


# CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK (CAN) EUROPE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

A woman with curly brown hair and red-rimmed glasses is speaking at a podium. She is wearing a white t-shirt with the text 'MAKE POLLUTERS PAY' and a blue lanyard with a badge. The background is a large stadium with many rows of empty blue seats. A professional video camera and microphone are visible in the foreground on the left.

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# **DIRECTOR'S REFLECTIONS**

# PRIORITISING CLIMATE ACTION IN AN ERA OF RISING THREATS TO DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL JUSTICE

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The global climate movement started 2024 with mixed emotions. The previous year ended with CAN's tireless global efforts being rewarded with the historical mention in the COP28 outcomes in Dubai for the need for the global economy to "transition away from fossil fuels". However, as 2024 began, there was a deep awareness of the global order being in turmoil, escalating wars and violence in particular in the Middle East and Ukraine, and attacks on democracy, peace, and climate action across governments and civil society.

Operating within this context, the 200+ members of CAN Europe embarked on an unprecedented effort to coordinate and maintain a bold voice for ambitious climate action. These efforts had a clear focus on social justice across all areas of CAN Europe's work, and with a particular focus on campaigning for people and the planet in advance of the European Parliament elections in June.

The EU's focus and attention in 2024 was indeed dominated by pre- and post-election debate. In alliance with the main European environmental and climate civil society networks, CAN Europe and its members delivered clear messages to candidates and policy stakeholders at different levels calling for a fossil fuel-free, socially just, and climate neutral European Union. CAN Europe wanted to be clear in recognising the unprecedented set of climate, energy, and environment legislation passed in the previous five years, under the European Green Deal. But there was also the need to raise the ambition of climate action, address legal loopholes, and fill both the effort and massive investment gaps that are needed to deliver a just transition; and crucially, support the most affected people and parts of society, many of whom are already disproportionately affected by inequality and the climate crisis.

Countering the growing backlash against climate policy, CAN Europe responded with evidence and clarity, showing the economic and social benefits of "Paris Agreement-compatible" climate action, and demonstrating the healthy and crucial role of EU regulation in holding governments accountable.

CAN Europe continued with the pre-election campaign approach and showed its collective strength during the establishment of the new European Commission. This meant influencing and remaining steadfast on the messages and goals established at the start of the new EU cycle, ensuring input and critical and constructive monitoring through the formation of the

new European Parliament, all new commissioners, and for the re-election of the European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen.

It cannot go unrecognised that 2024 was the hottest year since recording began and the devastating effects of the climate crisis rising globally - including within the borders of the European Union. The floods in Valencia, Spain, became yet another iconic symbol in the European debate about inaction and unpreparedness, and which regrettably fuelled misinformation and political manipulation rather than drawing attention to the scale of both the emergency and implementation of solutions needed to meet the challenges.

Together with its global network, CAN Europe actively contributed to the collective global civil society pressure applied during COP29 in Baku calling for a New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance. There was a bold call: for a financial shift requiring the wealthy and historically polluting countries from the Global North to contribute trillions to those in the Global South, the ones most impacted by the climate crisis and the least responsible for it. These campaign efforts made a ripple, but did not receive the attention or success they deserved in the disappointing and "business as usual" outcome in Baku. The Baku outcome has been assessed as failing to recognise the scale of the needs and the pace of the emergency that humanity and the planet are currently facing. But the pressure will continue from Baku to Belem.

Unfortunately, 2024 also ended with a worrying escalation of attacks on EU NGO funding which may be attributed to the rise of the far right and threatening democracy and participation, the very pillars of the European project. However, 2024 saw the climate movement uniting and persevering. CAN Europe is committed to organising even more to continue to help bring about a more just and sustainable world.

