



CAN

CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK
Europe

CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK EUROPE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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“BEING A MEMBER OF CAN EUROPE ENRICHES OUR ORGANISATION AS A WHOLE — STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, THE BOARD. THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS, WORKING GROUPS, WORKSHOPS AND ADVOCACY SESSIONS HELP THE ITALIAN CLIMATE NETWORK GAIN INFORMATION ON CLIMATE POLICIES, EXCHANGE WITH PARTNERS, AND NETWORK WITH OTHER ALLIES FROM ALL AROUND EUROPE, AS PART OF THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE AND INEQUALITIES.”

JACOPO BENCINI, ITALIAN CLIMATE NETWORK

“AT YEE, WE APPRECIATE HAVING BECOME A PART OF THE NETWORK IN 2021. WE JOINED CAN EUROPE TO INTEGRATE FURTHER INTO THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT IN EUROPE AND EXPAND ON OUR VENUES TO ENSURE THE PRESENCE OF YOUTH VOICES IN NEGOTIATION PROCESSES, DISCUSSIONS AND CAMPAIGNS. SO FAR, THE NETWORK HAS BEEN A GREAT SOURCE OF INFORMATION, INSPIRATION AND ADVICE. FROM THE VERY START, WE WERE ABLE TO LEARN FROM OTHER MEMBERS AND COOPERATE ON CONCRETE PROJECTS, WHICH HELPED US TO EXPAND OUR OUTREACH AND WORK WITH PEOPLE WE MIGHT NOT HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO WORK WITH OTHERWISE.”

TETIANA STADNYK, YOUTH AND ENVIRONMENT EUROPE

MEMBERSHIP

“AS AN INTERNATIONAL ECOFEMINIST NETWORK IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO BE A MEMBER OF CAN EUROPE, THE LEADING NGO COALITION IN EUROPE FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE, TO MAKE SURE THAT FEMINIST VOICES ARE HEARD IN THE CLIMATE DEBATE. TOGETHER WE CAN UNITE, FIGHTING FOR FEMINIST CLIMATE JUSTICE AND A GENDER JUST SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TRANSITION”

CHANTALVAN DEN BOSSCHE, WOMEN ENGAGED FOR A COMMON FUTURE

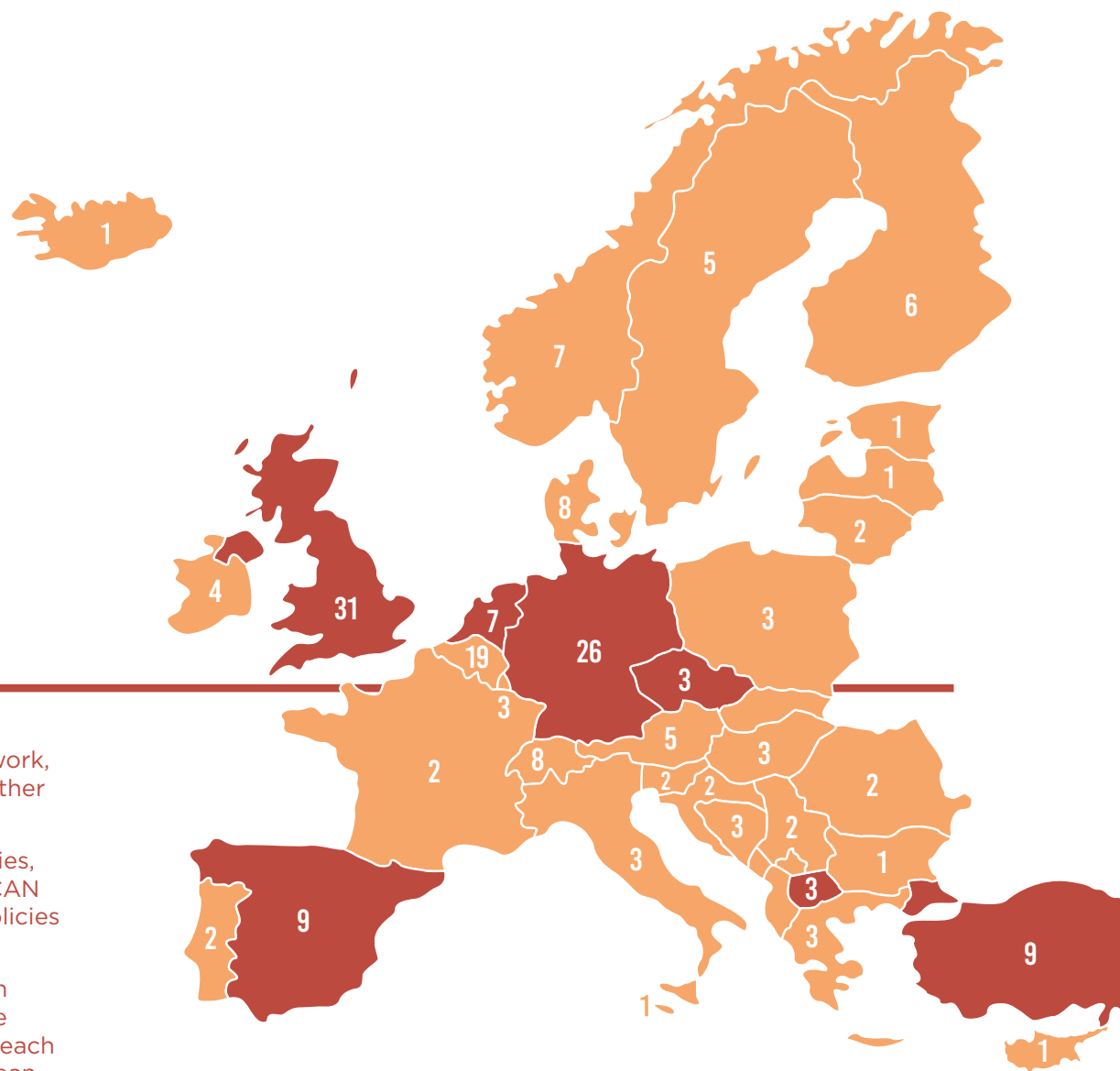
TEN NEW MEMBERS

- + *Action Aid, Europe*
- + *Klimadelegation, Germany*
- + *Our Fish, Europe*
- + *Genc Dusunce Enstitusu, Turkey*
- + *Aegean Forest Foundation, Turkey*
- + *Powershift, Germany*
- + *Youth and Environment Europe, Europe*
- + *Asociación Canarias Archipielago Sostenible, Spain*
- + *Global Witness, Europe*
- + *Kolektiv Z, North Macedonia*

Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe is Europe's leading NGO coalition fighting dangerous climate change. We are a unique network, in which environmental and development organisations work together to issue joint lobby campaigns and maximise their impact.

