



**CAN**  
CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK  
Europe

ENOUGH

# CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK (CAN) EUROPE

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Published: April 2026 by Climate Action Network (CAN)  
Europe, Brussels, Belgium.

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**EDITING:** Sarah Coats Chandler

**GRAPHIC DESIGN:** Noble Studio

**COVER IMAGE CREDITS:** Unsplash (Anti-racism protest, UK)



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## Co-funded by the European Union

CAN Europe gratefully acknowledges core financial support from the LIFE Programme of the European Commission, the Kann Rasmussen Foundation, and financial contributions from members. This report is co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed in this report are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or CINEA. Neither the European Union, nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

# DIRECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

## A YEAR UNDER PRESSURE, A MOVEMENT RESOLUTE

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The geo-political and social challenges of 2025 defined global climate action. While the impact of climate change was hitting harder across the globe and inequalities were widening, the political debate was focused elsewhere. In many cases this fuelled dangerous climate disinformation and neglected the interconnectedness of the systemic crisis facing humanity.

We are living in a time of profound global change, where the daily news often draws attention to ongoing inequalities, violence, and exploitation. It is becoming increasingly clear that ecological collapse is not just a future concern, but a reality that we are already experiencing. Sadly, in 2025 we also saw time and time again the most brutal side of humanity dominate through conflict, war, and genocide.

In Europe, the year was marked by an unprecedented attitude of paralysis and self-protection among European nations. In a time where the role and power of multilateralism is under question, we saw very little political courage to stand for solidarity and peace, to build bridges and to collectively address global emergencies. This was coupled with the outright shocking sight of corporate impunity remaining untouched and unchallenged, with big and polluting businesses retaining continued and privileged access to policy makers.

The start of 2025 saw election results across the globe and at the EU level consolidate visible and strong power to far-right parties. This quickly infiltrated narratives, ways of working, and visions with an alarming normalised process of aggressive, selfish, and patriarchal attitudes. Across Europe, this translated into threats to democracy and rules of law, as well as unprecedented attacks towards civil society organisations and criminalisation of human rights and environmental defenders. Our movement is now operating within a context that is deeply concerning and challenging and it is important for our work and our mission (and for our resilience) to recognise that the stated aspects intersect, reinforce one another, and primarily impact the most vulnerable.

When it comes to climate action, 2025 was meant to be the year when the European Union moved from legislating climate ambition to implementing it. However, the focus swiftly moved to ensuring a simpler and less costly implementation which fueled a deregulation agenda. Under the guise of protecting competitiveness, the agenda made social and environmental safeguards its first victims - and in reality, just protected the economic interest of a select few.

In this critical phase, the role of civil society has never been more essential. The European climate movement consistently and collaboratively held the line for ambitious climate action and defended democracy. The CAN Europe network

remained vocal, keeping the focus on how ambitious climate commitments are translated into tangible emissions reductions, social justice safeguards, and a fossil fuel-free future. CAN Europe has constantly put equitable, evidence and science-based, people-centred policies and proposals at the centre.

Throughout 2025, CAN Europe and its members focused on safeguarding and strengthening climate ambition across the European Union. This included working to secure agreement on the EU's 2040 climate target, supporting national implementation of climate legislation, and contributing to discussions on the transformation of European industry. The network also prioritised accelerating renewable energy deployment, with particular attention to strengthening electricity grids and improving energy efficiency while protecting biodiversity and communities.

CAN Europe also continued to defend strong commitments to fossil fuel phase out, highlighting their links to Europe's energy security and independence and exposing loopholes that risk undermining progress. Advancing climate finance remained another key priority, with continued calls for governments to match their commitments with adequate public funding and investment. At the same time, the network advocated for a credible and science-aligned EU external climate role on the global stage.

Equally important was the collective effort across the network to emphasise that climate action goes hand in hand with social justice. Members highlighted the need for a just transition that protects vulnerable communities, strengthens energy democracy, and addresses energy poverty. By amplifying frontline voices and connecting EU policy debates to lived realities across Europe, the network reinforced the principle that climate ambition and social fairness must advance together. Our impact is not measured solely through legislative outcomes: it is also reflected in stronger alliances, empowered members, and a growing collective capacity to hold decision-makers accountable.