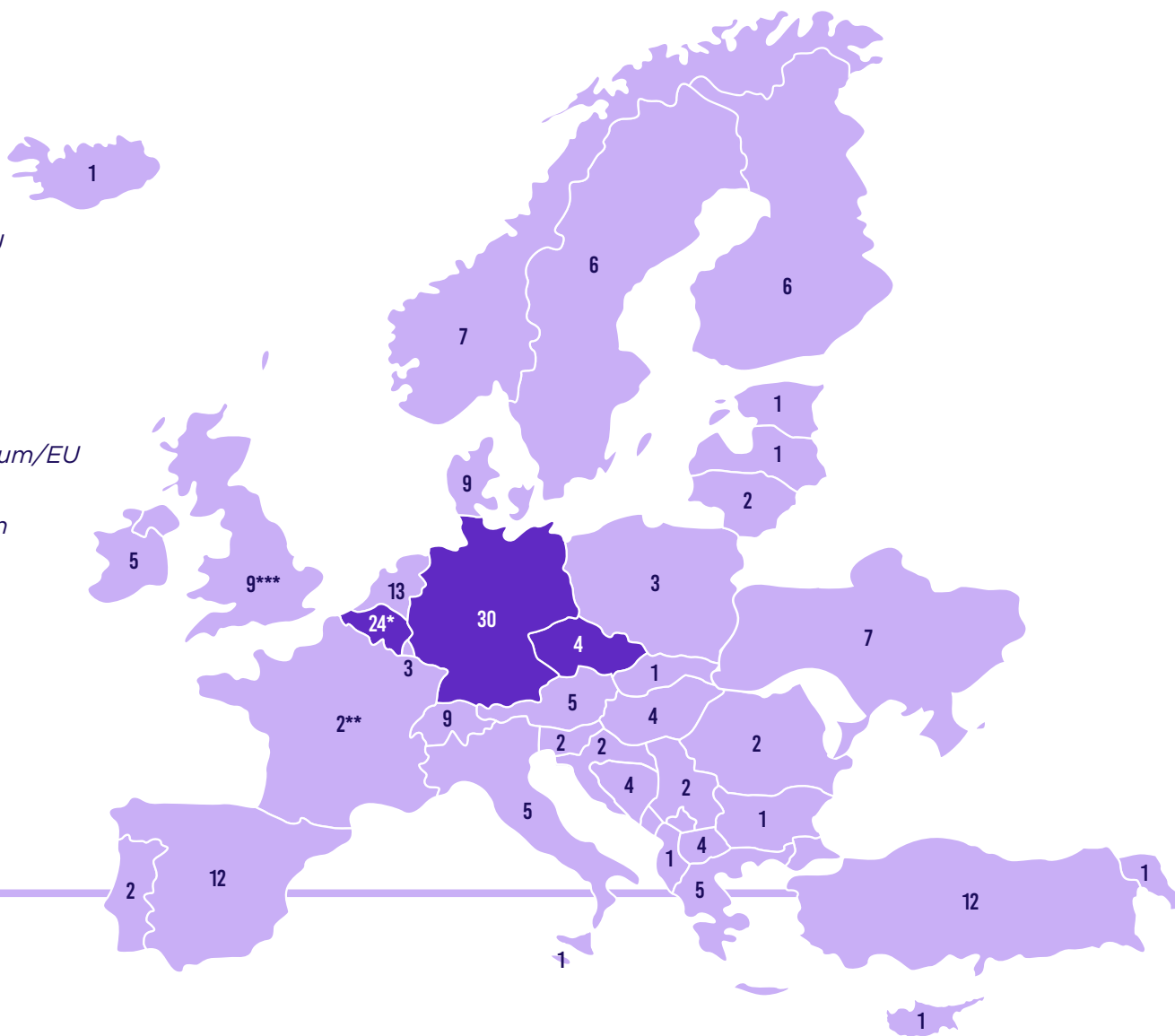
It is now a decade since the Paris Agreement was signed - with the targets still an absolute imperative. In 2025, CAN Europe will continue to demonstrate that those goals and the green transition are possible. And that it is not just an imperative for the planet, but meeting the targets will bring social and economic benefits, and a more peaceful future.

***Chiara Martinelli, CAN Europe Director***

**MEMBERSHIP**

## 212 ORGANISATIONS IN 40 COUNTRIES, 15 NEW MEMBERS (IN 8 COUNTRIES)

- + A Sud, Italy
- + Associació Catalana per la Pau /  
Catalan Association for Peace, Spain
- + ATD Quart Monde / ATD Fourth World, Belgium/EU
- + Center for Climate Change, North Macedonia
- + CONCORD Sverige, Sweden
- + Cordaid, Netherlands
- + Electra Energy, Greece
- + European Institute for Animal Law and Policy, Belgium/EU
- + Fundació Solidaritat Universitat de Barcelona /  
University of Barcelona Solidarity Foundation, Spain
- + Humundi, Belgium
- + Observatori del Deute en la Globalització (ODG) /  
Debt Observatory in Globalisation, Spain
- + SaveDnipro, Ukraine
- + Save the Children Europe, Belgium/EU
- + Stop Ecocide, Netherlands
- + WWF Greece



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 + 1 member

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



Photo: © Maksym Mysian

## UKRAINE: RENEWABLES STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES DURING CRISIS

During 2024, despite ongoing challenges from the Russian invasion, CAN Europe Member Ecoclub in Ukraine intensified its efforts toward building resilient, sustainable energy systems. A flagship initiative, Renewables for Resilient Ukraine (R2U), is an ambitious project focused on installing solar power plants and heat pumps at critical public facilities, enhancing community resilience and accelerating Ukraine's energy transition.

Ukraine's municipalities have faced extraordinary pressure with the ongoing war severely impacting the reliability of national energy infrastructure. Critical facilities have become highly vulnerable to frequent power outages, placing entire communities at risk. Recognising this urgent humanitarian need, Ecoclub launched the R2U project with support from a consortium of non-governmental organisations (NGOs). During 2024, across various critical infrastructure sites, the project installed 19 solar power plants and one heat pump delivering a total capacity of more than 1 MW. These installations served hospitals, water utilities, and educational facilities, vastly improving their energy independence, operational stability, and resilience during emergencies. Ecoclub's approach throughout the R2U project has been to assist municipalities at every step of the renewable energy transition. The support also covered:

- site identification
- technical feasibility assessments
- securing financial resources
- coordinating construction processes
- providing continuous technical and communication support

This holistic strategy facilitated both rapid adoption of renewable technologies and empowered communities, ensuring municipal entities have long-term ownership and management of installed renewable assets.

Beyond immediate resilience, these pilot projects also provided municipalities with additional revenue sources and demonstrated practical models for an equitable energy transition. The initiative significantly increased community

support for renewable technologies, inspiring local authorities across Ukraine to integrate renewable energy into their recovery and development plans.

