

EU CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT: **EU climate policy in transport must not cause irreversible environmental and social damage**

To all EU Heads of State, EU Commissioners and members of Parliament

Biofuels were initially introduced as a green and climate-friendly alternative to fossil fuels in the transport sector. Since then, an accumulation of scientific evidence has shown that expanding biofuel production to meet the EU's renewable energy target will cause substantial greenhouse-gas emissions, damage biodiversity, exacerbate rural conflict and land grabbing in developing countries, and impact food prices globally.

In particular, the increased demand for biofuel crops is pushing agriculture into previously unfarmed land – often at the expense of forests, carbon rich peat-lands, and local communities – causing the phenomenon known as 'indirect land use change'. Converting this land into fields and plantations is emitting millions of tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere. Many scientific studies show that when these emissions are factored in, most biofuels actually increase emissions compared to fossil fuels.

Expansion of biofuels also contradicts other EU objectives, such as decreasing deforestation, reducing hunger, and promoting human rights. New plantations often lead to disputes over land rights in producer countries, destruction of habitats, and impacts on the availability and price of food for the world's most vulnerable societies.

Climate policies and national renewable energy action plans should be part of the solution – not the problem, which is currently the case with biofuels.

There is an urgent obligation to amend EU laws and national plans to take into account the full greenhouse-gas impacts of biofuels. We need an energy revolution in Europe that contributes to real and substantial reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions without accelerating deforestation and biodiversity loss or exacerbating social and resource conflicts in developing countries.

To this end, we call on the European Union and its Member States to:

Support legislative proposals counting for the full climate impact of biofuels – The European Union must factor in known sources of unaccounted greenhouse-gas emissions for biofuels. The current policy is inadequate, because it encourages biofuels that increase greenhouse-gas emissions compared to fossil fuels. This can be done by including robust and precautionary 'factors' that reflect emissions from indirect land use change.

Revisit and amend biofuel policies – Member states must eliminate support for biofuels that increase greenhouse-gas emissions. Priority must be given to energy efficiency and renewable electricity in trains and cars to contribute to the renewable target in transport. The sustainability of national and European biofuel targets must be reviewed to reflect the reality of biofuel expansion on total emissions, biodiversity and communities.

The EU must only accept biofuels that demonstrably reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, pose no significant land-use issues, and do not risk social or conservation conflicts. For this reason, the EU should introduce indirect land use change factors to fully acknowledge all greenhouse gas emissions from its policies and bring forward an urgent review of the sustainability impacts of expanding biofuel use.

Signed:

	Organisation name	Country
1	ActionAid	International
2	Environmental Investigation Agency	International
3	Greenpeace	International
4	Oxfam International	International
5	Peace Brigades International	International
6	BirdLife Austria	Austria
7	Climate Alliance Austria	Austria
8	Global 2000	Austria
9	VCÖ Mobilität mit Zukunft	Austria
10	Associations 21	Belgium
11	Bond Beter Leefmilieu Vlaanderen	Belgium
12	Broederlijk Delen	Belgium
13	Duurzame Landbouwwerkgroep JNM (Jeugdbond Voor Natuur En Milieu)	Belgium
14	Justitia et Pax Belgium	Belgium
15	Natagora	Belgium
16	Natuurpunt	Belgium
17	VODO Vlaams Overleg Duurzame Ontwikkeling (Flemish platform on sustainable development)	Belgium
18	Vredeseilanden	Belgium
19	National Movement Friends of the Earth	Bulgaria
20	Българско дружество за защита на птиците (BSPB)	Bulgaria
21	Friends of the Earth Cyprus	Cyprus
22	Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals	Denmark
23	Association 2Celsius	EU
24	CDM Watch	EU
25	ClientEarth	EU
26	European Environment Bureau	EU
27	FERN	EU
28	Friends of the Earth Europe	EU
29	Naturefriends International	EU
30	PAN Europe	EU
31	Stichting BirdLife Europe	EU
32	Transport & Environment	EU
33	BirdLife Finland	Finland
34	Maan Ystävät Ry	Finland
35	CCFD-Terre Solidaire	France
36	Les Amis de la Terre - France	France
37	Réseau Action Climat-France	France
38	Bundesverband für Umweltberatung	German
39	Adivasi-Koordination	Germany
40	Arbeitsgemeinschaft Regenwald und Artenschutz	Germany
41	Brot für die Welt	Germany
42	Deutscher Naturschutzring	Germany
43	ecodevelop - Action for Ecological Development	Germany

