



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR CLIMATE ACTION  
Directorate E – Adaptation & Resilience, Communication and Civil Society Relations  
**CLIMA.E.2 – Communication, Civil Society Relations & Climate Pact**

Brussels  
CLIMA.E.2/JG/

**Subject:** Reply to your e-mail sent to Mrs Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

Dear Mr Pawlak,

On behalf of Ms Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, I would like to thank you for your letter titled “The Truth about the Climate” and confirm its receipt.

I appreciate your commitment to the issue of climate change and share your worry about the health of European citizens in a warming climate. The consequences of global warming are dramatic, and we can all see the impact of extreme weather events and longer-term climatic changes for citizens, livelihoods, communities and society more broadly. The science also shows us that this warming and its related impacts are set to continue and therefore, we will need to adapt and become more resilient to them.

Building on existing EU Adaptation Strategy, the European Commission has published on 12 March a [Communication on managing climate risks](#). This Communication responds to the latest climate science and specifically the findings of the first-ever European Climate Risk Assessment carried out by the European Environment Agency.

Of course, there is a limit to how far we can adapt and prepare, and adaptation cannot be a substitute for action to halt global warming. Efforts to build resilience must go hand in hand with action to cut greenhouse gas emissions. The [European Green Deal](#), our growth strategy for a more sustainable, cleaner, safer and healthier Europe, laid out our goal to become the world’s first climate-neutral continent by 2050. This was written into the [European Climate Law](#), making our climate neutrality objective a legal obligation and demonstrating the EU’s strong commitment to tackle the climate crisis.

As part of the European Green Deal, the existing [EU-wide 2030 emission reduction target](#) was raised to (at least) 55% compared to 1990 levels. To achieve this increased climate ambition, the EU put forward the [Fit for 55 package](#), a series of legislative measures covering a wide range of areas including climate, energy, transport and taxation.

To ensure that no one is left behind in the green transition, we created the [Social Climate Fund](#), which will provide Member States with dedicated funding so that the most affected vulnerable groups are directly supported.

In February, the Commission presented a recommendation for a [2040 emissions reduction target](#), setting the path to climate neutrality in the EU by 2050. The recommendation includes a 90% net greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2040 compared to 1990 levels.

Citizens like yourself have been at the forefront in raising the alarm about the climate crisis and the need for urgent action. As we work to make Europe more resilient to climate change and pursue a path to climate neutrality, all parts of society need to work together to understand the challenges and develop the solutions, so that everyone can do their part, and no one is left behind in the transition.

Please rest assured that your concerns about climate change are acknowledged. We remain committed to exploring and supporting initiatives that aim to mitigate climate change and promote sustainable development.

Once again, thank you for your interest and for your efforts in the fight against climate change.

Yours sincerely,

Laura MAANAVILJA  
Deputy Head of Unit