In 2024, Ecoclub received renewable energy assistance requests from 635 municipalities which represents 43 per cent of all municipalities in Ukraine. To address this unprecedented demand, Ecoclub delivered more than 600 individual consultations, facilitated over 100 online meetings, and supported municipalities in developing 15 comprehensive feasibility studies and 30 preliminary assessments. This sustained engagement directly enabled two additional municipalities to independently install solar power plants for their water utilities by year-end, signalling a growing local capacity to manage renewable energy transitions autonomously.

In addition to the R2U initiative, Ecoclub also partnered with Oxfam, installing solar power plants at water utilities in three war-affected municipalities, Sumy, Myrhorod, and Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiyi. These now provide energy security and uninterrupted water supply for approximately 340,000 residents. The plants include battery storage systems which significantly enhance resilience and reduce dependency on centralised power grids. These pilot projects delivered significant practical results. One prominent example is the solar power installation at a water pumping station managed by the Sumy Water Utility. During an extended blackout lasting nearly 14 hours, the solar plant provided energy to the pumping station enabling it to operate independently for two critical hours. This period allowed replenishment of essential drinking water supplies, which were then distributed to hospitals and shelters. Commenting on the impact of the installation Oleksiy Zhukov, Chief Engineer, Sumy Water Utility said: *"The solar installation substantially minimised the negative consequences of power outages, demonstrating a reliable and sustainable approach to ensuring essential municipal services under wartime conditions."*

Ecoclub also collaborated with Scatec Ukraine, Yellowblue Force Foundation, Ukrgasvydobuvannya, and the German Embassy in Ukraine to facilitate the installation of solar power plants at over 20 hospitals located in heavily affected

regions including Kharkiv and Mykolaiv. These initiatives provided critical facilities with stable energy sources, reduced operational costs, and served as visible models for a broader transition to renewables in challenging contexts.

Ecoclub's total efforts in 2024 resulted in the successful completion of 37 solar power plant installations, including those implemented through the R2U project and other partnership initiatives. Collectively, these installations represent 2,094.77 kW of solar capacity, generating approximately 1,123 MWh of clean electricity annually.

Ecoclub's recognition of the importance of building local capabilities and future-proofing resulted in the implementation of extensive training and capacity-building initiatives which reached over 1,500 participants from local governments and civil society. This effort has significantly enhanced municipalities' ability to independently pursue renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. Ecoclub achieved meaningful policy impacts through strategic advocacy at both national and international levels, simplifying bureaucratic procedures for decentralised renewable energy deployment and influencing key legislative developments supportive of renewable energy technologies and financing.

Reflections on the 2024 outcomes of the Renewables for Resilient Ukraine initiative clearly demonstrate that decentralised renewable energy is not just an environmental imperative but a cornerstone of Ukraine's recovery and resilience. Ecoclub remains firmly committed to further expanding these efforts, empowering communities, and championing policies that support Ukraine's pathway toward climate neutrality by 2050.

*The R2U project was made possible by the support of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action of Germany (BMWK) with the support of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) in Ukraine and is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.*

# CAN EUROPE IN NUMBERS

# FACTS & FIGURES 2024



5

JOINT FUNDING  
APPLICATIONS



40

BRIEFINGS  
& REPORTS



ACROSS ALL SOCIAL MEDIA

1,443,106 IMPRESSIONS



49 WEBINARS  
FOR THE NETWORK



63,052  
FOLLOWERS

887  
POSTS

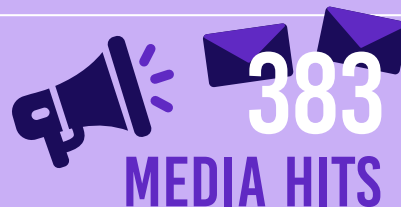
87,381  
ENGAGEMENTS

3,716  
RESHARES



1,360 PODCAST LISTENS

46 STUNTS / PHOTO  
OPPORTUNITIES



9 NEWSLETTER EDITIONS WITH

1,618 SUBSCRIBERS





Photo: © Maksym Mysian

## FINANCE

	€
INCOME	2024
CAN EUROPE	5,109,212.60
EUROPEAN CLIMATE FOUNDATION	2,305,012.57
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	1,375,392.49
KR FOUNDATION	247,144.17
MEMBERSHIP FEES	180,698.00
OTHER INCOME	176,881.79
MINOR FOUNDATION	169,765.97
ENVIRONMENT DEFENSE FUND	144,024.72
GERMAN GOVERNMENT	127,010.85
ROCKEFELLER BROTHERS FUND	91,591.13
ENERGY TRANSITION FUND	79,108.66
BELGIAN GOVERNMENT	70,291.66
CLIMATE WORKS FOUNDATION	61,519.76
LAUDES FOUNDATION	52,052.73
CLIMATE BREAKTHROUGH	24,350.24
SCHWAB CHARITABLE	4,367.86
CAN INTERNATIONAL	192,272.27
EUROPE BEYOND COAL CAMPAIGN	2,715,251.96
EUROPEAN CLIMATE FOUNDATION	1,123,082.92
CLIMATE BREAKTHROUGH	791,215.67
CLIMATE WORKS FOUNDATION	363,581.83
SCHWAB CHARITABLE	241,732.56
OTHER INCOME	195,638.98
TOTAL	8,016,736.83

**INTERNATIONAL**

## A EUROPEAN MOVEMENT, A GLOBAL NETWORK

The battle for climate finance took centre stage in CAN Europe's 2024 international campaigning and advocacy work, all of which supported CAN International priorities. These activities were particularly focused on the failure of rich countries to meet their obligations on loss and damage financing and the struggle for agreeing an ambitious NCQG at COP29.

