



## GUE/NGL members of the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety



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## EU task: reducing emissions, enhancing energy savings and supporting renewables

To be in a leading position at the global level, the EU must strive for more ambitious emissions reduction targets, backed up by a coherent domestic climate policy. The GUE/NGL group is maintaining pressure on the EU to step up domestic efforts to at least 30% GHG reduction in 2020 compared to 1990. By increasing its targets, the EU could persuade other countries to take further action and give impetus to global climate negotiations. The EU should advance a call for the embedding of the principles of transparency, equity, and a fair balance of power between developed and developing countries into any institutional system discussed at the COP meetings.



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# Ambition to action: for a binding global climate deal



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## The challenge: urgent delivery of a binding agreement

Successive climate change summits have failed to adequately address the threats and dangers of climate change and have crippled progress towards a fair, ambitious and legally binding agreement to be concluded in 2015 at the COP21 in Paris. While the 5th IPCC Assessment Report once again shows the urgency of avoiding runaway climate change, the international community remains hesitant on ambitious action to tackle it.

Climate change is already a reality impacting on our lives now. The earth's planetary limits and the tipping points of its ecosystem have almost been reached as concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere surpass 350 parts per million. Global emissions continue to push the world towards warming of 4°C degrees above pre-industrial levels by the end of this century.

Yet as the threats like droughts, super storms and enhanced extreme weather events facing our planet continue to intensify, we are still not taking the necessary action to reduce emissions.

The need for a fair, ambitious and legally binding agreement, based on Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDRRC), is more critical than ever. The scope, structure and design should be consistent with a 1.5°C related global carbon budget, including targets and actions within an equitable framework that provides the financial, technological and capacity building support to countries with low capacity.

Ahead of the Paris COP in December 2015, the European Parliament should push the EU to take a more normative rather than market-based approach and to show leadership by stepping up EU domestic efforts to at least a 30% GHG reduction in 2020 compared to 1990 as well as a binding climate and energy framework by 2030 for renewable energies and energy savings.

The GUE/NGL will oppose any proposals based on the lowest common denominator as developing a low-carbon economy is a fundamental part of recovering from the present crisis and preventing a climate catastrophe.

### Core GUE/NGL demands

- All developed countries to commit to a mid-term public finance target of \$60 billion between 2013-2015 and a concrete roadmap to reach the commitment of \$100 billion per year by 2020, through additional sources of public finances;
- Immediate and substantial pledges to the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Fund;
- Allocation of at least 50% of public finance to Adaptation;
- Ministers must set out a clear and binding pathway to achieve an equitable, ambitious and legally binding global agreement in Paris (2015).



## Climate justice

Climate justice means sharing fairly the uneven burdens created by climate change. LDCs and indigenous communities are already the most vulnerable being hit by the consequences of climate change in terms of health, nutrition, environmental living conditions, social deprivation and financial mitigation and adaptation costs. Those who are most affected are the least responsible for the greenhouse gas emissions that cause the problem, and are frequently excluded from the top negotiation rounds while in need of a sustainable and democratic path to development. In addition to adopting ambitious mitigation targets, the developed world must:

- Establish an international mechanism on loss and damage from the adverse impacts of climate change to support LDCs and most vulnerable communities to cope with increasing climate change damage, as such an adaptive capacity is connected to social and economic development ensuring growth and eradication of poverty;
- Create a framework for renewable energy and energy efficiency in the UNFCCC to assist developing countries in their deployment of renewable and efficient technologies by means of adequate financial, technical, technological capacity-building support without binding them to acquire expensive patents;
- Promote innovative and additional finance sources including an international financial transaction tax and finance from international aviation and shipping;
- Support performance-based incentives for avoided deforestation as part of the future climate change regime;
- Provide transparent climate financing as a key factor, a new and additional contribution over and above existing Official Development Assistance (ODA) budgets, allocating at least 50% of public finance to adaptation measures.