Transition plans of Major European Banks: interesting information on the decarbonisation of their financing portfolios

Note written for Eurofi by Jean-François Pons, Alphalex-Consult

Introduction

The major European banks have published transition plans in 2025 and 2026 pursuant to the CSRD (Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive) and the CSDDD (Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive), which apply to all very large companies, as well as the CRD6 directive (Capital requirements directive 6), which applies specifically to the banking sector.

The analysis of the transition plans of the major banking groups in the European Union is not facilitated by the heterogeneity and length of publications.

However, it provides interesting information, in particular on their objectives for decarbonising their loan portfolios in the most carbon-intensive sectors, as well as on the results of 2025 (or 2024) compared to these objectives.

Indeed, the major banks of the European Union publish decarbonisation targets by 2030 for their loan portfolios in all or almost all the following carbon-intensive sectors: oil and gas, electricity production, cars, steel, cement, aluminium, maritime transport, aviation, commercial real estate. Some add residential real estate and a few coal, which most of them have stopped financing.

They also publish the results obtained in 2025 or 2024, which makes it possible to situate their progress against a reference year (generally 2020, 2021, or 2022) and against the objectives.

They generally rely on the same scenarios from international organisations, notably those of the International Energy Agency, and use the same methodologies. This harmonisation in the preparation of these publications is a legacy of the Net Zero Banking Alliance, of which these banks were members.

To make the presentation of this data as readable as possible, we first give the complete table of a bank (BNP Paribas) for example. Then we will try to summarise the publications of 6 major banking groups whose headquarters are located in 6 different countries of the European Union: BBVA, BNP Paribas, Deutsche Bank, ING, Intesa San Paolo and Nordea.

1. The example of the BNP Paribas publication

The bank made a very clear presentation of the objectives aimed at limiting greenhouse gas emissions from its credit portfolios in 9 carbon-intensive sectors *(Annex 1)*.

The objectives for 2030 (compared to 2022 or 2020 or 2021 depending on the sectors) and the results for 2025 are as follows for the 9 sectors considered:

- Oil and gas: base figure (2022): 27.3 million tons of CO_2 equivalent; 2030 target: 8.2 Mt (-75% compared to 2022); 2025 result: 5.3 Mt (-81%);
- Electricity production: base figure (2020): 208 g of CO_2 per kWh; 2030 target: 110-125 g (-47% to -40%); 2025 result: 119 g (-42%);
- Steel: base figure (2022): 1.6 tons of CO_2 per ton of crude steel; 2030 target: 1.2 t (-25%); 2025 result: 1.4 t (-12%);

- Automobile: base figure (2020): 183 g of CO_2 per km driven; 2030 target: 115-130 g (-37% to -28%); 2025 result: 141 g (-23%);
- Aluminum: base figure (2022): 6.2 tons of CO_2 equivalent per ton of aluminum; 2030 target: 5.8 t (-10%); 2025 result: 5.0 t (-19%);
- Cement: base figure (2021): 0.67 tons of CO_2 per ton of product; 2030 target: 0.51 t (-24%); 2025 result: 0.62 t (-7%);
- Air transport: base figure (2022): 956 g CO_2 equivalent per ton-kilometer transported; 2030 target: 785 (-18%); 2024 result: 894 g CO_2e/t-km (-6%);
- Maritime transport: base figure (2022): 8.3 grams of CO_2 equivalent per ton transported per nautical mile; 2030 target: 5.8 to 6.4 g (-32% to -24%); 2025 result: 8.2 (-1%);
- Commercial real estate: base figure (2022): 28.4 kg of CO_2 equivalent per m^2; 2030 target: 16.7 to 19.5 kg (-41% to -31%); 2025 result: 29.1 kg (+2%).

BNP Paribas also indicates for each sector which scenarios from an international organisation have been used to establish these trajectories: those of the International Energy Agency for oil and gas, electricity production, automobiles, and cement, and those of specialised organisations for other sectors.

We immediately see from reading these data, first of all, the degree of ambition of the 2030 objectives according to sectors:

- very strong for oil and gas (-75%),
- strong for electricity production (-47% to -40%), automobiles (-37% to -28%), maritime transport (-32% to -24%) and commercial real estate,
- lower for steel (-25%), cement (-24%), air transport (-18%) and aluminium (-10%).

