agency and destroyed if there is widespread unemployment. New products would constantly be pouring forth from the factories and marketplaces, to take the place of the obsolete, and the wheels of industry would be kept going and employment regularized and assured for the masses* (London 1932, p. 2). Bernard London saw the causes of crisis in the behaviour of consumers, who, guided by rationality, make full use of their goods without succumbing to marketing or fashion. He proposed the administrative determination of the useful life of each product, at the end of which products would be considered *legally "dead"* and transferred to a government agency for destruction. As a result, consumers would have to re-purchase individual goods at strict intervals, thus ensuring continuity of production and employment. Similar solutions are at the heart of the European Commission's proposal presented in the European Green Deal. Compliance with the objectives of climate neutrality will be a criterion for determining the legality of the use of goods owned by societies.

The mechanism presented serves to stimulate investment that generates income and employment. The expected pro-ecological innovations should initiate the next (sixth) Kondratiev cycle. The EU activity in the area of shaping the factors of economic growth and development, and combating climate change justifies the continued existence of the European Community. The existence of this has been challenged in real terms by Brexit and the different perceptions of individual Member States of the sphere of values and ideas that underpin the EU. An observed dispute over fundamental values is taking place between supporters of Christian values expressed by the founding fathers and supporters of neo-Marxist values. The crisis of the EU's existence has also been caused by economic problems, the problem of migration, acts of terror committed by non-integrating immigrants. A significant problem is also the misunderstanding of the specific

development and social, regional, and economic conditions in individual countries by the Brussels elite and the leaders of the largest countries of the Community (Germany and France).

The form and manner in which European politicians will present further GHG reduction targets resembles an auction (who gives more!). Every few years, successive European politicians initiate a process of adopting increasingly ambitious reduction targets. The current targets for 2021-2030 were only adopted in 2018 (see: OJ L 156/26). In fact, the proposals are in line with the investment strategies of the world's largest corporations, as evidenced by the BlackRock, Inc. with France, Germany, and global foundations agreement. Proposals are analysed to a limited extent in terms of real possibilities to reduce emissions, much less the risk of destroying the European economy.

The European Green Deal is an exogenous factor through which the European Commission aims to impose a single development scenario on all Member States and their regional systems. As a result, there is a real danger of destroying the national characteristics which determine the competitiveness of individual countries. The implementation of the European Green Deal in the real world will have significant consequences for the Community's regional development. These consequences – currently unrecognised – will be both positive and negative. Among the positive effects of the implementation of the doctrine one should indicate the development of new industries and related jobs. The European Green Deal involves revolutionary changes in both public and private value systems. Attention is also drawn to attempts at internal re-coding, which pose a threat to dangerous social and cultural change.

In the case of Poland, a separate path of climate and energy transformation, taking into account national conditions, the needs of the society and the economy, has been negotiated in relation to the remaining Community Member States.

Annex 1

The dogmatic perception of the climate warming theory is evidenced by the fact that its supporters a priori reject both extremely different scenarios of the course of climate processes and the same as assumed, but more or less pessimistic. Objective facts provided by science, indicating a possible different course, intensity and factors causing the observed climate change (other than the anthropogenic factor) are ignored. Numerous scientific studies are carried out in a way that aims to prove the thesis adopted in advance (including the most famous affair called *Climategate*). While rejecting an approach based on 'political correctness,' it must be stated unequivocally that a broad analysis of the available results of climate and palaeoclimatic research does not make it possible to verify positively both the hypothesis of warming and the opposite hypothesis. The theory of

climate warming by its supporters (scientists and politicians) is treated as a strong stimulus to the development of an economy based on ecological innovations, by others as a recipe for disaster (see: Hansen, Sato 2011).

As indicated in the article, climate variability is an immanent feature that has had a significant impact on life since its beginning. Since the beginning of the Earth's existence, both temperature and greenhouse gas concentrations have been changing. The current CO₂ level in the atmosphere is one of the lowest in the planet's history (Piontek 2011).

Climate processes are first and foremost the result of an ongoing and complex process of varying natural factors. Among these factors, the key role is played by changes in the intensity of solar radiation, resulting from changes in solar activity. The influence of changes in solar activity on the course of climate processes on the Earth is confirmed by historical and climatic research (see Piontek 2011).

