Dear Heads of State and Government,
Dear President von der Leyen, President Metsola and President Michel,
Dear Members of the European Parliament,

Today, 3 May 2024, the EU has used up nature’s budget for the entire year.

With just one month until the EU elections, we appeal to you to make a top political priority of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution given the devastating impacts and growing intensity and frequency of climate-related events for ecosystems, health, economies, social justice and cohesion.

Our societies and economies are supported by what nature provides – food, water, fibre, timber, carbon absorption, and land to build infrastructure. The EU accounts for less than 6% of the world population but uses between 70% and 97% of the ‘safe operating space’ available for the whole world [1]. We would need 3 planets to satisfy our demand if everyone on Earth lived like Europeans. This is not only unsustainable, it is irresponsible.

The consequences of our ecological overshoot include global deforestation, biodiversity loss, collapse of fish stocks, water scarcity and pollution, soil erosion, air pollution, and climate change, leading to more frequent extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and wildfires. This concerns us all, as Europe is set to suffer temperature increases double that of other continents due to climate change. And risks linked to resource exploitation such as violence, poverty and poor governance put global peace and security at risk [2, 3].

In the coming months, you have the momentous opportunity and responsibility to turn the tide. The EU launched the European Green Deal in 2019. While it is still far removed from its initial promise, the prioritisation of a ‘climate-neutral, green, fair and social Europe’ represented a remarkable shift in policy making. However, in recent months, politicians across Europe have begun breaking their promises in favour of short-term interests of those that lobby hardest, further undermining the credibility of the EU. Scrapping existing environmental safeguards, or putting new green laws on hold will only bring our nature closer to the brink of collapse, along with our economies.
We urge you to act before it is too late. Current and future generations need you to step up your political commitment to work towards a climate-neutral, zero-pollution and nature-positive economy, that protects citizens and our industries. You can do this by committing to:

- **Deepen and accelerate the Green Deal**, by fully implementing recently agreed goals and addressing ambition gaps on nature, climate as well as pollution by further establishing robust, legally binding targets and new ambitious protection standards based on the latest science available. Only with continued efforts can Europe safeguard our health, nature, safety and economy and create crucial links between those.

- **Radically increase public climate, environment and social investments**, while aligning all public and private investments with the objectives of the green transition and ensure big polluters are fully held accountable. Only then, will Europe be able to boost its competitive sustainability.

- **Strengthen EU governance, democracy and the effective participation of civil society**. The role of citizens at national and EU levels needs to be strengthened, and equal access to decision-makers as well as justice across Europe needs to be ensured.

These actions are essential to unlock the societal and industrial benefits of a well-executed green and fair transition. Already today, citizens are benefiting from the transition. In 2023, renewables used for our electricity production rose to a record 44% share - increasing our energy independence and stabilising soaring energy bills. In 19 Member States, electric cars are already cheaper than a petrol or diesel equivalent. The EU has been working on making rail travel cheaper, cleaner and easier, with notable successes. As a result of EU laws, air quality in cities and industrial areas has started to improve, saving lives and preventing illnesses. And the EU has seen substantial growth in green jobs, spanning various competencies and accommodating diverse skill levels, totalling 5.1 million jobs in 2020.
In the coming months, you will have the opportunity to set a political agenda that prioritises people and the planet, thereby creating even more benefits. Recent and forthcoming reports, such as the one on the future of the EU single market [4], highlight the political imperative to act. We urge you to respect the broad majority of EU citizens who continue to believe that climate, health and social issues should be top priorities [5].

Yours sincerely,

The undersigned 318 signatories*

List of references

Signatories

2Celsius (Romania)
350.org (EU)
Academia Cidadã - Citizenship Academy (Portugal)
ActionAid International (INT)
Action Solidarité Tiers Monde (Luxembourg)
ACV-CSC - Confédération des Syndicats Chrétiens (Belgium)
AEPOH - Association pour un espace protégé des ondes hertzennes (France)
Agroecology Europe (Belgium)
AirClim - Air Pollution and Climate Secretariate (EU)
Alternatiba (France)
Amycos.org (Spain)
An Cláíomh Glas (Ireland)
An Taisce - The National Trust for Ireland (Ireland)
ARC2020 (Belgium)
Arche Noah (Austria)
Association Biorn (Croatia)
Association Warrior Enguerrand (France)
B Lab (INT)
Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania (Lithuania)
Bat Conservation Ireland (Ireland)
Bellona Europa (EU)
BirdLife Austria (Austria)
BirdLife Cyprus (Cyprus)
BirdLife Estonia (Estonia)