We also see the degree of achievement of these objectives in 2025:

- Excellent for oil and gas, where the 2030 target is already largely exceeded, as for aluminium, but also for electricity generation, where the target has already been reached;
- On a good trajectory for the automotive sector, as well as for steel;
- On a trajectory that is still uncertain for cement and for air transport;
- Finally, disappointing results until 2025 for maritime transport (-1% for a target of -32% to -24%) and even more for commercial real estate (+2% for a target of -41% to -31%).

2. Comparative table of the 6 major banking groups selected

We have chosen to compare the carbon trajectories of 6 banking groups whose headquarters are in six different countries of the European Union: BBVA, BNP Paribas, Deutsche Bank, ING, Intesa San Paolo and Nordea. This comparison is illustrated by the tables in Annex 2 but can also be summarised by the graphs below *(see Chart 1)*.

These graphs show similarities between the 6 banks for some sectors but also significant differences for other sectors.

For oil and gas, there are striking differences in the objectives and in the results. BNP Paribas and Nordea have targets that are more ambitious than those of Deutsche Bank and BBVA. And, more importantly, their latest results are already better than their targets, while those of Deutsche Bank and BBVA are in line with their targets.

For electricity generation, there are also differences in ambition in the targets and in the results. Deutsche Bank, BNP Paribas and ING have the most ambitious targets. BNP Paribas and ING also achieved impressive results, while Deutsche Bank is lagging, and the 3 other banks are in line with their targets.

For the automotive sector, the targets are relatively aligned; Deutsche Bank has the most ambitious one. The latest results are close and well aligned with the targets, except for Deutsche Bank and Intesa.

For steel, the targets are close, and the latest results are well aligned to the targets. Deutsche Bank has the most ambitious target and the best result.

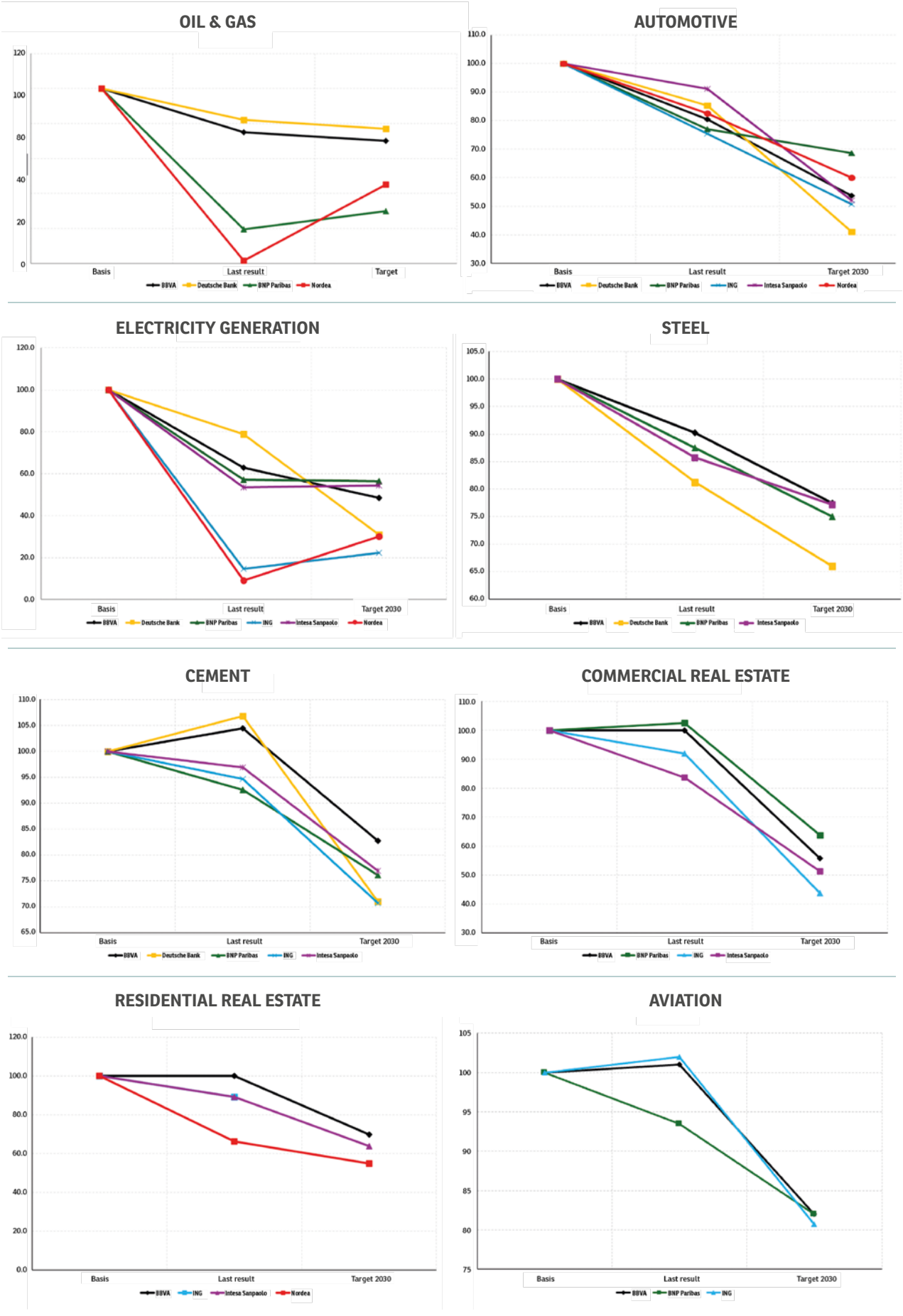
For cement, the targets are relatively close, but the latest results are very different. Deutsche Bank and BBVA have an increase in the carbon intensity of their portfolio, while the three other banks report a decrease somewhat aligned to their targets.

