

EU 2030 Declaration

Europe is confronted with low or stagnating economic growth, with a high unemployment rate. In addition we have the enormous challenge to address climate change, becoming more energy and fossil independent, whilst creating energy security and maintaining or increasing competitiveness. Europe needs to move rapidly towards a more sustainable economy: Europe needs to decarbonize, to develop renewable energy sources more quickly and become more energy efficient.

By promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, Europe will be able to improve its energy security and reduce carbon emissions, while boosting the economy and creating green jobs. Europe needs to implement such policies, however cannot afford to do so at the cost of its competitiveness. Europe needs to create a global level playing field and prevent carbon leakage, i.e. allow its businesses to stay in Europe and not move to other parts of the world. This will require intense collaboration between the public and private sectors and civil society. However, these fundamental changes in our society and economy cannot take place without dedicated policies.

Europe has made progress towards its 2020 climate and energy goals, but Europe is not there yet. With care for our climate in mind, Europe now needs to set new ambitious targets for 2030 to ensure the transition to a circular economy; a truly sustainable economy.

EU leaders should agree on an ambitious EU 2030 climate and energy package in 2014, preparing for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris in 2015.

This package should be based on:

- creating further awareness of the enormous impact that climate change will have on our society, by a clear statement by the EU Leaders, supported by education and public awareness programs, embracing the principles of the circular economy;
- implementing a clear carbon pricing instrument with realistic and meaningful prices within pre-set ranges at a global level, preventing carbon leakage: the creation of a truly global level playing field;
- providing stimuli packages and policy instruments to promote innovations that contribute to solving climate change and to develop new green alternative energy sources, energy efficiency technologies and cooperation throughout supply chains;
- creating transparency in investments by financial institutions in climate-sensitive and fossil-based assets and stimulate investments in new alternative energy sources
- implementation at European level.

Such a package should enable Europe to reach:

- greenhouse gas reduction beyond the proposed 40 per cent reduction compared to 1990;
- a share of renewable energy sources in Europe's energy mix of at least 40 per cent of the total energy mix;
- energy efficiency of at least 40 per cent.

Europe must use this opportunity to move towards a more sustainable future for people today and generations to come.