44	INKOTA-netzwerk	Germany
45	Naturfreunde Deutschlands	Germany
46	OroVerde - Tropical Forest Foundation	Germany
47	Pro REGENWALD	Germany
48	Pro Wildlife	Germany
49	Robin Wood	Germany
50	Watch Indonesia!	Germany
51	Zoologische Gesellschaft fuer Arten- u. Populationsschutz	Germany
52	BUND	Germany
53	Hellenic Ornithological Society	Greece
54	Κάρπιας Αθήνας - Caritas Athens	Greece
55	Legambiente	Italy
56	Action Solidarité Tiers Monde (ASTM)	Luxembourg
57	Archevêché de Luxembourg	Luxembourg
58	bioLABEL	Luxembourg
59	Commission luxembourgeoise "Justice et Paix" / "Justitia et Pax"	Luxembourg
60	Demeter-Bond	Luxembourg
61	Der Cercle de Coopération	Luxembourg
62	Eurosolar Lëtzebuerg	Luxembourg
63	Fondation Bridderlech Deelen	Luxembourg
64	Frères des Hommes	Luxembourg
65	Mouvement Ecologique Luxembourg	Luxembourg
66	natur&ëmwelt	Luxembourg
67	natur&ëmwelt / d'haus vun der Natur	Luxembourg
68	SOS FAIM Luxembourg - Action pour le développement	Luxembourg
69	TransFair Minka	Luxembourg
70	ICCO	Netherlands
71	Milieu Defensie	Netherlands
72	Natuur&Milieu	Netherlands
73	Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples (NCIV)	Netherlands
74	SALAMANDRA - Polish Society for Nature Conservation	Poland
75	Quercus - Associação Nacional de Conservação da Natureza	Portugal
76	ALMA-RO Association	Romania
77	Asociatia Brasovul Verde	Romania
78	Asociatia de Turism si Ecologie DIANTHUS Medias	Romania
79	Asociatia Ecologie-Sport-Turism	Romania
80	Asociatia Ecouri Verzi	Romania
81	Clubul Ecologic Transilvania (Transylvania Eco Center)	Romania
82	Mare Nostrum NGO	Romania
83	Re.Generation Association	Romania
84	Romanian Ornithological Society	Romania
85	TERRA Mileniul III Foundation	Romania
86	Cepta - Centre for sustainable alternatives	Slovakia
87	Občianske združenie TATRY	Slovakia
88	Slovak Ornithological Society - BirdLife Slovakia	Slovakia
89	Slovakia-Southern Africa Society	Slovakia
90	Society for Sustainable Living in the Slovak Republic	Slovakia

91	SOSNA. Oz	Slovakia
92	ŽIVICA Centrum environmentálnej a etickej výchovy	Slovakia
93	Focus drustvo za sonaraven razvoj - Focus association for sustainable development	Slovenia
94	Institute for Sustainable Development	Slovenia
95	ALBA SUD	Spain
96	Ecologistas en Acción	Spain
97	SEO/BirdLife	Spain
98	Global Witness	UK
99	Orangutan Foundation	UK
100	Permaculture Association	UK
101	Pesticide Action Network	UK
102	RSPB	UK
103	Sumatran Orangutan Society	UK
104	The Real Bread Campaign	UK
105	Friends of the Earth	UK (England Wales Northern Ireland)
106	Friends of the Earth Scotland	UK (Scotland)