For commercial real estate, the targets are rather close and ambitious, but the latest results are different: BNP Paribas and BBVA did not decrease the carbon intensity of their portfolios, unlike ING and Intesa.

For residential real estate, Nordea has the most ambitious target and has already achieved a better result. BBVA, ING and Intesa are in line with their targets.

Finally, for aviation, the three banks have the same ambitious targets, but only BNP Paribas managed to decrease the carbon intensity of its loans to the sector.

CHART 1.


OIL & GAS
Basis
Last result
Target
BBVA
Deutsche Bank
BNP Paribas
Nordea
AUTOMOTIVE
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Target 2030
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Intesa Sanpaolo
Nordea
ELECTRICITY GENERATION
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Nordea
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BNP Paribas
ING

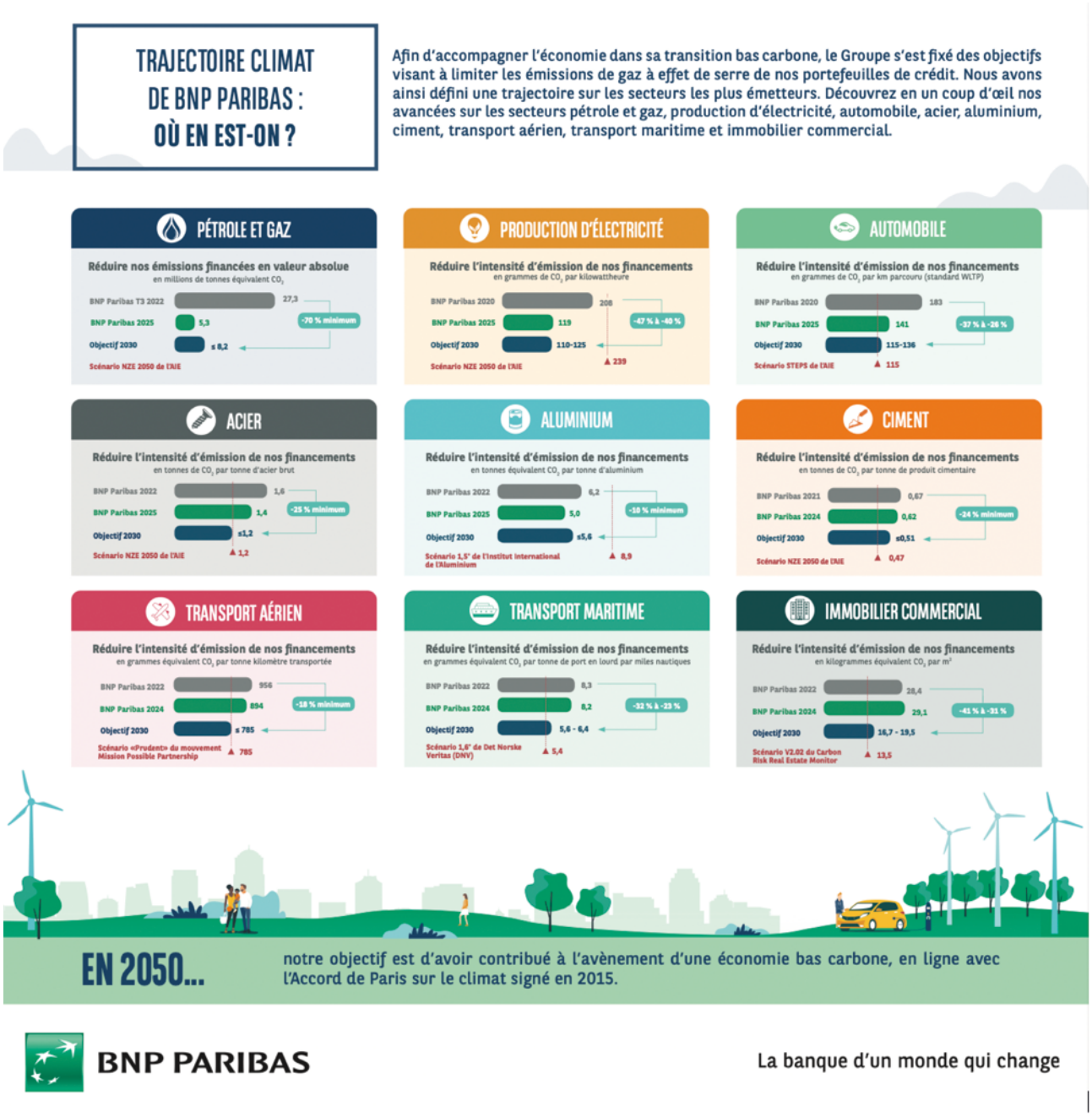
Conclusion: an interesting surveillance tool

The comparison of the decarbonisation targets and the latest results published by the 6 banks of this sample shows interesting results for the comparison of the banks, but also for the sectors concerned. It raises questions about the reasons for these different trajectories.

For most sectors, the decarbonisation of the lending portfolio of these banks seems, on average, to be on a satisfactory path vis-à-vis their targets, with sometimes striking differences between the banks. The worst results, on average, are for cement, commercial real estate and aviation.

All parties interested in the surveillance of the transition towards a less carbonated economy should pay attention to these publications year after year.

Annex 1



Annex 2a (units)