Using the defining slogan, "pay up", CAN Europe applied sustained and direct pressure on decision-makers to urgently redesign the international financial architecture to ensure sufficient and equitable finance -and calling on wealthy nations to pay up.

At the European level, CAN Europe held the EU accountable for its contradictions; positioning itself as a climate leader, while failing to fight for systemic financial transformation, failing to end fossil fuel subsidies, and showing weak support for phasing out oil and gas. CAN Europe's advocacy increasingly framed these failures as part of a broader structural problem: the need for a fundamental transformation of the global financial architecture, driven by justice and equity.

In the EU's neighbourhood, CAN Europe's work continued to advocate for advancing climate ambition that is aligned with EU legislation. In the Western Balkans, the Energy Community Treaty continues to be used as a foundation to push for climate neutrality aligned with the Paris Agreement. In Türkiye, through collaboration with local partners, CAN Europe actively advocated for coal phase out and just transition while pushing for a Paris compatible climate law and other policy reforms to enhance ambition and ensure compliance with international climate commitments and alignment with the European Green Deal.

As a European movement embedded in a global network, CAN Europe worked to strengthen cooperation with CAN International and the other CAN nodes, aiming towards a balanced and decolonial partnership, particularly on the topics of finance, loss and damage,

and the just transition. The EU-Latin America link was especially significant in 2024, as Brazil assumed the COP30 Presidency and climate justice narratives gained momentum. The coordinated engagement across CAN International nodes and regional alliances allows for more equitable decision-making, resource distribution, and movement-led leadership in global climate governance.

CAN Europe's impact is driven by its members. In 2024, over 80 organisations across Europe were regularly engaged in CAN Europe's work to influence international climate policy, ensuring civil society remained a coordinated, influential, and disruptive force in global negotiations. At COP29, CAN Europe enabled 45+ member organisations to engage directly with MEPs and EU decision-makers including Wopke Hoekstra, the European Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero, and Clean Growth. Through collective advocacy, disruptive actions, communication and strategic pressure, members played a pivotal role in pushing for:

- Stronger climate finance commitments that reflect historical responsibility
- An end to the era of fossil fuels, with no loopholes or false solutions
- A just and equitable transition, ensuring frontline and marginalised communities lead the process
- Robust human rights protections and civic space safeguards in climate policy

One of the defining moments of 2024 was when, during stalled NCQG negotiations, the global CAN network ramped up advocacy pressure on traditional donor countries, including the EU. The wider CAN-coordinated campaign calling on countries to "pay up" reached millions around the world after images of climate activists were used by countless news outlets around the world. While the final outcomes fell short of what was needed, CAN Europe's coordinated advocacy and communications ensured the EU remained under

immense pressure to increase financial commitments, securing a pledge to raise climate finance by USD 300 billion annually by 2035, with an aspiration to mobilise USD 1.3 trillion per year from public and private sources.

While these steps signal progress, CAN Europe remains committed to ensuring climate finance is not just increased, but fundamentally transformed. The solution is to see finance as deeply interwoven with the urgent phase out of fossil fuels (and associated subsidies), and by passing control of the global climate transition to frontline communities.

The geopolitical landscape became increasingly complex in 2024. Undeterred, CAN's global network has played a crucial role in keeping climate justice and the imperative of a 1.5°C-aligned development pathway at the forefront of EU international diplomacy. Through coordinated advocacy, mobilisation, and high-level engagement, CAN Europe has maintained pressure on decision-makers, ensuring that equitable climate action remains an imperative that cannot be ignored.

During 2025, CAN Europe will continue its strategic work to transform EU climate diplomacy including pushing for justice-driven reforms, a fossil fuel-free future, and a globally equitable finance system. Advocacy will focus on influencing the EU's positioning ahead of COP30 ("the justice COP") and bi-regional diplomatic moments, strengthening the next Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) cycle, and fighting for systemic reforms that unlock the socio-economic benefits of the climate transition for all. Together with allies, CAN Europe already has established a strong channel with the Brazilian presidency and will continue this effort with other key international players. CAN Europe will continue to proactively build the future of European climate action, not just respond to crises. As a formidable force in EU climate diplomacy and global climate action, CAN Europe will continue to push the boundaries of what is politically possible.



Photo: © Bianka Csenki

## CAN LATIN AMERICA: JUSTICE AND EQUITY ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE PRINCIPLES

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Throughout 2024, Climate Action Network Latin America (CANLA) worked to amplify civil society voices across the region, ensuring Latin American priorities shape international climate debates. CANLA's efforts are deeply rooted in justice, equity, and inclusivity, strengthened by partnerships across the Global South.

A major achievement for CANLA during 2024 was the NDC Observatory, which critically monitored Latin American governments' climate commitments under the UNFCCC. This initiative provided analysis on the implementation of NDCs from a justice and human rights perspective, holding governments accountable. Tracking fossil fuel dependency, biodiversity protection, indigenous rights, and climate finance, the Observatory became a key advocacy tool regionally and internationally.

