



**EUROPEAN  
CLIMATE  
PACT**

# EU and global progress towards the goals of the Paris Agreement

Questionnaire Results - 'Five points for Dubai'

Inputs from the European Climate Pact Ambassadors

October 2023

#EUClimatePact

#MyWorldOurPlanet

# Contents

<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Analysis &amp; Reporting .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Question 1: According to Ambassadors, is the EU is on the right course to making its fair contribution to the Paris Agreement goals of: limiting dangerous climate change, preparing for the impacts of climate change and aligning financial flows to support these efforts?.....	4
Question 2: If the EU were to accelerate action or “correct its course” in terms of action within the EU or with global partners, what would that new course look like? Please give examples of policies or actions that in your view would be needed in relation to the Paris Agreement goals. ....	7
Question 3: What opportunities need to be seized and obstacles overcome, through policies and their implementation, for the EU to be able to achieve its fair and ambitious contribution to each of the Paris Agreement goals? .....	10
Question 4: What can the EU do better to ensure that its efforts to implement the Paris Agreement are supported by all stakeholders in European society, and “leave no one behind” (EU internal focus)?.....	13
Question 5: What can the EU do better to ensure its own increasing ambition encourages other Parties and stakeholders to do the same?.....	17
<b>3. Conclusions &amp; Summary Statement: Our Points for Dubai .....</b>	<b>20</b>

# 1. Introduction

The UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai (COP28) in December this year will complete the first Global Stocktake (GST) under the Paris Agreement and seek to set a credible pathway to achieving the Paris Agreement's goals.

As a contribution to this effort, the European Commission held a high-level European Climate Stocktake event in Brussels on 27 October 2023. Climate Pact Ambassadors were invited to answer a series of questions (survey) as part of the European Commission contribution to the Global Climate Stocktake.

For climate action to accelerate enough so that respective policies achieve their goals of transformation to a net-zero world, **'all-of-society'** approach is necessary and hence it is crucial that citizens 'have a say' – and in a way that is as direct as possible. This Pact Ambassador's process is an attempt at providing such a more direct channel, where people already active on climate on the ground can also feed into a policy process.

Almost 100 Ambassadors from 19<sup>1</sup> EU Member States took part. Many Ambassadors volunteered to analyse the results, of which two persons, Nicoleta Talpes and Udo Engelhardt, were selected to analyse, collate and write up this report, as well as to present the findings and 'be the voice' at a European Climate Stocktake conference in Brussels.

Herewith is a more detailed account of their findings.

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<sup>1</sup> Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands.

## 2. Analysis & Reporting

### Question 1:

**According to Ambassadors, is the EU on the right course to making its fair contribution to the Paris Agreement goals of: limiting dangerous climate change, preparing for the impacts of climate change and aligning financial flows to support these efforts?**

**In summary:** the EU has made positive strides towards aligning with the Paris Agreement's climate goals but faces challenges, including the pace of transition, regional disparities, adaptation efforts, communication, and financial realignment.

**Recommendations** include greater coordination, investment, and awareness-building to advance these goals.

The EU is recognized for its **leadership** and initiatives in addressing climate change, but challenges persist in implementing complex policies, achieving financial transitions, and ensuring national-level adaptation efforts.

Emphasis is placed on the importance of a **comprehensive, bio-centric** perspective in environmental policies, effective communication to citizens, and swift implementation of strategies to address environmental challenges beyond climate change while holding businesses and industries accountable for sustainable practices.

There's a call for more immediate, proactive and enhanced actions to address the rapidly accelerating impacts of climate change, particularly in terms of **disaster prevention** and preparing for climate impacts, **education as well as** aligning financial flows.

Responses underscore the importance of credible **environmental labelling**, highlight **regulatory delays**, call for a more inclusive approach to **climate contributions**, express **financial concerns**, note the challenges in promoting **green behaviour**, emphasizing the **urgency** of taking more significant actions for decarbonization.