The 25th solar cycle started in 2020 – according to NASA's forecast presented on 12 June 2020 – will be the weakest of the last 200 years. The maximum of this next cycle – measured in terms of sunspot number, a standard measure of solar activity level – could be 30 to 50% lower than the most recent one (Tabor 2019). The solar activity will therefore be comparable to that of the Dalton minimum period (Figure 3). This forecast was revised on 9 December 2019 by The NOAA/NASA co-chaired, international panel to forecast Solar Cycle 25. The panel agreed that Cycle 25 will be average in intensity and similar to Cycle 24 (NOAA 2020). Notwithstanding the scientific dispute over the course of Solar Cycle 25, a trend of decreasing solar activity is observed from Solar Cycle 19 (Figure 3).

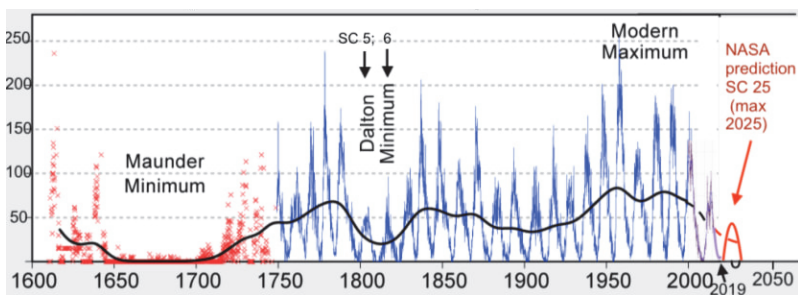
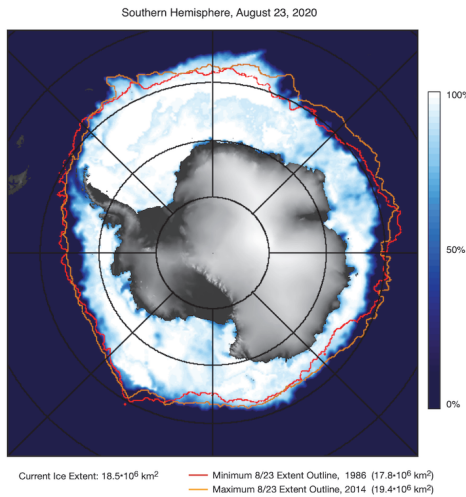


Fig. 3. NASA prediction Solar Cycle 25

Source: (<https://www.iceagenow.info/a-repeat-of-the-dalton-solar-minimum/nasa-prediction-solar-cycle-25/>)

In a situation of further decrease of solar activity – analogous to the Maunder’s and Dalton’s minimum – significant natural (not anthropogenic) climate changes leading to global cooling are to be expected in subsequent decades (solar cycles). This process will be expressed in the blurring of the differences between the seasons, irregular rainfall, intense and violent floods, storms, droughts, hailstorms, mild winters, as well as frost and snowfall during the summer.

The fact that the weather is destabilising, or the Arctic ice cap is significantly shrinking, is undeniable. At the same time, the extent of the Antarctic ice sheet has been stable over the recent decades. For example, as of 23 August 2020, the ice area in the Southern Hemisphere was $16.4 \times 10^6 \text{ km}^2$ and was higher than the 1979-2020 average ($16.2 \times 10^6 \text{ km}^2$) and the minimum of 1986 ($15.5 \times 10^6 \text{ km}^2$) (Figure 4) (Comiso and others 2020). During the period of research, record levels of cover were observed in 2014, a period of widespread recognition of the theory of global warming.