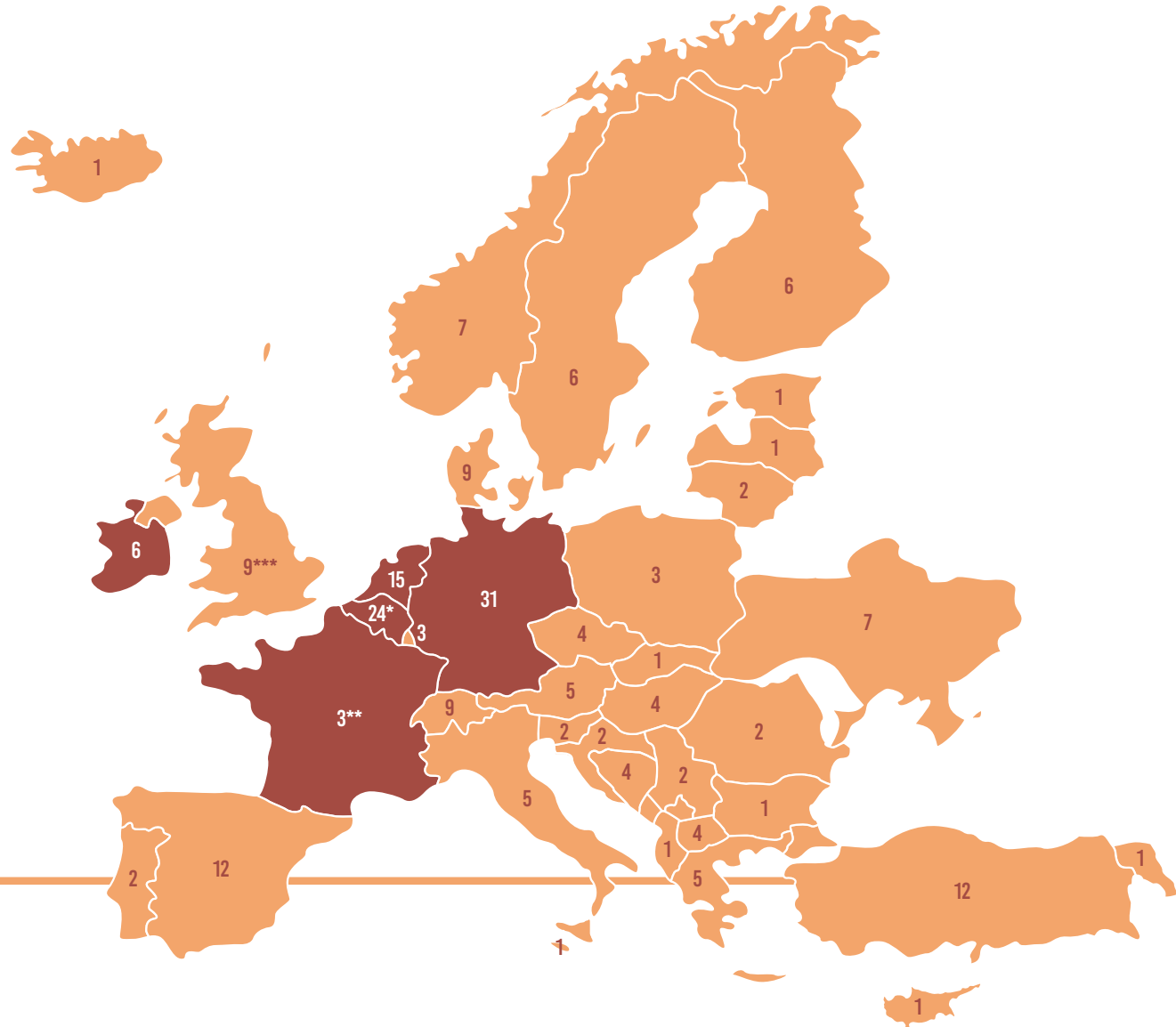
As we move into 2026, we build on our joint experiences, reminding ourselves that the CAN Europe network is resilient, full of expertise, and works in unity within a complex political environment. Together, we have shown that coordinated civil society action can safeguard ambition and drive meaningful change. The path ahead remains challenging, but our shared commitment, collective intelligence, and solidarity are a solid foundation for continued progress. Together, we hold the line.

**Chiara Martinelli, CAN Europe Director**

# MEMBERSHIP

## 217 ORGANISATIONS IN 40 COUNTRIES, 7 NEW MEMBERS (IN 5 COUNTRIES)

- + *European Disability Forum, Belgium/EU*
- + *Zero Waste Alliance Ireland*
- + *Secours Islamique France*
- + *Shifting Advocacy, Germany*
- + *Youth for Climate, Netherlands*
- + *Youth for Sustainable Travel, Netherlands*
- + *WWF Netherlands*



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

\*6 national members + 18 working towards the EU

\*\*1 national node + 2 members

\*\*\*1 national node + 8 members



## RESIST, INSPIRE, SPEAK, EMPOWER

In October 2025, Funding Fairer Futures grantee Go Green Skopje brought together 25 young leaders in Prespa, North Macedonia for a five-day national climate justice camp titled RISE (Resist, Inspire, Speak, Empower). The participants, aged 18 to 30, included youth activists and members of communities already facing the impacts of the climate crisis. The aim was to both deepen knowledge and build the skills and confidence needed to respond to a crisis that is already disrupting lives and livelihoods.

The location of Prespa was a deliberate choice.

Lake Prespa is experiencing a long-term decline in water levels, which is directly impacting farming, local incomes, and biodiversity. This visible climate disruption has been a clear catalyst for action. Participants did not discuss the climate crisis as a distant or abstract issue. They saw its consequences in the surrounding landscape and heard about them directly from those affected.

