

Call for the European Union to update targets for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions

Climate change is proceeding at an alarming pace. In spite of the Paris Agreement, not enough concrete action has been taken to stop this negative trend. At this crucial moment of time, the European Union can and must step up.

The IPCC will soon provide a special report on how we are faring on the 1.5 degree Celsius target and in December, at COP24, countries will draw conclusions on how to accelerate action towards the goal.

The European Commission is currently preparing a proposal for a long-term strategy for the reduction of EU greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the Paris Agreement and in view of the latest information.

We, the undersigned, call on the EU and its Member States to make the European Union Paris Agreement-proof, by setting and agreeing on new, sufficiently ambitious climate targets:

1. The EU should set a target for achieving net-zero emissions at the latest by 2050 or earlier taking the IPCC findings into account.
2. Based on the target, the EU should agree on a binding carbon budget for the remaining GHG emissions.
3. The EU should revise and align the 2030 and 2040 targets with the net-zero target.

The Nordic countries have already set the course towards climate neutrality. Norway is aiming for climate neutrality by 2030 and Sweden and Finland by 2045, while Denmark is aiming for a fossil-free, low emission society by 2050.

We, as Nordic non-state actors, support the swift and sustainable implementation of such goals with our own ambitious goals and actions. We firmly believe that not only can climate change be mitigated, but it can be done in such a way that does not harm economic development and, in many cases, leads to new profitable business models.


Nordic companies are investing in R&D targeting new carbon-free processes and products. All Nordic capitals and tens of other cities and municipalities are aiming to become climate neutral before 2040, several even by 2030. Several leading companies in the Nordics have already set, or are exploring ways to set, science-based net-zero targets by 2030, and a [large majority said they could set net-zero GHG emissions targets in the right policy environment](#).

We urge the EU and its member states to join us in building a carbon-free Europe.

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