

December 9th, 2019

European Youth calling for announcement by the EU Commission and its Members States at COP25 to enhance their NDC within the first 100 days of office and raise the emission reduction target

Dear President Von der Leyen,
dear Vice-President Timmermans,
and dear Member States,

We, the representatives of a multitude of EU youth organisations and grassroots movements, see the cruel truth of the climate crisis and the importance to act upon it now. We have come together in light of the decisive year of 2020, where global emissions should peak to stay below the 1,5°C target to avoid critical tipping points¹. Under current NDC pledges, the average global temperature will rise between 2.6 °C and 2.9 °C by 2100². We declare: **This is unacceptable to us!**

Global NDCs must be increased fivefold to reach the 1,5°C target³ and international commitments have already been made to be more ambitious⁴. Under the Paris agreement it is recognized that developed countries should take the lead when it comes to emission target reductions⁵. In addition, the EU is the third largest emitter worldwide, behind the US and China, and thus has a responsibility to be among the first to decarbonise⁶. Therefore, the EU should be one of the front-runners of GHG emission reduction by 2030. #UniteBehindtheScience!

The mass movement of young people globally is unlike anything we have seen before. But we do not just want to write history. We want to be part of the action plans that influence our future. Therefore, we ask you **to invite us, the youth of the EU, to partake in the determination of the EU NDC at the beginning of 2020**. Praising our activism and encouraging us to keep on striking is not enough.

We applaud the declaration of the climate emergency by the EU parliament, but we urge you to follow up on it. In a shared vision we hold the EU accountable for their responsibility in international climate policy and for the success of the Paris Agreement. We demand from you to deliver a concrete proposal for an **enhancement of the EU NDC as soon as possible** but at the latest within the first 100 days of office including the following points:

- Enhance your NDC to 65 % GHG emission reduction in 2030 compared to 1990⁷, in line with the climate emergency that the European Parliament has recently recognized⁸
- Make a statement at COP25 that the EU will deliver an ambitious NDC, compatible with the 1.5°C target
- Become carbon neutral by 2040⁹
- Include specific and ambitious emission reduction targets in all sectors including international aviation in all NDCs¹⁰
- Ensure a participatory design of the enhancement and implementation processes of NDCs (especially for youth)
- Mainstream the topics of Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) and inclusion of Youth and Women in all areas of the EU NDC

The effort of transitioning to a carbon-free world is one which will have an impact on all of society, but the cost of inaction is greater. Let us think along how to leave no one behind in the green transition. We also urge member states to be bold and bring constructive proposals to the table. By meeting these demands, you will live up to the expectations of future generations and your own ambition as a global climate leader¹¹.

Call for action! Be the action! #TimeforAction

EU Youth

Signatures:

!! Signatures will frequently be updated !!

Organisations:



REFEDD



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¹ FutureEarth, 2019 - New Insights in Climate Science - a 2017-2019, Future Earth and the Earth League

² climateactiontracker.org December 6th, 2019

³ UNEP, 2019- Christensen, J. and Olhoff, A. (2019). Lessons from a decade of emissions gap assessments. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi. <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-10-year-summary>

⁴ Paris Agreement (adopted December 12th, 2015, entered into force November 4th, 2016) UNTS I:54113 art. 3

⁵ Paris Agreement (adopted December 12th, 2015, entered into force November 4th, 2016) UNTS I:54113 art. 4 para. 4

⁶ Global Carbon Atlas, December 5th, 2019

⁷ Climact, *Net Zero 2050*, p. 14, commissioned by the European Climate Foundation

⁸ Climate Action Tracker refers to 86% incl. "domestic emission reductions and contributions to existing poorer countries reduce their emissions" Source: Climate Action Tracker, 2019: Warming projections global update. Pledged action leads to 2.9°C-time to boost national climate action, p. 17.

⁹ IPCC, 2018: Summary for Policymakers. In: Global Warming of 1.5°C. World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 32 pp.

¹⁰ Rail to the COP letter presented December 9th, 2019

¹¹ President von der Leyen, Opening speech at the Leader's Session at COP25, December 2nd, 2019