With over 185 member organisations active in 38 European countries, representing over 1,700 NGOs and more than 40 million citizens, CAN Europe promotes sustainable climate, energy and development policies throughout Europe.

In 2021, 10 new members joined our Network, including NGOs from North Macedonia, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands, Turkey and the United Kingdom. While the EU is at the core of our work, we also reach beyond its borders. We carry out advocacy work in non-EU European countries. We also unite members from across Europe via our activities on international climate negotiations. Having a committed membership base that is informed, engaged and well represented is at the core of CAN Europe's ability to succeed.



Numbers on the map refer to the number of members per country.
Countries marked red are those with new members.

FACTS AND FIGURES



UP 63%
FROM 2020



6 JOINT FUNDING APPLICATIONS AND 30 WEBINARS FOR THE NETWORK



41



LETTERS TO
POLICY MAKERS

9



SUBMISSIONS TO
CONSULTATIONS

17



BRIEFINGS
& REPORTS

23,779



FOLLOWERS



7,378

FOLLOWERS

UP 13% FROM 2020 | UP 2.5% FROM 2020

70 STRATEGY CALLS
AND

51 WORKSHOPS



WITH THE
NETWORK



96,274 IMPRESSIONS



OF TOP POST ON TWITTER



5 MEDIA
EVENTS AND
2 STUNTS

2,730 MASS
MEDIA HITS



11 NEWSLETTERS WITH

800+ SUBSCRIBERS
TO OUR NEWSLETTER



ACHIEVEMENTS

OVERARCHING STORY

2021 was the year that put the flesh on the bones of the commitments that the EU set in 2020. To enable the EU's target of at least 55% net greenhouse gas emission reductions by 2030, current climate and energy laws needed to be revised. This was kicked-off by the European Commission in July 2021 under the umbrella package 'Fit for 55'.

Throughout the year, CAN Europe and its members relentlessly worked to create a united civil society voice before the European Commission published its proposed legislation. We asked for a higher climate objective aligned with a 1.5°C consistent pathway for the EU: at least -65% emission reductions. These efforts continued after the release of the 'Fit for 55' package to impact the legislative process.

As we focused on the updates of the EU climate and energy policies, we simultaneously shone a light on national climate governance instruments, so that EU countries raised their ambition to reflect the enhanced 2030 objectives.

Our work, both public and behind the scenes, was guided by the urgency spelt out in the new IPCC reports: climate change is affecting every corner of our planet, with temperatures rising faster than expected towards catastrophic rates. We witnessed this with the devastating forest fires and floods across Europe in the summer, and in many vulnerable countries in the Global South that are much more exposed.

This was very much on the agenda during the UN Climate Negotiations, COP26. Undoubtedly thanks to the push from civil society, the pressure soared

for rich regions to provide finance to developing countries to address the losses and damages from climate change — a topic that was officially included in Glasgow, after a COP gap year.

Our work on a just energy transition picked up speed a year after the outbreak of the COVID-19 and with energy prices skyrocketing like never before. We made a great effort to ensure important recovery funds were prioritising the fight against climate change. In such a sensitive moment, especially for the most vulnerable people, we fiercely advocated for energy savings, renewable energy and against fossil fuels. We pushed back hard against new fossil fuel infrastructure that has no place given the current climate crisis and would have a lock-in effect. It is clearer than ever before that climate, recovery, energy prices and justice are undoubtedly intertwined.

We kept working hard in some key regions, like the Western Balkans and Turkey, to see more ambitious climate commitments. In Turkey, following long advocacy efforts from civil society, the Paris Agreement was ratified and a climate neutrality goal was set.

We didn't limit ourselves to work exclusively on climate and energy policies. Being aware of how climate action is connected to many other areas of legislation, people and societies, in 2021 we kept strengthening our work on topics like trade, litigation, lifestyles, and production and consumption. We worked in closer cooperation with youth groups, supporting them to make sure they played an active role in decision making processes to fight climate change.

MAKING SURE
EUROPE BECOMES
FIT FOR 1.5



CLIMATE TARGET
BECOMES BINDING
LAW



A CIVIL SOCIETY
PUSH TOWARDS
INCREASED LOSS &
DAMAGE FINANCE



THE PEOPLE'S
CLIMATE CASE:
CONTRIBUTING
TO POLITICAL
MOMENTUM



A GUIDING VISION
FOR THE ENERGY
TRANSITION



TOGETHER FOR
100% RENEWABLE
EUROPE



BUILDINGS: AN
OPPORTUNITY TO
REDUCE ENERGY
DEMAND AND
EMISSIONS



ENDING LIFELINES
FOR FOSSIL FUELS



NEW VISION FOR
AN EQUITABLE
TRANSITION
TOWARDS A
SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE



SHIFTING EU
FINANCIAL FLOWS:
A CORNERSTONE
FOR ACHIEVING
THE GREEN
AGENDA



PAVING THE
PATH TOWARDS
A WITHDRAWAL
FROM AN ARCHAIC
FOSSIL FUELS
TREATY



CLIMATE GOALS
REACHING ALL
INDUSTRY SECTORS



MAKING SURE
YOUTH IS A PART
OF EVERY DECISION
MAKING PROCESS



PATHWAYS TO
REACHING CLIMATE
NEUTRALITY IN THE
WESTERN BALKANS



TURKEY RATIFIES
THE PARIS
AGREEMENT
AND SETS A DATE
FOR BECOMING
CARBON-NEUTRAL



PROGRESSIVE
COALITION
PRESSURES THE
EU TO ACCELERATE
CLIMATE ACTION





MAKING SURE EUROPE BECOMES 'FIT FOR 1.5'

2021 kick-started a wave of law-making processes to overhaul the EU's entire climate and energy 2030 framework. In the summer, the European Commission launched the first part of its 'Fit For 55' climate and energy policy package to implement the EU's new overall climate target of at least 55% net greenhouse gas emission reductions by 2030. Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe continues to put pressure on decision-makers in EU institutions to ensure that the package is robust, socially fair and strengthened to allow the EU to go well beyond the -55% target.

