

Green 10's Asks to the European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen

For the joint meeting on 10 July 2026

The Green 10, representing 50 million Europeans across all Member States and Candidate Countries, put forward these calls for political decisions that will define our common future. The overwhelming majority of Europeans want to see action on climate change, care about environmental protection, and are concerned about the health impacts of pollution.

These are times of multiple crises, unprecedented heatwaves with dramatic costs on people's lives and the economy, and geopolitical upheaval. Yet another fossil fuel crisis has exposed the many dangers of our dependency on it. Disinformation has been systematically used to undermine science-based policymaking, erode the rule of law, including international law, and replace it with the rule of the strongest. Activities by vested interests are also fuelling the backlash against the EU environmental and climate framework, which has brought many benefits to people over the past decades and brought hope for the future.

Health, social and environmental protections are at risk; the European project is itself in existential danger, and Europe's democratic model is being weakened, potentially undermined if no action is taken to resist.

These are times of choice and vision for the EU, and it is essential that the EU play a **clear, constructive, and inspiring role**. The future strength and credibility of the European project will depend on its ability to uphold these principles and regain citizens' confidence.

As organisations committed to the public interest, science-based policymaking and a strong Europe, we believe the EU and especially the European Commission President should choose an agenda of hope, combining short-term action with a long-term vision.

We call on the Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to:

- 1) Commit to a full and swift phase-out of fossil fuels** to address the energy, climate and pollution crises. The Strait of Hormuz energy crisis should be Europe's last fossil fuel crisis.
- **Scale up proven, cost-effective clean energy solutions.** Increase support for renewable energy, battery storage, smart grids, energy and resource efficiency, energy savings, circular economy measures, and renewable-based electrification – leveraging the MFF & green public procurement. Propose an ambitious plan to accelerate electrification powered by homegrown renewable energy and a future-proof post-2030 energy framework with ambitious and binding renewable energy and energy-efficient targets.
- **Do not weaken climate and energy legislation, including the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) and the Methane Regulation.** The post-2030 policy package needs to be designed to achieve at least 90% net domestic emission reductions. Integrating international carbon credits

into the climate policy framework is extremely risky and would only delay EU domestic decarbonisation. Ensure ETS' overall climate benefit is not harmed through a weakened linear reduction factor, and funds are allocated to decarbonisation whilst prioritising efficiency, social fairness and renewable-based electrification. Ensure the requirement of national strategies for the use of ETS revenues. Use the ETS II and Social Climate Fund to drive a just and fair transition.

- **Put people, especially the vulnerable, at the centre of the transition.** Propose an ambitious climate resilience framework focused on health protection and advance climate adaptation and water resilience. Work with Member States to enable household agency and resilience, e.g., through home renewable energy systems, community energy uptake and building renovation, leasing options for EVs, measures for tenants, and investments in public transport. Identify and implement taxation measures (e.g., windfall and profit taxes) to ensure that profits from the current energy crisis are redirected to people and invested to support households in the energy transition.

2) Prioritise health and environment protection to address citizens' wellbeing and resilience

- **Uphold health-protective provisions on hazardous chemicals.** The Chemicals Omnibus was not a technical change but included proposals that would weaken long-standing protections against hazardous substances in consumer products (e.g., carcinogens in cosmetics). Show your commitment to protecting health by upholding health-protective provisions and take action to reduce the unacceptably high health cost from chemicals pollution, including through the proper implementation and enforcement of the REACH regulation, and the phase-out of endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) in the EU's restrictions roadmap.
- **Advance on a non-toxic Europe with a universal PFAS restriction.** The European Chemicals Agency concluded that PFAS ('forever chemicals') are linked to serious health risks, including cancer, and supports an EU-wide comprehensive and protective restriction for both consumer and industrial uses. A full phase-out of PFAS would reduce health costs up to roughly €500 billion a year by 2040. Propose a universal PFAS restriction that includes all uses and sectors without exception and ensures time-limited derogations for those specific applications that are essential, for which alternatives are not yet available.
- **Maintain existing pesticide authorisation safeguards.** Pesticides pose serious risks for human health, including increased risks of diseases, such as Parkinson's disease and childhood cancers — particularly for farmers, exposed communities, and future generations. Do not weaken existing pesticide authorisation safeguards through lifetime authorisations in the Food and Feed Omnibus and strengthen the implementation of the EU Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive.

3) Foster and protect EU civil society engagement as part of EU democracy

- **Ensure adequate funding for civil society.** Civil society plays a key role in upholding the public good, providing science-based, grassroots and expert input into EU decision-making. Ensuring civil society has the resources to play its role is not a luxury; adequate resources are central to good, transparent lawmaking, to allow for the representation of people, and for a resilient democracy. We therefore call for a clear commitment to provide explicit operating support for civil society to represent people and the general interest in decision-making — in the next MFF,

not only through AgoraEU, but also across other programmes, including LIFE. We also call on you to encourage Member States to support civil society, pluralism and the democratic right to protest at national level to uphold EU values.