BirdLife Europe (EU)
BirdLife Finland (Finland)
BirdLife Malta (Malta)
BirdLife Sverige (Sweden)
BirdWatch Ireland (Ireland)
BLOOM Association (France)
Bond Beter Leefmilieu (Belgium)
Born Free Foundation (United Kingdom)
BRAL vzw (Belgium)
Broederlijk Delen (Belgium)
Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation (Bulgaria)
Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (Bulgaria)
BUND - Friends of the Earth Germany (Germany)
Butterfly Conservation Europe (EU)
Canopea (Belgium)
Cantine Sans Plastique France (France)
Carbon Gap (EU)
Cátedra Del Tajo UCLM-SOLISS (Spain)
CDAFAL 70 - Conseil Départemental des Associations Familiales Laïques Haute Saône (France)
CEE Bankwatch Network (EU)
CEEweb for Biodiversity (EU)
Centre for Environmental Living & Training (Ireland)
Centre for Transport and Energy (Czech Republic)
Centrum pre filantropiu (Slovakia)
Changing Cities (Germany)
ChemSec (Sweden)
CircE Malta (Malta)
Citizens’ Climate Europe (EU)
Citizens Climate Europe Spain (Spain)
Cittadini per l’aria (Italy)
Clean Air Action Group (Hungary)
CLER - Réseau pour la transition énergétique (France)
ClientEarth (EU)
Climate Action Network Europe (EU)
Climate Coalition (Poland)
Climate Strategy (Spain)
Coastwatch (Ireland)
Coopération internationale pour le développement et la solidarité (INT)
Conseil National des Associations Familiales Laïques (France)
Collectif des Riverains de Pont de Crau - ARLES (France)
Comitato Torino Respira (Italy)
Comitato Tutela Ambientale Genova (Italy)
Community Hygiene Concern (United Kingdom)
Compassion in World Farming EU (EU)
Cool Heating Coalition (EU)
Crann - Trees for Ireland (Ireland)
Creatura Think & Do Tank ry (Finland)
Child Rights International Network (EU)
Culture Action Europe (EU)
Cyklokoalicia (Slovakia)
Danish Society for Nature Conservation (Denmark)
David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (United Kingdom)
Deutscher Naturschutzing, Dachverband der deutschen Natur-, Tier- und Umweltschutzorganisationen e.V. (Germany)
Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. (Germany)
De Vlinderstichting - Dutch Butterfly Conservation (Netherlands)
DOF BirdLife (Denmark)
E3G (EU)
EAA - European Anglers Alliance (Belgium)
Earth Forever Foundation (Bulgaria)
Eco Hvar Non-Profit Organisation (Croatia)
eco-union (Spain)
ECOCITY (Greece)
ECODES - Fundación Ecología y Desarrollo (Spain)
ECOLISE - European Network for Community-Led Initiatives on Climate Change and Sustainability (EU)
Ecological Assessment & Consultancy (Belgium)
Ecologistas en Acción (Spain)
ECOS - Environmental Coalition on Standards (EU)
Ecoteca (Romania)
Eipolteta tulevaisuutta (Finland)
Ekopolis Foundation (Slovakia)
Electra Energy (Greece)
Estonian Fund for Nature (Estonia)
Eurogroup for Animals (EU)
European Network on Independent Living (EU)
Environmental Investigation Agency (INT)
Environmental Justice Foundation (INT)
Environmental Justice Network Ireland (Ireland)
Environmental Law Ireland (Ireland)
Environmental Paper Network International (INT)
Estonian Green Movement (Estonia)
Euro Coop (EU)
European Environmental Bureau (EU)
European Public Health Alliance (Belgium)
European Respiratory Society (EU)
European Rivers Network (France)
European Vegetarian Union (Belgium)
EUROPEUM - Institute for European Policy (Czech Republic)
EUROSITE - The European Land Conservation Network (EU)
Facing Finance (Germany)
Fair Finance International (Netherlands)
Fair Trade Advocacy Office (EU)
Fairtrade International (INT)
Feedback EU (Netherlands)
FEWE - Polish Foundation for Energy Efficiency (Poland)
Fingo - Finnish Development NGOs (Finland)
Finnwatch (Finland)
Focus - Association for Sustainable Development (Slovenia)
Food & Water Action Europe (EU)
Food Council MRA (Netherlands)
Forests and Citizens Foundation (Poland)
Forests of the World (Denmark)
Foundation Science4Nature (Netherlands)
France Nature Environnement (France)
Frank Bold (Czech Republic)
Friends of Nature Czechia (Czech Republic)
Friends of the Earth Europe (EU)
Friends of the Earth Ireland (Ireland)
Fundación Hope! Acción climática (Spain)
Fundación Nueva Cultura del Agua (Spain)
Fundación Vida Sostenible (Spain)
Fundación FIDELIS SILUAS (Poland)
Fundacja GAP Polska (Poland)
Fundacja Niech Żyj! (Poland)
Fundacja Psubraty (Poland)
Fundacja Strefa Zieleni (Poland)
