Basic information

2021/0191(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed
European green bonds **Subject** 2.50.03 Securities and financial markets, stock exchange, CIUTS, investments 3.70.20 Sustainable development **Legislative priorities** Joint Declaration 2021 Joint Declaration 2022 Joint Declaration 2023-24	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	TANG Paul (S&D)	01/09/2021
	Shadow rapporteur HANSEN Christophe (EPP) BOYER Gilles (Renew) EICKHOUT Bas (Greens/EFA) MOŻDŻANOWSKA Andżelika Anna (ECR) BECK Gunnar (ID)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	FERNANDES José Manuel (EPP)	16/11/2021
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	EICKHOUT Bas (Greens/EFA)	21/09/2021

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union	MCGUINNESS Mairead

European Economic and Social Committee	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
06/07/2021	Legislative proposal published	COM(2021)0391	Summary
13/09/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
16/05/2022	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
16/05/2022	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
20/05/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A9-0156/2022	Summary
06/06/2022	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 72)		
08/06/2022	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 72)		
25/05/2023	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	PE749.010 GEDA/A/(2023)003445	
04/10/2023	Debate in Parliament		
05/10/2023	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0352/2023	Summary
05/10/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
23/10/2023	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
22/11/2023	Final act signed		
30/11/2023	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2021/0191(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 114-p1
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ECON/9/06780

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE700.638	30/11/2021	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE704.629	21/01/2022	
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE697.683	18/02/2022	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE703.184	17/03/2022	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0156/2022	20/05/2022	Summary
Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations		PE749.010	10/05/2023	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0352/2023	05/10/2023	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	GEDA/A/(2023)003445	10/05/2023	
Draft final act	00027/2023/LEX	22/11/2023	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2021)0391	06/07/2021	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2021)0390	07/07/2021	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2021)0181	07/07/2021	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2021)0182	07/07/2021	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2023)557	19/12/2023	

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	PT_PARLIAMENT	COM(2021)0391	21/10/2021	
Contribution	ES_PARLIAMENT	COM(2021)0391	21/10/2021	
Contribution	DE_BUNDESRAT	COM(2021)0391	08/11/2021	
Contribution	CZ_SENATE	COM(2021)0391	15/11/2021	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
ECB	European Central Bank: opinion, guideline, report	CON/2021/0030 OJ C 027 19.01.2022, p. 0004	05/11/2021	

EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES3634/2021	08/12/2021	

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Parliament	Briefing	12/01/2022
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	**Role**	**Committee**	**Date**	**Interest representatives**
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	25/05/2023	Financial Conduct Authority
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	16/05/2023	Crédit Agricole S.A.
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	26/04/2023	Zurich Insurance Company Ltd
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	20/02/2023	Forefront Advisers
TANG Paul	Rapporteur	ECON	01/02/2023	Climate Bonds Initiative Europe
TANG Paul	Rapporteur	ECON	25/01/2023	International Capital Market Association
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	09/12/2022	Crédit Agricole S.A.
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	26/09/2022	FRANCE INVEST
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	26/09/2022	ENEL SpA
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	12/09/2022	EURALIA
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	06/09/2022	Banco Santander, S.A.
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	18/07/2022	Fédération bancaire française
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	18/07/2022	Deutsche Bank AG
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	21/06/2022	Association des grandes entreprises françaises / Association of large French companies
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	25/04/2022	Fleishman-Hillard
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	04/04/2022	Crédit Agricole S.A.

BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	11/03/2022	Crédit Agricole S.A.
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	11/03/2022	Fédération bancaire française
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	09/03/2022	European Banking Federation
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	09/03/2022	Association des grandes entreprises françaises / Association of large French companies
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	03/03/2022	UniCredit
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	03/03/2022	Association for Financial Markets in Europe
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	16/02/2022	Crédit Agricole S.A.
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	13/01/2022	German Insurance Association - GDV
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	12/01/2022	ENGIE
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	11/01/2022	Deutsche Bank AG
GUSMÃO José	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	11/01/2022	Association for Financial Markets in Europe
BOYER Gilles	Shadow rapporteur	ECON	04/01/2022	Fédération bancaire française

Other Members

Transparency

Name	Date	Interest representatives
BOYER Gilles	17/07/2023	#SustainablePublicAffairs

Final act

Regulation 2023/2631
OJ L 000 30.11.2023, p. 0000 Summary

Delegated acts

Reference	Subject
2025/2677(DEA)	Examination of delegated act
2025/2676(DEA)	Examination of delegated act
2025/2674(DEA)	Examination of delegated act
2025/2877(DEA)	Examination of delegated act
2026/2658(DEA)	Examination of delegated act

European green bonds

2021/0191(COD) - 06/07/2021 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to put in place a common set of requirements for a harmonised standard for European green bonds, which will further simplify environmentally sustainable investments and support a coordinated way of improving the functioning of the single market.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: over the last number of years, the EU has become significantly more ambitious in tackling climate change. The Commission has already taken unprecedented steps to build the foundations for sustainable finance. Sustainability is the central feature of the EU's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the financial sector will be key in helping to meet the targets of the European Green Deal.

