



Environment Committee vote on MEP Jytte Guteland's report on a European Climate Law

4 September 2020

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

This summer heatwaves in Europe, fires in California, melting permafrost in Russia and floods in China, are just some of the stark reminders that climate change is hitting our planet with faster and more intense vigour by the day. Every summer, including this one, we are told that we are experiencing the hottest summer on record. The pace of the climate crisis simply cannot wait for our governments and communities to gradually adjust, while designing the best solutions to suit each of our economies, industrial systems, or lifestyles. There is simply no more time. Either we take brave action now to keep up with the speed that the climate change is imposing on us, or we will all lose this race. And this time, no vaccine will save us.

Europe has been leading the fight against climate change so far and must seize the opportunity of the largest political and societal support ever of the past 15 years to face the climate challenge with brave and needed action. This is what civil society is calling for and is expecting from policymakers, who today sit in the European Parliament as representatives of people's voice. In their vote, Europeans showed that climate and environment are on top of people's concerns and certainly one of the most felt worries of the next generation of Europeans.

The science is clear that achieving the Paris Agreement objective of keeping the average global temperature rise below 1.5C, which would give us more chances to reduce the impacts of climate change on the planet, requires **stepping up short-term action now**, as global emissions need to fall 7.6% per year every year for the next ten years.

The Environment Committee is faced with an enormous role and an enormous responsibility at this point in time. It can adopt a landmark legislation which will set an ambitious path towards achieving climate-neutrality as soon as possible and no later than 2050. It can change the history of climate policy in Europe by giving an unprecedented impulse to legislative action.

What we need is no less than a gigantic undertaking.

Ahead of the **vote on 10 September on MEP Jytte Guteland's report on the proposed European Climate Law, we ask you to support the science-based target for reducing GHG emissions of 65% by 2030.**

It would be an enormous damage to the the next generation of Europeans if policymakers kept "pressing snooze", as Greta Thunberg said, and missed such a unique opportunity to shape the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Wates', is positioned above the name of the signatory.

Jeremy Wates, Secretary General