### **In more detail, in terms of the EU's Climate Achievements, Ambassadors note:**

- *Alignment with and progress on Paris Agreement Goals* - the EU's alignment with and commitment for the Paris Agreement is visible through its **efforts to set more ambitious emission reduction targets**, its **transition to renewable energy**, and **advocating for climate action on the global stage**. Moreover, the EU has already reduced its greenhouse gas emissions, increased renewable energy use, and enhanced energy efficiency, showing progress in meeting the Agreement's targets.
- *The pace of Transition* - regulation and action is in place, but the actual pace of transition is too slow, resulting in the EU falling short of its climate targets and the urgency required to tackle climate change effectively.
- *Leadership and Initiatives* in Climate Change are visible - the EU consistently implements and supports policies like the Green Deal and Clean Energy for All Europeans, as well as

invests in renewable energy, electric vehicles, and sustainable agriculture, setting a strong example for other nations.

- *Initial Steps for Climate Impact Preparation* indicate the EU's commitment to proactively addressing the effects of climate change, such as increased funding for disaster preparedness, strengthened flood defence systems, and investing in resilient infrastructure.
- *Recognized Environmental Policies* - the EU's environmental policies are acknowledged internationally for their comprehensiveness, emphasizing sustainability, biodiversity, and circular economy practices, demonstrating a holistic approach to environmental protection.
- *Complex Policies and Implementation* - the EU's climate policies are intricate, making them challenging to streamline and implement across member states, leading to delays and inconsistencies in reaching goals.
- *Financial Transitions* involve the shift from fossil fuel investments to sustainable, low-carbon technologies and infrastructure, a complex process that demands coordinated financial mechanisms and incentives.
- *Regional Disparities* - certain regions within the EU are progressing faster in terms of climate action, while others are lagging, creating inequalities in the distribution of environmental benefits and challenges.
- *National-Level Adaptation Efforts* pertain to the EU member states' ability to adapt to climate impacts locally, with some nations facing challenges in creating and implementing effective adaptation strategies, leading to disparities in climate resilience across the EU.

**Against this backdrop, the Ambassadors recommend that strengthening climate commitment should involve all stakeholders, including the EU, and this means:**

***Urgency of Decarbonization:***

- *Stressing the immediate need of reducing carbon emissions* and transitioning towards a low-carbon economy for the sake of people and planet's well-being.

***Finance:***

- *Aligning Financial Flows* - ensuring that investments are directed towards sustainable, low-carbon projects rather than fossil fuels, thus supporting a transition to a greener economy.
- *Addressing Financial Concerns* - overcoming financial constraints that limit investments in sustainable technologies and infrastructure by leveraging EU-wide financial instruments and incentives.

***Regulation:***

- *Comprehensive, Bio-Centric Environmental Policies* - developing holistic policies that consider biodiversity, sustainability, and circular economy practices in environmental protection.
- *Swift Implementation Beyond Climate Change* - ensuring that environmental strategies address a wide range of issues beyond just climate, promoting a more holistic approach.

- *Regulatory Efficiency* - streamlining and simplifying climate-related regulations to accelerate their implementation and effectiveness. *Regulatory Efficiency* - streamlining and simplifying climate-related regulations to accelerate their implementation and effectiveness.
- *Credible Environmental Labelling* - implementing trustworthy labelling schemes to clearly communicate the environmental impact of products, thereby guiding consumers to making sustainable choices.

***Disaster Prevention and Awareness:***

- Implementing measures to prevent and mitigate the impacts of climate change, alongside educational programs to inform the public about potential risks and necessary actions.

***All of society:***

- *Inclusive, broad-based and coordinated approach to Climate Contributions* - encouraging broader participation and engagement from individuals, organizations, and governments in addressing climate change. Enhancing collaboration between various stakeholders to create a cohesive and collective effort and reach climate goals.
- *Promoting Green Behaviour and Enhanced Awareness-Building:* increasing public awareness and understanding of climate issues. Encouraging sustainable practices among citizens, businesses, and industries, emphasizing the importance of common environmental responsibility.

## Question 2:

**If the EU were to accelerate action or “correct its course” in terms of action within the EU or with global partners, what would that new course look like? Please give examples of policies or actions that in your view would be needed in relation to the Paris Agreement goals.**

**In summary:** Ambassadors suggestions encompass both **immediate actions and long-term strategies** for addressing climate challenges. Some of the key actions include raising emissions reduction targets for 2030, ending fossil fuel subsidies and redirecting funds to clean energy, expanding investments in renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power, promoting the adoption of electric vehicles and associated infrastructure, and enhancing carbon pricing mechanisms. Additionally, there is a call for the EU to support developing countries with financial and technical assistance to ensure a global response to climate change.