Across the five days, participants attended 20 structured sessions. The sessions helped them move from understanding impacts, to exploring climate justice, to developing practical climate action plans. From the beginning, the focus was on linking human stories with systemic change.

On the first day, participants met Ana from the farm Spirit of Prespa. She explained how shifting weather patterns and prolonged dry periods have created uncertainty for farmers. Her experience illustrated how the climate crisis deepens existing social and economic inequalities. A creative workshop titled Planting the Seed followed, giving participants an opportunity to share their motivations and expectations. This established a shared commitment to climate justice as both an environmental and social priority.

The second day focused on resilience and adaptation. Experts from the Center for Climate Change in Skopje led interactive sessions examining who in North Macedonia is most affected by climate change and why. Rural communities, low-income households, and young

people with limited access to decision-making spaces emerged as priority groups. With discussions held by the lakeshore, the physical environment reinforced that the climate crisis is already present and that urgent, fair responses are required.

On the third day, the emphasis shifted to public policy and advocacy. Participants learned how local and national decisions are shaped and where young people can intervene.

Practical exercises facilitated the mapping of decision-makers and development of clear messages calling for stronger climate action. Visits to the House of Culture, Dragi Tozija, in Resen, and to the café, Mlad Turist, which reuses coffee waste, demonstrated that solutions are already being implemented at the community level. It reinforced the understanding that what is really needed is political will and broader support.

The fourth day centred on grassroots mobilisation. Participants designed awareness-raising initiatives tailored to their communities and practiced storytelling as a tool to communicate the severity of the climate crisis and inspire action. By the end of the day, each group had outlined a concrete initiative to take forward and implement.

On the final day, participants presented a joint action plan identifying priority groups, good practices, and practical next steps. Follow-up meetings and an online seminar were agreed as tools to sustain collaboration beyond the camp.

Post-event feedback showed participants had increased confidence in speaking about the climate crisis and a stronger understanding of relevant policy areas. RISE proved to be more than a training programme; it strengthened networks, built capacity, and empowered a new generation to advance climate justice. In 2025, this initiative marked a confident step towards turning urgency into organised, sustained climate action in North Macedonia.

### FUNDING FAIRER FUTURES

The Funding Fairer Futures initiative aims to support the climate movement's transformation to become truly inclusive. It does this by ensuring the needs and perspectives of diverse stakeholders, including often marginalised communities, are heard and reflected in climate action. CAN Europe is one of six partners delivering the initiative.

The initiative supports civil society organisations and groups to deliver impactful awareness-raising, campaigning, advocacy, and citizen engagement projects that create more just and sustainable futures for all. The initiative also raises awareness of climate justice issues among citizens, empowers them to take action, and promotes gender-transformative actions and policies.

Funding Fairer Futures provides funding and opportunities for capacity building and sharing, networking and campaigning for climate, youth, local communities, disabled people, and ecofeminist NGOs and groups.

*Funding Fairer Futures is a four-year initiative funded by the European Commission's DEAR (Development, Education, Awareness Raising) programme.*

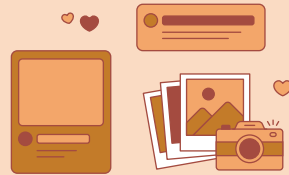
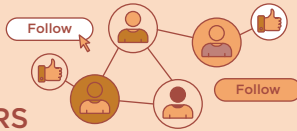
# CAN EUROPE IN NUMBERS

# FACTS & FIGURES 2025

## SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

78,121

TOTAL FOLLOWERS

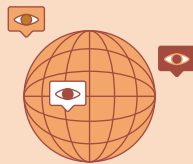


1,402

TOTAL POSTS

1,301,832

IMPRESSIONS



94,685

ENGAGEMENTS

4,836

RESHARES



## COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

152,000

UNIQUE WEBSITE USERS



427

MEDIA HITS

51

PRESS RELEASES



62

LETTERS, BRIEFINGS  
& REPORTS



17

OP EDS



9

NEWSLETTER  
EDITIONS

21

STUNT/PHOTO  
OPPORTUNITIES



1,673

NEWSLETTER  
SUBSCRIBERS

## NETWORK & FUNDING

125

STRATEGY CALLS



21

WEBINARS

9

JOINT FUNDING  
APPLICATIONS



15

ORGANISATIONS/GROUPS  
SUPPORTED FINANCIALLY



## FINANCE

€

### INCOME

2025

#### CAN EUROPE

5,320,454.32

|                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| EUROPEAN CLIMATE FOUNDATION   | 2,344,432.19 |
| EUROPEAN COMMISSION           | 1,541,072.16 |
| ENERGY TRANSITION FUND        | 204,110.67   |
| MEMBERSHIP FEES               | 193,120.00   |
| LAUDES FOUNDATION             | 167,614.85   |
| KR FOUNDATION                 | 134,082.41   |
| ENVIRONMENT DEFENSE FUND      | 123,475.28   |
| DEUTSCHE UMWELTHILFE (DUH)    | 100,000.00   |
| CLIMATE WORKS FOUNDATION      | 81,093.02    |
| FUNDERS FOR FAIR TRADE        | 70,761.00    |
| BELGIAN GOVERNMENT            | 70,665.75    |
| GERMAN GOVERNMENT             | 52,591.85    |
| QUADRATURE CLIMATE FOUNDATION | 14,882.61    |
| SCHWAB CHARITABLE             | 10,387.12    |
| CLIMATE BREAKTHROUGH          | 5,505.75     |
| OTHER INCOME                  | 206,659.66   |

