

## Open letter to the heads of the European Union's decision-making institutions

José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission  
Hans-Gert Pöttering, President of the European Parliament  
Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France, holder of the EU Presidency

Poznan, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2008

Subject: EU leadership on climate change

Honourable Presidents Barroso, Pöttering and Sarkozy,

The undersigned 60 plus organizations from around the world call on you to ensure that the European Union stays true to its commitment to stop dangerous climate change, limiting global warming to well below two degrees Celsius. Today and tomorrow you will be discussing and deciding the future of EU climate policy for the next decade. Your deliberations will have a profound impact on the chances of agreeing an adequate and equitable global solution to the threat of dangerous climate change by the summit scheduled to take place in one year's time in Copenhagen.

The undersigned organizations are gravely concerned that the current status of your discussions on 2020 emission reduction targets and the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) will likely destroy the reputation of the EU's leadership and the dynamics of climate change policy internationally.

We call on you to make up for the shortcomings currently under discussion and live up to your role as a leader on climate change by making the following improvements:

- Send a clear signal to the rest of the world that the EU will commit to at least 30% reduction from 1990 emission levels by 2020. Ensure that the vast majority of these reductions takes place within the EU, and not via external offsets of dubious quality. Introduce a credible compliance mechanism, such as fines, to ensure that member states achieve their targets.
- Show that you are committed to assisting developing countries and the most vulnerable communities around the world by providing sufficient finances for climate friendly development and adapting to the already inevitable impacts of current climate change. You can do this easily by setting aside a proportion of revenues generated by EU ETS auctioning.
- Fully internalize climate change pollution cost for the EU's power sector by auctioning 100% of allowances to them as of 2013. End the ongoing flight from change by many of Europe's manufacturing sectors and stop handing them free pollution permits - all sectors must contribute to the necessary reductions.

Honourable Presidents, we are confident that you are aware of the seriousness of the implications that your decisions will have. The EU is about to set the benchmark for how the industrialized world, source of climate change and its devastating impacts, will live up to its responsibility. If the current status of discussions would be adopted by the EU and then in fellow industrialized countries, the world would face climate change of four degrees globally, or even more.

Without your leadership, the UN talks face a high risk of failure, making a global solution impossible, and condemning millions of people around the world to immense suffering and species and ecosystems to extinction and destruction.

Please do not fail in this important task.

The world is watching you.

Kim Carstensen, WWF International	Andrea Cocco, Legambiente, Italy
Tafue Lusama, WWF South Pacific	Morgane Creach, Reseau Action Climat France
Elise Ford, Oxfam International	Klaus Milke, Germanwatch, Germany
Jorgo Riss, Greenpeace European Unit	Antje Broock, Friends of the Earth Germany
Magda Stoczkiewicz, Friends of the Earth Europe	Richard Brand, Church Development Service (EED), Germany
Matthias Duwe, Climate Action Network Europe	Silva Herrmann, Friends of the Earth, Austria
Clairie Papazoglou, Birdlife International	Jens Buurgard Nielsen, Milieudedefensie, the Netherlands
Laura Williamson, HELIO International	Inge Vianen, ICCO, the Netherlands
Mie Asaoka, Kiko Network, Japan	Julien Vandeburie, Inter-Environnement Wallonie, Belgium
Mitsutoshi Hayakawa, CASA, Japan	Bram Claeys, Bond Beter Leefmilieu, Belgium
Gloria Kuang-Jung Hsu, Taiwan Environmental Protection Union, Taiwan	John Maggs, Seas at risk, Belgium
Tafue Lusama, Tuvalu Climate Action Network	Alexandre Polack, ActionAid, Belgium
Richard Worthington, South African CAN	Niamh Garvey, Trócaire, Ireland
Morrow Gaines Campbell III, Vitae Civilis, Brazil	Oisín Coghlan, Friends of the Earth Ireland
Peter Bahouth, US Climate Action Network	Cliona Sharkey, CIDSE, UK
Barbara Bramble, National Wildlife Federation, USA	Ruth Davis, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, UK
Matt Maiorana, SustainUS, USA	Paul Cook, Tearfund, UK
Alden Meyer, Union of Concerned Scientists, USA	Nelson Muffuh, Christian Aid, UK
Dale Marshall, David Suzuki Foundation, Canada	Rachel Berger, Practical Action, UK
Graham Saul, Climate Action Network Canada, Canada	Matthew Findlay, E3G, UK
Hannah Mc Kinnon, Canadian Youth Delegation, Canada	Neil Thorns, Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, UK
Dale Marshall, David Suzuki Foundation, Canada	Stephen Hale, Green Alliance, UK
Barbara Haya, International Rivers, Canada	Mattias Söderberg, DanChurchAid, Denmark
Amelia Thorpe, Environmental Defender, Australia	Søren Dyck-Madsen, Danish Ecological Council, Denmark
Ben Margetts, Australian Youth Climate Coalition, Australia	Istvan Farkas, Friends of the Earth Hungary, Hungary
Mehmet Metaj, Albaforest, Albania	Brigitta Bozso, Energia Klub, Hungary
Manana Kochladze, Association for Green Alternatives, Georgia	Aleksandra Arcipowska, Polish Climate Coalition, Poland
Irina Stavchuk, National Ecological Centre of Ukraine	Andrzej Kassenberg, Institute for Sustainable Development, Poland
Arild Hermstad, Future in Our Hands, Norway	Lidija Zivcic, Focus, Slovenia
Harald Nyeggen Sommer, Norwegian Church Aid, Norway	Lidija Zivcic, Agreenet, Czech Republic
Lars Haltbrekken, Friends of the Earth Norway	Klara Sutlovicova, Centre for Transport and Energy, Czech Republic
	Katerina Husova, CEE Bankwatch Network, Czech Republic