TABLE 1.a
Carbon Decarbonisation Trajectories: Energy & Heavy Industry

Bank	Oil & Gas			Electricity generation			Automotive			Steel			Cement			Aluminium		
	Basis	Last result	Target 2030	Basis	Last result	Target 2030	Basis	Last result	Target 2030	Basis	Last result	Target 2030	Basis	Last result	Target 2030	Basis	Last result	Target 2030
BBVA	14 $MtCO_2e$ (2021)	10.5 $MtCO_2e$ (2024) (-25% vs basis)	9.8 $MtCO_2e$ (-30%)	221 $kgCO_2e/MWh$ (2020)	139 $kgCO_2e/MWh$ (2024) (-37%)	107 $kgCO_2e/MWh$ (-51.6%)	205 gCO_2/vkm (2020)	165 gCO_2/vkm (2024) (-19.5%)	110 gCO_2/vkm (-46.3%)	1,270 $kgCO_2e/t$ steel (2020)	1,146 $kgCO_2e/t$ steel (2024) (-9.8%)	984 $kgCO_2e/t$ steel (-22.5%)	700 $kgCO_2e/t$ cement (2020)	731 $kgCO_2e/t$ cement (2024) (+4.4%)	579 $kgCO_2e/t$ cement (-17.3%)	n.a.	-1.4% alignment delta (2023)	≤0% alignment delta
Deutsche Bank	23.4 $MtCO_2/y$ (2021)	19.2 $MtCO_2/y$ (2024) (-18% vs basis)	-23% vs baseline	396 $kgCO_2e/MWh$ (2021)	312 $kgCO_2e/MWh$ (2024) (-21.2%)	-69% vs baseline	190 gCO_2/vkm (2021)	162 gCO_2/vkm (2024) (-14.7%)	-59% vs baseline	1,519 $kgCO_2e/t$ steel (2021)	1,234 $kgCO_2e/t$ steel (2024) (-18.8%)	-34% vs baseline	731 $kgCO_2e/t$ cement (2022)	781 $kgCO_2e/t$ cement (2024) (+6.8%)	-29% vs baseline	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
BNP Paribas	27.3 $MtCO_2e$ (Q3 2022)	5.3 $MtCO_2e$ (2025) (-80.6% vs basis)	≤8.2 $MtCO_2e$ (-70%)	208 gCO_2/kWh (2020)	119 gCO_2/kWh (2025) (-42.8%)	110–125 gCO_2/kWh (-47% to -40%)	183 gCO_2/km WLTP (2020)	141 gCO_2/km WLTP (2025) (-23%)	115–136 gCO_2/km WLTP (-37% to -26%)	1.6 tCO_2/t crude steel (2022)	1.4 tCO_2/t crude steel (2025) (-12.5%)	≤1.2 tCO_2/t crude steel (-25%)	0.67 tCO_2/t cement (2021)	0.62 tCO_2/t cement (2024) (-7.5%)	≤0.51 tCO_2/t cement (-24%)	6.2 tCO_2e/t aluminium (2022)	5.0 tCO_2e/t aluminium (2025) (-19.4%)	≤5.6 tCO_2e/t aluminium (-9.7%)
