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# LESS THAN 300 DAYS.

An open letter to EU Heads of State and Government about the climate crisis.

As you and political leaders across the world strive to counter today's financial meltdown, it is imperative that you do not lose sight of the climate crisis, which poses an even bigger threat to the world's citizens and economies.

Its impact is already being felt by millions of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people – through floods, droughts, increased extreme weather phenomena and rising sea levels.

You and other world leaders have less than 300 days to secure a strong agreement to tackle climate change at the UN summit in Copenhagen. If you get it right, this deal could save the world from the enormous costs of catastrophic global warming and protect the lives of poor people in developing countries. It could boost economic growth; create millions of high quality green collar jobs; and secure a safe energy supply for generations to come.

But there will be no agreement if rich countries, who have caused the climate crisis, fail to show a strong commitment to investing public money in climate protection, at home and in developing countries.

The European Union's position for the Copenhagen summit will be determined in the next few weeks. At the next summit of EU leaders on 19-20 March, you must:

- Agree to use today's fiscal stimulus measures to invest in the climate-friendly and environmentally safe industries of tomorrow. Taxpayers' money should be used to support a 'green new deal' to ensure a sustainable economic recovery – instead of bailing-out polluting industries;
- Champion the creation of a new international financial mechanism to support adaptation to climate change, clean energy and forest protection in developing countries. Government contributions should be based on historic responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions, and ability to pay;
- Commit to pay Europe's fair share – a minimum commitment now in the order of €35bn per year. This money must be additional to existing aid targets, and to any purchasing of carbon credits that offset EU emissions.

Signed by over 50 representatives of global civil society:

- Climate Action Network-Europe
- Greenpeace International
- Oxfam International
- WWF International
- Global Call to Action Against Poverty
- Avaaz
- Friends of the Earth Europe
- Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance
- All Africa Conference of Churches
- CIDSE
- Sisters of the Good Samaritan, Australia
- Edmund Rice Centre, Australia
- Bond Neter Leefmilieu, Belgium
- VODO, Belgium
- Centre for Transport and Energy, Czech Republic
- CEE Bankwatch Network, Czech Republic
- Danish Ecological Council, Denmark
- IBIS, Denmark
- Climate Action Network France
- Germanwatch
- Deutscher Naturschutzring e.V., Germany
- INKOTA-netzwerk, Germany
- BUND e.V., Germany
- Artefact – centre for sustainable development
- German Young Naturefriends
- Brot für die Welt/Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe
- Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Agenda 21 NRW e. V.
- Green Budget Europe, Germany
- Church Development Service, Germany
- Wikiwoods, Germany
- Iceland Nature Conservation Association
- Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change
- Grian, Ireland
- Citizens Alliance for Saving the Atmosphere and the Earth, Japan
- Franciscan Friars Minor OFM, Kenya
- Education for Life Institute/The Seed Institute
- IndyACT – the League of Independent Activists
- Nature Trust Malta
- Natuur en Milieu, Netherlands
- Milieudefensie – Friends of the Earth NL
- ICCO, interchurch organisation for development cooperation, Netherlands
- 4C Climate Change, Netherlands
- Norges Naturvernforbund, Norway
- Natur og Ungdom, Norway
- Changemaker Norway
- Spire, Youth of the Development Fund, Norway
- Forum for utvikling og miljø, Norway
- Focus Association for Sustainable Development
- Church of Sweden
- Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
- E3G, UK
- Tearfund, UK
- Christian Aid
- Cafod
- Practical Action, UK
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds