

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:

International

ActionAid



Environmental Investigation Agency



Greenpeace



Naturefriends International



Oxfam International



Peace Brigades International



EU

Association 2Celsius



CDM Watch



ClientEarth



European Environment Bureau



FERN



Friends of the Earth Europe



PAN Europe



Stichting BirdLife Europe



Transport & Environment



Austria

BirdLife Austria

Klimabündnis - Climate Alliance Austria

Global 2000



VCÖ Mobilität mit Zukunft



Belgium

Associations 21



Bond Beter Leefmilieu Vlaanderen

Broederlijk Delen

Duurzame
Landbouwwerkgroep JNM
(Jeugdbond Voor Natuur En
Milieu)



Justitia et Pax Belgium

Natagora



Natuurpunt



VODO Vlaams Overleg
Duurzame Ontwikkeling



Vredeseilanden

Bulgaria

National Movement Friends
of the Earth



Българско дружество за
защита на птиците (BSPB)



Cyprus

Friends of the Earth Cyprus



Denmark

Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals

Finland

BirdLife Finland

Maan Ystävät Ry



France

CCFD-Terre Solidaire



Les Amis de la Terre - France



Les Amis
de la Terre

Réseau Action Climat-
France



Germany

Adivasi-Koordination

Arbeitsgemeinschaft
Regenwald und Artenschutz



Brot für die Welt



Bund für Umwelt und
Naturschutz Deutschland
(BUND)



Bundesverband für Umweltberatung

Deutscher Naturschutzring



ecodevelop - Action for
Ecological Development



INKOTA-netzwerk



Naturfreunde Deutschlands



OroVerde - Tropical Forest
Foundation



Pro REGENWALD



Pro Wildlife



Robin Wood

Watch Indonesia!

Zoologische Gesellschaft fuer Arten- u.
Populationsschutz

Greece

Hellenic Ornithological Society

Κάριτας Αθήνας - Caritas
Athens



Italy

Legambiente



Luxembourg

Action Solidarité Tiers
Monde (ASTM)



Archevêché de Luxembourg

bioLABEL



Caritas Luxembourg



Commission Luxembourgeoise "Justice et Paix"

Demeter-Bond



Der Cercle de Coopération



Eurosolar Lëtzebuerg



Fondation Bridderlech Deelen



Frères des Hommes

Mouvement Ecologique
Luxembourg



natur&ëmwelt



SOS FAIM Luxembourg -
Action pour le
développement



TransFair Minka

Netherlands

ICCO



Milieu Défensie

Natuur&Milieu



Netherlands Centre for
Indigenous Peoples (NCIV)



Poland

SALAMANDRA - Polish
Society for Nature
Conservation



Portugal

Quercus - Associação Nacional de Conservação
da Natureza

Romania

ALMA-RO Association



Asociatia Brasovul Verde

Asociatia de Turism si
Ecologie DIANTHUS Medias



Asociatia Ecologie-Sport-
Turism



Asociatia Ecouri Verzi



Clubul Ecologic Transilvania
(Transylvania Eco Center)



Mare Nostrum NGO



Re.Generation Association



Romanian Ornithological
Society



TERRA Mileniul III
Foundation



Slovakia

Cepta - Centre for sustainable alternatives



Občianske združenie TATRY

Slovak Ornithological Society - BirdLife Slovakia



Slovakia-Southern Africa Society

Society for Sustainable Living in the Slovak Republic



SOSNA. Oz

ŽIVICA Centrum environmentálnej a etickej výchovy

Slovenia

Focus društvo za sonaraven razvoj - Focus association for sustainable development



Institute for Sustainable Development

Spain

ALBA SUD

Ecologistas en Acción



SEO/BirdLife

UK

Global Witness



global witness

Orangutan Foundation



Permaculture Association



Pesticide Action Network



RSPB



a million voices for nature

Sumatran Orangutan Society



The Real Bread Campaign



Friends of the Earth (England, Wales, Northern Ireland)



Friends of the Earth

Friends of the Earth Scotland

