

# EUROPEAN ALLIANCE for a **JUST TRANSITION**

Our vision for the EU Cycle 2024-2029 (and Beyond)

# What is this Alliance about?

- A coalition of around **50 European stakeholders**
- Members include social, climate and environmental civil society organisations, workers' representatives, think tanks and progressive political parties, groups and foundations.
- A common vision for a fair and just green transition: to transform our economies and societies in ways that **respect planetary boundaries** and **improve the well-being**, living standards and working conditions of all people.
- Established in 2021 to promote dialogue and advocate for the **strengthening and better integration** of the EU's social, climate and environmental policy agendas.

# Our vision for the new EU mandate

Context: The deepening and accelerating **climate, environmental and social crises** demand urgent action!

- The summer of 2024 marked the hottest on record in Europe and globally.
- Extreme weather events cost the EU over €50 billion annually.
- Socio-economic inequalities continue to rise, with more than 20% of the EU population at risk of poverty or social exclusion.



A **fair and just transition** is essential to effectively address these multifaceted and interconnected global crises!

# Our vision for the new EU mandate

The Alliance envisions a **European Union that prioritises and advances a fair and just transition** during the 2024-2029 political cycle and beyond.

## A European Union that Advances A FAIR AND JUST TRANSITION

The European Alliance for a Just Transition's  
Vision for the EU Cycle 2024-2029 and Beyond

January 2025

The European Alliance for a Just Transition brings together around 50 European stakeholders working for a sustainable future, including social, climate and environmental civil society organisations, workers' representatives, think tanks and progressive political parties, groups and foundations. The group shares a common objective for a **fair and just green transition**: to transform our economies and societies in ways that respect planetary boundaries and improve the well-being, living standards and working conditions of all people.

In its 2021 Joint Declaration, the Alliance urged the European Union to **strengthen and better integrate** its social, climate and environmental policy agendas. In recent years, the EU has taken significant steps to advance the green transition, notably through the **European Green Deal**, and has addressed its social impacts through guidance, monitoring and financing instruments such as the Council Recommendation on ensuring a fair transition, Commission Recommendations, the Just Transition Mechanism and the forthcoming Social Climate Fund.

However, we live in a time of deepening and accelerating **climate, environmental and social crises**. The summer of 2024 was the **hottest on record**, both in Europe and globally. In addition to the devastating human and material losses, the EU's economy is projected to lose more than €50 billion per year to extreme weather and climate events. Simultaneously, geopolitical tensions and traditional economic policies have driven up the **cost of living**, exacerbating already **high socio-economic inequalities** and fuelling polarisation. In 2023, more than 20% of the EU population was at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

A fair and just green transition is essential to effectively address these multifaceted and interconnected global crises. In this document, the Alliance presents its vision for a **European Union that prioritises and advances a fair and just transition throughout the 2024-2029 political cycle and beyond**.

Our vision is of a Union that:

1. Ensures the green transition leads to prosperity for all, with a strong focus on reducing socio-economic inequalities.
2. Advances ambitious and forward-looking climate, environmental and social agendas in a coordinated, coherent and mutually reinforcing manner.
3. Applies and promotes proactive decision-making for a fair and just transition and makes substantial investments to support it.
4. Puts social, climate and environmental objectives at the heart of all its internal and external actions and investments to foster a truly sustainable society.

<sup>1</sup> Commission Recommendation of 14 October 2020 on energy poverty and Commission Recommendation of 20 October 2023 on energy poverty.

### 1. An EU that ensures the green transition leads to prosperity for all, with a strong focus on reducing socio-economic inequalities.



The EU and its Member States should:

- a. Ensure that the **costs and benefits** of the green transition are distributed fairly among individuals, households, communities, regions and countries through **carefully designed policies and investments**. In particular, **people in vulnerable situations, marginalised communities, those living in poverty, at risk of social exclusion or facing intersecting forms of discrimination** should receive **targeted support** through specific policies and investments aimed at shielding them from additional costs and ensuring they can fully benefit from the transition.
- b. Ensure robust **support for workers and trade unions** throughout the transition to carbon neutrality, including as coal, gas and oil are phased out, and to a fully circular economy. This includes upskilling initiatives, re-employment support, unemployment benefits, and related measures to enable smooth transitions from one job to another or to retain workers. Transitions should be rooted in **meaningful and effective social dialogue**, with the democratic involvement of trade unions, collective bargaining, and worker participation. Economic and industrial strategies should prevent displacement of workers from their communities, ensure **decent work**, safeguard workers' rights and promote inclusiveness and gender equality.
- c. Make the **welfare system** the foundation of a fair and resilient society by strengthening **social protection systems and public services**, including social services. This includes supporting quality education through a culture of lifelong learning and ensuring access to quality housing, childcare, and healthcare. These measures are crucial to ensure the well-being of all people affected by the increasing disruptions caused by the climate and environmental crises and to address the specific issues of those affected by the green transition, in particular marginalised communities and workers.
- d. Ensure that the rights and needs of all, especially marginalised communities, are addressed through structured, meaningful and effective **civil dialogue**. Alongside social dialogue, this should be central to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of strategies, policies and funds at all levels, upheld by open, inclusive and transparent processes. The EU should also harness the potential of innovative forms of **civic participation** to enrich democratic contributions to policy-making and limit the disproportionate influence of corporate lobbies and their vested interests on decision-making processes.

