



Draft

Title: **European leadership for global climate action**

Tabled by: Committee, European Green Party

Draft text

1 It was hoped that COP26, the 2021 United Nations Climate Conference held in
2 Glasgow, Scotland in November would mark a turning point in humanity's efforts
3 to tackle the climate emergency. Regrettably, the results remained largely
4 underwhelming. [fill in after the COP]

5 After most countries have updated their climate commitments (Nationally
6 Determined Contributions – NDCs), the world is still heading towards a global
7 heating of 2.X°C (to be checked after COP), spelling disaster for people and
8 ecosystems around the world.

9 While we welcome the greater ambition from the EU and other European countries,
10 current commitments still fall short of doing our fair share to limit global
11 heating to 1.5°C. To bridge the gap, the EU must cut emissions by at least 65%
12 by 2030 and reach climate neutrality by 2040 at the latest.

13 However, European action alone is not enough to solve a global problem. All
14 countries must do their fair share to reduce emissions, with the largest
15 polluters and wealthiest countries taking the lead. Countries that are furthest
16 from pathways compatible with 1.5°C – such as Russia, Saudi Arabia, Australia,
17 China – must ramp up the ambition of their NDCs more than most. Improved NDCs
18 are needed as soon as possible, but by the global stocktake in 2023 at the
19 latest.

20 International climate cooperation must always be guided by climate justice and

21 solidarity. The most affected people and areas (MAPA) must be put at the centre
22 of this.

23 The European Green Party calls on the EU and European countries to take the
24 following measures to radically strengthen international climate action:

25 1. **Boost climate diplomacy.** Although UN climate conferences attract a lot of
26 attention, much of the hard work takes place between them. Europe must make
27 sure that climate action is integrated into all bilateral and multilateral
28 meetings and international organisations at the highest level.

29 2. **Negotiate a treaty to phase out fossil fuels.** An international Fossil Fuel
30 Non-Proliferation Treaty is needed to ensure an end to new coal, oil and
31 gas production, while phasing out existing production of and subsidies to
32 fossil fuels in a time frame consistent with limiting global heating to
33 1.5°C. Furthermore, a just transition for people in the industry in Europe
34 and beyond must be ensured.

35 3. **Climate-proof trade.** No new trade treaties can be adopted without
36 sufficient sustainability provisions, including that between the EU and
37 Mercosur countries in its current form. Existing agreements that are not
38 fit for purpose – such as the Energy Charter Treaty – must either be
39 renegotiated or abandoned.

40 4. **Address international transport.** The EU and all countries should include
41 emissions from international aviation and shipping in their NDCs. Europe
42 should take the lead by extending emissions trading to cover all shipping
43 and aviation emissions. In parallel, Europe should push for stronger
44 climate action at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and
45 the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

46 5. **Increase international climate finance.** Wealthy countries need to deliver
47 and go beyond the USD100 billion of climate finance promised to the Global
48 South [and agree on a more ambitious target from 2025 onwards (check after
49 COP)] recognising their historic responsibility in heating the climate.
50 Public funding must be additional and mainly grant-based, with sub-goals
51 for mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage, as well as support to the
52 most vulnerable countries and communities.

53 **6. Ramp up technology cooperation.** While the world can and must cut emissions
54 rapidly with existing technologies, innovation can enable deeper emission
55 reductions at a lower cost. Europe must also facilitate technology
56 transfer to those countries most in need.

57 **7. Make polluters pay.** Carbon pricing – be it in the form of taxes or trading
58 – is an important tool as part of a broader regulatory framework to
59 decarbonise our economies. Yet, when it is applied, the price is often too
60 low to deliver substantial emission reductions. The EU Emissions Trading
61 System (EU ETS) should be strengthened to ensure heavy polluters pay the
62 real price of carbon for society, and revenues should be fully
63 redistributed to ensure that vulnerable people and communities are not
64 left behind. We also support the introduction of a carbon border
65 adjustment mechanism (CBAM) as a way of pursuing higher ambition both
66 within the Union and in third countries and we regret the lack of ambition
67 in the Commission’s proposal. Free ETS permits should cease to be granted
68 to EU industries as soon as the CBAM is fully in place, and the revenues
69 generated should also serve to increase international climate finance.

70 **8. Protect climate activists.** Civil society organisations and people’s
71 movements, with youth climate activists taking the lead, have often been
72 met with harassment, discrimination and abuse. Europe must stand up for
73 the right to speak up for our common climate, including defending the
74 people who defend our climate.