At COP29 in Baku, CANLA played a leading role in connecting Latin American civil society with international decision-makers. The organisation aims to decolonise climate governance, and ensure the perspectives of frontline communities, indigenous groups, and grassroots organisations are heard at the highest levels.

A COP29 highlight was CANLA's facilitation of exchanges between Latin American and European parliamentarians to influence EU-Latin America cooperation on a just energy transition. Parliamentarians from Mexico, Brazil, and Bolivia took the opportunity to raise urgent issues surrounding European-led extractive projects in the Amazon, fossil fuel phase-out, gender justice, and indigenous sovereignty. These exchanges allowed CANLA to directly challenge the European parliamentary delegation on the harmful development models that exist - and demand stronger commitments.

CANLA also collaborated with CAN Europe to organise two key in-person exchanges in June and November. Held in Bonn and Baku, these events allowed civil society networks from both regions to strategise, learn, and coordinate actions in advance of UNFCCC negotiations. These exchanges reinforced the need for regional solidarity in shaping the global climate agenda.

In line with CANLA's just energy transition advocacy, civil society capacity was increased by the facilitation of capacity building workshops, conducting NDC and fossil fuel phase-out analysis, and developing case studies on just transition benefits. These efforts continue to contribute to CAN International's advocacy strategies ahead of COP30, ensuring Latin American priorities are integrated into the global network.

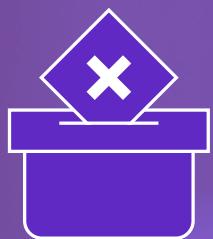
Another milestone was the co-hosted COP29 side event on inclusive climate governance which focused on disability rights and intersectional climate action. This event brought together government representatives from Colombia, Ireland, and the United Kingdom, as well as civil society leaders and advocates to discuss the need for equitable climate policies. Addressing barriers that marginalised communities face in accessing finance and decision-making, the event pushed for an intersectional and funded just transition.

CANLA also worked to strengthen intra-regional coordination across Latin America and the Caribbean, recognising the power of a unified voice in climate justice advocacy. CANLA's support for national coalitions, technical assistance in policy analysis, and closer engagement with social movements ensured civil society could better engage in climate governance processes. Additionally, there was proactive influence on government policies aimed to deliver stronger fossil fuel phase-out commitments in Colombia, Mexico, Bolivia, Peru, and Brazil.

Looking ahead, CANLA remains committed to ensuring Latin American civil society plays a strong and independent role in global climate governance. Advocacy will continue to press for a just energy transition, a prioritisation of people over profit, inclusive climate finance mechanisms, and policies that recognise indigenous rights and frontline defenders.

With climate negotiations still dominated by Global North interests, CANLA's mission to put the underrepresented in control, expose false solutions, and demand accountability from powerful actors has never been more crucial. CAN Latin America stands firm in reshaping climate governance from the ground up, ensuring justice and equity remain non-negotiable principles in the fight for a liveable planet.

# POLICY HIGHLIGHTS



# CAMPAIGNING FOR A FOSSIL FUEL-FREE, SOCIALLY JUST, AND CLIMATE NEUTRAL EU

Photo: © Kristof Vadino

## CAMPAIGNING FOR A FOSSIL FUEL-FREE, SOCIALLY JUST, AND CLIMATE NEUTRAL EU

The joint efforts of its members in 2023 meant CAN Europe entered 2024 equipped with a [CAN Europe Manifesto](#) and a clear message: a fossil fuel-free, socially just, and climate neutral European Union is non-negotiable. The year began with a wave of protests by farmers in Brussels, demanding better recognition and pay for their work. Despite the fact that farmers are on the frontline of the impacts of climate change and an unfair agriculture system that exploits both nature and their labour, attempts were made by big agribusiness to invert the narrative, and to force a reversal on EU climate and environment commitments. The campaign period was characterised by frustration at the rising cost of living, growing inequalities, and political inaction. Despite this challenging context, CAN Europe continued to provide campaign tools and material to make the case for ambitious climate action and a just transition.

In advance of the European parliamentary elections, CAN Europe joined forces with BirdLife, the European Environmental Bureau, WWF European Policy Office, and Transport & Environment to empower and mobilise networks, develop stories of transformational change, and raise the pressure on key EU policymakers. Monthly network calls allowed connections to be made and important input and feedback to be collated to shape campaign materials.

In March, CAN Europe gathered members in person in Brussels and online for an election campaign workshop and a training session on tackling disinformation. In April, the European Parliament Scoreboard was launched in front of MEPs and journalists at the Press Club in Brussels. This tool was developed with input from policy specialists in the secretariat and feedback from the network. The objective of the tool was to analyse the voting records of MEPs. This covered 124 plenary votes within 30 separate EU laws that were passed in the 2019-24 mandate period. The results of this analysis gave each party and political group a score out of 100; with 100 representing full alignment with CAN Europe's voting recommendations and a zero score indicating no alignment. The scores were used to categorise each political party or group, from "protector" to "procrastinator" to "prehistoric thinker".

