

Recommendations for Environment Council Conclusions on COP31

To: Environment and Climate Ministers of EU Member States; Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth

COP31 comes at a decisive moment for international cooperation. Climate impacts are intensifying across Europe and globally, while geopolitical tensions are putting multilateral institutions under strain. This risks obscuring the opportunity to strengthen energy security, economic prosperity and social cohesion through equitable climate action.

As the recent UNEP report *Limiting overshoot*¹ makes clear, every fraction of a degree avoided will save lives, protect ecosystems, and reduce economic losses, with the need to keep the 1.5°C limit within reach. COP31 is therefore an opportunity to move from commitments towards implementation: delivering real emissions reductions, accelerating the transition away from fossil fuels, and addressing the barriers that prevent countries from implementing climate action fairly.

With its influence and capacity to act, the EU must demonstrate climate leadership. **We urge Environment and Climate Ministers to ensure that the Council Conclusions establish a clear EU position centred on practical implementation, equity, CBDR-RC, and science** across all the elements at stake at COP31, with the following priorities:

1. Make the Belém–Antalya Mechanism a vehicle for delivering a just transition

COP31 must operationalise the “Belém–Antalya Mechanism (BAM)” in a way that it becomes a practical platform for delivering the just transition principles agreed at COP30.

The EU should support a COP31/CMA8 decision on the mechanism that:

- strengthens coordination and knowledge-sharing across existing just transition efforts;
- provides technical assistance, capacity building, technology cooperation, and channels predictable and adequate finance through existing instruments;
- ensures meaningful participation of rights-holders, workers, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, youth and women;
- supports the alignment of NDCs, NAPs and long-term strategies with just transition principles, including social protection and decent work; and
- supports transitions away from fossil fuels alongside wider transformations across energy, industry, agriculture, food systems and land use.

¹ UNEP (2026). Limiting Overshoot: Navigating exceedance of 1.5°C and pathways towards return. United Nations Environment Programme, 02/09/2026 <https://www.unep.org/resources/limiting-overshoot-navigating-exceedance>

2. Turn fossil fuel exit into a global implementation agenda

COP31 must turn the Global Stocktake's call for a just, orderly and equitable transition away from fossil fuels (TAFF) into implementation, including through the COP30-mandated roadmap. The EU should use this process to advance a rapid, equitable and adequately supported transition, while addressing the structural barriers that constrain climate action.

The EU should prioritise implementation of the GST-1 outcome on TAFF, and:

- develop an EU TAFF roadmap, supported by Member States roadmaps, for an equitable 1.5°C-aligned fossil fuel phase-out that delivers energy security, resilience and affordability;
- ensure electrification, renewable energy deployment, strengthening of electricity grids, enhancement of storage capacity, and energy savings accelerate fossil fuel phase-out, and ensure any COP31 outcome on electrification pursues this pathway;
- establish a binding EU framework to phase out fossil fuel subsidies, with harmonised definitions, phase-out deadlines, robust monitoring and enforcement,
- establish a common EU framework for taxation of fossil fuel industry profits, with a share of revenues going to international climate finance;
- strengthen the Mitigation Work Programme and complementary initiatives such as the TAFF Conference hosted by Tuvalu in 2027;
- support developing countries' fossil fuel phase-out through finance, technology transfer, and international cooperation, consistent with the legal accountabilities established by the ICJ advisory opinion;
- address structural barriers including debt vulnerabilities, limited fiscal space, high costs of capital, and remove ISDS from existing and future trade and investment agreements.

3. Make GST-2 an accountability framework for implementation, equity and effective multilateral action

COP31 should launch the second Global Stocktake (GST-2) in a way that strengthens the Paris Agreement's implementation and ambition-ratcheting mechanism. GST-2 should identify why implementation is falling short and what needs to change.

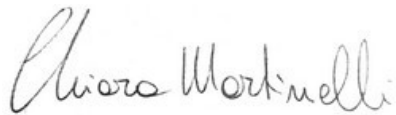
The EU should support a GST-2 process that:

- drives political accountability, ambition and implementation, grounded in science, equity, CBDR-RC, justice and human rights;
- assesses implementation gaps and progress against the Paris Agreement's goals, including delivery of the first GST outcomes and gaps in finance, technology, capacity and other means of implementation;
- strengthens meaningful participation of civil society, Indigenous Peoples, workers, youth and affected communities, protects civic space and reinforces an effective, inclusive, transparent and accountable multilateral climate regime.

On **climate finance**, we also would like to stress that there can be no credible implementation agenda without finance at the scale required to deliver it. Developing countries, in particular, face substantial investment needs while many are constrained by debt distress, limited fiscal space and high costs of capital. Private finance can contribute, but cannot substitute for predictable, accessible and adequate public climate finance. Further, addressing the financing needs of groups considered as particularly vulnerable, such as LDCs and SIDS, should not depend on the EU's view of other major emitters' negotiation stance. COP31 will therefore be a major test of whether the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) translates into meaningful delivery and implementation of climate finance provision, and we urge you to give the Climate Finance Work Programme (CFWP) the political priority it deserves. To this end, CAN Europe has developed and shared specific recommendations for the ECOFIN conclusions on climate finance, available [here](#).

CAN Europe and its members urge EU Ministers to support an ambitious, equitable and science-aligned outcome in Antalya, centred on just transition, fossil fuel phase-out, adaptation finance, and accountable implementation.

Yours sincerely,



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