Fundacja Szkatułka (Poland)
Fältbiologerna (Sweden)
Generation Climate Europe (EU)
Germanwatch (Germany)
GLOBAL 2000 (Austria)
Global Action Plan Ireland (Ireland)
Global Citizen (INT)
Global Footprint Network (EU)
Global Responsibility (Austria)
Global Witness (EU)
Good Food Good Farming (EU)
Green Foundation Ireland (Ireland)
Green Impact (Italy)
Green Liberty (Latvia)
Green Transition Denmark (Denmark)
Greenpeace (EU)
Greentervention (EU)
Grootouders voor het Klimaat (Belgium)
Générations Futures (France)
Hawkmoth (EU)
Health and Environment Alliance (EU)
Hellenic Ornithological Society (Greece)
Humane Society International/Europe (EU)
Humundi (Belgium)
IFOAM Organics Europe (EU)
INKOTA-netzwerk (Germany)
Institute for Circular Economy (Slovakia)
Institute for Health and Environment (Slovenia)
International Fund for Animal Welfare (EU)
International Mire Conservation Group (INT)
Irish Peatland Conservation Council (Ireland)
Irish Wildlife Trust (Ireland)
ISDE - Associazione Medici per l’Ambiente (Italy)
Join For Water (Belgium)
Justice and Environment (EU)
Klimabevægelsen i Danmark (Denmark)
Klimatsvaret - CCL Sverige (Sweden)
Klub Przyrodników - Naturalists Club Poland (Poland)
Koalicja Żywa Ziemia - Coalition Living Earth (Poland)
KOO - Coordination Office of the Austrian Bishops’ Conference for International Development and Mission (Austria)
Kyoto Club (Italy)
La Garance Voyageuse (France)
LandschappenNL (Netherlands)
Latvijas Ornitoloģijas biedriba (Latvia)
Leave No Trace Ireland (Ireland)
Leefmilieu (Netherlands)
Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli (Italy)
Legambiente (Italy)
Les Amis de la Terre France (France)
Les chercheurs d'air (Belgium)
Lifelong Learning Platform (EU)
Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (France)
Lithuanian Ornithological Society (Lithuania)
Livorno Porto Pulito APS (Italia)
LPN - Liga para a Protecção da Natureza (Portugal)
Luontoliitto - The Finnish Nature Association (Finland)
Misereor (Germany)
More Than Enough (Belgium)
Mouvement Ecologique asbl. (Luxembourg)
Musszelka (Poland)
NABU - The Nature And Biodiversity Conservation Union (Germany)
Natagora (Belgium)
National Society of Conservationists - Friends of the Earth Hungary (Hungary)
natur&ëmwelt a.s.b.l. (Luxembourg)
Natural Heritage Foundation (Poland)
Naturefriends Greece (Greece)
Naturfreunde International (INT)
Natuur & Milieu (Netherlands)
Natuurmonumenten (Netherlands)
Natuurpunt (Belgium)
New Weather Institute (United Kingdom & Sweden)
Nivon Natuurvrienden Nederland (Netherlands)
No a la Mina Esquel (Argentina)
Notre Affaire A Tous (France)
Oceana (EU)
ODG - Debt Observatory in Globalisation (Spain)
Oikologikos Politistikos Syllogos Chaidariou (Greece)
Olof Palme International Center (Sweden)
Onderzoekcentrum B-WARE (Netherlands)
Oxfam (EU)
Paludosa Research (Netherlands)
Parent in the City Foundation (Poland)
Partnerstvo za okolje in zdravje (Slovenia)
Pesticide Action Network Europe (EU)
Pesticide Action Network Italy
Pesticide Action Network Netherlands (Netherlands)
Pestizid Aktions-Netzwerk e.V. (Germany)
Plataforma contra la Especulación Urbanística y Ambiental de Candeleda (Spain)
Plataforma de Toledo en Defensa del Tajo (Spain)
Pentecostal Mission Development (Sweden)
Poem26 (France)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Polish Ecological Club Mazovian Branch</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polish Green Network</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polish Society for the Protection of Birds</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polish Zero Waste Organisation</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Por Otra PAC</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIARTEM - Electrosensibles de France</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pro Wildlife</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ProVeg International</td>
<td>INT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reclaim Finance</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reptile Amphibian Conservation Europe</td>
<td>EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Réseau Action Climat</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REScoop.eu</td>
<td>EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rethink Plastic alliance</td>
