

CHANGE
THE SYSTEM
NOT THE CLIMATE

TOWARDS A GREEN & SOCIAL NEW DEAL FOR EUROPE




GUE/NGL
European United Left • Nordic Green Left



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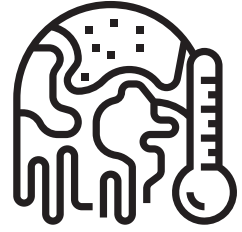
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INTRODUCTION



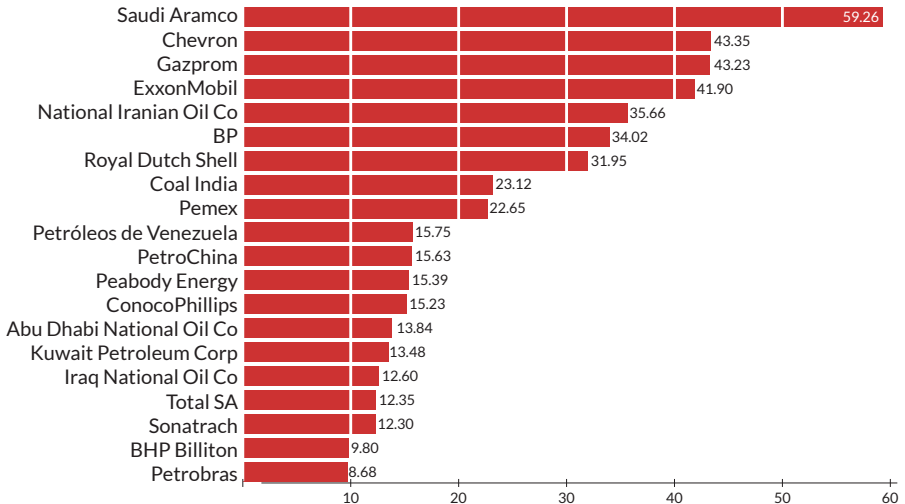
The fight is on for the future of our planet. The Commission's "European Green Deal" needs to be the beginning of the end of the current destructive policies. We need to work together for another Europe - one that prioritises the planet and people over profit.

The EU's track record shows how it can easily bow to corporate interests at the expense of people.

This documents sets out the Left's demands for a Green & Social New Deal for Europe.



THE 20 FIRMS BEHIND A THIRD OF ALL CARBON EMISSIONS



Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/oct/09/revealed-20-firms-third-carbon-emissions>



A RADICAL PROPOSAL FOR A FINAL CHANCE

The “Green Deal” must include a range of policies and funding to tackle inequality and global warming together. It must be transformative. It has to be anchored in the principles of climate justice, informed by, and fully compatible with the science. It must trigger real action, not buzzwords or slogans.

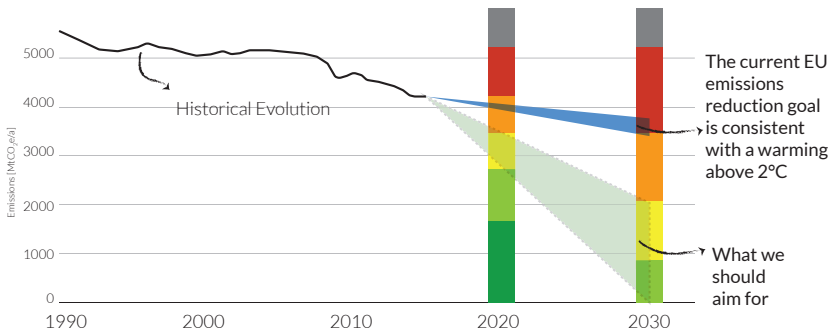
The “Green Deal” must lead to a radical, systematic and global revolution of our modes of production, consumption and distribution, improving lives while decarbonising our societies. It must be fair, bringing everyone forward.

The EU must break with the neoliberal framework and acknowledge its climate debt and responsibility to do more. We cannot afford incremental action in a time of crisis.

THIS IS THE LAST CHANCE FOR EUROPE TO GET THIS RIGHT.



EMISSION REDUCTION PATHWAYS FOR 2030



<< 1.5°C < 1.5°C < 2°C < 3°C < 4°C + 4°C

Warming over 1.5°C significantly worsens the risk of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty



Source: climateactiontracker.org

OUR DEMANDS

01 MAKE CLIMATE AND ENERGY TARGETS AND POLICY 1.5° PARIS COMPLIANT

The EU should include in the “Green Deal” a revision of all energy and climate targets in line with its responsibilities to decarbonise under the Paris Agreement, respecting the 1.5° warming limit. The EU must recognise its historic responsibility and climate debt, and revise to at least 70% emissions reductions for the EU’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). We urgently need a Climate Law with a legally binding goal of carbon neutrality and negative carbon emissions by 2050. Fracking must be banned in all EU member states and the EU’s policy on natural gas must be reversed with highly polluting methane emissions directly addressed.