CAN Europe's analysis was published in a report and embedded as an interactive widget on the websites of members including Deutscher Naturschutzring in Germany, Réseau Action Climat France, The Italian Climate Change Think Tank, WWF in Poland, the Spanish Ornithological Society, and the Sustainable Land System Association in Portugal. The widget could be used in all EU languages, driving traffic to the websites of affiliated members and providing widely shared social media material featuring the dinosaurs, snails, and superheroes of the report.

National coverage of the scoreboard was widespread in several EU member states. In Germany, public broadcaster ZDF presented data from the scoreboard directly to lead candidates in its live election debate programme, just days before the election. In Portugal, the results were highlighted on the morning news programme Bom Dia Portugal on the public broadcaster RTP1. In Slovenia, CAN Europe member Umanotera convened a press conference to promote the scoreboard, and put the results of Slovenian parties into the national context. A member of the project's core group was able to speak at this press conference. This engagement resulted in the scoreboard securing a substantial volume of broadcast and print coverage both at the EU and national levels during the first weeks after launch.

Efforts to secure a continued EU commitment to urgent climate action continued after the ballots had been counted. CAN Europe was present at the parliament plenary in Strasbourg in July to engage with freshly elected and re-elected MEPs as they voted on the next president of the European Commission and their political guidelines. Together with Social Platform, CAN Europe gathered MEPs from across political groups to build support for proposals to ensure new commissioners prioritise the just transition and protect workers' rights in the transformation of the economy towards climate with a Just Transition Directive.

After MEPs cast their votes in the secret ballot for commission president, CAN Europe reinforced the agreed position that while the re-election of Ursula von der Leyen meant no going back on climate, her plans are still not aligned with science or the Paris Agreement.

The final months of the year saw the conclusion of the post-election process, marked by further negotiations between political groups in the parliament and a series of confirmation hearings for prospective commissioners in front of MEPs. CAN Europe members and allies engaged with the new parliament to put forward key questions ahead of the hearings, many of which were put to the candidates by MEPs.

The message was clear: forge new political paths with a stronger long-term ambition - and get the house in order for urgent climate action now. The responses of most commissioners-designate rarely strayed from the script, and perhaps for this reason, all were eventually confirmed. The new commission finally took office on 1 December.

As the election year came to an end with a transition to a new European Commission pledging a Clean Industrial Deal (CID), CAN Europe laid the foundations for advocacy for months and years ahead: a deal based on circularity within planetary boundaries and a renewables-based future that closes the door on fossil fuels.



# SHAPING THE EU'S ENERGY PRIORITIES FOR THE INCOMING EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Photo: © Alessia Luzzati

PARIS AGREEMENT COMPATIBLE  
SCENARIOS (PAC) 2.0

CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK (CAN) EUROPE  
SEPTEMBER 2024

## Energy Compass for the Policy Cycle 2024 - 2029

Recommendations for the new  
European Commission



## SHAPING THE EU'S ENERGY PRIORITIES FOR THE INCOMING EUROPEAN COMMISSION

In September 2024, CAN Europe hosted a pivotal policy conference in Brussels to discuss energy policy priorities for the new European Commission and parliament. This event convened high-level representatives from EU institutions, member state governments, industry, and civil society to deliberate on the future trajectory of EU energy policy. The conference underscored CAN Europe's leadership role in steering the EU towards an ambitious, just, and sustainable energy transition.

A cornerstone of the conference was the unveiling of CAN Europe's Paris Agreement-Compatible (PAC) 2.0 energy scenario. This comprehensive roadmap describes a technical, political, and societal pathway for the EU to attain climate neutrality by 2040, a full decade ahead of the EU's official 2050 target. The PAC 2.0 scenario emphasises the feasibility and necessity of transitioning to a 100 per cent renewable energy system, highlighting that such a shift is not only technologically viable but also economically advantageous. Projections indicate that for every euro invested in this transition, the return on investment for the EU will be approximately four-fold in co-benefits, amounting to over EUR 1 trillion by 2030.

PAC 2.0 shows how rapid decarbonisation across all sectors can be achieved through energy demand reduction and electrification, resulting in a full phase out of fossil fuels and nuclear energy by 2040. It also details the substantial investments in solar, wind, storage, and grid infrastructure that will be needed to create a more flexible and resilient energy system.

Complementing the PAC 2.0 scenario, CAN Europe introduced its Energy Compass, a set of concrete policy recommendations tailored for the 2024-2029 EU policy cycle. The Energy Compass has been collated with the help of CAN Europe members and advocates for:

- Energy demand reduction: achieve at least a 20 per cent energy saving by 2030 and halve energy demand by 2040 through sustainable lifestyles, energy efficiency, innovation, and circularity
- Accelerated renewable energy deployment: build a 100 per cent renewable energy system by rapidly scaling up sustainable renewable energy sources
- Fossil fuel phase-out: implement an action plan to phase out coal by 2030, fossil fuel gas by 2035, and oil by 2040, alongside a framework for decommissioning fossil fuel infrastructure
- Socially just transition: ensuring that the energy transition is equitable, addresses social impacts, and promotes inclusivity
- Addressing the investment gap: mobilise financial resources to support the transition, recognise that the socio-economic benefits far outweigh the initial investments

The conference featured a keynote address by Sven Giegold, Secretary of State, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Germany. Giegold articulated the energy policy priorities of the EU's largest economy, calling for an acceleration of renewable energy deployment and the implementation of the 2030 energy framework, while establishing a reliable framework for 2040. Giegold emphasised that a strong focus on renewable energy sources is essential for Europe's competitiveness and advocated against allocating EU funds for new nuclear projects.