To further strengthen climate leadership, Ambassadors advise strongly advocating for ambitious global climate action and upholding international agreements, engaging citizens and promoting sustainable practices e.g. encouraging sustainable tourism and eco-friendly accommodations, addressing bureaucratic hurdles for renewable energy, promptly phasing out fossil heating systems, expanding climate-friendly mobility, and enhancing coordination within the EU for wildfire prevention and pollution control. Simplifying access to subsidies and funding for sustainable finance projects is needed. These collective efforts aim to drive a unified approach to combating climate change, hence help further alignment with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

### **The Ambassadors recommend key actions to accelerate climate action, including:**

- *Increase Emissions Reduction Targets for 2030 further* - by setting even more ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, accelerating efforts to combat climate change.
- *End Fossil Fuel Subsidies and Shift Funds to Clean Energy* - by discontinuing financial support to the fossil fuel industry and redirecting those funds toward clean and renewable energy projects.
- *Expand Investments in Renewable Energy (Wind and Solar-Power)* - by allocating resources to significantly grow wind and solar power capacity to transition away from fossil fuels.
- *Accelerate Electric Vehicle Adoption and Infra-structure* - by rapid adoption of electric vehicles and the development of charging infrastructure to reduce emissions in the transportation sector.
- *Strengthen Carbon Pricing Mechanisms* - by enhancing systems that put a price on carbon emissions to incentivize cleaner practices.
- *Support Developing Countries with Financial and Technical Aid* - by providing financial and technical support to less developed nations for their climate action efforts, ensuring a global response to climate change.

**The Ambassadors recommend comprehensive strategies for climate leadership, including:**

- *Advocate for Ambitious Global Climate Action and Uphold International Agreements* - through a stronger diplomatic push for robust global climate action and by sharing the EU's best practices and technologies with developing nations to achieve comprehensive climate solutions.
- *Engage Citizens and Promote Sustainable Practices* - through increasing public awareness and involvement in climate issues through educational programs and initiatives that encourage sustainable behaviours, e.g.:
  - *Encouraging Sustainable Tourism and Eco-Friendly Accommodations*: eco-conscious accommodations to minimize the impact of the tourism industry on the environment.
  - *Promptly Banning Fossil Heating Systems*
  - *Expanding Climate-Friendly Mobility*
- *Address Bureaucratic Hurdles for Renewable-Energy* - through reducing administrative obstacles hindering the development of renewable energy projects.
- *Enhance Coordination within the EU for Wildfire Prevention, Pollution Control, and more.*
- *Simplify Access to Subsidies and Funding for Sustainable Finance Projects* - through streamlining and making it more accessible to those working towards climate goals.



### **Examples of Ambassadors Recommendations for Accelerating EU Climate Action in Alignment with the Paris Agreement Goals:**

- *The EU needs to address both internal and external dimensions of climate policy more aggressively.*
  - o *Internally, the EU should move the target date for climate neutrality from 2050 to 2040. This would require an immediate and more drastic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors. A 'Climate Emergency Fund' could be established to finance rapid decarbonization projects, including large-scale renewable energy installations and retrofitting infrastructure for energy efficiency.*
  - o *Externally, the EU should spearhead a 'Global Green Alliance,' aimed at mobilizing international cooperation for decarbonization and climate resilience. The alliance could facilitate technology transfer to developing countries, helping them leapfrog to cleaner technologies. It should also engage global financial institutions to reorient capital flows towards sustainable development. An example would be a 'Global Green Bond,' guaranteed by the EU and other major economies, to fund climate-resilient infrastructure and renewable energy projects globally, while taking the lead in establishing a 'Climate Damage Reparation Mechanism,' contributing to loss and damage funds.*
- *Establish the Scientific Council for Climate and Environment that can direct actions in the light of the latest evidence on climate change. Establish a national coordination structure with the highest institutional levels, which can define the plans and strategies necessary for Responding to European Governance, e.g. PNIEC (National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan, in Spain), LTS, and Adaptation Plan. Develop integrated mechanisms for monitoring the progress and implementation of policies in their various dimensions (climate, economic, social). Ask for young people opinions and involve them via social media.*
- *Reward ecosystems' services (monetary or tax benefits) including stimulating small gardens in cities.*
- *Promote food literacy, including in the tourism sector (as they may act as ambassadors of their regions and value local resources and seasonality).*
- *Engage citizens in monitoring the environment's biodiversity including reporting pollution and invasive species. Develop ways of keeping registries and mechanisms to trigger alarms and act to mitigate issues.*