The European Green Deal Investment Plan envisages the establishment of a standard for environmentally sustainable bonds to further increase investment opportunities and facilitate the identification of environmentally sustainable investments through a clear label. These environmentally sustainable bonds are one of the main instruments for financing investments related to low-carbon technologies, energy and resource efficiency as well as sustainable transport infrastructure and research infrastructure.

Given the existing divergences and absence of common rules, it is likely that Member States will adopt diverging measures and approaches, which will have a direct negative impact on, and create obstacles to, the proper functioning of the internal market, and be detrimental to issuers of environmentally sustainable bonds.

Thus, the need for a harmonised green bond standard to be applied across the Union by both public and private green bond issuers.

This proposal for a European Green Bond is anchored in the Taxonomy Regulation (EU) 2020/852. The Taxonomy Regulation establishes a classification of economic activities according to their environmental sustainability, with full compliance with minimum social safeguards as one of the determining criteria.

CONTENT: the proposal aims to (i) establish uniform requirements for bond issuers who voluntarily wish to use the ‘European Green Bond’ or ‘EuGB’ designation for their environmentally sustainable bonds in the Union, and (ii) establish a registration system and a framework for monitoring external examiners of European Green Bonds.

Conditions for the use of the ‘European Green Bond’ designation

The proposal:

- the limits the use of the ‘European Green Bond’ or ‘EuGB’ designation to issuers of bonds that meet specific requirements until the bond matures. This framework would be open to any bond issuer, including issuers of covered bonds and securitisations issued by a securitisation vehicle. In addition, the issuers concerned could be established both inside and outside the EU;

- requires that all use of bond proceeds shall relate to economic activities that meet the requirements for environmentally sustainable economic activities set out in Taxonomy Regulation, namely: making a substantial contribution to one or more of the environmental objectives and not significantly harming any of those environmental objectives.

Transparency and external review requirements for European green bonds

The issuance of a green bond should be fully transparent, with detailed reporting requirements.

The proposal clarifies that the bond may only be offered to the public in the Union after prior publication of the European green bond factsheet on the issuer’s website together with the pre-issuance review of the European green bond factsheet by an external reviewer. It imposes an obligation upon the issuer to draw up European green bond annual allocation reports yearly.

Conditions for taking up activities as external reviewers for European green bonds

The proposal includes a requirement to be registered and to meet the conditions for registration on an ongoing basis. Once registered, an external reviewer may conduct its activities throughout the entire territory of the Union. An external reviewer has to apply for registration from the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA). These measures do not apply to state auditors and other public entities mandated by sovereign issuers to assess compliance with the Regulation.

Rules on the provision of services by third-country external reviewers

The proposal lays down the powers of national competent authorities to supervise bond issuers. It also includes several provisions that specify the administrative sanctions and other administrative measures that competent authorities may impose as well as rules on the publication and reporting to ESMA of those sanctions.

It also sets out ESMA’s powers with regard to the supervision of external reviewers. These include the power to request information by simple request or by decision, the power to conduct general investigations as well as the power to conduct on-site inspections.

European green bonds

2021/0191(COD) - 20/05/2022 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs adopted the report by Paul TANG (S&D, NL) on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council regulation on European green bonds.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should be amended as follows:

Objectives

The proposal as amended would aim to better regulate the green bond market, strengthen its supervision and reduce greenwashing.

The Regulation would have three objectives:

- to ensure the comparability of bonds marketed as environmentally sustainable in the EU;

- to establish uniform requirements for the use of the name ‘European Green Bond’ or ‘EuGB’;

- to establish a simple registration system and supervisory framework for external reviewers by making a single supervisory authority responsible for the registration and supervision of external reviewers in the EU.

To facilitate comparison and prevent greenwashing, minimum sustainability disclosure requirements should apply to bonds marketed as environmentally sustainable and sustainability-related in the EU.

Alignment with the product use taxonomy

Eligible capital expenditure should relate to economic activities that meet or will meet the taxonomy requirements within five years from the issuance of the bond, unless a longer period of up to ten years is duly justified by the specific features of the economic activities and investments concerned and documented in a CapEx plan.

New requirements on benefitting entities

To avoid ‘brown’ companies (i.e. with highly polluting industries) using the EuGB label to pretend to be greener than they really are, the amended proposal requires that all EuGBs have **verified transition plans**. The text also ensures that all issuers of green bonds have processes in place to identify and limit the principal adverse impacts of their activity.

