



MY #CLIMATEMOMENT

GREENS DEMANDS FOR COP21

The latest Assessment Report (5AR) by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has presented unequivocal evidence to demonstrate climate warming and that human activities are the dominant cause of observed climate change since the middle of the 20th century.

The climate-change impacts are already visible in natural and human systems on all continents and across the oceans.

Continued emissions of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and changes to the land, atmosphere and oceans in all regions of the globe and in all countries.

From 2000 to 2010, global greenhouse gas emissions were the highest in human history. Scientists predict that without significant global mitigation action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, global average temperature is likely to be as much as 4 or 5°C higher by the end of the century.

The UNFCCC climate summit in Paris will be a rare and crucial opportunity for the world to move forward and speed up the ongoing transformation to a zero carbon future.

Although every country will have to contribute to the effort to reduce their climate impact, the EU has to step up its ambition to ensure the future UN climate agreement, a Paris Protocol, is sealed in December 2015 and is up to the challenge of maintaining climate change to well below 2°C.

AHEAD OF PARIS COP21, THE GREENS DEMAND THAT THE EU:

1 Steps up its climate ambition for 2030 to match the urgency of the situation

According to the 5AR, global greenhouse gas emissions need to peak by 2015 at the latest, and need to be reduced by an annual rate of around 6% in order to maintain a likely chance of keeping the rise in global average temperature below 2°C. The EU must be consistent with a linear reduction pathway towards the objective of phasing out carbon emissions by 2050 and therefore increase its own 2030 climate target to 60%. Delaying actions will only increase costs and reduce options to limit the disastrous impacts of climate change. Leading by example is the only way the EU will encourage all countries make an adequate contribution. Increasing Europe's climate ambition can benefit the EU as well as drive a race to the top encouraging other countries to step up their climate efforts.

2 Commits to more emissions reductions before 2020

There is an urgent need to close the 'gigatonne gap' between current 2020 emission reduction pledges and a safe 2°C consistent emission pathway. The EU is on a trajectory to overachieve its Kyoto Protocol (KP) 2020 target without further measures, and yet can do more. The EU should at least revise its KP 2020 target to a level consistent with a cost-effective path to its 2050 reduction targets and ensure that any over-achievement of KP 2020 targets is not allowed to water down future commitments. The EU and other Parties to the Montreal Protocol should use its instruments effectively and urgently agree a global phase-out of the highly climate-damaging hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) to contribute to climate mitigation in Dubai in November 2015.



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THE GREENS CALL FOR THE PARIS PROTOCOL TO:

1 Set a target of global phase-out of all carbon emissions

The Paris Protocol needs to lay down the global phase-out of all carbon emissions and phase-in of 100% renewable energy by 2050. Parties need to make a collective commitment to shift public support (finance and policy) away from fossil fuels towards climate resilience and universal and fair access to sustainable energy.

2 Set a binding framework for emission reductions consistent with science and the 2°C objective ...

The Intended Nationally Determined Contributions - INDCs put forward by Parties are not sufficient and need to be revised to ensure climate action that is consistent with science and limit climate change to 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels.

It is paramount to consider the cumulative emissions budgets on the basis of the IPCC 5th Assessment Report in assessing the adequacy of NDCs. The Paris Protocol needs to be legally binding and applicable to all countries.

3 ... based on 5 year commitment periods

The agreement must provide for a regular review process to keep track of scientific advances and adequacy of climate action, as well as the fairness of those commitments.

4 Establish a common system for accounting greenhouse gas emissions

Uniform rules for monitoring, reporting and verification of emissions need to be agreed in Paris to ensure that the implementation of national contributions is transparent and quantifiable.

5 Increase financial support to climate action in developing countries

The Paris Protocol needs to establish adequate and predictable international climate finance for adaptation and mitigation in developing countries as well as a functioning mechanism to address loss and damage. The agreement should mandate IMO and ICAO to set up measures with effect by 2021 to curb climate impacts of aviation and shipping, in line with the scale and urgency of the climate challenge.

Revenues from market based instruments to reduce global aviation and shipping emissions should be dedicated to contributing to post 2020 international climate finance and the Green Climate Fund. Greens call on the EU as the largest donor to act collectively and use revenues from sources that are independent from Member States' annual budgetary procedures, such as ETS auction revenues and financial transaction tax.

6 Maintain human rights at the core of climate action

The respect, protection and promotion of human rights are prerequisite for effective global climate action. This encompasses i.a. gender equality, full and equal participation of women, and the active promotion of a just transition of the workforce creating decent work and quality jobs for all.