Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

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European Commission

DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Unit E.5 Pre-accession assistance

Brdo Declaration of the EU leaders

- Acknowledging the commitment of the Western Balkans leaders to fully implement the Green Agenda through the related Action Plan for the implementation of the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda;

- Confirming that in line with the EU Green Deal, the Green Agenda is a key driver for the transition to modern, carbon-neutral, climate-resilient and resource-efficient economies.

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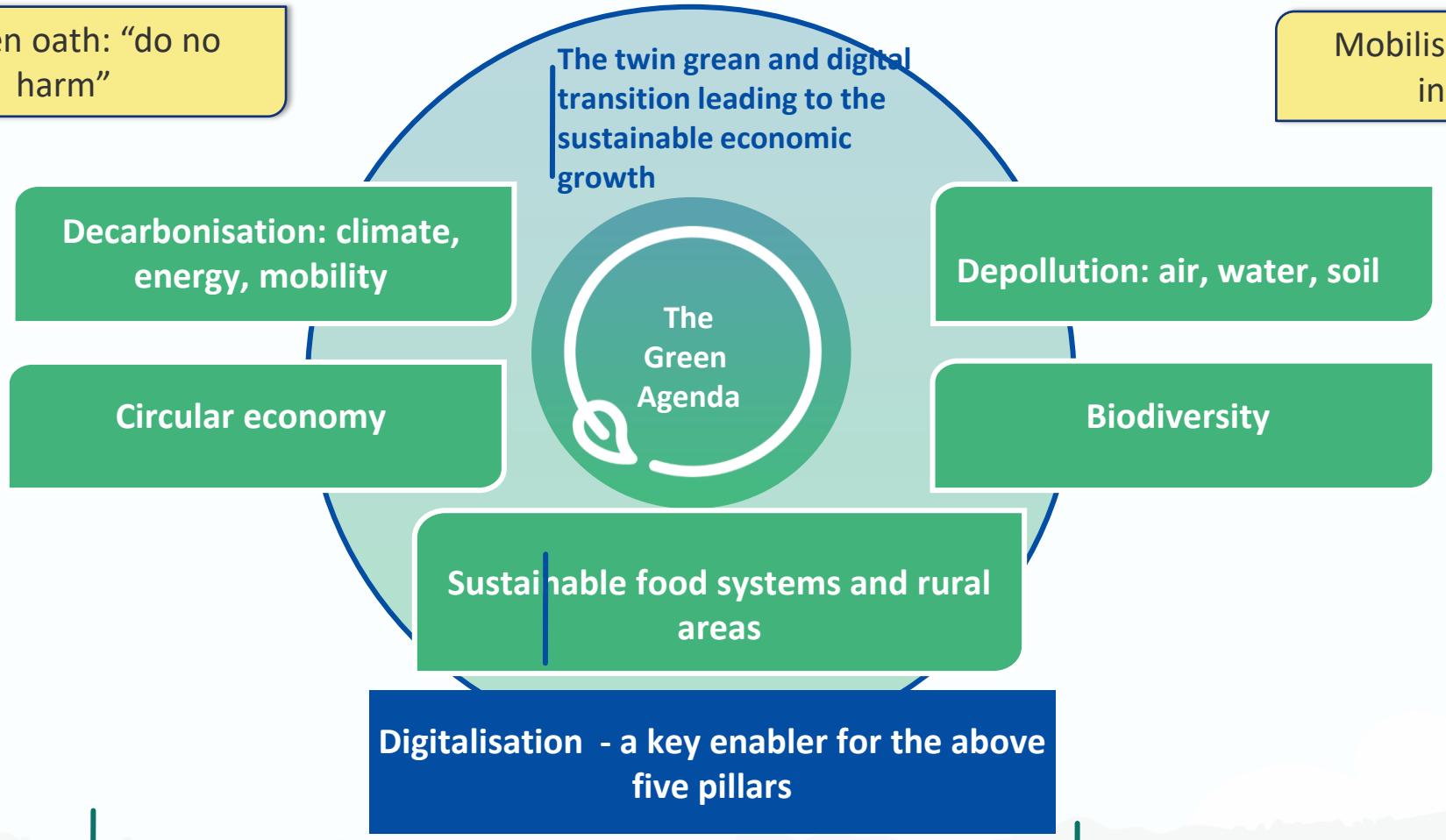
Green transition – role for European agriculture

