**POSITION PAPER**



**European Parliament**

**Topic:** Climate Change

Climate change is one of the few issues that affect every single being on the planet. No creature is exempted from the impact of climate change, but only the human race is responsible for the human-made part of global warming, and thus only humans should and must take full responsibility for it.

It has come to the attention of the European Parliament that the global scientific community’s position is that the significant aspect of climate change, global warming, is (with estimates being more significant than a 95 percent probability) mainly human-made. Also, it has become clear that this change of climate has a rate that has been unprecedented in the entire human history. Hence, it is indisputable that social action is required in order to mitigate the consequences of climate change. Numerous experts predicted that in case we continue to emit the same amount of carbon dioxide as currently emitted, our planet will face devastating calamities, which in turn will directly affect, and in some cases even eradicate, numerous species of animals. Since, although already mentioned in the 19th century, health-related consequences of the emission of carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and ultra-fine dust particles are still not entirely understood, health consequences could further on not only put animals at risk but also threaten the human species. Also, we have to expect dramatic negative impacts on our life quality, natural resources, and living spaces. While scientists claim that the recent fires in the Amazon region, as well as the Australian bush fires, were hugely affected by climate change, the melting of the polar ice caps as well as the global temperature and sea-level rise are the most visible long-term consequences. With further environmental degradation looming to crush the attempted fulfillment of the European Green Deal guidelines, trying to stop emissions from causing further greenhouse effects by the year 2050 has become one of the main priorities of the European Parliament.

*Climate challenges and inequality can only be solved together… We are not equal in the face of the climate change… The ecological crisis I therefore aggravating the social crisis and the crisis of inequality… We must understand that ecological and social progress go hand in hand* – MEP President Sassoli

Last summer, climate change already had a devastating impact on the European farmland, reducing the crop of vegetables and increasing the price of such for consumers. This, in turn, particularly affected low-income families. Rising temperatures and heavy storms will lead to even further scenarios of such kind. Fighting climate change is not only imperative for our survival, our progress, and our quality of life, but it is also fundamental in helping to solve the social crisis and reduce the global economic inequality of countries. The stricter the measurements set by the European Parliament, the greater the benefit for social in the long run. The beginning of a new European institutional cycle is putting the fight against global warming and the ecological transition at the centre of its priorities. The European Union has taken action to address this situation. Yet, climate change continues to gain ground rapidly. The European Parliament believes that the steps taken so far have been inadequate for this particular situation and are simply used as a political tool rather than to address and fight the real issue. Although it is clear that the European Union cannot solve this problem on its own, there is still a need for a worldwide leader. The current opinion of the European Parliament is that the European Union should lead by example in setting clear and easy to follow the rules as well as in stating decisive measures that the rest of the world can follow and gain an edge on technologies that, in future, will bring the quality of life and profit back to the human race.

It should be in everyone's interest not to shy away from this enormous challenge, but to take personal responsibility and tackle the problem undaunted. The European Parliament hopes for and encourages strong cohesion between the Member States and joined work on technical innovation and the acquisition of knowledge.

The European Parliament states the following:

First, as MEP President D. Sassolli said, any agreement on the budget for 2021-2027 that does not give the EU backing to finance the European Green Deal will be rejected.

*We must equip the Union with all the means necessary to address the challenges that we face together* – President Sassoli (25/02/2020)

The position of the European Parliament is that further investments in research are required in order to ensure that Europe is at the frontline and does not need to rely on importing new technologies. MEPs will amend legislative proposals to meet the objectives of the European Green Deal. The Parliament asks for institutions of the European Union to operate by following higher targets for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Finally, the European Union should adopt higher ambitions for the European Unions' 2030 goal of emissions and choose them well in advance of the United Nations climate change conference in November. European Union member states should follow the Green Deal with all its regulations and objectives and aim to reach climate neutrality in 2050.