

Warsaw / Prague / Budapest, 9.12.2019

Mateusz Morawiecki
The Prime Minister
Al. Ujazdowskie 1/3
00-583 Warsaw

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the Polish, Czech and Hungarian civil society we appeal to you to support the decision to adopt the European Union goal to become climate neutral by 2050 at the latest. This decision has to be taken on 12-13 December 2019, during the next meeting of the European Council. We realise that reaching for climate neutrality is a challenge, nonetheless it is possible and necessary.

Countries of our region have already chosen the road of transformation once and we have learned a lot on the way. It has not been an easy road, but it brought us freedom and the effects are beneficial to our societies. We can be proud of our achievements. Therefore we should also look forward to meeting these new challenges with courage.

Politics is about difficult choices and taking responsibility for the current time, but also for future generations. Making hard, long-term decisions is what defines great politicians. Now it is the time to make such a decision.

By making such visionary choices, we will gain greater long-term prosperity and safety in our societies. A transition towards a climate neutral economy will be socially and economically beneficial. It will improve our competitiveness, energy security and the quality of life of the citizens in our region. It will grant us better health, better jobs and open up multiple new opportunities for starting innovative business initiatives. Extensive funds are available for “socially just” transitions which do not leave communities behind and can support the most vulnerable.

On the other hand, inaction or insufficient action is already causing grave consequences¹ that will further aggravate existing social and economic problems. It is us and our children who are paying the price. Our grandchildren will pay even more unless we start acting now. Negative effects of climate change already lead to business losses, damaging local family businesses that do not have sufficient resources to manage arising problems first. Adding to that, energy poverty and lack of fair access to clean energy worsens air pollution. We also experience water scarcity across Europe, droughts, rising food prices and threats to our safety that originate from extreme weather events.

Poland, Czechia and Hungary can take this first step towards the new transition together. We can reach for additional benefits resulting from cooperation among our countries, like many

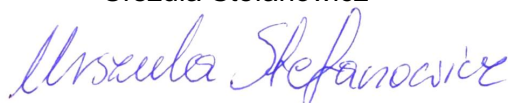
¹ <http://www.caneurope.org/publications/reports-and-briefings/1784-briefing-the-battle-over-the-eu-s-climate-ambition>, <https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/advance-article/doi/10.1093/biosci/biz088/5610806?searchresult=1>, <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-03595-0>, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2019/12/02/top-emitters-must-commit-to-a-u-turn-at-cop25/amp/>

times before in the history of our region. Adopting climate neutrality by 2050 or sooner should be the beginning of a new and more ambitious approach to the challenge of climate change. It is a historic moment, when the V4 countries all together can become the driving force of climate change mitigation not just in Central-Eastern Europe but in Europe as a whole and inspire the rest of the world.

On behalf of organisations: Polish Ecological Club Mazovian Branch, Foundation "Development YES - Open Pit Mines NO", Environmental Association "Za Zemiata" / Friends of the Earth Bulgaria, Institute for Sustainable Development Foundation, The Ecological Association EKO-UNIA, WWF Hungary, Clean Air Action Group, Association "NO Open Pit Mines", Association EKO-PRZYJEZIERZE, Society for Sustainable Living, Greenmind Foundation, Buy Responsibly Foundation, Ecological-Cultural Association "Common Earth", Calla - Association for Preservation of the Environment, Climate Coalition, Czech Republic, Centre for Transport and Energy, Veronica Ecological Institute, Educon, Czechia against Poverty, Greenpeace Czech Republic, Hnutí DUHA - Friends of the Earth Czech Republic, Energy Efficient Wekerle Civic Society, National Society of Conservationists - Friends of the Earth Hungary, Hungarian Climate Alliance, Electric Vehicles Promotion Foundation, Green Contact Association, GreenDependent Sustainable Solutions Association, Reflex Environmental Association, Tourist Organization of Stepnica, Friends of Nature Czechia, "The Voice of Pedestrians" Association of the city of Bydgoszcz, Upper Silesian Nature Society, The City is Ours Association, Ab Ovo Association, Foundation Green Light/Green News Editorial Team, Social Ecological Institute, Polish Climate Coalition, Climate Reality Europe, WWF Poland, 1,5°C - Climate Change Clearly, Ecumenical Academy, V4SDG - Visegrad for Sustainability.

Yours Sincerely,

Urszula Stefanowicz



Polish Ecological Club Mazovian Branch

The appeal will be forwarded to the Minister of Climate, Michał Kurtyka, for information

The same letter will also be sent to the Czech Prime Minister, Andrej Babiš and the Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán

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