### Question 3:

#### **What opportunities need to be seized and obstacles overcome, through policies and their implementation, for the EU to be able to achieve its fair and ambitious contribution to each of the Paris Agreement goals?**

**In summary:** Ambassadors have provided an array of activities to accelerate climate action in the EU, emphasizing the need to seize opportunities in diverse areas. These strategies range from embracing innovation and digital transformation for real-time emissions monitoring to promoting global leadership and sustainable business models. Collaboration, public engagement, and strong leadership are again underscored as crucial elements in driving these efforts. Furthermore, specific areas that require focus include green energy, communication and information schemes, health angle, social and economic opportunities, quality of life.

On the other hand, the challenges identified encompass policy inconsistency and fragmentation, financial constraints, social inequality, transition difficulties, and the need for global cooperation.

#### ***Innovation:***

- *Emphasizing the Need for Innovation* as a key element to seize opportunities, with a focus on embracing new technologies, approaches, and solutions for climate action.
- *Leveraging technological advancements* in renewable energy and green technologies is critical for achieving substantial reductions in carbon emissions and transitioning to a more sustainable energy landscape.
- *Embracing digital transformation* by using advanced technologies for real-time monitoring of emissions and climate impacts is essential to making data-driven policy decisions that effectively combat climate change.
- *Promoting the circular economy* and sustainable business models plays a pivotal role in reducing waste, promoting responsible consumption, and enhancing overall sustainability practices.

#### ***Financial mechanisms:***

- *Financial mechanisms* like green bonds and carbon trading act as a catalyst in directing financial resources to eco-friendly projects which drive sustainable climate initiatives.

#### ***All of society approach:***

- *Emphasizing the Need for Collaboration* between various stakeholders, both within the EU and globally, to create a united and collective effort towards a sustainable future and effective climate action.
- *Establishing public-private partnerships* for transitioning to low-carbon technologies fosters cooperation between various stakeholders, signifying a collective effort needed to achieve climate goals.
- *Engaging with and empowering younger generations* through educational programs and platforms helps channel their innovative spirit and commitment to addressing climate challenges.

- *Engaging with the Public overall* as it is crucial for building support and involvement in climate action. Ambassadors stressed the importance of involving citizens through educational initiatives and platforms to harness their passion and innovation in contributing to climate policies.

#### **Leadership:**

- *Demonstrating strong leadership* both at the EU and global levels, is essential to guiding ambitious climate actions and upholding international climate agreements, setting an example for other nations. Using diplomatic advocacy as well as sharing technological knowledge with developing nations underscores the EU's commitment to worldwide climate action, creating a ripple effect of positive change.

#### **The Ambassadors' recommendations emphasize the need to focus on several key areas:**

- *Focusing on Communication and Information* - effective communication is essential. Accurate information and countering climate change denial, misinformation and fake news related to climate change and geopolitics needs to ensure that the public is well-informed about climate issues and actions to support climate initiatives.
- *Focusing on Green Energy* - taking advantage of the cost-effectiveness of renewables and promoting green energy sources to enhance economic competitiveness and reduce geopolitical dependencies is a crucial part of seizing opportunities.
- *Focusing on Social and Economic Opportunities* - promoting social and economic opportunities in the transition to a green economy, including job growth and workforce development, is key.
- *Focusing on Health* - recognizing the health impacts of climate change provides an opportunity for action and underscores the urgency of addressing the climate crisis.
- *Focusing on Quality of Life* - using clean policies and technologies to improve citizens' quality of life, emphasizing how sustainability creates well-being as part of climate action.

