

To:

EU Heads of State and Government

President of the European Commission,

President of the European Council

President of the European Parliament

College of Commissioners

Statement from the Coalition for Higher Ambition on the EU 2030 Climate Target

We are writing to you on behalf of an alliance of European cities, local and regional authorities, business associations, investor groups and civil society organisations, in support of the European Commission's proposal to substantially increase the EU's 2030 Target.

Europe is facing unprecedented challenges. The impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic requires swift, coordinated and foresighted action. At the same time, our response to the global health and economic crisis will also impact how we tackle a crisis of even bigger magnitude: the global climate and environmental emergency.

This year will be a critical year to ensure that the world can collectively achieve the goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°Celsius above pre-industrial levels, as agreed under the Paris Agreement.

For years, science has been clear and alarming: current international commitments are vastly insufficient to achieve the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement and might only limit temperature rise to 3°C or more by the end of the century. This poses an existential threat to our global ecosystem and the livelihoods of billions of mostly poor and vulnerable people, with expected welfare losses in the EU of at least 175 billion EUR per year¹. Already today, impacts of climate change are visible, disruptive and distressing, as underlined by the recent European State of the Climate², with severe detrimental effects on people's health and livelihoods.

NGOs, local communities, businesses, investors and local and regional authorities across Europe are demanding ambitious and science-based public action against climate change, while 93% of EU citizens see climate change as a serious problem³. Determined and ambitious

¹ JRC (2020). Economic analysis of selected climate impacts.

https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC120452/pesetaiv_task_14_economic_analysis_final_report.pdf

² Copernicus (2020). European State of the Climate. https://climate.copernicus.eu/sites/default/files/2020-04/ESOTC2019_summary.pdf

³ Eurobarometer (2019). [Citizen support for climate action](#)

climate action across all sectors of the economy⁴ will not only avert the most dire future costs of climate change impacts, but also provides a unique societal and economic opportunity to achieve a socially just transition for all European regions, towards an economy that is healthier, more sustainable and prosperous. For this transformation of the European economy to be successful, we need to secure that sufficient financial means are mobilized to ensure full solidarity with the most vulnerable sectors and regions and maintain strong and inclusive participation at all stages of affected stakeholders. Economic experts⁵ encourage decision makers to prioritise recovery policies that accelerate the transition to low carbon economies, due to their high potential to both stimulate the economy and reduce climate impacts.

The European Union needs to lead by example and substantially enhance commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 before the end of the year. It would on one hand give a clear direction to the European economy and on the other hand, protect citizens from future disruptions of worsening impacts of climate change.

We, as members of the Coalition for Higher Ambition, urge you in your deliberations on the EU's 2030 climate target to support the highest level of ambition possible. This should be at least -55%, while some members of the Coalition, similar to some members of the European Parliament, are calling for an emission reduction of -65%. This should be achieved by strong emission reductions and supported by additional decisive action to remove emissions through Nature Based Solutions in line with the need to protect Europe's biodiversity.

We are confident that you will take this urgent call into due account and count on you to secure the protection of our planet and the well-being of Europe's citizens.

We remain at your disposal to further discuss ways on how to deliver together on these proposals for an inclusive and sustainable climate transition in Europe.

SIGNATORIES



⁴ 484 European companies have committed to or have already set [science-based targets](#) (SBTs) and are already contributing to an increased EU climate ambition. 159 leading European companies have committed to align their business with a 1.5°C future through the Science Based Targets initiative's Business Ambition for 1.5°C campaign.

⁵ Hepburn, C., O'Callaghan, B., Stern, N., Stiglitz, J., and Zenghelis, D. (2020), '[Will COVID-19 fiscal recovery packages accelerate or retard progress on climate change?](#)', Smith School Working Paper 20-02



THE B TEAM ▶



CPMR CRPM
Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions



PLAN B
Plan B za Slovenijo
Mreža nevladnih organizacij
za trajnostni razvoj



KESK
KONNA
ÖIGUSE
KESKUS



EKOenergy
ecolabel



Center
for Transport
and Energy

OXFAM

CARE



Citizens' Climate Europe



Signatories

Austrian Alliance for Climate Justice (Austria)

CARE International

CDP Europe

Center for Transport and Energy (Czechia)

Citizens' Climate Lobby - EU

Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe

Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)

Corporate Leaders Group Europe

DOOR - Society For Sustainable Development Design (Croatia)

ECOLISE – European Network for Community-Led Initiatives on Climate Change and Sustainability

EDF (Électricité de France)

EKOenergy

EMBER

Estonian Fund for Nature (Estonia)

Estonian Environmental Law Centre (Estonia)

EUROCITIES

European Alliance to Save Energy (EU – ASE)

European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (eceee)

European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

European Environmental Citizens Organisation for Standardisation (ECOS)

European Federation of Agencies and Regions for Energy and the Environment (FEDARENE)

European Federation of Citizen Energy Cooperatives (REScoop)

European Heat Pump Association (EHPA)

European Industrial Insulation Foundation (EiiF)

FOCUS - Association for Sustainable Development (Slovenia)

GEN-I, trgovanje in prodaja električne energije, d.o.o. (Slovenia)

Green Liberty (Latvia)

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC)

Institute for Innovation and Development of University of Ljubljana (IRI UL)

International Institute for Law & the Environment (IIDMA- Spain)

Italian Climate Network

Health Care Without Harm

Legambiente (Italy)

Klimatická Koalice (Czech Climate Coalition)

NAPE (Poland)

Oxfam EU Advocacy Office

Plan B for Slovenia, a network of NGOs for sustainable development

Protect our Winters – Austria

Protect our Winters – EU

Smart Energy Europe (smartEn)

Solar Heat Europe

The B Team

The Club of Rome – EU Chapter

Umanoterra – the Slovenian Foundation for Sustainable Development

We Mean Business Coalition

ZERO (Portugal)