

# European institutions and climate change. How it works.

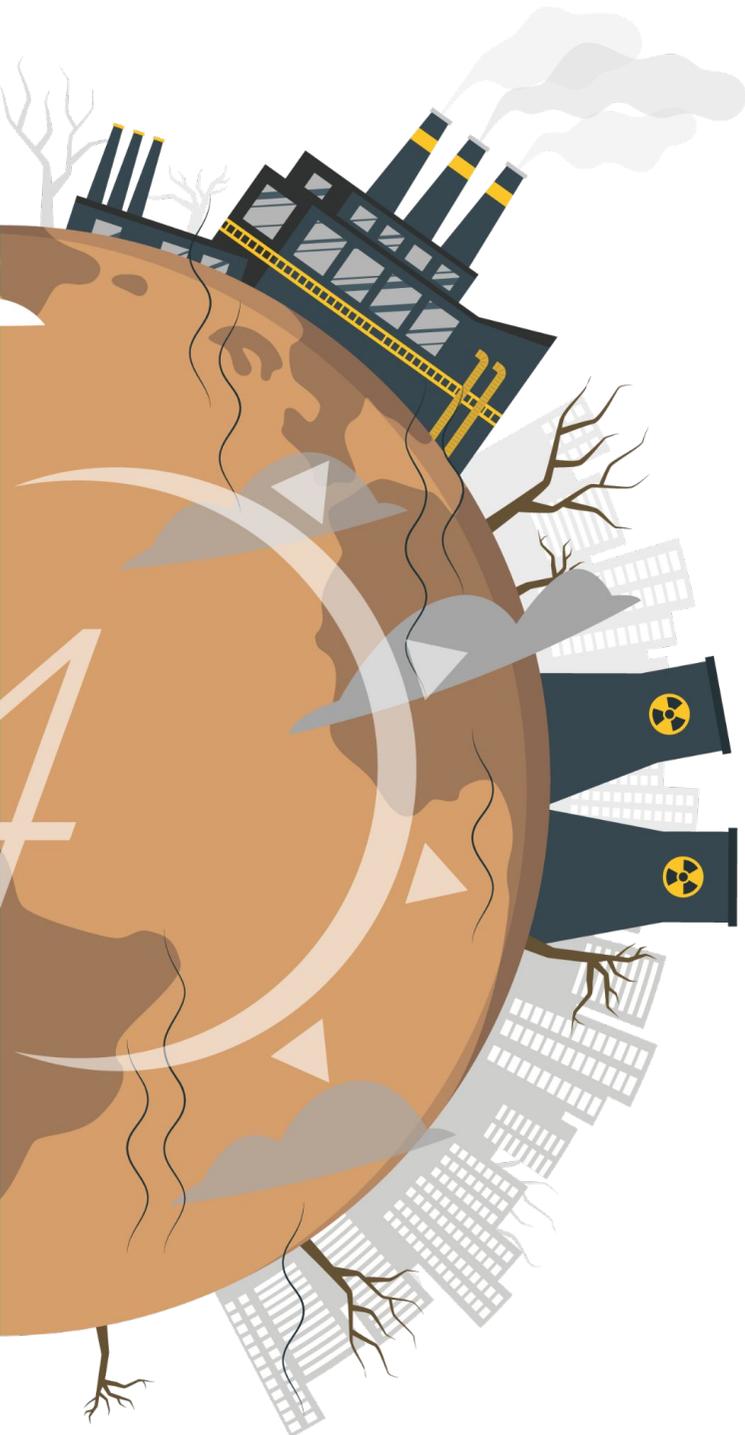


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# Purpose of the handbook





# Purpose of the handbook

## *Why? Who is it addressed to?*

Developing EU citizenship among teachers and students holds great importance in terms of fostering environmental sensitivity.

It promotes the understanding that each individual has a role to play in preserving and protecting the environment. By recognizing their responsibility as EU citizens, teachers and students become more conscious of their actions and choices, adopting sustainable behaviors that contribute to the well-being of the environment.