#### CAN INTERNATIONAL

229,914.11

#### EUROPE BEYOND COAL CAMPAIGN

2,427,526.98

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| EUROPEAN CLIMATE FOUNDATION | 1,013,185.66 |
| CLIMATE BREAKTHROUGH        | 512,268.43   |
| CLIMATE WORKS FOUNDATION    | 396,548.76   |
| SCHWAB CHARITABLE           | 125,071.74   |
| OTHER INCOME                | 380,452.39   |

### TOTAL

7,977,895.41

**INTERNATIONAL**

## CLOSING THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CREDIBILITY GAP

The past year, the year when the Paris Agreement turned 10, was pivotal for international climate policy and civil society engagement. With ambition lagging, climate impacts deepening, and rising geopolitical and economic pressures, CAN Europe intensified its efforts to catalyse transformative action across the Paris Agreement cycle; from climate ambition and just transitioning away from fossil fuels, to funded, equitable transitions that address systemic barriers.

Amid long delays to the EU's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and contentious debates around the 2040 target for emissions reduction, scrutiny of the EU's credibility as a reliable climate partner intensified. The year reaffirmed that without fairness and delivery at the centre of climate action, implementation will remain stalled and inequitable. Additionally, 2025 marked the first full iteration of NDC 3.0, the post-Global Stocktake round of climate plans. Despite scientific urgency and the clear need to align plans with 1.5°C pathways, many countries submitted later-than-expected or insufficiently ambitious NDCs. CAN Europe's international advocacy focused on pushing governments, including the EU, to close these gaps, embed just transition pathways, equity, and human rights into national climate plans, and ensure that targets were accompanied by credible fossil fuel phase-out pathways and finance strategies that reflect responsibility and capability.

Climate finance continued to gnaw at trust between developed and developing countries. While discussions acknowledged the need to scale adaptation and transition finance, clarity on EU delivery remained elusive. CAN Europe continued to amplify calls for predictable, high-quality public finance, genuine additionality, and safeguards that protect workers, communities, and ecosystems; actions which link EU domestic credibility with international responsibility.

Following the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) historic advisory opinion clarifying states' obligations to address climate change, CAN Europe intensified ICJ-related advocacy to keep EU decisions aligned with climate science, equity principles, and clarified legal accountability. This work laid critical groundwork for advocacy in 2026 to support Vanuatu and partners in the pursuit of a UN General Assembly resolution that unreservedly welcomes the ICJ's Advisory Opinion.

In a year where global negotiations struggled to produce binding commitments, people power helped shift the political centre of gravity at COP30. The historic agreement to establish a Just Transition Mechanism institutionalises long-standing civil society demands around labour rights, leadership by frontline communities, and the need for the benefits of local energy transitions to be shared with the people they most affect. Accelerating global climate action at the required scale is more than a technical shift, it is a whole-of-economy transformation.

CAN Europe also used 2025 to play an active role in mobilising civil society voices, coordinating advocacy, and amplifying frontline demands to ensure just transition language translated into dedicated political discussion within the negotiations. A just transition is inextricably linked to the goal of realising a global fossil fuel phase-out. Ending fossil fuel dependency must be paired with social protection, decent work pathways, and support for regions and sectors at risk of displacement.

CAN Europe continued to build momentum for a just fossil fuel phase-out and economic reforms through coordinated actions, strategic media engagement, and alliance-building across regions. Crucially, this approach also recognised structural barriers that constrain implementation, including tax and subsidy frameworks, debt burdens, trade and investment rules, and broader global economic imbalances that limit many partner

countries' fiscal approach and policy autonomy. Climate ambition cannot advance without addressing these systemic constraints, nor without protecting civic space so communities can organise, participate, and hold decision-makers accountable.

A decade after the Paris Agreement, Europe faces a growing climate credibility gap. As global temperatures exceed 1.5°C and impacts intensify, reinforcing that credibility now depends on timely delivery, fair shares, and aligning with equity and science. CAN Europe is working to help close this gap by ensuring that a just transition, fossil fuel phase-out, and climate finance are at the centre of the EU's international diplomacy efforts.



Photo: © PICAN

## PICAN: SCIENCE, SOLIDARITY, AND PACIFIC LEADERSHIP

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Climate change in the Pacific is measured in disappearing shorelines, stronger cyclones, and communities planning relocation. The Pacific region contributes less than one per cent of global emissions, yet it faces existential risk. The Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN) exists to ensure frontline realities shape global climate decisions and science serves justice.

