



WWF

ACTION PLAN



2014



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*The European Parliament has played an active role in shaping the debate on future climate and energy policy. WWF has engaged in detail on this issue, supporting our calls for the targets needed to keep Europe on track to helping avoid dangerous climate change.*

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## TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE IN EUROPE

In order to give certainty to investors and a clear position for international negotiations, the EU is developing a new framework of climate and energy laws for 2030. The recent European Parliament own-initiative report on the 2030 climate and energy targets goes further than the agreement reached by the European Council. A major weakness of the Commission's assessment of the impact of decarbonisation is that it considers only costs, and fail to account for the benefits of climate and energy policies. WWF believes it is not yet too late for the EU to salvage its framework for 2030. By agreeing a serious legislative framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the EU can regain its leadership role in international efforts to tackle climate change. This is particularly important ahead of the UN Climate Conference in Paris in 2015, at which a new global deal should be agreed.

### HOW CAN MEPs IMPROVE THIS POLICY?

- Support, if not strengthen, the targets for 2030 endorsed by the previous Parliament of:
  - reducing domestic greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% compared to 1990;
  - a binding EU energy efficiency target of 40%;
  - producing at least 30% of total final energy consumption from renewables.

By strengthening the targets endorsed by the previous Parliament, MEPs would be following evidence that higher targets will deliver greater benefits and accelerate the transformation of Europe's energy system.

- Support the reform of the EU Emissions Trading System to ensure a carbon price that is high enough to drive a reduction in emissions by cancelling 2.2 billion of excess pollution permits, increasing the rate of annual emissions reductions to 2.6%, and introducing a Market Stability Reserve which cancels surplus allowances.
- Support the introduction of an Emissions Performance Standard for power stations to drive investment towards the cleanest power generation possible.



80%

of Europeans recognise that fighting climate change and using energy more efficiently can boost the economy and employment<sup>1</sup>

## YOUR ACTION PLAN

- 1 Take the opportunity of the Parliament's reports ahead of the annual UN climate conferences (Lima 2014 and Paris 2015) to highlight MEPs' demands for a strong 2030 climate and energy framework and international climate policy leadership.
- 2 Reject any legislative proposals from the Commission which fail to reach or surpass the Parliament's level of ambition, and only agree a deal which maximises the benefits of climate action, including new jobs, lower fossil fuel import costs, and better health.
- 3 Support the rapid agreement of legislation for a market stability reserve, to be implemented in 2016, which will complement efforts to structurally reform the EU Emissions Trading System.

## WE MUST ACT NOW!

- Reduced energy imports thanks to renewable energy and energy efficiency would mean the EU saves €555 billion on fossil fuel imports over 20 years under the most ambitious decarbonisation scenario considered by the Commission<sup>2</sup>.



**CUTTING  
EMISSIONS**



**€555 bn**  
Saving fossil fuel import  
costs over 20 years

- The latest climate science shows developed countries should aim for deeper cuts<sup>3</sup>. Yet despite the EU's target of cutting emissions by 80-95% by 2050, the Commission's proposed 2030 target of 40% greenhouse gas cuts is only in line with the target of 80% cuts by 2050. The Parliament should therefore set a higher 2030 target (-55% GHG) in order to keep 95% domestic greenhouse gas cuts by 2050 within reach.
- The EU was the early driver of international action to combat climate change. Now, nearly 100 countries have significant climate policies, and 138 countries have renewable energy targets<sup>4</sup>. The next EU climate and energy policies are a critical opportunity to build momentum for a new global agreement in Paris at the UN climate conference in 2015.
- Without European leadership it is unlikely that other countries will take the action needed to avoid global temperature increases of 3.5°C or more. Such failure would expose the EU to climate related damages of at least €190 billion a year - a loss of 1.8% of GDP<sup>5</sup>. Weather-related extremes events could roughly double in frequency.
- 90% of people in the EU believe climate change is a serious problem and believe governments should take immediate action<sup>6</sup>.

## TIMELINE

**23-24 October 2014:**  
European Council agreed headline targets for 2020-2030 EU climate and energy framework

**December 2015:**  
UNFCCC COP21 in Paris to agree on an international climate package

**2015-2016:**  
Commission legislative proposals for an EU 2020-2030 climate and energy framework, to go for co-decision

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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