#### **Examples of Ambassadors' Recommendations:**

- *To achieve its ambitious goals under the Paris Agreement, the EU should address obstacles such as political resistance, economic transitions, and the need for just transition measures. The transition to a low-carbon economy will create some job losses in the short term. However, it is estimated that the long-term job creation potential of the clean economy is much greater.*
- *Balancing these factors through effective policies, public engagement, and international cooperation is crucial for the EU to meet its climate targets and contribute to global climate action.*
- *The EU has a leading role in international climate negotiations. This can be used to persuade other countries to take action. The EU will need to cooperate with other countries to achieve its climate goals. This can be challenging, as some countries are less willing to take action.*

**Obstacles identified include a set of challenges:**

- *Policy Inconsistency and fragmentation* - bridging the gaps and inconsistencies that exist between national and EU-level policies related to climate action will lead to more streamlined and hence effective climate action.
- *Social Inequality* - overcoming social inequality is vital in the transition to a greener economy as it ensures that the benefits of climate initiatives are distributed equitably. The move toward sustainability must be socially just, providing support to communities and sectors that may be disproportionately affected by climate policies.
- *Financial Constraints* - leveraging EU-wide financial instruments and incentives will help overcome limitations on investments in sustainable technologies and infrastructure.
- *Transition Challenges* - include issues faced by industries in adapting to more sustainable practices. Overcoming these challenges involves providing support to affected workers and businesses for a just and smooth transition.
- *Global Cooperation* - through diplomatic channels, the EU can work towards fostering global cooperation, sharing best practices, and ensuring a comprehensive response to climate change.

**Examples of Ambassadors' Recommendations:**

- *People and companies must be better informed about the benefits and opportunities of the changes to participate.*
- *To address these challenges, it is important to acknowledge the significance of involving environmental scientists. It is also crucial to allow small, medium, and large-scale research projects to measure and study environmental pollution.*
- *It is crucial that, in addition to public-private cooperation, civil society is added, public-private-civil cooperation will give more strength and more transparency to the process.*
- *We need a quick transition to green jobs i.e. from the expansion of labour protection laws, and re-education to awareness campaigns in collaboration with local NGOs.*

#### Question 4:

**What can the EU do better to ensure that its efforts to implement the Paris Agreement are supported by all stakeholders in European society, and “leave no one behind” (EU internal focus)?**

*For Q4 and Q5, Ambassadors’ contributions were reviewed and assigned to broad thematic categories or areas of action which emerged from the responses provided. The number of individual contributions or statements made was used to develop a priority ranking of key issues. The following section lists the identified priority areas in order from most to less frequently mentioned.*

*Listing of Priority Themes & Areas of Action (in order of significance ranking):*

- a) Education & Public Outreach Programs
- b) Just Transition Measures
- c) Participatory Processes
- d) Decentralisation & Regionalisation
- e) Social & Cultural Measures
- f) Other (various)

*In more detail:*

##### **a) Education**

The issue of improved educational and public outreach activities to be delivered across EU member states was clearly identified as the most important area of action. Ambassadors expressed a strong need for **the European Union to take a much more active role** in this area. Existing and ongoing educational programmes should be significantly upgraded and enhanced to provide a backbone for more frequent, targeted information and awareness raising campaigns. This recommendation was clearly based on the common observation that fake news and misinformation on the climate crisis are still a major hindrance for the successful application and implementation of climate action. Similarly, the widespread occurrence of **‘green-washing’** for which the use of a **‘naming & shaming’** was suggested. ‘Shaming’ would entail publicly stating the negative impacts and damages transferred onto the wider community.

Educational activities and public outreach campaigns should aim to target a broad audience with activities designed to **reach all elements of European societies**. The main aim of these activities should be to build up **‘climate literacy’** in the community, thus addressing currently existing gaps in public understanding.

Ambassadors emphasised the need for clear and **transparent communication** to build trust and commitment to the climate cause within society. Sources of information should be clearly stated and verifiable by all users. **Digital learning tools** should be prioritised as they offer a wide circulation and spread of the needed content.

As Climate Pact Ambassadors themselves are frequently involved in public outreach activities, **the role of ambassadors in achieving greater climate literacy** across European communities

should be reviewed. Even greater impact can be achieved through a more strategic involvement of ambassadors in educational campaigns.

