



ECOLISE COP25 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Madrid, December 2019

Tackling the climate crisis requires a total, radical and immediate shift away from fossil fuels and a huge flow of finance towards local communities and actors, who are already developing proactive responses to the climate crisis. We need an economic and political system which serves the needs of people, not profit - a regenerative system. Communities across the globe are already leading and catalyzing this change and have implemented solutions that are holistic, inclusive and cater to the needs of those impacted. Such communities must be recognised and supported.

The EU must broaden its narratives and adopt a more holistic context of the climate crisis that additionally looks at sustainability, agriculture, conflicts, migration, local and indigenous needs and humanitarian concerns. All to the end of adopting solutions that reflect upon evolving needs such as food, energy and water security, urban and rural resilience, health rights (in the EU and internationally); are rooted in the principles of equity¹, subsidiarity and inclusion; and employ nature-based solutions.

Climate Justice requires an [intersectional](#) analysis of how various systems of oppression and injustice are interconnected, hence our demands can not be divorced from the demands of social justice and calls for solidarity.

ECOLISE RECOMMENDATIONS to COP25

1. The Parties and the COP to recognise the momentum created by communities, local activists and students (i.e. European Day of Sustainable Communities, Extinction Rebellion, Friday For Future) and to initiate a 'World Day of Sustainable Communities'.
2. Governments to submit new or update climate pledges for 2030 under the Paris Agreement inline with the threshold of staying **below 1.5°C**.
3. Scale-up the existing EU Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target to 65% emissions reductions by 2030 and achieve zero emissions before mid-century.
4. Article 6 should not open the door to Parties meeting their NDC obligations through carbon market offsets.
5. The EU to at least double contributions made to the Green Climate Fund and urgently scale-up international climate finance grants for adaptation
6. EU Governments to align around supporting the Green New Deal.

¹ Gender identity and expression, race, sexual orientation, class, age, ability, nationality, culture, religion, caste, and ethnicity.



7. The EU and UN recognize civil society efforts and spaces such as that being created in Santiago, Chile by the Chilean Civil Society for Climate Action (SCAC).

1. Recognition of Communities

Context: Community-Led Initiatives (CLIs) represent a pre-emptive response, at local levels, to the call for planetary stewardship. Arising and existing across Europe, and beyond, and focusing on a huge range of local and global issues, they take many different forms. Building and mobilising community through diverse partnerships and innovative initiatives, their work is a vital complement to high-level political action on climate and sustainability. By creating low carbon alternatives to existing lifestyles, local economies and other societal structures, directly reducing emissions of greenhouse gasses and fostering independence from the fossil fuel economy, they can make significant contributions to effective, inclusive and pluralistic implementation of the Paris Agreement. Their work often addresses themes relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and can provide innovative ways to implement these goals at local levels. It also challenges, in important ways, some of the assumptions behind both the Paris Agreement and SDGs: particularly in highlighting the benefits of alternative transition trajectories involving fundamental changes in political and economic structures in favour of more inclusive, equitable and democratic alternatives.

The [European Day of Sustainable Communities](#) (EDSC) showcases and celebrates such initiatives from across Europe, with the aim of inspiring similar such action elsewhere. Please also see this demand in the submission ECOLISE made on October 29th, 2018 to the UNFCCC [Talanoa Dialogue](#).

Recommendation: Calling on the Parties and the COP to take note of the momentum created by communities, local activists, students and actors (i.e. EDSC, Extinction Rebellion, Friday For Future, Chilean Civil Society for Climate Action) and initiate a 'World Day of Sustainable Communities'. It will be to recognize, celebrate and showcase Non State Actors' contributions to climate action.

2. Solidarity for Civil Society

Context: As the venue was changed due to the unrest in Chile, it is important to remember that the struggle continues even if the world's eyes move on towards Spain hosting COP25. We can't disassociate the fact that the protests are taking place because of austerity measures and the impacts of the global extractive economic system which has also led to climate breakdown.

The decision to move COP25 to Madrid, Spain has meant a third Eurocentric COP in a row and the removal of Global South voices from in and around the COP venue, setting a dangerous precedence for the inclusion of international civil society and the equity so necessary in these trying times. Fortunately, the Chilean Civil Society for Climate Action (SCAC) in Chile will still take place in Santiago in parallel to the COP in Madrid. It will offer a space for civil society to convene and work on a Declaration as its outcome, which will be

launched on 9 December. For this, CAN Latin America and CAN-International are working closely with the SCAC to discuss options for how we as civil society can support "building a bridge" between the SCAC and Madrid. One channel for this is to bring voices from the SCAC directly into COP. Another channel the SCAC has been establishing is its link to the Madrid Social Summit. The CAN family will be supporting this process so COP25 can be one small brick in the bridge we must build together. Please contact [Tom Boyle](#) at CAN-E for further information and collaboration.

Recommendation: ECOLISE supports the Chilean Civil Society for Climate Action (SCAC) and calls for the EU and UN to recognize such civil society efforts and spaces. As CLIs are often outside of processes and systems and with that recognition of kindred movements, stand in solidarity with those organizing and participating in the SCAC.

3. 1.5°C

Context: We're currently seeing all kinds of signs of the violence of climate breakdown at 1°C. Millions of people are losing their lives, homes, livelihoods, lands and cultures. We've seen the Amazon burning. We've seen the Arctic ice melting. We see coral reef bleaching, and we've seen super-charged hurricanes and cyclones off the scale in severity and impact. We've seen killer floods, droughts and famines occurring in every corner of the world.