EU citizenship encourages collaboration and cooperation across borders. When teachers and students develop a sense of EU citizenship, they recognize that environmental issues transcend national boundaries. They understand the importance of sharing knowledge, best practices,

and resources with other EU member states.

This fosters transnational cooperation in addressing common environmental challenges, such as climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.

EU citizenship promotes the inclusion of environmental education within school curricula. It emphasizes the integration of environmental issues, sustainability principles, and ecological awareness into various subjects and activities. Teachers play a vital role in incorporating environmental education into their teaching, helping students understand the interconnectedness between human actions and the environment. This equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to make informed decisions and take responsible actions for the environment.

# Purpose of the handbook

Developing EU citizenship enhances students' understanding of environmental issues from a global perspective. It encourages them to think beyond their immediate surroundings and consider the broader impact of their actions on the planet. Teachers and students with EU citizenship sensibility recognize that environmental challenges faced within the EU are often connected to global environmental interdependencies. This broader perspective fosters a more holistic approach to environmental sensitivity, enabling students to appreciate the interconnectedness of ecosystems and the importance of global environmental cooperation.

EU citizenship promotes active participation in democratic processes and decision-making. Teachers and students with EU citizenship sensibility are more likely to engage in environmental activism, advocacy, and initiatives that promote sustainable practices and policies. They understand that by actively participating in democratic processes, raising awareness, and voicing their concerns, they can contribute to shaping environmental policies at local, national, and EU levels.

Developing EU citizenship values nurtures a sense of environmental stewardship among teachers and students. They develop a deep connection and commitment to the environment, recognizing their role as stewards of the natural world.

This sense of stewardship motivates them to take action to protect and preserve the environment for current and future generations. They become advocates for sustainable practices, conservation efforts, and the promotion of environmentally friendly policies and behaviours.

By developing EU citizenship in terms of sensibility for the environment, teachers and students gain a comprehensive understanding of their role in environmental conservation. They become active participants in addressing environmental challenges, fostering transnational collaboration, incorporating environmental education, adopting a global perspective, promoting active citizenship and embracing environmental stewardship. Ultimately, this cultivates a generation of environmentally conscious and responsible individuals who are equipped to tackle the pressing environmental issues of our time.

# Purpose of the handbook

The main purpose of the handbook fully addresses one of the main EU priority concerning “Engaging citizens and communities in discussions and actions related to pure climate and environment”.

The topics covered in this handbook are:

- *Main EU institutions defining for the EU the political orientation, objectives, economic framework*
- *Who are the EU actors of climate policies?*
- *The European Union's Environmental Policy in history*
- *Historical background on the emergence of EU environmental standards*
- *The principles and General Frameworks of The European Union's Environmental Policy*
- *European and Global Climate Legislation: What Science is Telling Us Today*
- *How can citizens participate to EU decisions?*
- *How to struggle in a burning world?*



# Main EU institutions defining for the EU the political orientation, objectives, economic framework



# Main EU institutions defining for the EU the political orientation, objectives, economic framework.

The main EU institutions that define the political orientation, objectives, and economic framework for the European Union are:

**The European Commission** is the executive body of the EU and plays a central role in shaping the political and policy agenda. It proposes legislation, implements EU policies, manages the EU budget, and represents the EU on the international stage.

The Commission initiates and coordinates the development of EU policies and ensures their implementation across member states.

**The European Parliament** is the directly elected legislative body of the EU. It represents the interests of EU citizens and exercises legislative powers by adopting, amending, and approving EU laws and regulations.

The Parliament also plays a crucial role in shaping the political orientation of the EU by engaging in debates, forming political alliances, and holding the Commission accountable.

**The Council of the European Union**, often referred to as the Council, represents the member states' governments. It is responsible for making decisions on EU policies, legislation, and budgets.

The Council's composition varies depending on the topic being discussed, with different configurations of ministers from member states. It works in conjunction with the European Parliament to adopt legislation and set the EU's political direction.