Ambassadors also highlighted the need for even greater **diversification** within their own ranks, which would help in increasing the geographic and societal reach of the Climate Pact. Ambassadors expressed a strong desire to incorporate representatives from other countries, ethnicities, and migrant groups, who have recently come to Europe. The EU 's current call for new Climate Pact Ambassadors may address this issue to some degree.

## **b) Just Transition Measures**

Ambassadors want to ensure that just transition was a key focus of the EU during the coming era of transformation. Social justice, inclusion, equity and the sharing of resources were seen as key.

The availability of a **well-resourced Fund** to promote equity and social justice across European communities was seen as crucially important for a successful and socially acceptable transformation. Ambassador stated that economic support to specific industrial sectors and regions most strongly affected by the transformation, should involve a number of **targeted financial mechanisms**.

The range of just transition measures applied should **involve direct financial support, as well as incentives-based economic assistance**. Direct financial support could be tied to innovative new schemes, such as a carbon-tax-funded 'climate money' (as currently proposed in Germany). Incentives-based approaches, such as possible tax concessions for the use of green technologies as well as improved green finance standards are similarly relevant for supporting climate action across all areas of society. Dedicated schemes that support low-income households are seen as particularly relevant.

Ambassadors suggested that the acceptance of transformative processes could be further enhanced, by **highlighting the inherent weaknesses and significant risks associated with the current fossil fuel-based** way of doing business. The issue of ever-increasing environmental damage, increased health-impacts and medical costs, as well as the evolving risks associated with future stranded assets, need to be emphasised. **Alternative economic thinking**, for example, on the economic and environmental benefits of a circular economy, centred around improved recycling and resource sharing, should also be encouraged.

## **c) Participation Processes**

On the issue of increased stakeholder participation in EU climate policy, ambassadors suggested the development of **targeted schemes** to improve general information exchange, focussing especially on channels to facilitate the two-way flow of information between the EU and European civil society. One such mechanism may be the development of a **designated digital platform for dialogue** and exchange between the EU, Climate Pact Ambassadors and the wider community. Similarly, **multi-stakeholder advisory councils or advisory panel's** could be established to assist the promotion of more inclusive decision making.

Increased stakeholder participation, input and connectedness may also be achieved through a highly-visible and openly-accessible public forum, such as an EU-hosted bi-annual summit with

civil society – a kind of **'Citizens Assembly'**. Irrespective of the actual mechanisms and tools used, care should be taken to make these mechanisms transparent, data-driven, inclusive and open.

#### **d) Decentralisation & Regionalisation**

Ambassadors suggested that the current way of mostly centralised exchanges between the EU and the capital cities of member states prevented a significant stakeholder base from the regions to actively participate in EU processes. To provide increased opportunities for participation and improved inter-connectedness of Brussels, capital cities and the regions, a number of specific recommendations were made. The simple notion of **'going there'** highlights the potential of moving EU activities, such as meetings, conferences etc. - out to the regions. Such measures are seen as key for not only improving the EU's regional visibility, but also for providing additional access by regional stakeholders.

The EU should consider **increased support for local grass-roots initiatives** aiming to improve the acceptance of regional transformative processes and to speed up their implementation. One such example would be the provision of **financial assistance to farmers** who are actively pursuing the ecological transition of their farming practices, resulting in improved stewardship of the land.

#### **e) Social & Cultural Measures**

Some ambassadors expressed a desire for the EU to be more active in the promotion of the strong linkages that exist between **social and environmental sustainability**. They argued that an increased effort to develop a more distinct pro-climate and pro-sustainability oriented **'European Culture'** would help to counter widely observed current trends of increased nationalist-thinking in some countries.

#### **f) Technological Measures**

Only a few ambassadors made remarks on the technological measures needed to achieve the stated goals and ambitions of the EU. This likely reflects a broad understanding within this community, that the technological instruments and measures required for a successful transformation to replace fossil fuels are both readily available and affordable.

