



The Network for Environmental Legislators



Dear President von der Leyen, dear President Michel,

The coronavirus has brought the world to a halt like nothing else could. In times like these EU citizens must stand together, and our leaders must show solidarity and deliver immediate assistance to regions and communities that have been hit hardest by the pandemic.

This is also, however, a time to reflect on our future. Historically, major crises have forced us to reconsider the past and imagine a world under different circumstances. Already we are witnessing transformational changes that didn't seem possible just weeks ago.

As GLOBE EU, we strongly believe that the current crisis should be used to accelerate the transformation to a more inclusive and sustainable economy. Short-term credit lines will need a minimum of strings attached but should at least uphold current environmental legislation and be conditional on national governments applying green procurement criteria. In the medium term, we believe that support should be linked to the European Green Deal's objectives and the Digital Agenda, and contribute to the EU's objective of becoming climate-neutral by 2050.

People will be longing to return to "normality" in a world that must adapt to fight climate change and environmental depletion. Therefore, as EU leaders work to get the economy back on track, they must resist calls to shore up resource intensive industries and sectors without demanding that these industries and sectors significantly —and more rapidly— decarbonize and improve efficiency levels to reduce their environmental impact.

The next EU budget, which needs to be agreed in the coming months, must be commensurate with the challenge of helping the bloc recover from the current crisis. It must also be used, however, to encourage shifts towards cleaner and more circular production methods, protect resources, and restore landscapes and damaged ecosystems. Sustainable finance tools such as the EU Taxonomy will be crucial to achieve this.

We wish you every success in these difficult times.

For GLOBE EU, the members of the Board:

Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP, President
Heidi Hautala MEP, Vice-President
Martin Hojsík MEP, Vice-President
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The members of the Bee Group:

Allianz Global Investors

Dow

Ecolab

Rockwool

Saint-Gobain

Tarkett

Umicore

GLOBE EU is a cross-party organization of Members of the European Parliament. It acts as a platform for debating the viability of ambitious and far-reaching policy proposals on sustainability. It facilitates the coordination of political action among like-minded legislators in the European Parliament and at Member State level. GLOBE EU is part of the GLOBE network, linking legislators from all over the world and boosting their efforts to stop climate change.

The work of GLOBE EU is underpinned by the Bee Group: an advisory body of progressive companies that are eager to explore how policy can support innovative solutions to increase sustainability in their respective sectors. Members of the Bee Group present their ideas during meetings, seminars and conferences hosted by GLOBE EU in the European Parliament.

To ensure that the economic viability and long-term environmental value of these proposals are put to the test, GLOBE EU works closely with several sustainability organizations and environmental NGOs who give insight and provide continuous feedback. Further information can be found on the GLOBE EU website (www.globe-eu.org).