“A POST-COVID EUROPE MUST MAKE FAR MORE EFFORT WHEN IT COMES TO TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE. EVEN WITH ITS RECENTLY ENHANCED TARGET OF AT LEAST 55% EMISSIONS REDUCTION BY 2030, THE EU STILL FAILS TO KEEP US SAFE FROM A CLIMATE CATASTROPHE.”

DIRECTOR, WENDEL TRIO, [EURACTIV](#)

Ahead of the launch of law proposals by the European Commission, we managed to put forward a narrative which highlighted the need for the ‘Fit for 55’ package to become ‘Fit for 1.5°C’. We launched a communications and media campaign (#FitFor1Point5) pushing for the ambition of all the pieces of the revised climate and energy legislation to collectively allow Europe to go beyond the 55% target to at least 65% net greenhouse gas emission cuts in 2030. We called for a robust and ambitious climate policy architecture to ensure that Member States stay responsible for the delivery of climate action.

Under the land use and forestry legislation (LULUCF) we advocated for an ambitious and clear new carbon removal target for 2030 together with stronger biodiversity protection and better and more transparent accounting rules. On energy, our main priority was stronger and binding 2030 EU energy efficiency and renewable energy targets, accompanied by bolder policies and measures to underpin their achievement.

The Commission proposals included many positive elements that may even lead to a small increase beyond the agreed at least 55% net emission reduction in 2030. Thanks to our joint efforts, we ensured that the proposal for the introduction of a new carbon market for road transport and buildings complements the existing nationally binding emission reduction targets under the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR), and does not simply replace them. In addition, the proposal for the revision of the Emissions Trading System (ETS) contained many of our key asks such as rebasing the cap that sets the total limit of emission allowances, bringing it closer to real emissions

and continuing to exclude fossil fuel investments from being financed through ETS revenues.

The Energy Efficiency Directive recast proposal also strengthened several of its aspects, which we advocated for, starting with making the EU 2030 energy efficiency target binding. While, **our call** for a clear signal from the Commission that the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) is only for renewables (and not for fossil based energy sources) was heard.

Still, all the ‘Fit for 55’ proposals lacked ambition, being far from sufficient to help the EU deliver on a fair contribution to achieving the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement. After their launch, we shifted our advocacy efforts towards the Member States and the European Parliament emphasising the fact that it is up to them to raise the ambition, address the weaknesses of the proposals and ensure accountability at the national level during the ongoing legislative process.

In December 2021, the European Commission put forward the second part of the ‘Fit for 55’ package, including the proposal for the recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), the Methane Regulation as well as the revision of the Gas Package (hydrogen and gas decarbonisation package). CAN Europe, together with members and partners, highlighted that the gas package is missing crucial triggers to bring EU fossil gas consumption significantly down.



CLIMATE TARGET BECOMES BINDING LAW

2021 was the year that the European Climate Law was adopted. The overarching 2030 EU climate target was updated, to at least 55% net reductions, and enshrined into climate law, alongside the climate neutrality target of 2050.



“THE ‘AT LEAST 55% EMISSION REDUCTION TARGET FOR 2030’ IS NOT IN LINE WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENT’S AMBITION TO LIMIT TEMPERATURE RISE TO 1.5°C BY THE END OF THE CENTURY. THE TARGET HAD BEEN RUSHED BY EU LAWMAKERS TO BRING SOMETHING TO THE LEADERS’ SUMMIT ORGANISED BY THE US. THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT THE KIND OF CLIMATE LAW THAT WILL HELP THE EU TO LEAD THE GLOBAL EFFORTS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE.”

DIRECTOR, WENDEL TRIO, THE GUARDIAN

Despite the update, the new 2030 target is not in line with the latest IPCC findings, which state that we need to reduce emissions by at least 65% by 2030 to be Paris compatible. With incredible effort from our members all around the EU, we also managed to have an independent scientific body (European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change) that is to give independent expert advice to the EU institutions.

We saw a step in the right direction on access to justice rights under the Aarhus Regulation. The scope of acts that can be challenged was broadened, allowing a whole new range of administrative acts to be challenged. An individual's access to justice was also made a little easier. However, much work still remains on bringing state aid decisions into the scope of the Regulation.

CAN Europe joined forces with 11 member organisations in the LIFE Unify and EUKI projects. The coordinated approach developed under these projects reinforced the national perspective of our advocacy work and increased our capacity to assess and ultimately improve national climate governance instruments, including NLTS and NECPs.



A CIVIL SOCIETY PUSH TOWARDS INCREASED LOSS & DAMAGE FINANCE

Influencing the EU towards more progressive positions under the UNFCCC was a key objective for CAN Europe's international climate policy agenda in 2021.





CLICK IMAGE TO PLAY VIDEO

“QUITE A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES HAVE STEPPED UP, SUCH AS THE EU, USA, AND MANY SMALLER COUNTRIES. THIS WOULD NOT BE THE CASE WITHOUT THE MECHANISMS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. THE DOWNSIDE TO THIS IS THAT WE HAVE STARTED FROM A TOO LOW LEVEL OF AMBITION SO THAT EVEN THESE ENHANCED NDCS ARE NOT BALANCED IN RELATION TO THE BIG EMITTERS’ FAIR SHARE OF CLIMATE ACTION, AND WHY WE SEE A BIG GAP TOWARDS THE EMISSION REDUCTIONS NEEDED FOR THE 1.5°C LIMIT”

INTERNATIONAL POLICY COORDINATOR, SVEN HARMELING, EURONEWS

Our efforts included: targeted letters to both EU level ministerials as well as international ones; engagement with the European Parliament’s COP26 resolution on the need for progressive positions on loss and damage finance in support of vulnerable countries; shared messages and videos under the ‘WorldWeWant’ campaign which highlighted the loss and damage realities many people already face today. We also worked closely with CAN nodes in Africa and CAN Arab World laying a basis for collaboration in 2022 and beyond.