All comments received under this theme were in relation to the **need for ongoing promotion of green technologies and renewable energy systems**. Ambassadors emphasised the need for ongoing **support for EU-based green technology companies**, to counterbalance the support provided by China and the United States for their green technology industries. Efforts to develop a relevant **skills and knowledge base for renewable technologies** in the EU are seen as desirable, with clear and tangible benefits to European society. A further strengthening of the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and its application across other sectors also received support.

### **g) Other**

This final section of responses to Question 4 provides an overview of some specific ideas and suggestions that did not readily fit within the main themes identified. Nonetheless they are presented here as they illustrate the breadth of thinking found within the current group of ambassadors. Ambassadors recommended:

- A greater alignment of EU policies with the stated goals of other relevant international organisations, for example, with the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Improved monitoring of the implementation of targeted climate actions across member states, alongside stronger enforcement of EU rules and regulations;
- A greater focus on the development and implementation of targeted climate adaptation measures;
- Improved natural disaster planning, including disaster-specific response plans and mechanisms;
- Increased efforts to further reduce and simplify bureaucratic procedures within the EU;
- To reduce the effects of lobbying on EU decision making processes, with access by lobbyists to EU institutions to be restricted and, where still deemed allowable, to be made more transparent;
- For the EU to support all current efforts to establish an 'Ecocide Law' at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.



## Question 5:

### What can the EU do better to ensure its own increasing ambition encourages other Parties and stakeholders to do the same?

*For Q4 and Q5, Ambassadors' contributions were reviewed and assigned to broad thematic categories or areas of action which emerged from the responses provided. The number of individual contributions or statements made was used to develop a priority ranking of key issues. The following section lists the identified priority areas in order from most to less frequently mentioned.*

*Listing of Priority Themes & Areas of Action (in order of significance ranking):*

- a) EU Diplomacy & Foreign Relations
- b) Success Stories & 'Best Practice'
- c) Finance for Transformation
- d) Other (various issues)

*In more detail:*

#### **a) EU Diplomacy & Foreign Relations**

Ambassadors highlighted the EU's international standing and high regard within the international community. To effectively utilise this positive perception, a **greater alignment of climate diplomacy with foreign policy** is needed. Giving relevant aspects of the climate issue a more prominent position in international exchanges at all levels was seen as a key component of more effective climate advocacy to stimulate international partners to increase both their ambitions and implementation speeds.

Furthermore, ambassadors suggested an increased use of specific **trade incentives** and 'leveraged' trade agreements, to further promote EU climate and environmental policies. The use of carbon border adjustment taxes to promote emissions reductions abroad also received widespread support. The creation of an international '**Climate Club**', involving both the United States of America and China, was suggested as a step to push for increased climate action and climate policy implementation across three major economic regions of the world.

Ambassadors highlighted the important historical role and leadership provided by some EU member states in the development of democracy, social justice systems and environmental standards. Building on these achievements, the EU has been able to maintain its international standing as a reliable, trustworthy, lawful and supportive partner. There is a need to not only maintain these critical, positive values, but to use them to again provide much needed **leadership in these critical times**.

Some ambassadors also suggested that **the EU should be truly bold** and show its true international leadership potential by acknowledging that current ambitions are unlikely to be sufficient for achieving the stated goals of the Paris agreement, especially given recent climatic events and observed trends.

### a) Success Stories & 'Best Practice'

Ambassadors suggested that already existing success stories of effective climate action(s) along with 'Best Practise' examples from within the EU and abroad needed to be more widely circulated and shared. A key initiative for the EU could be the development of **targeted outreach programmes highlighting the wide-ranging economic, ecological and societal benefits** of transformative processes aimed at tackling the climate crisis.

Such programmes should illustrate the wide-ranging and well demonstrated benefits of decarbonization initiatives, including those of **cheap, reliable renewable energy systems**, the greatly enhanced **employment opportunities** in future-safe 'green jobs', the greater **autonomy and independence** gained from external sources, as well as the **enhanced social justice** outcomes through active participation in community-owned energy and food-generation systems.

Newly designed learning and open platforms for 'Best Practise' examples and proven success stories, need to be shared openly and freely. This spirit of an open and sharing society should also be extended to promote collaborative International R&D projects, especially those designed to develop or improve green technologies.