02 GUARANTEE RIGHTS FOR THE PEOPLE

The “Green Deal” must guarantee rights for the people and contribute to sustainable development. The EU must prioritise the fight against poverty and social justice, guarantee affordable and publicly regulated energy prices for households, combat energy poverty, ban disconnection and ensure affordable and accessible renewable energy for all. The EU must also uphold the right to development, the right to water, the right to clean air and clean environment, ensuring that energy is in public ownership. The “Green Deal” should aim for free public transport and ensure accessibility for all. It is essential for climate governance to have citizens’ full participation.

**THE “GREEN DEAL” MUST
GUARANTEE RIGHTS FOR THE PEOPLE
AND CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.**

DID YOU KNOW?

**PRIVATE JETS
PRODUCE**



**THE CO₂
PER PASSENGER**
than commercial
airplanes

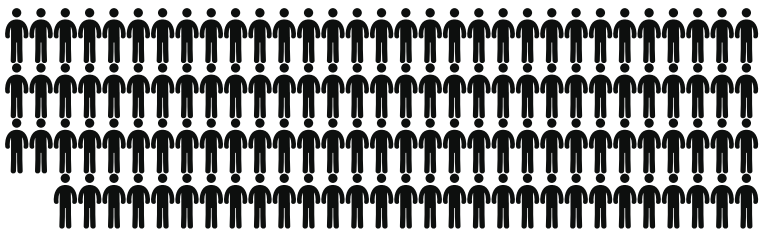
although calculations vary depending on the make and model of aircraft, the length of journey, and the number of passengers per flight

03 MAINSTREAMING JUST TRANSITION

The EU must make Just Transition a policy approach, not just a fund. In practice this means improving living and working conditions, promoting local production, supporting technical retraining of workers, tackling unemployment through training and education and establishing programmes that focus on sustainable jobs adapted to the future. The EU must strengthen existing social funds, rather than defund them as is currently happening, and ensure the Just Transition Fund helps vulnerable regions, communities and workers, protecting us from present and future stranded assets.

04 PRIORITISE NATURE

We want the EU to put nature-based climate solutions at the forefront of EU climate policy. Funding for environment and climate action, through the LIFE programme, should make up at least 1% of the whole EU budget. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) should pay farms for carbon sequestration and ecosystem services, respecting native species and ecosystems. Natura 2000 sites should cover 30% of EU land, freshwater and marine areas. The EU should propose a new Soils Framework Directive to adequately protect soil. It should ban hazardous substances, introduce a reforestation strategy, an initiative for greening cities and bring forward a strategy for the protection of our oceans, seas, marine life, coastal communities and overseas regions, maximising the potential of the oceans for decarbonisation.



+122 MILLION PEOPLE
COULD BE LIVING IN EXTREME POVERTY BY 2030
due to climate change, agro-industrialisation, and other impacts on small farmers

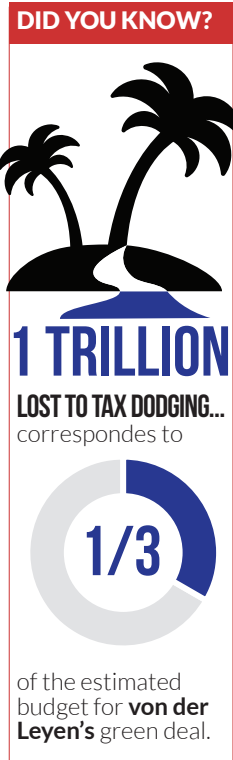
Source: https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/foresight/topic/diversifying-inequalities/impact-climate-change-environment-poverty_en

05 LAUNCH A MASSIVE PUBLIC INVESTMENT DRIVE

The EU's cap on national borrowing of 3% of GDP is an obstacle to finance the transition to a zero carbon economy. We demand that the Stability and Growth Pact, as it is known, is replaced by an Employment and Sustainability Pact, or at least to exclude environmental and social public investment from this rule. We demand a reform of state aid rules to allow for unprecedented public investment in the green transition, public services and social protection. The "Green Deal" should accelerate investment in renewable energy technologies. The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Central Bank (ECB) must completely divest from fossil fuels and shift investment to green assets. The EU's new Climate Bank should support the transition with zero-interest loans and the EU must put regulations in place to prohibit investment in polluting sectors. In this sense, the Energy Charter Treaty is outdated and the EU must withdraw from it.