PICAN was established in 2013 when national climate networks called for an umbrella body to coordinate Pacific civil society. Today, it is a network of more than 269 member organisations across Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. Members include grassroots groups, women's movements, youth, researchers, faith-based organisations, and policy experts. This diversity strengthens the network's policy processes and ensures its advocacy reflects lived experience alongside technical expertise.

PICAN's work is anchored in four country nodes: Vanuatu Climate Action Network, Tuvalu Climate Action Network, Solomon Islands Climate Action Network, and Kiribati Climate Action Network. These nodes lead national consultations and engage directly with governments and communities. National priorities are elevated into regional strategy through the co-development of its Pacific Climate Justice Demands.

The Pacific Climate Justice Demands are built from the ground up. Community consultations and national dialogues inform technical analysis and regional coordination. The result is a shared platform that guides Pacific civil society engagement in regional meetings and global negotiations. Among other things, these demands call for a fast and fair phase out of fossil fuels, increased public, grants-based finance that centres human rights, gender justice, and Indigenous knowledge.

PICAN operates deliberately in the science-policy space. The network's niche is turning research into advocacy and advocacy into influence. Through its Secretariat and emerging Knowledge Hub, complex climate science and negotiation texts are translated into clear briefs and policy tools used by community advocates, lawyers and negotiators. PICAN works to bridge frontline realities with the technical spaces where decisions are shaped.

In 2025, the network deepened this commitment by launching the Small Island Developing States Science Initiative (SIDSCI) in partnership with Emory University. The inaugural 2026 Miami Workshop convened 50 scientists, technical experts, and emerging scholars from across Pacific, Caribbean, Atlantic, and Indian Ocean small

island states. The initiative strengthens island leadership in global climate science and supports sustained engagement in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change processes. At a time when science is increasingly politicised, this is a bold intervention ensuring small island evidence informs global decision making and advances the decolonisation of climate knowledge.

PICAN's technical strength is matched by political impact. The network supported the Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC) from the early stages of their campaign for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice. That effort led to the first unanimous United Nations General Assembly resolution requesting the opinion and a historic advisory outcome affirming States' obligations on climate change. This year, the focus shifts to securing broad support for recognition of that opinion at the United Nations. It is a powerful example of youth leadership, regional coordination and strategic advocacy working together.

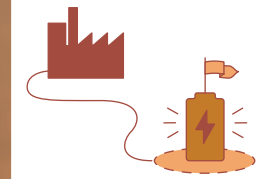
The network has also worked to advance regional ambition on fossil fuels. Civil society mobilisation helped catalyse the Port Vila Call for a Just Transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific. The call accelerated regional momentum to phase out fossil fuels and secured the establishment of the Pacific Energy Commissioner in 2023.

Recognising the need for strategic coordination, PICAN established a COP31 Steering Committee to organise civil society engagement well in advance of the summit. With COP31 now confirmed for Türkiye and a pre-COP gathering to be hosted in the Pacific, the committee continues to meet to ensure our region shows up united and prepared.

Partnership and principled allyship are essential. As the Pacific regional node of CAN International, PICAN values solidarity with sister networks, including CAN Europe. Collaboration through initiatives such as the Funding Fairer Futures project strengthens the collective ability to push for fossil fuel phase out, accountable climate finance and policies that respect small island futures. Support for Pacific leadership within global spaces is critical to raising ambition.

The climate crisis is intensifying and civic space is under pressure worldwide. In this context, organised, science-aligned and justice-centred networks matter more than ever. Alongside sister networks within CAN, PICAN will, can, and must, ensure global climate governance reflects the realities and rights of frontline communities.

# POLICY HIGHLIGHTS



POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

# DRIVING THE PATH FROM DEPENDENCY TO FOSSIL GAS PHASE-OUT

## DRIVING THE PATH FROM DEPENDENCY TO FOSSIL GAS PHASE-OUT

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In 2025, Europe's energy system was put under pressure once again. Rising geopolitical tensions exposed fossil gas dependency as an evident weakness in the EU's energy mix. In response, CAN Europe advanced collective efforts to highlight these challenges as opportunities, helping unlock policy pathways once thought politically unviable.

The year opened with the ongoing effects of the energy crisis triggered by Russia's unjustified full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Spiking gas prices continued to hit EU citizens' pockets as the EU shifted from piped gas to liquefied natural gas (LNG) and built up a strong dependence on US LNG (shale gas) imports as well as other gas suppliers, despite gas demand already structurally declining across the EU. Against this backdrop, CAN Europe actively worked to reshape the political narrative around fossil gas. This included working with decision-makers to dismantle persistent myths surrounding gas and helping to highlight that gas is vulnerable to external shocks and price volatility. This work included setting clear recommendations to phase out fossil gas by 2035.

The revision of the EU Security of Supply framework represented a key opportunity to turn this evidence into policy impact. CAN Europe engaged decision-makers with targeted policy inputs, outlining the pathway to an affordable and secure energy system by pairing fossil gas demand reduction with measures to accelerate a fully renewable energy system. In April, CAN Europe organised a meeting with representatives from the renewables, efficiency, and flexibility industry to present such priorities, reinforcing broad support for a resilient and sustainable energy future.