During the conference, Belgium's energy minister Tinne Van der Straeten also emphasised the vital role that energy communities play in providing affordable and clean electricity. Van der Straeten raised the expectation to remove barriers to energy communities in a future Citizens Energy Package to accelerate their growth.

MEP Nicolás González Casares, from the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats said during the conference: 'The Green Deal is still alive and it would be the biggest mistake of the EU to make it fall'. González Casares underlined the need to defend the just transition and to support citizens with adapted competition and state aid rules.

By bringing together diverse stakeholders, CAN Europe facilitated a holistic dialogue that bridged policy, industry, and civil society perspectives. Through the introduction of the PAC 2.0 energy scenario and the Energy Compass, CAN Europe provided robust, evidence-based strategies for achieving a 100 per cent renewable, fossil fuel-free energy system by 2040.

The conference elevated the discourse on achieving climate neutrality by 2040 and also underscored CAN Europe's role as a trusting, reliable, and competent partner to shape energy policy within this new legislative cycle, linking with existing stakeholders and those new in EU institutions. In 2025, CAN Europe will build on these connections and the discussions started to ensure ambitious and robust energy policy making with the new institutional leadership.



# THE COMPETITIVENESS AND INDUSTRIAL AGENDA

Photo: © Jonas Von Werne

## THE COMPETITIVENESS AND INDUSTRIAL AGENDA

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The second half of 2024 was a defining period for European climate policy. With the EU elections over, a new political cycle began, bringing both opportunities and risks for the future of Europe's industrial transformation and the continuity of the European Green Deal. As a new European Commission took shape, CAN Europe and its members worked tirelessly to ensure that climate ambition and social justice remained central to the EU's new competitiveness agenda.

From Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's re-election to the formation of the new College of Commissioners, to the end of the 2024 election year, CAN Europe played a crucial role in shaping the competitiveness debate, calling for a green and fair industrial strategy that advances Europe's renewable energy transition, an ambitious 2040 target and decarbonisation as a key priority of the competitiveness agenda. As the EU mapped out its political and economic priorities for the next five years, CAN Europe was clear: there is no economic competitiveness without ambitious climate action and a renewable energy transition.

In September, the Draghi Competitiveness Report underscored the urgency of marrying economic competitiveness and climate action and closing the huge investment gap. However, it largely failed to propose a vision that aligns industrial transformation with social and environmental goals. CAN Europe responded quickly, stressing that the EU's long-term economic resilience depends on strategic investment in a green and just transition - not on deregulation or weaker environmental protections.

Ahead of the formation of the new commission, CAN Europe made its stance clear in multiple interventions. Together with over 40 civil society organisations from across Europe, CAN Europe issued a statement calling on EU leaders to ensure the continuation of the Just Transition Fund in the next EU budget. In a letter to EU leaders, CAN Europe called for a competitive agenda that embeds decarbonisation, circularity, and energy savings at its core - ensuring industry thrives in a climate-neutral future, rather than falling into short-sighted deregulation traps.

In light of the forthcoming Clean Industrial Deal (CID), CAN Europe continued pressuring to ensure that the new commission continues on the path of the Green Deal. Marketed as the EU's response to global competition and geopolitical shifts, and to be delivered within the first 100 days of the new commission, it was clear the CID became the first test of the commission's commitment to a climate-neutral and socially just economy. From the outset, CAN Europe and its members contributed to the CID discussions, ensuring adequate regulations and conditions are in place to guarantee European industries lead in the transition to a sustainable economic model. And that the model generates social benefits within planetary boundaries, including the requirement that public money benefits people and the planet, not just shareholders of corporations.

As the EU shapes its industrial and political agenda for the next five years, CAN Europe remains at the forefront of the fight. Europe's industrial future cannot be dictated by short-term competitiveness concerns or corporate pressure for deregulation. Instead, Europe needs a visionary industrial strategy based on its unique model - one that accelerates the energy transition, protects workers and communities, is not dominated by vested economic interests, and ensures that European industry thrives within planetary boundaries. One that doesn't leave space for deregulation.

CAN Europe's work didn't stop there. Throughout 2024, CAN Europe worked tirelessly to keep climate ambition and social justice at the heart of Europe's economic strategy. In the coming year, efforts will continue to hold policymakers accountable, push for stronger policies and public investment, and demand effective conditions on corporate subsidies to drive a fair, competitive, and climate-proof industrial transformation.