**The European Council** consists of the heads of state or government of EU member states, along with the President of the European Commission and the President of the European Council. It sets the strategic direction and political priorities for the EU. The European Council meets regularly to discuss and provide guidance on various issues, including economic policies, foreign affairs, and major EU initiatives.

# Main EU institutions defining for the EU the political orientation, objectives, economic framework.

*The European Central Bank* is responsible for monetary policy in the Eurozone, which comprises EU member states that have adopted the euro as their currency. The ECB aims to maintain price stability, formulate and implement monetary policy, and oversee the financial stability of the Eurozone. It plays a crucial role in shaping the economic framework and objectives of the EU.

These institutions work together to define the political orientation, objectives, and economic framework of the EU. They engage in decision-making processes, policy development, and coordination to shape the direction of the EU as a whole and ensure the implementation of common policies across member states. Through their collective efforts, these institutions contribute to the overall governance and development of the European Union.



# Who are the EU actors of climate policies?

Info on EU bodies dealing with environment.  
Fighting climate change.



# Who are the EU actors of climate policies?

Different European Agencies, bodies, networks and projects work on climate issues and have a role in environmental policies' development in the European Union. You can find here a list of the main EU actors:

**The European Environment Agency (EEA)** (1) is an agency of the European Union that delivers knowledge and data in order to support European environmental and climate goals:

- *it helps the EU and member countries make informed decisions*
- *it develops and coordinates Eionet, a network of national environmental bodies*

**The European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet)** (2) consists of the EEA and other 400 national institutions from 38 countries, with expertise in environmental issues, and 8 centres of thematic expertise contracted by the EEA, called European Topic Centres (ETCs).

One of them is dedicated to Climate change mitigation: **the European topic centre on climate change mitigation and energy.**

**The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)**, (3) supports the EU Green Deal through the implementation of its delegated programmes.

**The European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT)** (4) is a partnership between the European Commission and the European Environment Agency (EEA). Its aims to support Europe in adapting to climate change helping users to access and share data and information.



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<https://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us>

Eionet:  
<https://www.eionet.europa.eu/>  
<https://www.eionet.europa.eu/etcs>

European Climate Adaptation Platform  
<https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/>

European Topic Centre on Climate change mitigation and energy:  
<https://www.eionet.europa.eu/etcs/etc-cm>

CINEA:  
[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/about-us/mission-structure-and-objectives\\_fr](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/about-us/mission-structure-and-objectives_fr)

# Who are the EU actors of climate policies?

**National Focal Points (NFPs)** (1) are the country institutions appointed to serve as the primary link between the EEA and the country.

- *Italy:* Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA).
- *Hungary:* Ministry of Energy State Secretariat for Environment and Circular Economy
- *Poland:* Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection Department of Environmental Monitoring
- *France:* Commissariat général au Développement durable

**Horizon Europe** (2) is the EU's ambitious research and innovation programme for 2021-2027, with a budget of €95.5 billion. CINEA runs parts of the programme. One of its specific programs for Climate is the **Climate Science - Horizon Europe**.

**Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S)** (3) gives information about the past, present and future climate in Europe and the rest of the World. It supports adaptation and mitigation policies of the European Union by providing consistent information about climate change. It offers free and open access to climate data and tools based on science.



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Climate Science:  
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National Focal Points list in Europe:  
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/about/who-we-are/our-knowledge-network-eionet/list-of-national-focal-points>

NFP in Hungary:  
<https://kormany.hu/en/erqiaugyi-miniszterium>

NFP in France:  
<https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/>

NFP in Italy:  
<https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/en>

NFP in Poland:  
<http://www.gios.gov.pl/en/>

# Historical background on the emergence of EU environmental standards

The European Union's Environmental Policy



# Historical Background and Standards of EU Environmental Policy

The European Union (EU) has a comprehensive environmental policy aimed at protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development. The EU environmental policy is based on a range of legislative measures and initiatives designed to reduce pollution, protect biodiversity, and combat climate change.

