

Driving new growth in Europe - with confidence

Paving the way for the consistent
and unbureaucratic implementation
of the green and digital transition



Over the past five years, the European Union (EU) has set the course for the green and digital transition. At the same time, Europe has faced major economic, social and political challenges due to numerous crises, which it must work to overcome in the next legislative period. This will only be possible if the issues of climate action, digitalisation, social justice and economic growth are addressed collectively. The transition that has been initiated must now rapidly be implemented with minimal bureaucratic burdens on all levels. As service providers for industry, independent assessment organisations such as the TÜV are reliable partners that support policymakers and companies in establishing a green and digital economy.

The EU initiated comprehensive policy measures during the current legislative period. The Green Deal aims to make Europe the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050. Countless legal acts have been adopted to achieve this, for example relating to energy efficiency, the circular economy and due diligence. Pioneering legislation has also been adopted in the digital sector: The Digital Services Act (DSA) regulates large online platforms, the Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) sets out mandatory

cybersecurity requirements for connected products for the first time, and the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act is the first ever legal framework on safe and trustworthy AI. At the same time, Europe is facing major economic challenges due to numerous crises. Many economic sectors are increasingly coming under pressure due to factors such as high energy costs, strained international value chains and a growing shortage of skilled labour. Slowing down or even reversing the ongoing transition is the wrong approach, however. The EU can only remain an attractive business location if it becomes a lead market for the green and digital technologies of the future. Jobs, investments and value chains could disappear otherwise and the EU become dependent on third countries. Similarly, the climate crisis can only be mitigated if the necessary emission reductions are achieved through the timely transformation of industry.

In short, climate neutrality, social justice and economic growth are neither incompatible, nor must they compete with one another. Rather, they must be considered and implemented together to build a strong and resilient economy and society and to strengthen Europe's role in the world.

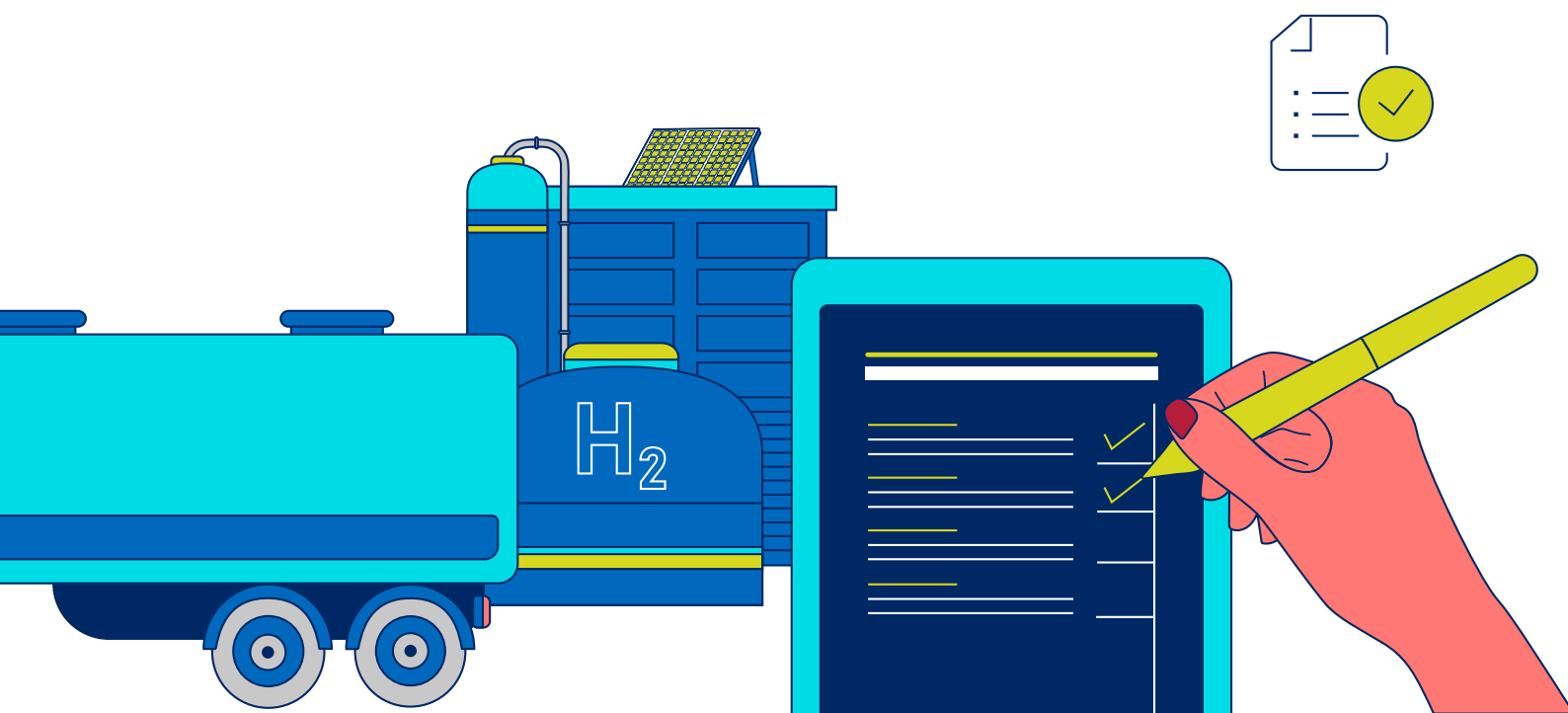


Better framework conditions for the European economy are decisive to a successful transformation. The necessary economic relief should primarily be achieved through efficient and unbureaucratic implementation of European legislation. For it is not so much the requirements themselves that burden companies disproportionately, but rather the planning and approval processes that are generally too lengthy and bureaucratic on all levels. New state supervisory authorities are often created or existing supervisory authorities expanded that are unable to work with the necessary speed, capacity and expertise. This leads to legal and planning uncertainty for companies and can delay – or even hinder – urgent investment decisions.