All this contributed to the big international civil society push for loss and damage finance at COP26, which was included on the agenda for the first time. From there, we started to develop a clearer understanding of loss and damage policy priorities and positioning of European countries as a basis for further activities in the run-up to COP27 and beyond.



THE PEOPLE'S CLIMATE CASE: CONTRIBUTING TO POLITICAL MOMENTUM

The People's Climate case came to an end, after three years of an uphill battle. CAN Europe supported 10 families from Portugal, Germany, France, Italy, Romania, Kenya, Fiji, and the Saami Youth Association Sáminuorra to bring a case to the European Court of Justice.

“CONSECUTIVE DROUGHTS AND HEATWAVES CAUSED DRAMATIC CONSEQUENCES ON MY FAMILY’S LIVELIHOOD AND ON MANY EUROPEAN CITIZENS. TODAY, THE HOPE THAT WE PUT IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM TO PROTECT US AND OUR CO-PLAINTIFFS HAS FAILED. BUT WE ARE NOT GIVING UP. WE WILL KEEP FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE AND FOR THE PROTECTION OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS THAT ARE THREATENED BY THE UNEQUAL AND DIVERSE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. WE MIGHT HAVE LOST TODAY BUT OUR VOICES ARE GETTING LOUDER TO ENSURE A VIABLE FUTURE FOR PRESENT AND NEXT GENERATIONS.””

PLAINTIFF AND FRENCH LAVENDER FARMER, MAURICE FESCHET

Together, we called for the increase of the 2030 target and the annulment of the ETS and ESR because they were not fit to take us to climate neutrality, and the impacts of the EU’s governing bodies lack of ambition could already be seen on the lives and livelihoods of the plaintiffs. In 2021, by the end of the case, all three elements were amended, the increased 2030 climate target was enshrined in legislation and both pieces of legislation opened to be updated.

Alongside this political win, we mobilised people and attracted 211,738 signatories to our petition in support of the plaintiffs and their families. Our message was heard, enabling us to bring the plaintiffs voices and stories into the opaque EU policy making arena. A major problem still remains: access to EU courts when environmental acts harm the planet and people. This is a fundamental right denied to

EU citizens and NGOs, and desperately needs to change if we are to carry calling the EU a leader in democracy and rule of law.



A GUIDING VISION FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION

With the EU starting the process to translate its new 2030 climate target into legislation in 2021, we stressed more than ever that our Paris Agreement Compatible (PAC) scenario should serve as the guiding vision for Europe's energy transition.

**“WITH OUR PARIS AGREEMENT COMPATIBLE SCENARIO WE OFFER
A TOOL TO TRACK THE REQUIRED PROGRESS OF THE EU AND SOON
ALSO OF MEMBER STATES IN VIEW OF A SWIFT
ENERGY TRANSITION.”**

ENERGY TRANSITION POLICY COORDINATOR, JÖRG MÜHLENHOFF

The scientifically-backed pathways for industry, buildings and transport, illustrate that a 100% renewable energy supply is achievable by 2040 with available technologies while respecting our strict sustainability criteria. As the civil-society led energy scenario for net-zero emissions, it underpinned our calls for raising ambition in key pieces of legislation related to energy that are under revision, starting with higher 2030 EU energy efficiency and renewable energy targets.

At the same time, CAN Europe continued to support scientific research which shows that with steep emission reductions by 2030, achieving the Paris Agreement goal is feasible. We helped the renowned think tank Climate Analytics to derive 1.5°C compatible **emission reduction pathways for the EU and for nine countries**. And at the end of the year, we started a new phase with the PAC scenario.

Following our bottom-up approach, we aim to develop fully-fledged country-specific PAC scenarios with national members.



TOGETHER FOR 100% RENEWABLE EUROPE

In October 2021, CAN Europe together with its members successfully launched the Together for 100% Renewable Europe campaign with a call to action ahead of COP26.

“UNDER THIS CALL TO ACTION ‘TOGETHER FOR 100% RENEWABLE EUROPE: PROSPEROUS. SUSTAINABLE. FOR EVERYONE’, WE WILL WORK TOWARDS SCALING UP THE DEPLOYMENT OF SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY WHICH BENEFITS PEOPLE AND SUPPORTS PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF NATURE. THIS IS THE DECADE TO MAKE IT HAPPEN. ALONG WITH GOVERNMENTS, WE ALSO NEED LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES, INVESTORS AND BUSINESSES TO HARVEST THE BENEFITS OF 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY.”

RENEWABLE ENERGY CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR, SEDA ORHAN, AMBIENTE MAGAZINE

We asked for Europe to accelerate solar and wind energy deployment at the pace and scale required by the climate crisis. A communications push of the campaign (#TogetherFor100RE) contributed to creating a Europe-wide momentum for sustainable renewable energy.

In parallel to the European call to action, we mobilised members and allies from Central and Eastern European countries to send an open letter calling on their governments for a faster and just transition to sustainable renewables. With a virtual study tour — a series of targeted online events — we brought together policy makers and experts in renewable energy from industry associations, city networks, think-tanks, and CSOs at national and EU level to explore how we can urgently transition away from fossil fuels to sustainable renewable energy.



BUILDINGS: AN OPPORTUNITY TO REDUCE ENERGY DEMAND AND EMISSIONS

In 2021, CAN Europe pushed for more regulatory ambition in the buildings sector. We identified the key improvements needed in the policy framework and communicated the multiple benefits that stem from a highly energy efficient and renewable-based building stock.