**1970s**

The emergence of EU environmental standards can be traced back to the 1970s when concerns about the negative impact of industrialization and urbanization on the environment began to gain widespread attention in Europe. At that time, there were no consistent standards or regulations at the EU level to address environmental issues. Held in Paris in 1972 (1), at European Council the Heads of States declared the need for a Community environment policy, and called for an action programme.

**1970s**

**1980s**

Another step was *The Single European Act of 1987* (2), which provided the first legal basis for a common environment policy with the aim of preserving the quality of the environment, protecting human health and ensuring the rational use of natural resources.

**1990s**

**2020s**

## REFERENCES

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/71/environment-policy-generalprinciples-and-basic-framework>

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1



2



# Historical Background and Standards of EU Environmental Policy

1970s

1980s

1990s

2020s

In the 1990s, the EU adopted a number of important environmental directives and regulations, including the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, the Drinking Water Directive, and the Ozone-Depleting Substances Regulation.

These standards were designed to protect human health and the environment from various forms of pollution and degradation.

1970s

1980s

1990s

2020s

Since 2000, when the Water Framework Directive was adopted, the EU has continued to implement a wide range of environmental standards and regulations, covering topics such as air quality, industrial emissions, chemicals, and biodiversity. These standards are designed to promote sustainable development, protect human health and the environment. The "combating climate change" objective was specifically stated in the Treaty of Lisbon (2009), which also gave the EU legal rights to enter into international agreements.

Today, the EU's environmental policy is guided by the European Green Deal, which aims to make the EU climate-neutral by 2050 and to protect biodiversity and improve the quality of life for European citizens. The EU has also played a leading role in international efforts to address climate change and environmental issues, such as the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

## REFERENCES

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# The principles and General Frameworks of The European Union's Environmental Policy

The European Union's Environmental Policy



# The principles and General Frameworks of The European Union's Environmental Policy

The European Union's (EU) environmental policy is based on a set of principles that guide the development and implementation of environmental legislation and initiatives:

- **Precautionary Principle** [B1] states that in cases where there is scientific uncertainty about environmental or health impacts of an activity, product or service, measures should be taken to prevent or minimize those impacts.
- **Polluter Pays Principle** states that those who cause pollution or environmental damage should bear the costs of recovery and clean-up, rather than passing those costs onto taxpayers or society as a whole.
- **Integration Principle** calls for the integration of environmental care into all areas of policy and decision-making in order to promote sustainable development and prevent or minimize negative impacts on the environment.

- **Proximity Principle** encourages the location of industrial activities close to their source of raw materials or market, in order to reduce transportation-related environmental impacts.
- **Prevention Principle** emphasizes the importance of preventing environmental damage from occurring in the first place, rather than relying on clean-up or recovery after the fact.
- **Sustainable Development Principle** calls to use resources according to the present needs, preserving them for future generations as well.

These principles reflect the EU's commitment to promoting sustainable development, protecting human health and the environment, and ensuring a level playing field for businesses operating within the EU.

## REFERENCES

<https://post.parliament.uk/research-briefings/posit-pn-0590/>

# The principles and General Frameworks of The European Union's Environmental Policy

There are basic frameworks of EU Environmental Policy to provide effectiveness of environmental actions:

## Environment Action Programmes (EAPs)

Environment Action Programmes (EAPs) have been issued by the Commission since 1973, identifying further legislative steps and objectives for EU environmental policy. The new program supports and expands upon the European Green Deal's environmental and climatic goals and offers a framework for accomplishing environmental goals.

## Sustainable Development Strategies

The European Union has been actively implementing sustainable development strategies since 2001 and has integrated the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into EU policy priorities.

## International Environmental Cooperation

The EU participates in international environmental negotiations and is connected with numerous global, regional or sub-regional environmental agreements to save and improve the environment in the world. The European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) was established to increase enforcement by giving policymakers, environmental inspectors, and enforcement officers a forum to share ideas and best practices. The European Union also runs the European Earth Observation Programme (Copernicus), which offers data from satellite observations on changes in the atmosphere, oceans, and land.