- *"European farmers are key to managing the transition."*
- *"The business of farmers depends on natural resources. For farmers, fighting climate change and protecting the environment means protecting the future of their own livelihood."*
- *"A reformed, future-oriented European agricultural policy is a core element of the Green Deal. A policy that helps farmers in the transition and that rewards farmers for protecting climate and nature while securing food security as well as their competitiveness and livelihoods."*

The Green Agenda – the five pillars

A green oath: “do no harm”

Mobilising research & innovation



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Challenges to the food system

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Healthier diets – reduce overweight

Improve animal welfare

Social rights workers in food chain

Food affordability

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Tackle climate change

Protect the environment

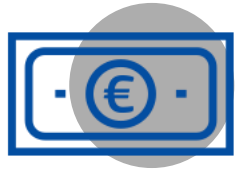
Preserve biodiversity

Reduce food losses and waste

Circular bio-based economy

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

Fairer incomes for farmers & fishers



Just transition

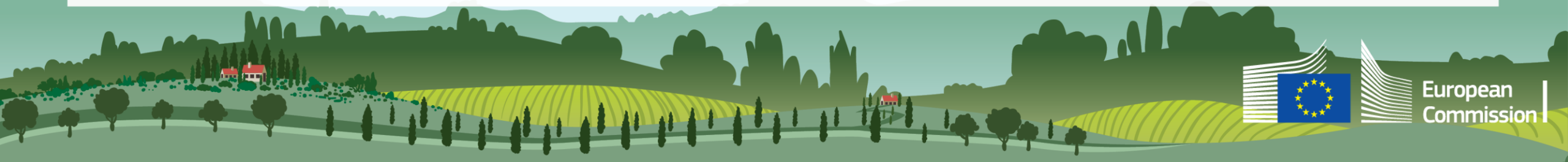
New business & job opportunities

Decarbonisation & circular economy

Decarbonisation	Circular economy
▪ GHG emissions reduction & climate adaptation strategies ▪ Economic growth decoupled from resource use; ▪ Baseline for the WB emissions level and their sources; ▪ Diversified renewable energy sources & energy efficiency	▪ Maintaining resources in the economy for as long as possible ▪ Waste transformed into high-quality resources; ▪ Investing in waste management infrastructure & in public awareness

Depollution & Biodiversity

Depollution	Biodiversity
▪ Reducing air pollution including from agriculture; air quality strategies; ▪ Addressing pressures on water: quality (nitrates and pesticides) & water quantity; water legislation & waste and manure management; ▪ Responding to land degradation and soil erosion.	▪ Mainstreaming nature and biodiversity into other policies; aligning WB policies with the EU Biodiversity Strategy & strengthening regional cooperation; ▪ Encouraging an effective afforestation & forest restoration to improve sustainable forest management (CO2 absorption and the bioeconomy); ▪ Promoting nature-based solutions



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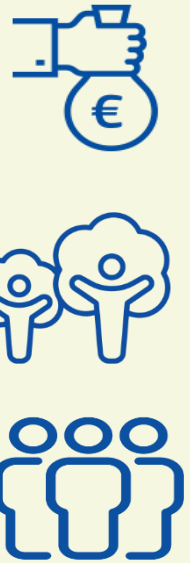
Sustainable food systems and rural areas - main initiatives

Challenges



- Aligning with EU standards
- Strengthening the sanitary controls to ensure food safety
- Promoting environmentally friendly and organic farming
- Supporting cooperation to facilitate transfer of innovative & environmentally friendly technologies
- Reducing waste in rural areas
- Implementing sustainable development of rural areas

Mechanisms of implementation

Mainstreaming environment and climate in relevant policy areas & setting wide environmental governance framework

Reducing the chemical input by establishing the baseline situation and a reliable monitoring system

Establishing a proper regulatory framework for waste management

Aligning national law with the EU legislation, incl. with EU acquis on organic production

