

Our Vision for A Clean Planet for All

November 2018



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“As Europeans, we want to leave a healthier planet behind for those that follow. We obviously cannot turn a blind eye to the climate challenge; we must look to the future.”

Jean-Claude Juncker, State of Union address
September 2018

The European Union has been at the forefront of addressing the root causes of climate change and the strengthening a concerted global response in the framework of the Paris Agreement. Our long-term strategy for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, as requested by the European Council in March 2018, confirms our lead in global climate action. It **presents a vision to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, through a fair transition encompassing all sectors of the economy**. It underlines the opportunities that this transformation offers to European citizens and its economy, as well as identifies and anticipates challenges along the road.

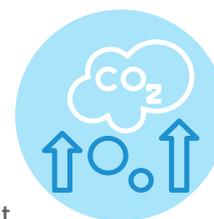
93% OF EUROPEANS BELIEVE CLIMATE CHANGE TO BE CAUSED BY HUMAN ACTIVITY



93% OF EUROPEANS believe climate change to be caused by human activity



85% OF EUROPEANS agree that fighting climate change and using energy more efficiently can create economic growth and jobs in Europe



Source: Special Eurobarometer 479

THE EU HAS SUCCESSFULLY DECOUPLED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM ECONOMIC GROWTH

Greenhouse Gas Emissions down 22%

1990-2017



EU GDP up 58%

1990-2017



The strategy outlines a vision of the deep economic and societal transformations required, engaging all sectors of the economy and society, to achieve the transition to a climate-neutral economy. It does not set targets or propose new initiatives to be taken. Instead it seeks to ensure that this transition is socially fair – not leaving Europeans or regions behind – and enhances the competitiveness of EU economy and industry on global markets, securing high quality jobs and sustainable growth in Europe.

Our long-term strategy opens a thorough debate on how the EU should prepare itself towards the 2050 horizon. Reaching a climate neutral economy by 2050 is feasible from technological, economic and social perspective, but it requires deep societal and economic transformations within a generation.

