

Statement by European Green Leaders Ahead of the Special EUCO 17-18 April 2024

EU prosperity and competitiveness means championing climate security, not undermining it.

The June European Council will adopt its strategic agenda for the coming five years. In order to tackle the challenges we face, it is clear that no credible plan for our Union can be proposed without a clear and dedicated commitment to redouble our Green Deal ambitions. It is essential that we see this reflected in the agenda for the coming mandate. A targeted revision of the EU climate law to adopt an ambitious EU 2040 target is critical not only for energy independence but also for ensuring a just society, food security and fostering a future-proof economy. We must steer clear of any new rounds of austerity; instead, we urgently require robust investment in our green and social future.

The European Elections in June will be an opportunity for millions of citizens to participate in shaping the direction of our shared EU project. This key democratic moment comes at a time when citizens across Europe face multiple crises that require collective leadership and ambition to address. We, the undersigned, believe that a prosperous and competitive Europe can only be secured by redoubling our commitment to a climate-safe economy that works for everyone. The EU's strategic agenda for the coming five years must reflect this or risk undoing recent hard-won progress for our citizens, jobs and economy, independence from authoritarian regimes and security.

Green commitment to a secure future

The most recent EU Climate Risk Assessment has warned that Europe is the fastest-warming continent in the world. Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent, droughts, floods and heat waves more severe. March 2024 was the tenth month in a row to be the hottest on record. Our over-reliance on oil and gas from autocrats continues to expose us all to insecurity and inflated prices. Protecting citizens, communities and businesses is not a question to figure out tomorrow, but one we must all pursue with urgency today.

Securing our future means securing our energy independence. We cannot afford to backtrack on the Green Deal now, as it not only promises energy independence and security but also reduces our reliance on fossil fuels from autocratic nations. This is vital for protecting the democratic order.. Our commitment remains unwavering: to fortify Europe's autonomy and democratic resilience through sustainable and independent energy solutions.

A call to action: Redouble our Green Deal ambition

The green transition is key for our competitiveness. Backtracking from the transition would create uncertainty for businesses and sends mixed signals to companies and industry, most of whom are already making the transition because it makes economic sense. We need to give investor certainty to businesses, our economy and our security, by aiming to be the world's first emissions neutral continent. We need a strong investment programme to back it up, equal to, if not greater than, the USA's Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) ambition, and we need to invest in our public infrastructure, including in sustainable cross-border transport connectivity, and our people to ensure we lead in the global race for a clean economy. To fail to do so would not only be irresponsible, but devastating for Europe's citizens, ecosystems and economy.

Signatories

Terry Reintke MEP, EGP leading candidate and Greens/EFA co-president

Bas Eickhout MEP, EGP leading candidate

Philippe Lamberts, Greens/EFA co-president

Mélanie Vogel, EGP Co-chair

Thomas Waitz, EGP Co-chair