Issuers of bonds marketed as environmentally sustainable in the Union that do not use the designation ‘European green bonds’ or ‘EuGB’ should disclose in their pre-contractual disclosures: (i) a **clear and reasoned explanation** of how the bond takes account of principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors; (ii) **information** on how the environment characteristics of the bond are met. They should also indicate in the annual periodic reports the extent to which the environmental attributes are met.

Exclusion of non-cooperative countries and territories for tax purposes

Issuers of European Green Bonds that are located in countries on the EU list of non-cooperative countries and territories for tax purposes or, in the case of sovereign issuers, that facilitate tax evasion through their legal system, would not be allowed to use the European Green Bond designation.

Taxonomy equivalence

Where a third country has in place a taxonomy to facilitate sustainable investment which is substantially equivalent to the EU taxonomy, the Commission should, following a positive recommendation from the Platform on Sustainable Finance established under Regulation (EU) 2020/852, adopt delegated acts in order to supplement this Regulation by authorising that the use of proceeds of an EuGB can be allocated in accordance with that third-country taxonomy.

Civil liability

Civil liability provisions should apply to issuers of European green bonds in relation to damages incurred by investors due to an infringement of the taxonomy-aligned allocation of proceeds.

Stronger supervision

Supervision is strengthened in various ways. The potential for **conflicts of interest** for external reviewers assessing EuGBs should be reduced and provisions are included to ensure that authorities can prohibit companies from issuing EuGBs if they do not comply with the rules.

Increased transparency for gas and nuclear

The adopted text imposes stricter transparency requirements, so that where the issuer of a green bond plans to use the proceeds of the issue for nuclear or fossil gas activities, a statement should be prominently displayed on the first page of the EuGB information sheet.

Review

The application of the Regulation should be reviewed by the Commission five years after its entry into force and every three years thereafter, based on input from the Sustainable Finance Platform. Two years after the entry into force of the Regulation, the Commission should also produce an impact assessment to determine whether the European Green Bond standard should become mandatory.

European green bonds

2021/0191(COD) - 30/11/2023 - Final act

PURPOSE: to regulate the use of the name ‘European Green Bond’ or ‘EuGB’ for their environmentally sustainable bonds.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EU) 2023/2631 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Green Bonds and optional disclosures for bonds marketed as environmentally sustainable and for sustainability-linked bonds.

CONTENT: the regulation lays down uniform requirements for issuers of bonds that wish to use the designation ‘European green bond’ or ‘EuGB’ for their environmentally sustainable bonds, aligned with the EU taxonomy for sustainable activities and made available to investors globally.

Environmentally sustainable bonds are one of the main instruments for financing investments related to green technologies, energy efficiency and resource efficiency as well as sustainable transport infrastructure and research infrastructure.

The regulation establishes a **registration system and supervisory framework** for external reviewers of European green bonds and provides for some voluntary **disclosure requirements** for other environmentally sustainable bonds and sustainability-linked bonds issued in the EU.

The regulation is a further step in implementing the EU’s strategy on financing sustainable growth and the transition to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient economy. The new standard will foster consistency and comparability in the green bond market, benefitting both issuers and investors of green bonds.

Transparency and external review requirements

Before issuing European Green Bonds, issuers will complete the **EuGB factsheet** set out in Annex I of the Regulation and ensure that the completed EuGB factsheet has undergone a pre-issuance review by an external reviewer resulting in a positive opinion.

For every 12-month period until the date of full allocation of the proceeds of their European Green Bond and, where applicable, until the completion of the CapEx plan, issuers of European Green Bonds will draw up a European Green Bond allocation report using the template set out in Annex II of the Regulation. Issuers of European Green Bonds will be required to prepare, after the proceeds have been allocated in full and at least once during the life of the bonds, an EuGB impact report on the environmental impact of the use of the proceeds of these bonds.

To be able to use the designation ‘European Green Bond’ or ‘EuGB’, the issuer will have to publish a **prospectus**.

External reviewers

To improve the transparency of the methodology of external reviewers, to ensure that external reviewers have adequate qualifications, professional experience and independence, and to reduce the risk of potential conflicts of interest, and thus to ensure adequate investor protection, issuers of European Green Bonds will only make use of external reviewers, including from third countries, that have been **registered** and are subject to ongoing supervision by ESMA.

To ensure their independence and safeguard high standards of transparency and ethical conduct, external reviewers will comply with organisational requirements and rules of conduct to mitigate and **avoid situations of actual or potential conflict of interest** or manage those conflicts adequately when they are unavoidable.

Flexibility in the use of the proceeds of European Green Bonds

Under the regulation, all proceeds of EuGBs should be invested in economic activities that are **aligned with the EU taxonomy**, provided the sectors concerned are already covered by it. For those sectors not yet covered by the EU taxonomy and for certain very specific activities there will be a **flexibility pocket of 15%.**

Where an issuer allocates the proceeds of a European Green Bond, it should describe in the European Green Bond factsheet the activities concerned and the estimated percentage of the proceeds intended to finance such activities as a total and also per activity. It should also ensure that those activities meet **do not cause significant harm to any of the environmental objectives** and that they are carried out in compliance with the minimum safeguards. That demonstration should be included in the European Green Bond factsheet and should be validated by an external reviewer by means of a positive opinion in the pre-issuance review.

The use and the need for this flexibility pocket will be **re-evaluated** as Europe’s transition towards climate neutrality progresses.

Supervision

With regard to supervision, the designated competent national authorities of the home Member State (in accordance with the Prospectus Regulation) will ensure that issuers comply with their obligations under the new standard.

Review

By 21 December 2028 and every three years thereafter, the Commission will, after consulting ESMA and the Platform on Sustainable Finance established by Regulation (EU) 2020/852, submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the application of this Regulation. That report will evaluate, inter alia: the uptake of the European Green Bond standard and its market share, both in the Union and globally, in particular by small and medium-sized enterprises; as well as the impact of this Regulation on the transition to a sustainable economy, on the gap of investments needed to meet the Union climate targets and on redirecting private capital flows towards sustainable investments.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 20.12.2023.

APPLICATION: from 21.12.2024.

European green bonds

2021/0191(COD) - 05/10/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 418 votes to 79, with 72 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European green bonds.

The European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure amends the Commission proposal as follows:

Subject matter

This Regulation lays down uniform requirements for issuers of bonds who wish to use the designation **'European Green Bond' or 'EuGB'** for their bonds that are made available to investors in the Union. The rules are aligned with the framework of the **European taxonomy**, which defines the economic activities that the EU considers to be environmentally sustainable.

Transparency

All companies choosing to adopt the standards and therefore also the EuGB label when marketing a green bond should be required to disclose considerable information about how the bond's proceeds should be used. They should also be obliged to show how these investments feed into the transition plans of the company as a whole. To be able to use the designation 'European Green Bond' or 'EuGB', the issuer will have to publish a **prospectus**.

In order to prevent greenwashing in the green bond market in general, the Regulation also provides for optional disclosure templates for bonds marketed as environmentally sustainable and for sustainability-linked bonds in the EU. No later than twelve months after the date of entry into force of the Regulation, the Commission should publish guidelines establishing templates for voluntary pre-issuance disclosures for issuers of bonds marketed as environmentally sustainable and sustainability-linked bonds.

Securitised exposures

Specific disclosure and exclusion requirements should apply to bonds resulting from **securitisation** that are designated as 'European Green Bond' or 'EuGB' in order to enhance the confidence of investors and ensure that they are fully informed about the environmental characteristics of the transaction.

For the purposes of this Regulation, securitised exposures should not comprise exposures financing the exploration, mining, extraction, production, processing, storage, refining or distribution, including transportation, and trade of fossil fuels.

Exposures financing electricity generation from fossil fuels, co-generation of heat/cool and power from fossil fuels, or production of heat/cool from fossil fuels, where the activity meets the criteria for 'do no significant harm', may be included in the pool of securitised exposures for the purposes of this Regulation.

External reviewers

The regulation establishes a **registration system and supervisory framework** for external reviewers of European green bonds.

To ensure their independence and safeguard high standards of transparency and ethical conduct, external reviewers should comply with organisational requirements and rules of conduct to mitigate and avoid situations of actual or potential conflict of interest or manage those conflicts adequately when they are unavoidable.

External reviewers should not be entitled to conduct an external review in the case of a conflict of interest that cannot be properly addressed.

Flexibility

Under the new regulation, all proceeds of EuGBs should be invested in economic activities that are aligned with the EU taxonomy, provided the sectors concerned are already covered by it. For those sectors not yet covered by the EU taxonomy and for certain very specific activities there will be a **flexibility pocket of 15%.**

Where an issuer allocates the proceeds of a European Green Bond, it should describe in the European Green Bond factsheet the activities concerned and the estimated percentage of the proceeds intended to finance such activities as a total and also per activity. It should also ensure that those activities meet **do not cause significant harm to any of the environmental objectives** and that they are carried out in compliance with the minimum safeguards.

Monitoring

As regards supervision, the national competent authorities of the home Member State designated (in line with the Prospectus Regulation) should supervise that issuers comply with their obligations under the new standard. Competent authorities should be able to exercise their supervisory powers before and after the issuance of the European Green Bonds.