The frameworks of EU environmental policy aim to create a sustainable future for the EU by promoting environmental protection, combating climate change, and promoting sustainable development.

## REFERENCES

<https://post.parliament.uk/research-briefings/post-pn-0590/>



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# European and Global Climate Legislation: What Science is Telling Us Today

Laws and treaties that the EU must comply with in the coming years



# European and Global Climate Legislation: What Science is Telling Us Today

## I. Introduction

Climate change is a pressing global challenge that requires urgent action from governments and international bodies.

Over the past few decades, the scientific community has provided overwhelming evidence of the impacts of climate change and the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In response, various legislations have been enacted at both the European and global levels to mitigate climate change and promote sustainable development.

This document explores the key aspects of European and global climate legislation, provides insights from the latest scientific research, and offers suggestions for further action.

## II. European Climate Legislation

The European Union (EU) has been at the forefront of climate action and has implemented several initiatives to combat climate change.

The cornerstone of European climate legislation is the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS), which sets a cap on carbon emissions and allows companies to trade emission allowances. It is the world's largest carbon market, designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across various sectors. This mechanism encourages companies to reduce their emissions and invest in cleaner technologies.

In addition to the EU ETS, the EU has set ambitious targets to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The European Green Deal, introduced in 2019, is the EU strategy to achieve the target by that date, through the promotion of resource efficiency by moving towards a clean and circular economy; restoring biodiversity and reducing pollution.

## REFERENCES

CAN Europe (2022). *Climate Laws in Europe Essential for achieving climate neutrality.* <https://www.germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/climate-laws-briefing-eng.pdf>

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# European and Global Climate Legislation: What Science is Telling Us Today

Furthermore, the EU has established a wide range of policies and initiatives aimed at addressing climate change and transitioning to a sustainable, low-carbon economy. Some key aspects of European climate legislation include:

- The Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR), which requires each member state to reduce emissions in sectors not covered by the EU ETS. Each EU member state also has an individual target based on its wealth and emissions levels.
- The EU has also committed to increasing its renewable energy share to at least 32% by 2030. This is called Renewable Energy Directive (RED). The RED establishes binding renewable energy targets for EU member states and promotes the development and deployment of renewable energy sources.

Another objective that the EU has set itself is improving energy efficiency by 32.5% through the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED). The EED focuses on improving energy efficiency across various sectors and sets binding targets for energy savings.

These are just a few examples of the European climate legislation in place. The EU is continuously working to strengthen its climate policies and ensure their effective implementation across member states.



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# European and Global Climate Legislation: What Science is Telling Us Today

## III. Global Climate Legislation

Global climate legislation refers to the collective efforts of countries worldwide to address the pressing issue of climate change through legal frameworks and policies. Global climate agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, play a crucial role in fostering international cooperation and setting targets for emission reductions. These legislative initiatives recognize the urgent need to transition to a low-carbon economy, promote sustainable practices, and protect vulnerable ecosystems and communities.

The above-mentioned Paris Agreement stands as a landmark agreement adopted in 2015 by nearly 200 countries. The agreement aims to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Under the Paris Agreement, countries have submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), outlining their individual climate targets and actions. To support the implementation of the

Paris Agreement, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) regularly assesses the latest scientific findings. In 2023, the IPCC released its latest report, highlighting the need for immediate and ambitious action to limit global warming.

Another policy concerns financial mechanisms that aim to provide financial support to developing countries in their climate actions. One such mechanism is the Green Climate Fund (GCF), established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The GCF channels financial resources from developed to developing countries to support projects and programs that address climate change mitigation and adaptation. These financial mechanisms play a vital role in bridging the financial gap and ensuring equitable participation in global efforts to combat climate change.