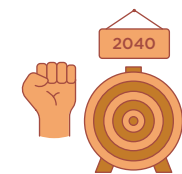
Throughout the year CAN Europe also worked relentlessly to confront the EU's climate-destructive and war-fuelling dependence on Russian fossil fuels. This included the coordination of an NGO coalition across Europe and Ukraine, mobilising members such as Razom We Stand and Bond Beter Leefmilieu (BBL), convening key energy experts from the Institute for Energy Economic and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), and engaging EU decision-makers. Collective efforts culminated in a major political milestone: the political agreement reached in December 2025 to phase out Russian gas.

This historic achievement demonstrated that moving away from fossil fuel dependency is possible and laid the foundation for continued work to address new dependencies already taking shape. In 2025, the EU deepened its reliance on US LNG, with 57 per cent of LNG imports sourced from the United States. CAN Europe actively raised awareness of the risks this poses to Europe's energy independence, climate goals, and public health, exposing the high methane intensity linked to US fracked gas.

The Cost of Methane campaign helped CAN Europe reframe methane as a toxic gas that has immediate human impacts. The campaign included collaboration with US grassroots movements, amplifying testimonies from communities directly affected by LNG extraction and methane pollution. Experiences from the United States, Ukraine, and Spain helped bring the real impacts of LNG and methane to European audiences.

CAN Europe also played a key role in defending the EU Methane Regulation against growing deregulation pressure from the fossil fuel industry. To strengthen political momentum, a high-level roundtable was organised in October, bringing together policy-makers, civil society representatives, and experts from think tanks, academia, science, and the private sector. The event fostered dialogue and reinforced shared commitment to advancing methane reductions across Europe. Meanwhile, pressures from the US administration to weaken the regulation import rules mounted, especially after the EU-US trade deal was concluded and the EU committed to tripling its energy imports from the US. In December, a joint action with Food & Water Action Europe took place in front of the EU institutions ahead of the Energy Council, using advertising vans to deliver a clear message: EU energy policy must be decided in Europe, not shaped by foreign fossil fuel interests.

The work carried out in 2025 bolstered CAN Europe's position and its network to scale up efforts in 2026. Regular exchanges across CAN Europe's network and with international anti-gas coalitions strengthened alignment and contributed to these results. With major policy and international milestones approaching, including the first international phase-out conference in Colombia, CAN Europe will continue to drive collective action to end fossil gas dependence and accelerate the transition to a fully renewable, just, and affordable energy system.



POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

# HOLDING THE LINE FOR AN AMBITIOUS 2040 TARGET

## HOLDING THE LINE FOR AN AMBITIOUS 2040 TARGET

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A defining moment of 2025 was the political agreement on the EU's 2040 climate target for reducing net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, relative to 1990, within the European Climate Law. Continuing with the work undertaken in the previous two years, CAN Europe closely followed the evolution of the last, complex stage of this long policy process and actively engaged to make the voice of our network heard.

CAN Europe's policy discussions around the EU 2040 climate target began in 2023 with a focus on the European Commission consultation (where CAN Europe participated), and the advice of the European Advisory Board on Climate Change (ESABCC), who recommended a 90-95 per cent net target. These were paired with the commitments from Climate Commissioner Hoekstra and Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal Šefčovič who called for at least a 90 per cent net target.

The process continued in 2024 with the European Commission's Impact Assessment and Communication which proposed a 90 per cent net target. In parallel, discussions with various Member States on this topic took place. Following in 2025, policy-makers had to navigate a complex, highly political process to deliver a key piece of EU climate legislation. This was within a difficult context where competitiveness had become the main political priority at the expense of climate and environmental objectives.

The publication of the Commission's 2040 climate target legislative proposal was initially expected at the beginning of the year, but this was pushed back to July. The delay was attributed to pressure being applied by some Member States and conservative MEPs who pushed for, and succeeded in, watering down the proposal with the inclusion of flexibilities, most notably, international carbon credits.

The knock-on effect of this delay and flexibilities meant that Subsequent Council and Parliament negotiations, which were designed to finalise and agree on the 2040 climate target and the connected NDC submission in time for COP30, were extremely difficult and politically costly. This led to further increases in flexibilities as well as the ETS2 (Emission Trading System for buildings and road transport) being delayed by a year. Despite these setbacks, the binding 90 per cent net headline figure for the 2040 climate target was maintained.