In Pakistan heat-waves of 53.5°C were recorded. Chennai, the fifth biggest city in India ran out of water this summer. A million people are currently on the brink of starvation in Mozambique, whilst the Caribbean islands of the Bahamas, Dominica and Puerto Rico are in ruins. Indigenous lives are under threat in Latin America from deforestation, forest fires and land grabs, whilst sub-Saharan Africa faces yet another drought that is impacting on food production. The reality is that millions of people are being impacted by climate breakdown already.

Recommendation: Governments must submit new or updated climate pledges for 2030 under the Paris Agreement, which should be inline with the threshold of staying below 1.5°C. This year's COP25 climate conference in Madrid could already see some countries indicate that they are prepared to step up climate action. But as the US withdraws from the Paris Agreement, other countries are unlikely to move unless the EU agrees to move on its 2030 target.

4. EU's 2030 Target

Context: As a professed climate leader, the European Union's role in supporting countries in the Global South must not stop at encouraging other rich countries in the Global North to scale-up efforts and implement existing measures. The EU must also play a leadership role by developing and implementing domestic policies that are 1.5°C compliant, in order to reduce the risk of further [losses and damages](#). The new Commissioner has proposed a 50-possibly 55% target for 2030 which isn't nearly enough given EU's fairshare of the emissions and continued consumption of the carbon budget. In reality the EU should already be at negative/minus 200 given its historical responsibility and extractive economy. Next year's

COP26 in Glasgow is the deadline for countries to update their 2030 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The EU also has mandated each Member State (MS) to submit National Climate and Energy Plans (NCEPs) till the end of the year. These so far have been insufficient and a [report](#) by CAN-E asks MS to increase them beyond the minimum required. Decisions on the EU 2030 target expected at the March EU Summit. Also, please see [Fern's analysis of the draft National Energy and Climate Plans \(NECPs\) of Denmark, Germany, Romania, Sweden, and Slovakia](#), which outline how Member States intend to meet their climate targets to 2030.

Recommendation: The EU must scale up its NDC target to [65% emissions reductions by 2030](#) (CAN-E agreed position) and achieve zero emissions before mid-century.

5. Carbon markets

Context: Carbon markets (policies like cap and trade and carbon offsets), under negotiation in Madrid, threaten to lock us into another decade of inaction, distraction, and strengthening corporate power. Carbon markets have never, and will never, deliver on emissions reductions; instead, they enable 'business-as-usual', and are utterly ineffective in bringing down emissions. Furthermore, they pose a grave threat to indigenous peoples and frontline communities globally.

Parties such as the EU try to justify this, saying that any new mechanism should only count as additional mitigation—i.e. over and above what is already counted in NDCs. However, there is a real danger that carbon markets will be allowed to become a significant part of a country's efforts to implement their NDC. This would mean many governments handing control of much of their national climate policy to corporate-led carbon markets. Please see IATP's paper on [carbon markets](#).

Recommendation: Article 6 (which to date remains controversial) should not open the door to Parties meeting their NDC obligations through carbon market offsets. As negotiations continue on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement Rule Book, countries should not be pressured into agreeing to terms that will lead to diluting domestic commitments and targets of richer countries (known as Annex 1 in UNFCCC parlance).

6. Climate Finance

Context: Climate Justice demands a transfer of finances from the Global North to the Global South. The EU and other rich countries have a historical responsibility to shoulder the global transition towards decarbonizing and sustainability, prevention of further [Loss and Damage](#), and pay the ecological debt it owes to the Global South.

Recommendation: For the EU to at least double contributions made to the Green Climate Fund compared to the initial period and urgently scale-up international climate finance grants for adaptation to ensure that there is a balance between international climate finance contributed to support adaptation and mitigation efforts. It needs to acknowledge the need

for, and provide public climate finance grants for loss and damage that are new and additional to existing climate, development and humanitarian financial commitments.

Domestically, ECOLISE together with CAN-E have also called for the EU budget for 2021-2027 to facilitate the transition, for example, by ending funding for fossil fuels, aviation and road infrastructure and industrial agriculture and shifting money towards climate action and CLIs. The [European Economic and Social Committee](#) has argued that the overall share of funds available for climate action under the EU budget should increase from the current 20% to 40%. Decision on the EU 2021-2027 Budget to be expected at the March EU Summit.

7. European Green Deal

Context: The EU is presenting its European Green Deal (EGD) as Europe's new growth strategy (please see the [leaked EC document](#)). An EC Communication is expected during COP25 on the 11th of December. The final EGD will be unveiled in March 2020. The EU plans to invest in research and innovation and green technologies. It will deliver a Sustainable Europe Investment Plan - 1 trillion euros of investment for the next 10 years - this will imply the implementation of a [Border Carbon Adjustment](#). The Just Transition Fund is what we need to keep an eye on, and need to push for streams of finance for CLIs. It will be a combination of public and private money. With the help of the European Investment Bank (EIB), the EU will establish Europe's climate bank. The EGD will link to the Global Green New Deal.

ECOLISE is supporting various iterations of the Green New Deal (for Europe). We have provided extensive comments to and are a part of the coalition for this [report](#) (please read for more context on the GNDE).

Recommendation: Our demand to Parties (countries) should be the climate emergency and how they can respond through a Global Green New Deal that tackles the climate crisis as well as existing social, racial and economic inequalities. ECOLISE would much rather there was an alignment around supporting the Green New Deal. Because if we lose the next five years to climate inaction, it's a death sentence to the poorest people in the Global South. We need our communities to force a cross-EU consensus around the need for a rapid decarbonisation, with every country leader/negotiator being asked first and foremost where they stand on a Green New Deal, and a 2030 target.