Many countries have implemented their own national climate legislation. For instance, the United Kingdom passed the Climate Change Act, which establishes legally binding emissions

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# European and Global Climate Legislation: What Science is Telling Us Today

reduction targets. China, the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, has unveiled ambitious plans to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

## IV. What Science is Telling Us Today

The scientific community continues to advance in its understanding of climate change and its impacts. Today, scientists warn that the world is heading towards significant global warming, exceeding the targets set in the Paris Agreement. Recent studies have highlighted the accelerating rates of ice melt in polar regions, the rapid decline of coral reefs, and the increasing frequency of heatwaves and wildfires.

To address these challenges, scientists emphasize the need for urgent and coordinated action. Transitioning to renewable energy sources, investing in sustainable infrastructure, and adopting nature-based solutions are crucial steps towards achieving climate goals. Scientists highlight above all the importance of international cooperation!



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# European and Global Climate Legislation: What Science is Telling Us Today

## V. Suggestions and Links to New Reports

To stay informed about the latest developments in climate science and policy, it is essential to refer to authoritative sources. The following reports and data collections provide valuable insights:

- IPCC Report 2023: The IPCC's latest report presents a comprehensive assessment of the current state of climate science and the impacts of global warming. It outlines the pathways to limit temperature rise and offers policy recommendations. The IPCC finalized the Synthesis Report for the Sixth Assessment Report during the Panel's 58th Session held in Interlaken, Switzerland from 13 - 19 March 2023.
- World Meteorological Organization-(1) (WMO): The WMO regularly publishes reports on the state of the climate, including updates on greenhouse gas concentrations, global temperature trends, and extreme weather events.
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): The UNFCCC

website offers a wealth of information on climate change, including the Paris Agreement text, country submissions, and progress reports.

- World Resources Institute (WRI)-(2) Climate Watch: Climate Watch is an online platform that provides interactive data and visualizations on greenhouse gas emissions, national climate commitments, and climate action initiatives. It allows users to explore and analyse climate-related data from countries around the world.

1



WORLD  
METEOROLOGICAL  
ORGANIZATION

2



WORLD  
RESOURCES  
INSTITUTE

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# European and Global Climate Legislation: What Science is Telling Us Today

## VI. Reflections

When it comes to climate legislation, it is clear that significant progress has been made. The EU and many countries have set ambitious targets and implemented measures to mitigate climate change. However, more needs to be done to close the gap between current actions and the necessary level of ambition.

The latest scientific research underlines the urgency of the situation and the need for immediate and transformative action.

It is crucial that policymakers, businesses and individuals align their efforts with the best available science. By embracing sustainable practices, investing in clean technologies and promoting international collaboration, we can create a more sustainable future for generations to come.



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# How can citizens participate to EU decisions?

Info on EU bodies dealing with environment.  
Fighting climate change.



# How can citizens participate to EU decisions?

The EU has different tools accessible to citizens like you, where you can express your voice and opinion to the EU institutions:

- Have your say: you can share your views and ideas on Commission initiatives across all policy areas on the [Have Your Say portal](#). It is possible to sign up for notifications regarding new developments as initiatives take shape, including after the adoption of legislation.
- Meet face-to-face with EU representatives to discuss subjects you are interested in by attending citizens' dialogue events, held regularly around the EU.
- European citizens' panels bring together randomly selected citizens from all 27 EU countries to discuss key forthcoming proposals and make recommendations that the European Commission will take into consideration when defining its policy and legislative initiatives.
- Send a Petition to the European Parliament to express your opinion and use your fundamental rights to petition.

- Debating Europe is the platform where you can debate the issues you care about with European politicians and experts. The platform collects comments and questions.
- Start a European Citizens Initiative (ECI): a way to help shape the EU policies by calling on the European Commission to propose new laws. Organizers shall gather at least 7 citizens from 7 EU countries and collect signatures all over Europe. Once an initiative has reached 1 million signatures, the Commission will decide on what action to take.

ECI forum has been created to support ECI initiators, you will find there tools, advice, tutorials and testimonies on how to organize a ECI.

## Principle of multilingualism:

When you contact EU institutions and advisory bodies directly, you are entitled to a reply in any of the EU's 24 official languages.

