



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
CLIMATE ACTION

The Director-General

Dear Petitioner,

We would like to thank you for your interest in EU climate action.

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing the world today, and taking action to address it is a top priority for the European Commission. Europe has been working hard over the past decades to cut its greenhouse gas emissions substantially while encouraging other countries and regions to do the same.

Already, the EU has comprehensive climate and energy frameworks in place for [2020](#) and [2030](#). These frameworks aim to reduce our economy's reliance on fossil fuels and meet the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to well below 2°C, preferably to 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels.

The [European Green Deal](#), announced in December 2019, sets the EU a longer-term goal of reaching climate neutrality – net zero greenhouse gas emissions - by 2050. This Green Deal is our growth strategy for a more sustainable, clean, safe and healthy European economy. In July 2021, the European Commission tabled a series of proposals to make its policies fit to deliver a more ambitious, updated net greenhouse gas emissions target for 2030 of at least -55% below 1990 levels. This ambition is set out in the [2030 Climate Target Plan](#) and written into the [European Climate Law](#), which also codifies the goal of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The EU played an instrumental role at the UN COP26 Climate Change Conference, which took place in Glasgow from 1-13 November 2021. Prior to the conference, the EU set three objectives:

- to secure commitments from countries to reduce their emissions this decade in order to keep the 1.5°C goal within reach;
- to reach the goal of mobilising \$100 billion dollars of climate finance per year for developing and vulnerable countries from 2020-2025, keeping in mind that the EU and its Member States are already the largest providers of public climate finance in the world, having contributed €23.39 billion (or around \$26.5 billion) in 2020,
- and to finalize the “rulebook” for the Paris Agreement, which means that all parties agreed on how to report their progress on emission reductions and the rules for running international carbon markets.

In Glasgow, progress was made on all three objectives.

Based on new announcements made since the Paris Agreement in 2015 and during the COP, and thanks in part to EU leadership during the negotiations, experts estimate that the world is now on a path to between 1.8°C and 2.4°C of warming, assuming all commitments are fully implemented. In the COP conclusions, Parties agreed to revisit and strengthen their 2030 targets as necessary to align with the Paris Agreement temperature goal by the end of 2022. In 2022 they will follow up with a high-level meeting of ministers on pre-2030 ambition to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. In order to deliver on these promises, COP26 also agreed for the first time to phase down the use of polluting coal for power generation and to stop subsidising inefficient fossil fuels, as well as recognising the need to support a just transition.

The climate crisis disproportionately impacts small island states and some of the world's least developed countries. Many of these countries do not have the means to adapt to more frequent and intense extreme weather, as well as sea-level rise and drought. These impacts can have huge costs, damaging infrastructure, jeopardising food security, and putting lives at risk. COP26 therefore reaffirmed the need for the international community to redouble its efforts to address the challenges these countries face in adapting to climate change and building back after damage has been incurred.

Developed countries, including the EU on behalf of all Member States, agreed to at least double their collective provision of climate finance to support adaptation in developing countries from 2019 levels by 2025, and affirmed their commitment to urgently deliver on the existing \$100 billion goal up until 2025. In this context, the EU announced a donation of €100m (\$114.4m) to the UN's Adaptation Fund, making the EU and its Member States the biggest contributors to the record total of €351.6m.

It was also agreed to scale up action and support for averting, minimizing and addressing the loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to these effects, including through enhanced technical assistance and by establishing a dialogue to discuss the arrangements for the funding of these activities.

Parties also committed to a process to set a new collective quantified goal on climate finance that aims to help make all finance flows consistent with the Paris Agreement goals.

At the COP, the EU pledged €1 billion over 5 years to support the Global Forests Finance Pledge, totaling \$12 billion in donations from public and private donors. The EU will help partner countries protect, restore and sustainably manage forests worldwide. More than 100 world leaders – representing around 85% of the world's forests– promised to end and reverse deforestation by 2030.

The EU, along with South Africa, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the USA also launched a Just Energy Transition Partnership with South Africa. The partnership will accelerate the decarbonisation of South Africa's economy, with a focus on phasing out coal within its electricity system. With an initial commitment of \$8.5 billion for the first phase of financing, it will help South Africa achieve the ambitious goals set out in its updated Nationally Determined Contribution.

Citizens such as yourselves have been at the forefront of raising the alarm about the climate crisis and the need for urgent action. As we work on the European Green Deal and the transition towards a climate-neutral EU, all parts of society will have to work together to understand the challenges and develop the solutions, so that everyone can do their part and no one is left behind in the transition.

The engagement of the public is critical to instilling a new climate culture, awareness and motivation for climate action that brings together citizens, industry, civil society and authorities at all levels. To achieve this, the Commission consulted the public and interested stakeholders and launched a citizen-focused [European Climate Pact](#) in December 2020.



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Ultimately, to make sure our planet remains a safe and prosperous place for future generations, we all have an important role to play. As much as green policies are important, the behaviour of each and every one of us will have to change. Everyone must play their part by adjusting their habits to live more sustainably. The Climate Pact is one way in which you can do more for our planet, for nature and for our children and grandchildren.

Yours sincerely,

Mauro PETRICCIONE