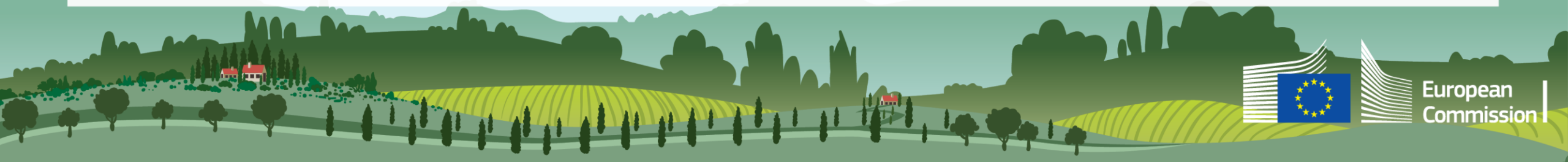
Developing farm advisory services & strengthening national regulatory efforts incl. on research, innovation

Strengthening institutions ensuring compliance with standards

Defining minimum standards for good agricultural and environmental condition of land

Supporting short food supply chains and quality products & economic diversification

Source of funding: IPARD but also other funds (donors) & national funds



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IPARD 2021-2027 tools for Green Agenda

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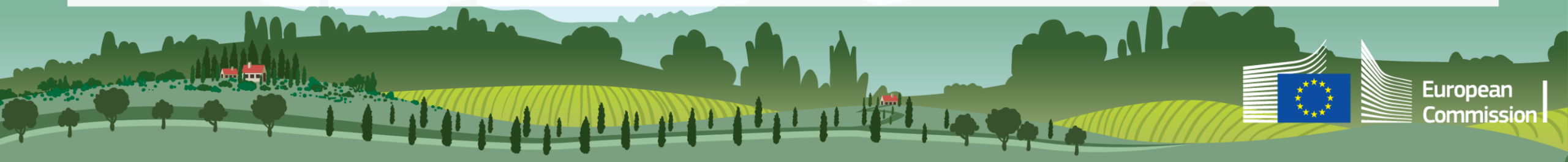
How can IPARD help Green Agenda objectives

- Sustainable farming practices: organic farming, agro-ecology, precision agriculture, carbon farming, integrated pest management, genetic resources, animal welfare, farms bio-security
- Climate change mitigation & adaptation: afforestation, agro-forestry, forest conservation & resilience
- Resources management: energy & water efficiency, sustainable irrigation, renewable energy
- Circular economy: transforming livestock waste into energy sources or fertilization, biogas structures, waste collection points
- Advice to farmers & digitalisation of agri-food sector and rural areas
- Diversification & rural areas development: short supply chains, local markets, LEADER approach.



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The role of IPA & IPARD in implementing Green Agenda

- Agriculture & rural areas have essential roles to play in the Green Agenda.

- Sustainable agriculture and food production is the centerpiece of the CAP and IPARD programmes which reward farmers for their use of sustainable practices.

- IPA framework with specific windows addressing the implementation of the Green Agenda encourages development of renewable energy sources, resource-efficient and sustainable low-carbon economies and environmental protection.

- IPA III Regulation promotes the green agenda through its specific objectives and thematic priorities:

- To reinforce environmental protection (halting biodiversity loss, waste and water management, transition to green & circular economies)
- To contribute to the mitigation of climate change and to increase resilience to climate change, and
- To accelerate the shift towards a low-carbon economy

- Actions under IPA III are expected to contribute 18 % of the overall financial envelope of IPA III to climate objectives

Benefits of implementing the Green Agenda

- The Green Agenda and the transition to sustainable food production systems provide numerous benefits:

- farmers' position in the food supply chain and their income and competitiveness,

- nutritious & healthy food ensuring the health and wellbeing of the citizens,

- the region attractiveness for investments and tourism,

- the economic and job opportunities of the green growth and circular economy.

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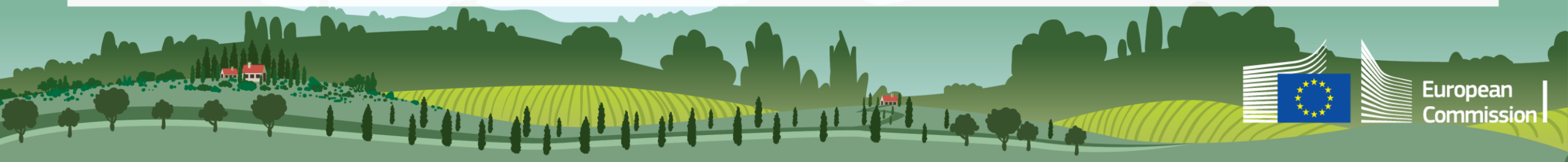
THANK YOU



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