“THE REVISION OF THE BUILDINGS DIRECTIVE IS THE OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE TO TURN ALL THESE NICE WORDS INTO ACTION. THE SOLUTIONS ARE THERE AND THE OBJECTIVE IS CLEAR—CLEAN, SUSTAINABLE AND HEALTHY BUILDINGS FOR ALL. POLITICAL WILL IS NEEDED TO KICKSTART THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE BUILDING SECTOR. IT MUST NOT BE FOUND WANTING.”

BUILDINGS POLICY COORDINATOR, EDOARDO CONCARI COPPOLA, SOCIAL EUROPE

Despite an insufficient overall level of ambition, the European Commission’s recast proposal for the Buildings Directive (EPBD), published in December, was strengthened through the inclusion of different provisions advocated for by CAN Europe. These included mandatory minimum energy performance standards for the worst-performing buildings and requirements for new buildings to be supplied only by renewables.

This work will continue in 2022 to further reinforce the proposal, aiming at maximising energy savings and accelerating the fossil fuel phase out in buildings. In this context, CAN Europe started working with members and partners to build a common positive narrative on sustainable renewable heating solutions and collectively work towards removing common barriers that are hampering their growth.



ENDING LIFELINES FOR FOSSIL FUELS

In 2021, the regulation on transEuropean energy infrastructure (TEN-E) was revised and the fifth list of Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) was developed. CAN Europe used this opportunity to advocate for the need to exclude new fossil gas infrastructure projects from the PCI list and ensure that future hydrogen projects remain fossil gas free. We also focused on raising awareness on dangerous methane emissions from the energy sector. Improvements on governance with regards to infrastructure modelling and planning were achieved by removing exclusive powers from gas transmission system operators. Another positive outcome was that fossil gas infrastructure projects would not be eligible anymore, however there were loopholes such as the exemption for the East Med pipeline.

Photo: @cleanairCATF

6:21 N 50°55.665' E 2°18.820'

“A 2030 PHASEOUT DEADLINE [FOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES] SHOULD BE A MINIMUM, AND THIS AGREEMENT DOESN'T HAVE THAT. COAL IS ALREADY EXPENSIVE [COMPARED WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY] AND NO ONE WANTS TO PUT MONEY IN COAL ANY MORE.”

SENIOR ENERGY POLICY COORDINATOR, ELIF GÜNDÜZYELİ [ON COP26 ANNOUNCEMENTS],
THE GUARDIAN

“THE NINE-YEAR TRANSITION PERIOD DURING WHICH EXISTING GAS INFRASTRUCTURE CAN BE UPGRADED TO CARRY HYDROGEN BLENDS IS TOTALLY AT ODDS WITH AN ALREADY WELL OVERSUPPLIED EUROPEAN GAS GRID AND THE RECENT IEA NET ZERO REPORT WHICH GAVE A RED CARD TO FOSSIL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE EXTENSION.”

CAN EUROPE'S SENIOR GAS POLICY COORDINATOR, ESTHER BOLLENDORFF, *ENDS EUROPE*

When the European Commission announced it would align EU competition rules with the Green Deal, in tandem with the revision of Climate, Energy and Environmental aid guidelines (CEEAG), we worked to put coal and gas subsidies high on the agenda in Brussels and in various Member States. We managed to make the much disputed closure compensation aid for highly emitting lignite plants in Germany an EU-level issue through various **advocacy** and **communication** pushes with our members and allies. We used the German case to convince the competition arm of the Commission to dedicate a specific chapter for coal closures in the revised CEEAG.

We coordinated the public consultation process with our members and NGO allies, and **our input** into the process influenced the Parliament's opinion as well as the file. Thanks to our joint efforts, the Guidelines included a dedicated chapter on aid for renewables and

energy communities, as well as coal closure compensation schemes. We mobilised NGOs to flag fossil fuel subsidies allowed under the environmental state aid rules proposal through advocacy meetings and **targeted communication**. We succeeded in having our main fossil fuel subsidy points raised by EU decision makers and experts once the guidelines were adopted.

Furthermore, CAN Europe contributed to raising awareness of the EU's taxonomy proposal to label both gas and nuclear as “sustainable” investments, which would completely undermine the regulation of private finance clean energy investments.



NEW VISION FOR AN EQUITABLE TRANSITION TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

On the day of the Porto Social Summit, CAN Europe with members and allies launched an open call for a societal just transformation based on Just Transformation Vision and Principles that immediately became available in five languages thanks to support from our national members. Throughout the year we built new alliances with social justice actors and will continue to work together for ambitious climate and social justice action.

“WITH THE JUST TRANSFORMATION VISION, WE PROPOSE A HOLISTIC, VALUE-BASED AND PEOPLE-CENTRED APPROACH FOR A SUSTAINABLE, JUST, RESILIENT SOCIETY IN WHICH PLANETARY BOUNDARIES ARE RESPECTED. THIS LONG-TERM VISION ADDRESSES THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND MITIGATION ACTIONS, NOT ONLY ON EXISTING INEQUALITIES, BUT ALSO ON FUTURE GENERATIONS.”

SENIOR ENERGY POLICY COORDINATOR, ELIF GÜNDÜZYELİ

In 2021, the European Commission kicked-off a new Just Transition Platform which serves as a single point of contact for a multilayered process of just transition across many sectors, connected to the Just Transition Mechanism. CAN Europe took part in NGO advocacy efforts to inform the Platform about a principled just transition in CEE countries, in order to lay down the key focus areas and the scope of actions to be implemented in the next two years by the Commission.

With our members and partners, we successfully **linked** the rescue and restructuring aid discussions for economically nonviable coal plant and mine operators with Territorial Just Transition Planning processes. We argued strongly against public subsidies to support coal operators' shift to fossil-gas based energy production, as that would drastically contradict the Green Deal, while possibly preventing communities from benefiting from the Just Transition Fund adequately.



SHIFTING EU FINANCIAL FLOWS: A CORNERSTONE FOR ACHIEVING THE GREEN AGENDA

Since July 2021 most of the Recovery and Resilience Plans have been approved by the Commission and the Council.