Independent assessment service providers such as the TÜV organisations offer an efficient and unbureaucratic alternative. From the market ramp-up of new technologies such as green hydrogen, sustainable batteries and artificial intelligence through expansion of the energy infrastructure in Europe to ensuring corporate due

diligence: As market players offering a comprehensive service portfolio for industry, independent assessment organisations support and enable companies and authorities to achieve an economic transformation in Europe. With their expertise, neutrality and objectivity, they ensure that regulatory requirements are met and implemented. This relieves the burden on supervisory authorities and companies, reduces government spending, speeds up processes and procedures, and reinforces the necessary trust among all economic players. Independent tests, inspections and certifications are thus a core element of modern regulatory policy.

The next five years will be decisive in determining whether Europe can successfully achieve its green and digital transition. Ambitious legislation is needed, along with practical implementation that relieves market burdens. The TÜV organisations are ready to actively support policymakers and businesses in this endeavour.



Our core recommendations for the next legislative period

1

Establish Europe as lead market for green and digital technologies of the future

- > Ensure the 'Made in Europe' quality promise of green and digital technologies such as hydrogen, CCS/CCU and AI through legislation, standardisation and certification
 - > Prioritise and consistently drive the digitalisation of industry and administration to overcome the current political challenges
 - > Strengthen the cybersecurity of communication infrastructure such as state data networks, satellites and digital applications to safeguard European sovereignty
-

2

Ensure a secure and green energy supply for Europe

- > Speed up the expansion of renewable energies through further harmonisation and investments
 - > Foster acceptance of hydrogen infrastructure through independent assessments of systems
 - > Consistently raise the energy efficiency targets for all sectors and ensure compliance through independent certifications
-

3

Make AI 'Made in Europe' a success through uniform implementation of the AI Act

- > Rapidly specify the requirements for AI through harmonised standards and implementation guidelines
- > Achieve full assessment readiness among all stakeholders and establish national regulatory sandboxes as quickly as possible
- > Enable the participation of all stakeholders in the EU Advisory Forum (including Notified Bodies)

4

Speed up the mobility transition with effective measures to achieve sustainability and Vision Zero

- > Establish standardised assessment procedures for vehicles of the future, enable assessments by independent third parties at any time
- > Consistently pursue the transition to low-emission, climate-neutral mobility and fully utilise the potential for improving air quality and mitigating climate change
- > Increase road safety using all available means in view of the rise in road fatalities, focus on the dangers of alcohol and drugs in road traffic

5

Implement EU legislation efficiently to relieve the market

- > Involve private sector organisations to accelerate implementation processes
- > Use independent assessment organisations as a market-relieving alternative to intervention by public authorities
- > Ensure uniform accreditation practices in Europe – eliminate unilateral national interpretations of accreditation requirements and create a level playing field

Together for Europe!

The TÜV Association stands for the European idea, the European community of values and a strong European Single Market. National divisive tendencies and unilateral approaches harm us all. In particular, they lead to a patchwork of different national rules. Only a resilient Single Market can ensure a level playing field and a good position for European companies in global markets. A strong Europe is thus a key prerequisite for our future prosperity.

Independent assessments

provide safety and trust



- > Assessment organisations are neutral and independent. They are not involved in the development or use of products.
- > Independent assessments ensure that all requirements are actually met and products are compliant - and therefore safe.
- > Fewer non-compliant products mean less damage to people, property and the environment. The economy and society are reliably protected as a consequence.

promote innovation



- > For innovations to be accepted, it must be possible to trust in their safety. All economic players can trust the products.
- > Independent assessments already identify shortcomings during product development, so help to reduce the time to market.
- > They also lead to higher product quality and thus reinforce manufacturers' brand reputation.

are cost efficient



- > Conformity assessments always involve costs, regardless of whether they are carried out by a manufacturer or an independent assessment organisation.
- > According to figures from the European Commission, certification is estimated to only make up between 0.05% and 5% of the total product development costs.
- > Manufacturers benefit in several ways: no in-house testing infrastructure required, fewer information asymmetries in supply chains, enhanced brand reputation.

reduce bureaucracy and the state burden



- > Assessment organisations assume tasks that the state would have to perform itself otherwise through its authorities to fulfil its duty of protection.
- > As service providers for industry, assessment organisations work quickly and unbureaucratically - and that worldwide.
- > Ex-ante assessments identify unsafe products before they are placed on the market. This relieves the burden on market surveillance authorities.

facilitate international market access



- > Assessment organisations are familiar with the regulatory requirements of third countries and can support manufacturers in their export business accordingly.
- > Products can be assessed according to the requirements of both the home and target markets from a single source. This enables rapid market access
- > Certifications from independent bodies boost trust in the conformity of products among trade partners and consumers.

Our policy positions

FAQ Third-party assessments

[Third-party assessments: Safety and value creation in the EU Single Market >](#)

Policy Sheets - European Elections 2024

[Autonomous driving >](#)

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[Product legislation >](#)

About the TÜV Association

The TÜV Association represents the political interests of the TÜV assessment organisations and fosters the professional exchange between its members. It is committed to technical safety and digital security as well as to the sustainability of products, systems and services. Generally applicable standards, independent assessments and qualified further training form the basis of the association's work. It consistently strives to maintain the high level of technical safety, foster trust in the digital world and preserve vital resources. The TÜV Association regularly engages in exchanges with policymakers, authorities, the media, companies and consumers to this end.

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