06 CENTRE TAX JUSTICE IN THE TRANSITION

Tax dodging deprives states of crucial resources to fund ecological transition and public services. Billions of euros are lost annually to tax dodging. We need a credible blacklist of all tax havens, to ensure big companies are taxed where income is generated and a minimum effective corporate income tax to end the race to the bottom must be established. The EU must adopt tax transparency and public country-by-country reporting for companies. Energy taxes should be brought in line with our climate targets and tax incentives created to discourage harmful activities.



TAX DODGING DEPRIVES STATES OF CRUCIAL RESOURCES TO FUND ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION AND PUBLIC SERVICES.

07 FULLY IMPLEMENT AN ENERGY TRANSITION STRATEGY

The EU must present a strategy to transition to a fully renewables-based energy system by 2050 at the latest, committing to increase jobs in the EU renewable energy sector and rapidly phasing-out coal-based electricity production. All energy sectors should be brought into public ownership.

08 BRING FORWARD AN ALTERNATIVE TO EMISSIONS TRADING

Market-based solutions have failed to curb emissions. The EU must propose binding annual emissions reduction targets for the industrial, transport, and agricultural sectors. The EU must end the aviation fuel tax exemption and bring forward binding emissions reductions for the aviation sector, including advocating for a ban on private jets and other modes of transport that are grossly anti-environmental.



There are more than

1000
PESTICIDES

in use around the world

In Europe, more than

60%
OF HAIR SAMPLES

contain traces of at least
one pesticide

09 TRANSFORM AGRICULTURE POLICY

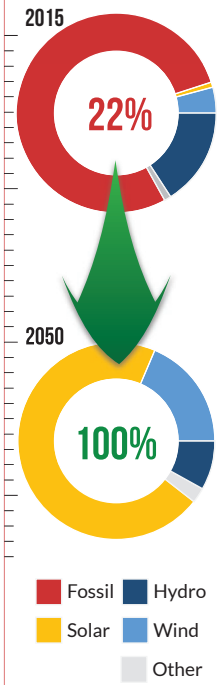
The EU must stop promoting and subsidising harmful industrial farming. The Farm to Fork Strategy of food security, food quality and food safety for EU citizens must be made truly transformative. The new CAP should favour small family farming and promote the development of safe, alternative plant protection methods and organic farming. The “Green Deal” should support the protein transition; revise and expand protection in all directives and regulations pertaining to animal welfare in order to reduce animal suffering and exploitation, ensure local production and consumption, with more sustainable production and consumption models and short distribution chains, including the introduction of the principle of national preference for imports from EU countries and other third countries.

10 AN OUTWARD-LOOKING PLAN

International economic relations must be mutually beneficial, refusing all forms of neo-colonialism and guaranteeing the right to food, water, health, housing, energy, resource management and preservation, sovereign development, and combating hunger, disease and poverty. The “Green Deal” is an opportunity to push for fair and just international trade, as opposed to free trade, that is mutually beneficial to people, based on solidarity and in full respect for our climate and social objectives. The EU should provide debt-relief to developing countries and commit to replenishing global climate funds. A new border adjustment mechanism should take into account climate, environmental, animal welfare and ILO assessed labour conditions to support local products and discourage those that have travelled the world. There must be corporate due diligence and binding ecological, labour and social norms throughout the value chain. The EU should advocate for climate refugee status, recognise the international crime of ecocide, and support a global phase out of fossil fuels.

DID YOU KNOW?

A global transition to 100% renewable is feasible and more cost effective than the existing system



Source: <http://energywatchgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Full-Study-100-Renewable-Energy-Worldwide-Power-Sector.pdf>



PRIORITISING PEOPLE & PLANET OVER PROFIT

GUE/NGL will constructively and critically work to make sure that the “European Green Deal” gets us transitioning in the right direction, and fast. We expect this Commission to take on board our demands.

On all the elements to come, such as, the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy, the Farm to Fork strategy, zero-pollution ambition, the new circular economy action plan and the 8th Environmental Action Plan, the European Commission can expect ambitious and realistic proposals from us.

THE EU ONLY HAS ONE CHANCE, LET’S GET IT RIGHT!

**MAKING CAPITALISM JUST A BIT GREENER
WILL NOT SUCCEED IN HALTING CLIMATE CHANGE,
IT WILL ONLY DELAY CLIMATE ACTION FURTHER.
WE NEED TO PLACE PEOPLE AND THE
SUSTAINABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT
ABOVE PROFIT.**

Our group brings together 41 MEPs standing up for peace, social justice, the environment, human rights, workers, gender equality & democracy.

ANOTHER EUROPE IS POSSIBLE!

www.guengl.eu