<sup>2</sup> Including people who are discriminated against on the basis of ethnicity, gender, disability, age and other grounds – they are the most vulnerable to environmental and climate-related hazards, even though they contribute the least to the climate and environmental crises.

# A European Union that...

1. Ensures the green transition leads to prosperity for all, with a strong focus on reducing socio-economic inequalities.

The EU and its MS should:

- Ensure that the **costs and benefits** of the green transition are equitably distributed through **specific policies and investments** aimed at protecting **vulnerable and marginalised communities** from additional burdens and ensuring that they benefit from the transition.
- Provide robust support to **workers** (i.e. upskilling, unemployment benefits) **and trade unions** to facilitate smooth transitions between jobs or to retain workers. Ensure that transitions are based on **social dialogue** and that economic strategies prevent the displacement of workers and ensure decent jobs.
- Strengthen **social protection systems and public services**, including quality education, housing, childcare and healthcare to address climate and environmental disruptions, particularly for **marginalized groups**, and the specific issues of those affected by the green transition.
- Make **social and civil dialogue** central to policy-making to ensure that the rights and needs of all are taken into account. Promote innovative forms of civic participation and limit the influence of corporate lobbies in decision-making processes.

# A European Union that...

2. Advances ambitious and forward-looking climate, environmental and social agendas in a coordinated, coherent and mutually reinforcing manner.

The EU and its MS should:

- Intensify efforts to achieve **climate and environmental goals**, including by adopting science-based targets for 2040, establishing robust transition pathways, prioritising key environmental imperatives, and setting climate adaptation targets and measures to bolster resilience.
- Fully implement and strengthen the **European Pillar of Social Rights** and ensure that all policies are based on comprehensive **assessments** of the distributional, health and employment impacts of action and inaction.
- Foster an economy that ensures the well-being of all within planetary boundaries, including by developing resource reduction targets, supporting **social economy** models and prioritising **circular economy** principles.
- Ensure consistency across policy areas and improve coordination within the EU institutions through a **whole-of-government approach**. Promote synergies and **structured dialogue** between levels of governance, from local to EU institutions, and with stakeholders.

# A European Union that...

3. Applies and promotes proactive decision-making for a fair and just transition and makes substantial investments to support it.

The EU and its MS should:

- Develop an ambitious, long-term **vision** for a fair and just transition, addressing the **socio-economic impacts** of the green transition and tackling the **root causes of inequalities** in access to quality, affordable and carbon neutral services such as housing, energy and mobility.
- Set clear, science-based objectives, priorities and timelines. Create a robust **EU framework** with both soft and binding measures that integrate environmental and social dimensions **from the outset** and address them complementarily.
- **Invest massively** in a fair and just transition and mobilise **new resources** to ensure that there is no trade-off between social and environmental objectives. An ambitious EU budget and a progressive taxation agenda are essential to enable targeted investment.
- Ensure a strong **territorial, place-based approach** in EU planning and funding, and promote **tailored and context-specific planning** at national, regional and local levels, as well as in the private sector. Fair and just transition considerations should also be **integrated** into other planning and policy processes at national and regional level.

# A European Union that...

4. Puts social, climate and environmental objectives at the heart of all its internal and external actions and investments to foster a truly sustainable society.

The EU and its MS should:

- Ensure that internal and external policies in all sectors (e.g. industrial policy, internal market, etc.) are **consistent** with the EU's climate, environmental and social goals. Public investment in public services and environmental protection should be **increased**, not reduced to finance other priorities.
- Integrate more comprehensive eco-social and broader well-being indicators into the **European Semester** and ensure that country-specific reform and investment recommendations equally support economic, environmental and social objectives.
- Apply harmonised **environmental and social conditionalities** to companies receiving public finance, mainstream social, gender and environmental considerations into funding programmes and strictly enforce the principles of 'do no significant harm' and 'polluter pays'.
- Play an ambitious and constructive role in **global climate action and climate justice**, including promoting **equitable and mutually beneficial partnerships** with other countries, avoiding negative spill-over effects of EU policies and improving access to finance.

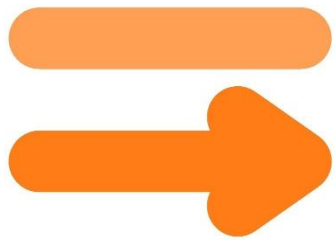


# Our vision for the new EU mandate

A “call to action”: we call on the EU to **make this vision a reality** and to inspire others to do the same, leading to a sustainable future within planetary boundaries.



AND MANY MORE!



EUROPEAN ALLIANCE  
for a **JUST TRANSITION**

Thank you!