### b) Finance for Transformation

There is a clear understanding amongst Climate Pact Ambassadors that the phasing out of fossil fuels is the key element for staying within the critical temperature range identified. In line with the views expressed by the International Energy Agency (IEA), ambassadors were adamant that there should be **no further EU-assisted investments in new fossil fuel projects** neither within the EU, nor anywhere else.

Targeted financial support is necessary to speed up the transformative processes leading away from fossil fuel dependence and towards carbon-neutral systems. The critical duality of simultaneously promoting the renewable energy transition whilst stopping new fossil fuel installations was highlighted.

Ambassadors encourage the EU to instruct the **European Investment Bank (EIB)** to not only fund renewable energy projects in EU member states, but to also aid with similar climate-positive projects in **developing countries overseas**. This is critical for ensuring that emissions reductions achieved across the EU will not immediately be neutralised by the development of new fossil fuel infrastructure in developing countries.

**Technology sharing** was also viewed as an effective means for achieving fairer and more equitable partnerships, showing solidarity with developing countries at the forefront of climate impacts. More broadly, **civil society** in regions already suffering from the effects of climate change should receive increased levels of financial, medical and other support from the EU. As the issue of **'Loss & Damage'** will be a major point of discussion at COP28, Climate Pact Ambassadors ask **for EU to play a leading role in helping to resolve** this critical issue thereby ensuring that long promised emergency funds finally be made available to those most affected most.

Additionally, ambassadors expressed a strong desire for the EU to actively engage with the **global finance sector** to promote more responsible **investment and lending practices**. One specific suggestion made was that investments by **pension funds** should have a mandatory component of at least 10% of the total investment to flow into nature-based climate solutions.

Ambassadors also expressed a desire for the EU to make significant funding available not only for green infrastructure projects, but also for **training and capacity building initiatives as well as** to facilitate the fast and efficient **sharing of available green technology options.**

There was also strong encouragement for the EU to investigate **alternatives to** the current use of gross domestic product (**GDP**) **as a measure for describing the condition of an economy.** The potential benefits of other performance measures jointly focusing on social, environmental, and economic parameters should be investigated.

### **c) Other**

The issue of climate adaptation was not being given sufficient attention and Ambassadors expressed a wish for the EU to be more engaged both in Europe and abroad.

### 3. Conclusions & Summary Statement: Our Points for Dubai

The open nature of the questions asked of Ambassadors provided a unique opportunity to investigate their views and the currently prevailing sentiments. The analysis of their broad ranging feedback highlighted not only their **expertise** on the climate issue but also identified a **keen awareness** of the inherent social aspects related to this critical issue.

Reading between the lines Climate Pact Ambassadors showed themselves as **concerned and genuinely caring and highly committed individuals** that are actively seeking new ways to increase their important contribution to our common cause. Ambassadors already come from diverse backgrounds, but they are seeking even greater **diversity** within their own ranks.

Ambassadors are acutely aware of the need to address the **social dimensions** of climate change not just within the territories of the member states but recognise that the area of responsibility for the EU should also include other climate-impacted countries abroad, and especially those on the African continent. Consequently, there is a strong desire for the EU to use its international standing to help resolve the issue of loss & damage at COP28.

Ambassadors showed themselves as having a clear appreciation of climate-related issues across all geographic scales, from local & regional aspects right up to the national and international dimensions of the climate crisis.

Climate Pact Ambassadors are supportive of the EU's inclusive and widely recognised approach for dealing with the climate crisis and want the EU to continue in their role as an **honest, recognised and trusted leader** in the development of climate policies and their implementation. However, it is also clear that the climate crisis is progressing fast, suggesting that current climate action and the measures applied are simply insufficient for preventing further escalation of this existential crisis. Therefore, EU Climate Pact Ambassadors strongly encourage The EU, all of its member states and every individual, **in whatever capacity they exist, to again strengthen their efforts and commitments to mitigate climate impacts.**

These responses emphasize the need for **collaboration, innovation, public engagement, and strong leadership** to overcome obstacles and seize opportunities for effective climate action.

**The urgency** of taking significant actions for decarbonisation cannot be overstated. We must act swiftly, decisively, and collaboratively to address the challenges and seize the opportunities that lie ahead.

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