- **Engage with civil society to support pluralism and balanced decision-making.** There is currently an imbalance in access to the EU Commission as reflected in the disproportionate number of meetings held with industry representatives compared to civil society organisations and trade unions. We urge you to uphold and strengthen the mechanisms that ensure transparency, meaningful public participation, and genuine consultation of European citizens in the policymaking process in line with [the recent communications of the EU Ombudswoman](#). And address the risks for environmental defenders from [SLAPPs](#) and shrinking civil society space.

4) **Ensure public financing levers the change we need**

- **Commit to reinstate LIFE as a standalone programme for the next MFF.** The LIFE programme has proven to be a [highly cost-effective EU programme](#) that has earned the EU appreciation by people across the continent and served as a lever for change in EU Member States. LIFE plays a crucial role in implementing EU environmental legislation and actively supports stakeholder participation in EU policymaking and delivery. The recent report from [CINEA on the LIFE programme and competitiveness](#) underlines that LIFE transforms environmental challenges into economic opportunities and mobilises private investment. LIFE is a strategic economic tool that strengthens EU competitiveness by turning sustainability into innovation, industrial opportunities, and resilience. Discontinuing LIFE as a standalone programme would significantly reduce access to funding and available resources at national, regional, and local levels. The European Parliament and the majority of Member States have clearly expressed support for LIFE in recent months. The Commission should take these signals seriously and propose its continuation as a standalone programme beyond 2027.
- **Urgently overhaul the EU's state aid rules (CISAF).** The EU's climate, energy, and industrial ambitions cannot be delivered through the current State Aid framework. Crucially, CISAF still prohibits output-based production support for cleantech manufacturing — the single instrument that would deliver transparent, bankable support. Simultaneously, fossil fuel subsidies should be urgently phased out. Fossil fuel subsidies by Member States were at a record high in 2022, and still at 111 billion EUR in 2023.
- **Show your commitment to EU environmental and climate financing.** Ensure the **MFF** increases climate and environment mainstreaming from the current 35% target to 50%, and strictly apply and enforce the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) principle across all funding. Invest in nature restoration and provide support for resilient municipal infrastructure. Healthy, productive ecosystems provide clean water and food and are more resilient to climate change, including along the EU's eastern borders, where they contribute to long-term stability and security. In addition, ensure the forthcoming Public Procurement Act makes sustainable purchasing the default, using Europe's €2 trillion public procurement market to create lead markets for clean, circular and innovative, low-carbon products and services, rather than reinforcing lowest-price purchasing.

5) Halt the Deregulation Agenda

- **Guide your services to ensure that simplification** becomes an agenda of smart implementation and does not result in the active weakening of environmental and climate standards. Furthermore, undermining human health and the rights of all Europeans, particularly the most vulnerable, is unacceptable, as is compromising the health and resilience of nature. Moreover, fully implementing EU environmental laws could save the EU economy around €180 billion every year. Finally, undoing decades of progress on the EU's environmental acquis is against the legal commitments enshrined in the EU Treaties (Arts 11 and 191 TFEU, Arts 3(3) and 3(5) of TEU, and Art 37 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, and may not withstand judicial scrutiny.
- **Do not revise the Nature Directives and the Nature Restoration Regulation.** The Birds and Habitats Directives have been proven to work according to an earlier Fitness Check, while the new Nature Restoration Law can be a real game changer to put biodiversity on a path to recovery. The stress test of the Nature Directives should focus on identifying remaining implementation barriers, resource needs, and examples of good practice, rather than reopening the legislation itself. And Member States should be supported to fully prioritise the implementation of the Nature Restoration Regulation to support healthy ecosystems and improve the EU's resilience to climate change.
- **Uphold the EU's water protection standards.** Ensure the full and timely implementation of the EU Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD) and do not undermine the Water Framework Directive (WFD), including the Nitrates Directive. The Commission's decision to revise the WFD was made without a prior impact assessment or evaluation, while stakeholder feedback provides only very limited evidence that the directive itself poses a significant barrier to permitting or investment. Europeans care deeply about these foundation stones of EU water protections, which are flexible and essential for achieving water and climate resilience in Europe.

The EU stands at a fork in the road. It can choose the path of deregulation, unravel its social and environmental protections, punish industry leaders, reward laggards, and lose the trust of its citizens. Or the EU can step up to the demands of history and champion a green, social and sustainable transition, and actively support multilateralism, defend the international rule of law, and improve the EU's impact on the world. As committed Europeans, we ask you to take decisions today that help address the triple climate-nature-pollution crisis and secure a fair future for future generations.

Signed

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