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ECI:  
<https://europa.eu/citizens-initiative/en>

European Citizens' Initiative forum:  
<https://europa.eu/citizens-initiative-forum/en>

Have your Say portal:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say_en)

Citizens' panels:  
[https://citizens.ec.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://citizens.ec.europa.eu/index_en)

Petition to the EU Parliament:  
<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/petitions/en/home>

Debating Europe:  
<https://www.debating-europe.eu/>

# How to struggle in a burning world?

How to do activism and campaign for climate change



# How to struggle in a burning world?

First of all, it is important to emphasise how climate issues intersect with social issues. There is no climate justice without social justice, and we must fight for both!

There are many different ways to do activism and campaign for climate and social justice, each responding to different needs and situations.

## I. Private lobbying

Lobbying means representing special interests to public institutions. In fact, institutions make political choices that inevitably affect climate and ecosystems, for example by choosing which energy sources to use or which infrastructure to build. For a climate activist, therefore, lobbying means representing the interests of ecosystems so that institutions have sufficient evidence to assess the implications and consequences of their decisions on climate change.

Lobbying can be applied to all institutions: from a single city government to European institutions.

## II. Activism with local environmental groups

There are many local environmental groups, each with specificities that differentiate it from the others. Some environmental groups act through public demonstrations or civil disobedience actions with the goal of bringing attention to their proposals to address the climate crisis.

Other environmental groups aim to inform about the climate crisis by writing books or using social media, with the goal of letting people know about the problems and possible solutions related to the crisis.

Others take direct action to oppose the deforestation of ancient forests or unnecessary large-scale works that devastate ecosystems, or they take direct action for the closure of fossil fuel mines.

Other groups act through petitions and signature collections to propose or block specific laws or projects, such as the construction of infrastructure.

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# How to struggle in a burning world?

Often these types of actions are also accompanied by lobbying activities: this is, for example, the case with the #notmytaxonomy campaign promoted by several environmental groups to stop the European Parliament from labeling methane gas and nuclear power as sustainable energy sources.

Despite their diversity, environmental groups often band together to pursue their campaigns more effectively.

## III. Some examples of successful struggles

Since climate activists struggle to solve a very large and complex problem, one can often feel discouraged. However, there are a lot of environmental struggles that have been successful.

A good example is the French resistance movement against the construction of an airport in the Notre-Dame-des-Landes area. Here in the early 2000s, after an attempted eviction by the authorities, the area had been occupied by resident farmers and climate activists.

The battle against the airport lasted until 2018, when President Macron announced that the project would be cancelled.

Another successful activism story is the battle against private jets at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam. For years, several environmental groups, including GreenPeace and Extinction Rebellion, have been protesting with civil disobedience actions to have the airport prevent private jet flights. For example, in November 2022, hundreds of activists occupied the runway reserved for private jets. Finally, in April 2023, it was announced that the airport will eliminate private jet flights.

Even small associations can make a difference. For example, ReCommon, an Italian association that lobbies big banks and insurance companies linked to the world of fossil fuels, has forced the disclosure of crucial environmental information on two specific projects for the production, liquefaction and marketing of liquefied natural gas, Coral South and Mozambique LNG project, which involve Eni and Saipem and other Italian exporters; in this

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# How to struggle in a burning world?

way, the association was able to make public the fact that the financiers of the projects in Mozambique did not carry out an adequate assessment of all the climate-changing emissions that these projects will generate.

Another positive result achieved is the lawsuit against the French state that led to the latter being condemned for 'inaction' with regard to climate change (not fulfilling its commitments under the Paris Agreement, among other things) in 2021.

The lawsuit had been initiated by the associations Greenpeace, Oxfam, Nicolas Hulot Foundation and Notre Affaire à tous, which had collected 2.3 million signatures on a petition calling for more action against climate change.

For the first time, a European court has ruled in this case that the state can be held accountable for its commitments to tackle the climate crisis. This is an important legal precedent that can be used by millions of people around the world, affected by the climate crisis, to defend their rights.

And at the same time an incentive for all countries around the world to translate promises into concrete action.



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