ING	Upstream: €6.6bn loan limits (2019); Mid/downstream: 19.2 $kgCO_2e/boe$ (2022)	Upstream: €1.9bn loan limits (2025); Mid/downstream: 19.0 $kgCO_2e/boe$ (2025) Upstream: -71% vs basis; Mid/downstream: -1% vs basis	Upstream: €4.3bn loan limits; Mid/downstream: 14.5 $kgCO_2e/boe$ Upstream: -35%; Mid/downstream: -24%	297 $kgCO_2e/MWh$ (2018)	43.6 $kgCO_2e/MWh$ (2025) (-85.3%)	66 $kgCO_2e/MWh$ (-77.8%)	0.199 $kgCO_2/vkm$ (2020)	0.150 $kgCO_2/vkm$ (2025) (-24.6%)	0.101 $kgCO_2/vkm$ (-49.2%)	n.a.	5.4% SSP misalignment; 1.90 tCO_2/t steel (2025)	0% alignment delta	0.734 tCO_2/t cement (2020)	0.695 tCO_2/t cement (2025) (-5.3%)	0.519 tCO_2/t cement (-29.3%)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Intesa Sanpaolo	64 gCO_2e/MJ (30.06.2021)	63 gCO_2e/MJ (31.12.2025) (-1.6% vs basis)	55 gCO_2e/MJ (52–58) (-19% to -9%)	202 $kgCO_2e/MWh$ (31.12.2022)	108 $kgCO_2e/MWh$ (31.12.2025) (-46.5%)	110 $kgCO_2e/MWh$ (-45.5%)	192 gCO_2e/km (31.12.2022)	175 gCO_2e/km (31.12.2025) (-9%)	100 gCO_2e/km (-48%)	1.05 tCO_2/t steel (31.12.2022)	0.90 tCO_2/t steel (31.12.2025) (-14.3%)	0.81 tCO_2/t steel (-23%)	0.65 tCO_2e/t cement (31.12.2022)	0.63 tCO_2e/t cement (31.12.2025) (-3%)	0.50 tCO_2e/t cement (-23%)	4.79 tCO_2e/t aluminium (31.12.2022)	3.03 tCO_2e/t aluminium (31.12.2025) (-36.7%)	4.31 tCO_2e/t aluminium (-10%)
Nordea	0.729 $MtCO_2e$ (2024)	0.012 $MtCO_2e$ (2025) (-98.4% vs basis)	0.328 $MtCO_2e$ (2035) (-55% vs 2024 basis)	220 gCO_2e/kWh (2021)	20 gCO_2e/kWh (2024) (-90.9%)	66 gCO_2e/kWh (2030) (-70%)	114 gCO_2e/km (2022)	94 gCO_2e/km (2025) (-17.5%)	68.4 gCO_2e/km (2030) (-40%)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