10-year averages between 1979 and 2018 and yearly averages for 2012, 2014, and 2020 of the daily (a) ice extent and (b) ice area in the Southern Hemisphere and a listing of the extent and area of the current, historical mean, minimum, and maximum values in km^2

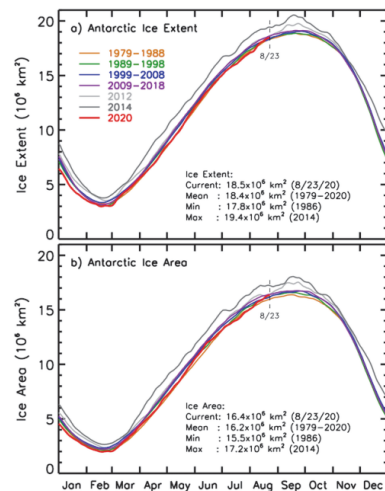


Fig. 4. Antarctica Sea Ice Cover
Source: (Comiso and others 2020)

In May and June 2020 in the mesosphere, at polar latitudes (60N-80N) and mid-latitude (35N-55N), temperatures reached their lowest values in 14 years of research history (Figure 5). On June 3, 2020, the temperature – at a latitude of 83°N and altitude of 83 km – reached only 140°K (measured using the MLS⁵ method) (Figure 5) (Phillips 2020). After M. Schwartz it should be indicated that the upper tropospheric temperature is particularly important to climate feedbacks involving the regulation of humidity and clouds. Some climate models show temperature in the mesosphere to be particularly sensitive to climate change (Schwartz 2020).

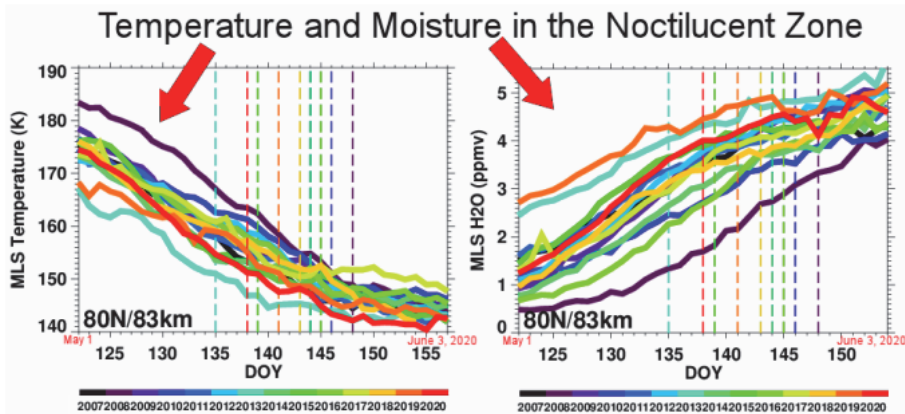


Fig. 5. Temperature of the Mesosphere – May, June 2020
Source: (Phillips 2020)

There is no doubt that there is a connection between the temperature of the mesosphere and the course of the summer in the northern hemisphere in 2020 and the winter in the southern hemisphere. In July, snowfall in the southern regions of Norway caused more than 10 metres of snowfall and a serious flood risk (Figure 6) (NRK 2020).

⁵ Microwave Limb Sounder



Fig. 6. Snow removal – southern Norway – July 2020

Source: (NRK 2020)

The Oppland County (Norway), located at an altitude of 2000 m, has a record low temperature of -6.3°C ⁶ (Celestial J. 2020b). At the same time, unprecedented snowfalls were recorded on 5 August in northern Tasmania (Jackson 2020). The Australia Bureau of Meteorology noted record low temperatures in central West Queensland in May (Al Jazeera 2020). In the second half of August, very intense Antarctic air brought to historic cold and snow across wide swaths of South America (DGW 2020).

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⁶ An earlier record was noted in 1964, at the turn of the 19th and 20th solar cycle, also at a time of falling solar activity.

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Abstract

The aim of the paper is to analyse the theoretical aspects of the European Green Deal and to identify its potential impact on the Community's regional development processes. The paper presents the objectives and assumptions of the doctrine and its global dimension. The theoretical foundations of the doctrine in economic and social dimension have been defined. An attempt was made to identify and analyse the impact of the European Green Deal on regional development processes in the European Community. Regional development has been defined as the process of development of economic potential, increase in the competitiveness of economic entities and the standard of living of the countries' inhabitants, in their regional decomposition, which takes place as a result of transforming factors and resources into goods and services, ensuring economic security. The influence of the European Green Deal on factors of economic growth and development, factors of competitive advantage of countries, system of both public and private value (natural resources, national assets), transformations in the structure of economies (emerging and declining industries), as well as costs necessary to make the doctrine a reality were indicated.

Keywords:

the European Green Deal, climate neutrality, regional development, factors of economic growth