Photo: © EU Parliament

“NOW EU LEADERS MUST LIVE UP TO THEIR PROMISES ON THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL: UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EU FUNDS’ SPENDING PLANS HAVE TO BE FULLY CLIMATE-PROOF, WITH NO FOSSIL FUELS, AND CLEAR INVESTMENT PLANS TO ACHIEVE CLIMATE NEUTRALITY INCLUDED.”

FINANCE AND SUBSIDIES POLICY COORDINATOR, MARKUS TRILLING, AMBIENTE MAGAZINE

Working with over 20 member organisations from 16 EU countries, CAN Europe advocated for increased climate action, and the prevention of potentially harmful climate and environmental measures within the plans, including with the www.CashAwards.eu campaign. This notorious campaign contributed to improving EU funding plans, such as Germany’s first draft of the recovery plan (by strengthening governance), Portugal’s road expansion and Slovenia’s bailout of aviation companies with recovery funds — both were finally excluded. In May 2021, the European Commission published an [overview](#) highlighting several ‘problematic’ measures in the recovery plans that were flagged in the campaign.

Work on the reform of the EU fiscal framework began in 2021. CAN Europe’s members adopted a [position on the EU fiscal reform](#) which served as the basis for putting together our [response to the public](#)

[consultation](#) on a review of the rules defining how much member states can borrow and spend. These rules currently drastically limit Member States’ spending, which translates into insufficient resources to deliver a just transition and the ‘Fit for 55’ package.

The European Semester, which is a framework for integrated surveillance and coordination of economic and employment policies across the European Union, could offer the space to progress on ending fossil fuel subsidies and increasing investments in climate action in the coming period.



PAVING THE PATH TOWARDS A WITHDRAWAL FROM AN ARCHAIC FOSSIL FUELS TREATY

In 2021, we made use of the ongoing reform of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) to increase awareness among the public and policy makers about this archaic treaty that protects foreign investment in energy supply and is being used by fossil fuel firms to claim compensation for phase-out policies.

“THIS TOXIC TREATY IS A SWORD OF DAMOCLES THREATENING TO COME DOWN WITH MULTI-BILLION EURO COMPENSATION CLAIMS WHEN COUNTRIES ENACT CLIMATE POLICIES. WE CALL ON EUROPEAN LEADERS TO END THIS PERVERSE SYSTEM BY IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAWING INSTEAD OF WASTING TIME IN A FAILED REFORM PROCESS.”

SENIOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT POLICY COORDINATOR, CORNELIA MAARFIELD, [EU OBSERVER](#)

Thanks to the shared efforts of our growing campaign network, we secured a lot of news coverage in Brusselsbased and national media, as well as coverage in widely read English language outlets. The campaign stunt that we organised with our partners from ‘Friends of the Earth Europe’ in July 2021 generated more than 40 media articles, some beyond Europe.

The advocacy push of the campaign allowed a growing number of countries to take up a progressive position on the ECT. France, Spain and Poland criticised the lack of progress in reforming the ECT and called on the EU to explore the options for a joint EU withdrawal. Our work throughout 2021 laid the foundation for a strong ‘exit the ECT’ campaign to seize the opportunity that this moment represents, ahead of the ‘now or never’ moment in June 2022, when the final wording of an updated Treaty will be agreed.



CLIMATE GOALS REACHING ALL INDUSTRY SECTORS

In 2021 we communicated with policy-makers on the need for industry's contribution to EU environmental and social goals to be more clearly detailed and to address the root causes of the still worsening environmental crises the planet is facing, mainly through an Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

“EU LEADERS LAST YEAR AGREED TO MORE AMBITIOUS GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTIONS BY 2030. NOW IS THE TIME TO IMPLEMENT THIS HIGHER CLIMATE GOAL, ACROSS ALL SECTORS. THE IED IS A KEY TOOL TO DRIVE DRASTIC CUTS IN GREENHOUSE GAS AND TOXIC EMISSIONS IN THE INDUSTRY SECTOR. INCLUDING LIMITS ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ALONGSIDE STRICTER LIMITS ON OTHER INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS WILL BE NEEDED FOR THE EU TO HONOUR ITS COMMITMENTS UNDER THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT.”

INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION POLICY COORDINATOR, DOREEN FEDRIGO, ENDS EUROPE

The EU needs to elaborate an industrial strategy that takes a systemic approach, addressing interlinked issues of greenhouse gas reductions, avoiding further habitat destruction, and eliminating pollution. This means tackling the ecodesign of products and production processes, reducing energy and resource use and shifting to sustainable materials, and taking business decisions based on alternative business models (including leasing and the sharing economy).

We took these messages into legislative and non-legislative processes, forging new narratives for the organisation and trying to push and influence new, essential policy initiatives.



MAKING SURE YOUTH IS A PART OF EVERY DECISION MAKING PROCESS

In 2021 we intensified our work on youth engagement and mobilisation. By the end of the year, we had a number of youth organisations joining forces in our Network. To explore collaborations and common goals, in May we organised a mobilisation workshop with our dedicated working group which consists of both youth members and external organisations, activists and mobilisers.

“I WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO WITNESS THE POWER OF THE COLLECTIVE AND WHAT CIVIL SOCIETY WAS ABLE TO DO AROUND THE EVENT ITSELF. IT WAS THIS STRENGTH THAT MADE ME REALISE THAT I WAS LEGITIMATE ENOUGH AT COP26 AND THAT THE VOICES I WANTED TO REPRESENT ALSO WERE.”

YOUTH DELEGATE YOUTH AND ENVIRONMENT EUROPE (YEE), HAJAR OUAHBI

We collaborated and engaged with youth delegates at COP26, providing training and support to youth activists including Fridays for Future Most Affected Peoples and Areas. We also started preparing the video series #weCANconnect, by filming youth climate activists & experts who we gathered around COP26 to discover diversity within the movement.

Working to support young citizens to take climate action at the European level, we kicked off the creation of a youth training programme with Oxfam International for 2022, through our Spark project. Lastly, we reached a broader young audience through our capacity building, communications and outreach, something we hope to continue enhancing in the coming year.



PATHWAYS TO REACHING CLIMATE NEUTRALITY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

CAN Europe's focus in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Serbia) continued to be on long and short term energy and climate planning in line with the Energy Community Treaty and its role as the main cooperation bridge between the European Union and the region.