<td>EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revo Prosperidad Sostenible</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right to Repair Europe</td>
<td>EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodzice dla Klimatu</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RREUSE</td>
<td>EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RT-ON</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAFE - Food Advocacy Europe</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALAMANDRA - Polish Society for Nature Conservation</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanità di Frontiera</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG Watch Austria</td>
<td>Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG Watch Europe</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seas At Risk</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secrets Toxiques</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEO/BirdLife</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ShareAction</td>
<td>EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silvers Indignados por el Clima</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siostry Rzeki</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenian NCD Alliance</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenská ornitologická spoločnosť</td>
<td>Slovakia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slow Food</td>
<td>INT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slow Food Deutschland</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slow Food Italia APS</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slow Food Youth Network</td>
<td>EU &amp; INT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMC - Faith in Development</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society for Ecological Restoration Europe</td>
<td>EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society for Sustainable Development Design</td>
<td>Croatia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society for Sustainable Living</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society for the Earth</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOLIDAR</td>
<td>EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solsoc</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOS MCS</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPEA - Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish Society for Nature Conservation</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEP</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stichting Bargerveen</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczne EKO-UNIA</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stowarzyszenie na Rzecz Ochrony Lasów i Żwierząt “Duchy Lasu” (Poland)
Stowarzyszenie Olszówka (Poland)
Suomen Retkeilylitto ry - The Trekking Association of Finland (Finland)
Surfrider Foundation Europe (EU)
Sustainable Water Network (Ireland)
Svalorna Latinamerika (Sweden)
Swedwatch (Sweden)
Südwind (Austria)
TAPP Coalition (EU)
The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (Finland)
The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation (Sweden)
The Nature Conservancy Europe (EU)
Transport & Environment (EU)
Trócaire (Ireland)
UECNA - European Union Against Aircraft Nuisances (Belgium)
Umanotera (Slovenia)
Umweltbundesverband (Austria)
Umweltinstitut München e.V. (Germany)
VCÖ - Mobilität mit Zukunft (Austria)
Via Pontica Foundation (Bulgaria)
Voedsel Anders NL (Netherlands)
Voedselpark Amsterdam Foundation (Netherlands)
Vogelbescherming Nederland (Netherlands)
VOICE - Voice Of Irish Concern for the Environment (Ireland)
Warsaw Smog Alert (Poland)
We Are Here Venice (Italy)
WECF International (Netherlands)
Wetlands Conservation Centre (Poland)
Wetlands International Europe (EU)
World Fair Trade Organization (EU & INT)
Women for Water Partnership (INT)
Workshop for All Beings (Poland)
Wspólny Las (Poland)
WWF European Policy Office, on behalf of the WWF European network (EU)
ZERO - Association for the Sustainability of the Earth System (Portugal)
Zero Waste Alliance Ireland (Ireland)
Zero Waste Europe (EU)
Zielony Instytut (Poland)
ÖKOBÜRO - Alliance of the Environmental Movement (Austria)
Žiedinė Ekonomika (Lithuania)