

Annex: Business action in the EU on Climate

Businesses and investors from across Europe have a strong track record of climate action, and of supporting the introduction of ambitious and effective climate policies for the EU.

Under the leadership of the Corporate Leaders Group there have been a series of activities over the last year championing transformative 'net zero' goals for businesses and government in Europe. This has included a letter from eleven business leaders to members of the European Environment Council urging them to set a net zero goal for Europe and to increase Europe's climate targets for 2030. This in turn inspired a parallel letter by The B Team, signed by their business and civil society leaders. The CLG have also produced a short video with CEOs and senior executives from companies including Stora Enso, AstraZeneca, Interface and EDF talking about their experience of transformative targets and support for the net zero goal. There have been nearly 100,000 views of the video.

Over 880 companies have made over 1,420+ commitments to bold climate action as part of the We Mean Business coalition's Take Action campaign. More than 400 of these companies are headquartered in Europe, demonstrating the leadership role Europe is taking in the low-carbon transition.

Over 250 European companies are paving the way for the zero-carbon economies of the future by committing to reduce emissions in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement, through the Science Based Targets initiative.

This includes two of the world's largest consumer goods companies, Unilever and Nestlé, the world's largest furniture retailer IKEA Group, health and nutritional materials multinational DSM and several companies from heavy-emitting sectors including German cement maker HeidelbergCement and the world's largest shipping container company Maersk.

Leading European utilities are helping to create the zero-carbon power system, by committing to bold climate action through the coalition's initiatives. These include EDF, EDP, Enel, ENGIE, Eni, Iberdrola, National Grid, Orsted and Vattenfall.

85 European companies are helping to drive demand for renewable electricity through their commitment to 100% renewable electricity, with RE100, led by The Climate Group in partnership with CDP. These include the world's largest brewer AB Inbev, technology giant Signify, DSM, Unilever and food maker Danone.

Many European companies are helping to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles with EV100, led by The Climate Group. These include the world's leading mail and logistics company Deutsche Post DHL Group,

The 860+ businesses represented by the We Mean Business coalition Take Action campaign called on the EU to commit to [net-zero GHG emissions by 2050](#) at the latest, through a statement from the We Mean Business coalition and letters from partners.

In addition:

- Over 50 European businesses, investors, cities and regions have joined forces for the first time to call for net-zero emissions by 2050 through the Step Up Now initiative. Together they are sending a clear signal to policymakers discussing the European Commission's strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate-neutral economy by 2050 - a net-zero emission economy is feasible, desirable and innovative solutions are being adopted across Europe in response to climate change.
- Over 90 organisations; companies, cities and universities and The Confederations of Finnish and Danish industries representing more than 25.000 companies and The Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners in Finland having more than 300.000 members have signed the [Nordic initiative](#) calling EU to set a target for achieving net-zero emissions at the latest by 2050, to agree on a binding carbon budget for the remaining GHG emissions and to revise and align the 2030 and 2040 targets with the net-zero targets.
- [Stiftung 2°](#) (Foundation 2°) is a joint initiative of German companies of various economic sectors. The foundation aims to encourage policymakers to adopt effective, market-based tax and energy policies that harness the innovative potential of the private sector to encourage decarbonisation. The foundation is named after its most important goal: preventing average global warming from reaching 2 °C. Stiftung 2° set up a joint project with WWF Germany on a "[Pathway to a <2° Economy](#)" („*Weg in die <2°-Wirtschaft*“) to bring together pioneering companies along the value chains of the buildings, transportation, and industrial production sectors to develop concrete, cross-company project ideas to reduce greenhouse gas emissions according to the <2°-limit. [2 years, 3 climate-relevant sectors, 11 workshops, 40 companies, and more than 100 participants](#) – now, we are looking at 8 innovative projects which contribute to the pathway towards a <2°-economy and demonstrating that the transformation of the economy is doable and harnesses new opportunities
- Investors are increasingly shifting capital into the low carbon transition:
 - The global share of low-carbon supply-side energy investments grew from [37% to 43% between 2014 and 2016](#), and the trend is continuing.
 - A global survey carried out by the bank HSBC in 2017 showed that two thirds of investors were planning to [increase their investments related to tackling climate change](#) – with this increasing to 97% of respondents in Europe.
 - Investors are also [increasingly committed to reporting on climate-related risks](#) through the recommendations of the Taskforce on Climate-related Finance Disclosure.
- A global investor initiative is putting coordinated pressure on the biggest emitting companies to adopt climate change strategies. [Climate Action 100+](#) involves over 320 investors managing over €29 trillion in assets.
- A record number of investors – 421 investors managing over €28 trillion in assets – have [called on Governments](#) to scale up and accelerate the actions needed to implement the goals of the Paris Agreement.