Operating within this context, throughout the year, CAN Europe relentlessly engaged to make the network's voice heard by policy-makers, calling for an ambitious and robust 2040 target, and connected NDC ahead of COP30. The CAN Europe network also deep-dived into the details of the proposal, in particular, the topic of international carbon credits which emerged as a new issue in the negotiations. The network engaged with policy-makers at the national and EU levels, using a combination of techniques including advocacy letters and opinion pieces. A particularly effective tactic coordinated over 150 civil society organisations, academia, and businesses to sign an open letter positing against the integration of international credits within the 2040 climate target. CAN Europe also strengthened and leveraged alliances to ensure maximum impact, including coordinating with other environmental NGOs, progressive businesses and investor groups, local and regional authorities, and social justice groups. To support the final push towards the European Council and European Parliament, CAN Europe also partnered with WeMove Europe for a campaign collecting signatures and mobilising citizens to directly contact ministers and MEPs.

The final outcome of the 2040 climate target amendment, which includes a larger share of international credits and further flexibility compared to the Commission proposal, is far from the ambitious and robust target which is in line with the 1.5°C limit that CAN Europe called for. While the final outcome fell short of ambitions, constant pressure from civil society and working with other actors was essential in convincing policy-makers to get the 2040 climate target decision over the finish line ahead of COP30. This pressure also preserved as much ambition as possible - including for the final deal to call for stringent quality requirements on international credits.

CAN Europe is proud of members and the wider network and their persistent and active engagement throughout this difficult political battle. This dedication made it possible for our network to play a key role in achieving the best outcome possible.

But the fight is far from over. CAN Europe is already engaged in crucial discussions about the post-2030 climate and energy package that will provide the legal framework which will steer the implementation of actions towards the EU 2040 climate target, to ensure it reflects ambition, environmental integrity, and social justice.



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FOSSIL FUEL  
PHASE OUT**

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POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

# CLOSING THE GREEN SPENDING GAP

**ROADMAP:  
TAKE THE  
NEXT  
FOSSIL EXIT**

## CLOSING THE GREEN SPENDING GAP

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The green spending gap widened in 2025. Rising defence expenditure and restrictive EU debt and deficit rules further constrained national budgets. But there are fiscal alternatives to cutting social and green spending; Fair taxation so every individual and company contributes their share is a clear alternative. In response to austerity pressures and growing demands for large-scale public investment in a green and just transition, CAN Europe expanded its work on taxation.

CAN Europe convened social and environmental actors to advocate for new progressive taxes on extreme wealth, fossil fuel profits, and aviation, within the framework of discussions on new EU own resources. Joint letters were sent to finance ministers and CAN Europe ran public campaigns, including a quiz on taxing extreme wealth and working with social media climate influencers to explain the case for taxing fossil fuel profits.

These efforts helped stimulate political momentum. Under the Polish EU presidency, a tax on extreme wealth was discussed for the first time. The European Parliament followed with a dedicated hearing in December. Together with allies, CAN Europe organised a protest ahead of the hearing to reinforce public visibility.

EU-level taxation policies are essential if the spending gap is to be closed, but it will also support international development and climate finance. CAN Europe advanced this message at the UN climate negotiations and through the Global Solidarity Levies Taskforce. Ahead of COP30, finance ministers were urged to join the coalition on taxing premium flyers. Negotiations also began on a UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation. There was also a call on the EU to engage constructively, with a view to establishing global rules on environmental taxation, including those on fossil fuels.

Raising revenue is only part of the solution. Redirecting harmful expenditures is equally important to mobilise existing resources and reduce carbon lock-in. During the year, CAN Europe contributed to the European Economic and Social Committee's opinion on phasing out fossil fuel subsidies and developed legislative proposals with our members and partners. This advocacy aimed at integrating a fossil fuel subsidy phase-out into the European Semester delivered concrete results. For the first time, the European Commission included systematic analysis of fossil fuel subsidies in the 2025 Country Reports and issued recommendations to several Member States.

The EU's long-term budget remains central to enabling public investment. During the year there was a continued focus on tracking how Member States mobilise EU funds for the green transition. CAN Europe's tracker supports civil society in advocating for better use of EU resources. During the mid-term review of the Cohesion Policy, CAN Europe pushed for amendments to ensure that redirected funds contribute to climate targets.

Advocacy for the future continued, specifically for an ambitious 2028–2034 EU budget. The Commission's proposal fell short. As it currently stands, it risks reducing funding for the green transition and proposes abolishing the Just Transition Fund and LIFE programme. The 35 per cent green mainstreaming target and the application of the Do No Significant Harm principle should be strengthened. There are positives with the proposed increase in the Connecting Europe Facility's energy budget, which is both welcome and necessary to address investment gaps in grids and electrification. The increase in international finance, with EUR 200 billion for Global Europe, is also a positive. The key challenge now is to secure robust climate and development criteria, prevent harmful spending, and ensure a strong funding allocation for adaptation.