TABLE 2.a
Carbon Decarbonisation Trajectories: Transport & Real Estate

Bank	Aviation			Shipping			Residential real estate			Commercial real estate		
	Basis	Last result	Target 2030	Basis	Last result	Target 2030	Basis	Last result	Target 2030	Basis	Last result	Target 2030
BBVA	89 gCO_2e/RPK (2022)	90 gCO_2e/RPK (2024) (+1% vs basis)	73 gCO_2e/RPK (-18%)	n.a.	Min. -7.49%; striving -2.99% alignment delta (2024)	≤0% alignment delta	21.2 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (2023)	21.2 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (2023) (0%)	14.8 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (-30.2%)	21.0 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (2023)	21.0 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (2023) (0%)	11.7 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (-44.3%)
Deutsche Bank	1.3% alignment score (2023)	1.3% alignment score (2023) (0% vs basis)	0% alignment score	Min. 14.1%; striving 18.3% (2022)	Min. 14.2%; striving 19.7% (2023)	Min. n.a.; striving 0%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
BNP Paribas	956 gCO_2e/t-km (2022)	894 gCO_2e/t-km (2024) (-6.5% vs basis)	≤785 gCO_2e/t-km (-18%)	8.3 gCO_2e/dwt-nm (2022)	8.2 gCO_2e/dwt-nm (2024) (-1.2%)	5.6–6.4 gCO_2e/dwt-nm (-32% to -23%)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	28.4 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (2022)	29.1 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (2024) (+2.5%)	16.7–19.5 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (-41% to -31%)
ING	844 gCO_2e/RTK (2023)	861 gCO_2e/RTK (2024) (+2% vs basis)	681 gCO_2e/RTK (-19.3%)	n.a.	-4.6% alignment delta (2024)	0% alignment delta	39.8 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (2021)	35.5 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (2025) (-10.8%)	n.a.	37.0 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (2022)	34.0 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (2025) (-8%)	16.2 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (-56.2%)
Intesa Sanpaolo	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	30.13 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (31.12.2022)	26.88 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (31.12.2025) (-10.8% vs basis)	19.26 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (-36%)	43.16 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (31.12.2022)	36.14 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (31.12.2025) (-16.3%)	22.11 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (-48.8%)
Nordea	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	8.3 gCO_2e/dwt-nm (2019)	7.0 gCO_2e/dwt-nm (2024) (-15.4%)	5.81 gCO_2e/dwt-nm (2030) (-30%)	12.2 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (2019)	8.1 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (2025) (-33.7%)	6.1–7.3 $kgCO_2e/m^2$ (2030) (-50% to -40%)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Annex 2b (%)