“REGIONAL POLICYMAKERS ARE MAKING A MISTAKE IF THEY USE SOARING ENERGY PRICES IN THE EU TO JUSTIFY A CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO FOSSIL FUELS, AND DIVERT FROM ENERGY TRANSITION COMMITMENTS.”

*ENERGY AND CLIMATE POLICY COORDINATOR FOR SOUTHEAST EUROPE,
VIKTOR BERISHAJ, PRISHTINA INSIGHT*

In consultation with members and partners, the team produced a **briefing** showing how each country must significantly reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and put in place ambitious policy frameworks and action plans, in order to achieve carbon neutrality by mid century. In addition, we developed a tool to evaluate the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP) helping our regional members and partners in developing the Plans.

We also published a research report — **A wake up call from the coal impacted community of Lazarevac, Serbia** — to provide a basis for initiating the just transition debate on local and national levels.

Our 2021 efforts culminated in a successful and well attended **high-level event at COP26** in Glasgow organised jointly with the Energy Community Secretariat. Furthermore, in November, the Ministerial

Council of the Energy Community adopted a decarbonisation roadmap — a set of legislative steps and measures that the Contracting Parties need to take to achieve carbon neutrality.



TURKEY RATIFIES THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND SETS A DATE FOR BECOMING CARBON-NEUTRAL

Throughout 2021 CAN Europe continued to play an important role within the climate movement in Turkey, with a focus on just transition, coal phase-out, adopting a climate law and engagement in an overarching civil society campaign for the ratification of the Paris Agreement in Turkey.

“TURKEY’S RATIFICATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT SHOWS POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO JOIN THE GLOBAL CLIMATE MOVEMENT AND REDUCE ITS EMISSIONS. TO BE IN LINE WITH THE 1.5°C OBJECTIVES OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, TURKEY WILL NEED TO TAKE MORE SUBSTANTIAL ACTION BETWEEN NOW AND 2030. IT SHOULD PUT A STOP TO NEW COAL INVESTMENTS, SET THE DATE FOR CLOSING EXISTING COAL PLANTS AND IMMEDIATELY START A PLAN TO PHASE OUT OTHER FOSSIL FUELS.”

CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICY COORDINATOR FOR TURKEY, ÖZLEM KATISÖZ, [ANADOLU AGENCY \(AA\)](#)

The campaign to ratify the Paris Agreement, run by 48 civil society organisations, was the most prominent campaign in Turkey in 2021. The CAN Europe team coordinated key aspects of the campaign and successfully used policy briefs to reach out to representatives of the government, the business sector, NGOs and labour organisations enhanced by regular social media outreach.

Following the Paris Agreement ratification on 7 October 2021, the Turkish government announced the date to reach net-zero: by 2053. CAN Europe with its members and partners continued to demand a more ambitious and 1.5° aligned Nationally Determined Contribution by Turkey. A just transition remained an integral part of the work in Turkey following research on the **economic implication of the coal-based economy**, and advocacy efforts to enact a Paris compatible climate law in Turkey.



PROGRESSIVE COALITION PRESSURES THE EU TO ACCELERATE CLIMATE ACTION

Throughout 2021, businesses, investor groups, local and regional authorities, trade unions and civil society groups working together under the Coalition for Higher Ambition, coordinated by CAN Europe, ramped up the pressure on EU decision makers.

“THIS LETTER MUST BE A WAKE UP CALL FOR EU LEADERS THAT NO OTHER OPTION THAN A STRONG AND WELL-DESIGNED CLIMATE AND ENERGY LEGISLATION UNDER THE “FIT FOR 55” PACKAGE WILL BE ACCEPTED BY BOTH THE PEOPLE AND THE ECONOMIC ACTORS OF EUROPE.”

DIRECTOR, WENDEL TRIO

In May, for instance, 50 members of the Coalition for Higher Ambition signed a **joint letter** calling upon national and EU decision makers to ensure that the Fit for 55 Package increases the EU’s climate ambition to the highest possible level, while supporting a green, territorially balanced and socially fair transition in all regions. The letter called for the Fit for 55 Package to deliver increased EU climate action by expanding the scope of the EU 2030 target. It also urged EU decision makers to strengthen the Emissions Trading System and to maintain and increase nationally binding targets under the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR) covering emissions from road transport, buildings and agriculture and waste.

Following the publication of the ‘Fit for 55’ Package, the Coalition for Higher Ambition continued to call for ambitious climate action, and discuss different aspects of the package, including on the social aspects of the package.

FINANCE

INCOME	2021
CAN EUROPE	3.077.573
EUROPEAN CLIMATE FOUNDATION	1.700.137
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	515.272
GERMAN GOVERNMENT	191.564
MEMBERSHIP FEES	148.575
KR FOUNDATION	123.037
MINOR FOUNDATION	110.208
PROTECT THE PLANET	72.682
BELGIAN GOVERNMENT	40.000
CLIMATE WORKS FOUNDATION	29.394
ENVIRONMENT DEFENSE FUND	25.769
FUNDERS FOR FAIR TRADE	13.718
SCHWAB CHARITABLE	11.028
OTHER INCOME	96.189
CAN INTERNATIONAL	60.541
EUROPE BEYOND COAL CAMPAIGN	1.329.560
EUROPEAN CLIMATE FOUNDATION	876.663
SCHWAB CHARITABLE	293.894
CLIMATE WORKS FOUNDATION	159.003
TOTAL	4.467.674

**BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

CAN Europe has a Board of Directors, which is appointed by its General Assembly. The Board is currently comprised of:

JOSIANNE GAUTHIER

(CHAIR)

Secretary General at CIDSE

TIJANA LJUBENOVIĆ

Board Member, Young Researchers of Serbia, a member of Youth Environment Europe (YEE)

TORE BRAEND

Advisor, Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment, Norway

MURATCAN IŞILDAK

Head of the Board, Climate and Volunteering Rights, Turkey

JEAN-PASCAL VAN YPERSELE

Independent, Belgium

ALISON DOIG

Independent, UK

ZSOLT BAUER

European Branch Manager, Climate Reality Project

TIM GORE

Head of the Low Carbon and Circular Economy Programme, Institute for European Environmental Policies (IEEP)

KRISTIAN PETRICK

Senior Expert on Energy and Sustainability, Eco-Union, Spain

A large group of diverse people, likely a company team, are gathered in a modern office space at night. They are all smiling and cheering, with many raising their hands in the air. Some are holding glasses of beer. The background shows large windows looking out onto a dark street with some trees. The overall atmosphere is festive and celebratory.