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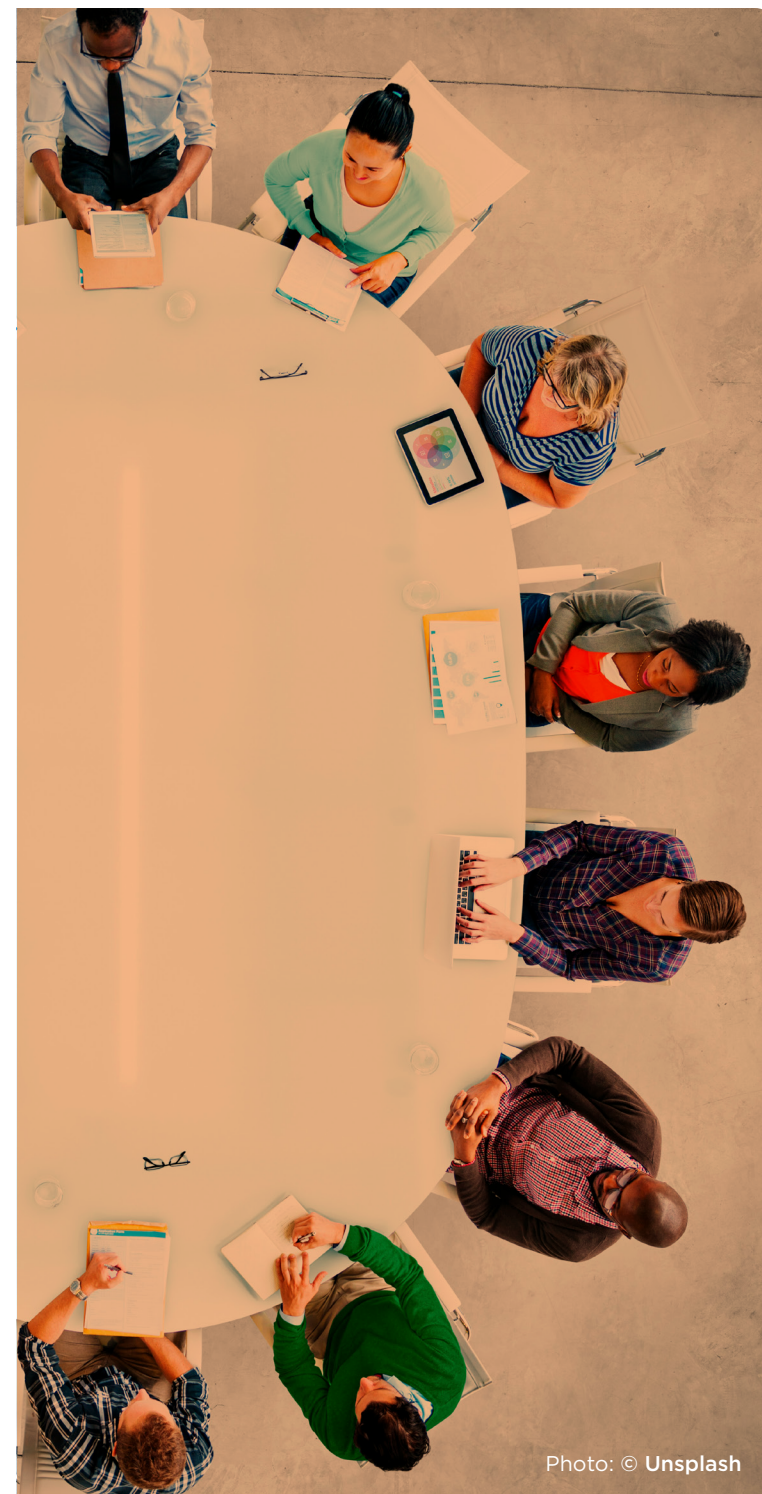


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# THE TEAM

## MANAGEMENT TEAM



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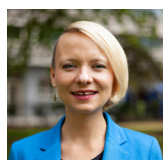
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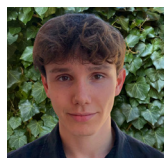


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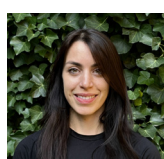
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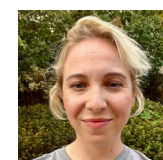
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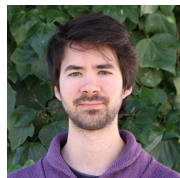
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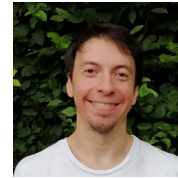


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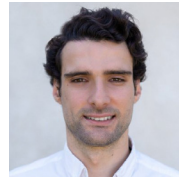
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Senior Industrial Policy Coordinator



**BORIS JANKOWIAK**

Steel Transformation Policy Coordinator

CAN Europe also gives great thanks to the following staff members who helped implement work in 2025, but have since left the organisation:

Verena Bax, Energy Savings Policy Coordinator

Eva Brardinelli, Buildings Policy Coordinator

Adriano Della Bruna, Policy Project Assistant (Intern)

Doreen Fedrigo, Industrial Transformation Policy Coordinator

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Clarissa Spencer, Finance and Admin Coordinator



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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 200 member organisations active in 40 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 members work to achieve this goal through joint actions, 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 A WORLD ACTIVELY FIGHTING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND ITS ADVERSE IMPACTS ON PEOPLE AND PLANET IN A MANNER THAT PROMOTES EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.**



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