TABLE 1.b
Carbon Decarbonisation Trajectories: Energy & Heavy Industry

Bank	Oil & Gas (bank-specific metrics)			Electricity generation ($kgCO_2e$/MWh)			Automotive (gCO_2e/vkm)			Steel ($kgCO_2e$/t steel)			Cement ($kgCO_2e$/t cement)			Aluminium (tCO_2e/t aluminium)		
	Basis (absolute)	Last result (% vs basis)	Target 2030 (% vs basis)	Basis (absolute)	Last result (% vs basis)	Target 2030 (% vs basis)	Basis (absolute)	Last result (% vs basis)	Target 2030 (% vs basis)	Basis (absolute)	Last result (% vs basis)	Target 2030 (% vs basis)	Basis (absolute)	Last result (% vs basis)	Target 2030 (% vs basis)	Basis (absolute)	Last result (% vs basis)	Target 2030 (% vs basis)
BBVA	14 $MtCO_2e$ (2021)	-25% (2024)	-30%	221 (2020)	-37% (2024)	-51.6%	205 (2020)	-19.5% (2024)	-46.3%	1,270 (2020)	-9.8% (2024)	-22.5%	700 (2020)	+4.4% (2024)	-17.3%	n.a.	-1.4% alignment delta (2023)	≤0% alignment delta
Deutsche Bank	23.4 $MtCO_2/y$ (2021)	-18% (2024)	-23%	396 (2021)	-21.2% (2024)	-69%	190 (2021)	-14.7% (2024)	-59%	1,519 (2021)	-18.8% (2024)	-34%	731 (2022)	+6.8% (2024)	-29%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
BNP Paribas	27.3 $MtCO_2e$ (Q3 2022)	-80.6% (2025)	-70%	208 (2020)	-42.8% (2025)	-47% to -40%	183 (2020)	-23% (2025)	-37% to -26%	1,600 (2022)	-12.5% (2025)	-25%	670 (2021)	-7.5% (2024)	-24%	6.2 (2022)	-19.4% (2025)	-9.7%
ING	Upstream: €6.6bn loan limits (2019) Mid/downstream: 19.2 $kgCO_2e$/boe (2022)	Upstream: -71% Mid/downstream: -1% (2025)	Upstream: -35% Mid/downstream: -24%	297 (2018)	-85.3% (2025)	-77.8%	199 (2020)	-24.6% (2025)	-49.2%	n.a.	5.4% SSP misalignment (2025)	0% alignment delta	734 (2020)	-5.3% (2025)	-29.3%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Intesa Sanpaolo	64 gCO_2e/MJ (30.06.2021)	-1.6% (31.12.2025)	-19% to -9%	202 (31.12.2022)	-46.5% (31.12.2025)	-45.5%	192 (31.12.2022)	-9% (31.12.2025)	-48%	1,050 (31.12.2022)	-14.3% (31.12.2025)	-23%	650 (31.12.2022)	-3% (31.12.2025)	-23%	4.79 (31.12.2022)	-36.7% (31.12.2025)	-10%
Nordea	0.729 $MtCO_2e$ (2024)	-98.4% (2025)	-55% (2035)	220 (2021)	-90.9% (2024)	-70% (2030)	114 (2022)	-17.5% (2025)	-40% (2030)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

TABLE 2.b
Carbon Decarbonisation Trajectories: Transport & Real Estate

Bank	Aviation (bank-specific intensity metrics)			Shipping (bank-specific metrics)			Residential real estate ($kgCO_2e/m^2$)			Commercial real estate ($kgCO_2e/m^2$)		
	Basis (absolute)	Last result (% vs basis)	Target 2030 (% vs basis)	Basis (absolute)	Last result (% vs basis)	Target 2030 (% vs basis)	Basis (absolute)	Last result (% vs basis)	Target 2030 (% vs basis)	Basis (absolute)	Last result (% vs basis)	Target 2030 (% vs basis)
BBVA	89 gCO_2e/RPK (2022)	+1% (2024)	-18%	n.a.	Min. -7.49%; striving -2.99% alignment delta (2024)	≤0% alignment delta	21.2 (2023)	0% (2023)	-30.2%	21.0 (2023)	0% (2023)	-44.3%
Deutsche Bank	1.3% alignment score (2023)	0% vs basis (2023)	0% alignment score	Min. 14.1%; striving 18.3% (2022)	Min. 14.2%; striving 19.7% (2023)	Min. n.a.; striving 0%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
BNP Paribas	956 gCO_2e/t-km (2022)	-6.5% (2024)	-18%	8.3 gCO_2e/dwt-nm (2022)	-1.2% (2024)	-32% to -23%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	28.4 (2022)	+2.5% (2024)	-41% to -31%
ING	844 gCO_2e/RTK (2023)	+2% (2024)	-19.3%	n.a.	-4.6% alignment delta (2024)	0% alignment delta	39.8 (2021)	-10.8% (2025)	n.a.	37.0 (2022)	-8% (2025)	-56.2%
Intesa Sanpaolo	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	30.13 (31.12.2022)	-10.8% (31.12.2025)	-36%	43.16 (31.12.2022)	-16.3% (31.12.2025)	-48.8%
Nordea	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	8.3 gCO_2e/dwt-nm (2019)	-15.4% (2024)	-30% (2030)	12.2 (2019)	-33.7% (2025)	-50% to -40% (2030)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.