OUR TEAM

DIRECTOR



CHIARA MARTINELLI

Director



THEODORA PETROULA

Deputy Director

“WE WANT TO THANK WENDEL TRIO FOR HIS HUGE CONTRIBUTION TO THE CLIMATE MOVEMENT IN RECENT YEARS. WITH HIS LEAD, CAN EUROPE CELEBRATED MANY WINS. HE NOT ONLY SUCCESSFULLY PUSHED FOR THE EU TO INCREASE ITS CLIMATE AMBITION BY ADOPTING THE AT LEAST 55% EMISSION REDUCTION TARGET FOR 2030, BUT ALSO EFFECTIVELY CONTRIBUTED TO EMISSIONS BEING REDUCED WELL BEYOND THE AGREED TARGETS.”

POLICY



ULRIIKKA AARNIO

Senior Climate and Land Use Policy Coordinator



KLAUS RÖHRIG

EU Climate & Energy Policy Coordinator



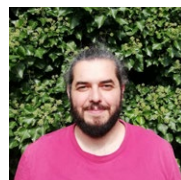
JÖRG MÜHLENHOFF

Energy Transition Policy Coordinator



VEERLE DOSSCHE

EU Energy Policy Coordinator



VIKTOR BERISHAJ

Energy Policy Coordinator for Southeast Europe



EDOARDO CONCARI COPPOLA

Buildings Policy Coordinator



ESTHER BOLLENDORFF

Senior EU Gas Policy Coordinator



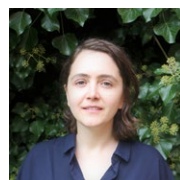
CORNELIA MAARFIELD

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KRISTINA NAUNOVA

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RACHEL SIMON

Climate & Development Policy Coordinator



HARRIET MACKAILL-HILL

Climate Governance and Human Rights Policy Coordinator



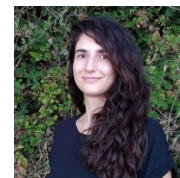
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DOREEN FEDRIGO

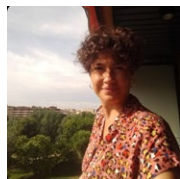
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BRIGITTA BOZSÓ

Climate Policy Coordinator

POLICY



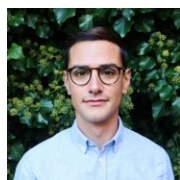
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VERENA BAX

Energy Savings
Policy Coordinator



GIUSEPPE COSTANZO

Gas Policy Officer



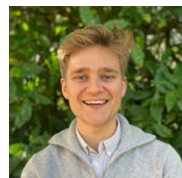
MARTA ANCZEWSKA

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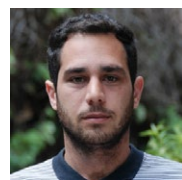
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DYLAN UNDERHILL

Trade and Climate
Campaigner



**OLIVIER
VARDAKOULIS**

Finance and
Subsidies Policy
Coordinator



SVEN HARMELING

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CRISTINA DASCALU

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MAŠA PEROVIĆ

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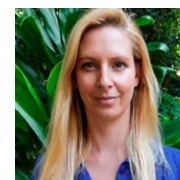
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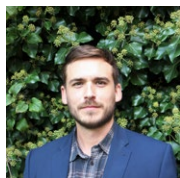
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Coordinator



RACHEL BRABBINS

Communications
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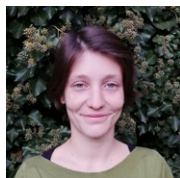
NETWORK



TOM BOYLE
Head of Network
Development



KASIA UGRYN
Network
Development
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OLIVIA SAXER
Fundraising
& Network
Development
Coordinator



**SAMUEL
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Coordinator



FEDERICO MASCOLO
Network
Development &
Project Manager



JESSICA DEN OUTER
Youth Engagement
& Mobilisation
Consultant

We also gratefully thank the following staff members that helped us implement our work in 2021, but have since left us:

Mathias Clayes Bouuaert
Maryan Herrera
Klara Klarenbach
Markus Trilling

Eilidh Robb
Wendel Trio
Goksen Sahin

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David Abril Molins
Elisabeth Agustin Ametlla
Laura Franceschin

Giulia Nardi
Chiara Soletti
Silvia Valentini

ADMINISTRATION



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Head of
Operations



**REINHILDE
STINDERS**
Finance and
Administration



MARIA RADIKOV
Finance &
Logistics Officer



**WINFRIED
HOKE**
Office and IT
coordinator

CAN Europe strongly supports the phase out of coal by both hosting the 'Europe Beyond Coal' campaign secretariat and by integrating the coal debate in our regular policy work as well as by supporting our members and allies in Turkey and the Western Balkans through [CAN Europe's coal team](#).



Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe is Europe's leading NGO coalition fighting dangerous climate change. With over 185 member organisations active in 38 European countries, representing over 1,700 NGOs and more than 40 million citizens, CAN Europe promotes sustainable climate, energy and development policies throughout Europe.

CAN Europe is a regional node of **Climate Action Network**, the world's largest environmental network with over 1,700 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) active in more than 130 countries, driving collective and sustainable action to fight the climate crisis and to achieve social and racial justice by convening and coordinating civil society at the UN climate talks and other international fora.

CAN Europe members work to achieve this goal through information exchange and the coordinated development of NGO strategy on international, regional, and national climate issues.

CAN Europe members place a high priority on both a healthy environment and development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Brundtland Commission). CAN Europe's vision is to protect the atmosphere while allowing for sustainable and equitable development worldwide.



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