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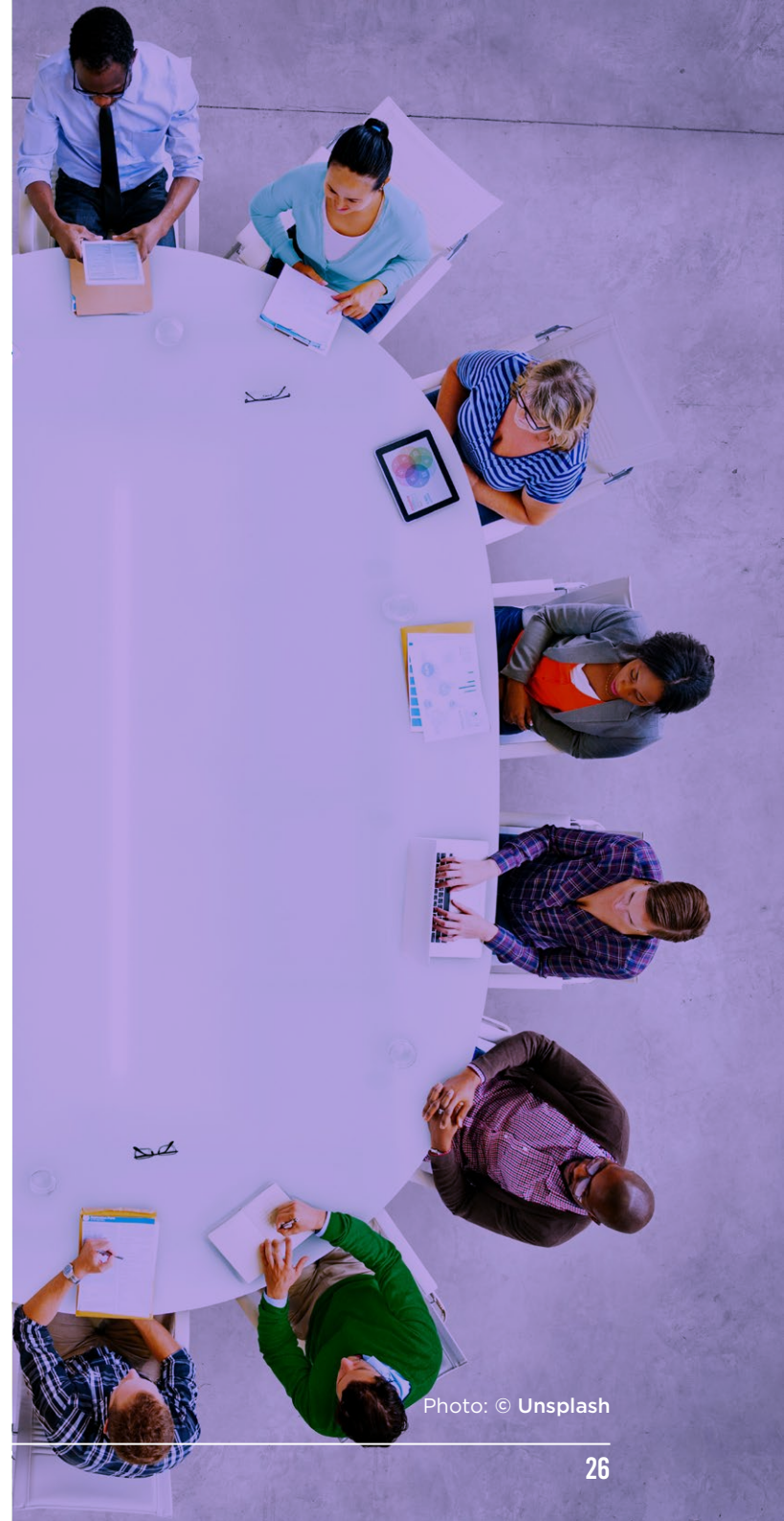


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**THE TEAM**

## MANAGEMENT

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**CHIARA MARTINELLI**  
Director

## HEADS OF TEAMS

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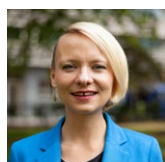
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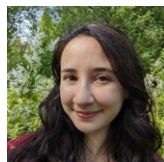
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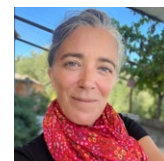
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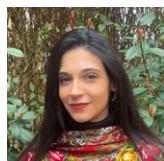
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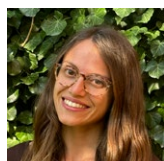
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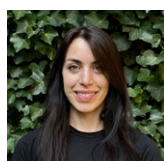
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**ELEONORA ALLENA**  
Communication Coordinator for the Western Balkans & Türkiye



**ALESSIA LUZZATI**  
Communications Assistant (Intern)



**MARIANNA PLOMARITI**  
Communications Coordinator



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Funding Fairer Futures Communications Coordinator



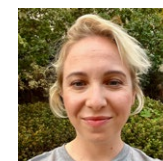
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Communications Coordinator



**CRISTINA DASCALU**  
Senior Communications Coordinator



**KATARZYNA PIASECKA**  
Communications Coordinator for Central and Eastern Europe



**TOMAS SPRAGG NILSSON**  
Senior Communications Coordinator

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Funding Fairer Futures  
Campaigns and  
Mobilisation Network  
Coordinator



**KRISTINA NAUNOVA**

Network Development  
& “Real Deal” Project  
Coordinator



**JOE INWOOD**

Network Development  
Coordinator



**PABLO SALLABERA**

Mobilisation Consultant



**LASHIKA PALINDI KALUBOWILA**

Fundraising  
Coordinator



**IDA PARASKEVA**

Funding Fairer  
Futures Project &  
Finance Officer



**OLIVIA SAXER**

Funding Fairer Futures  
Project Manager



**KASIA UGRYN**

Senior Network  
Development  
Coordinator

## CLIMATE POLICY



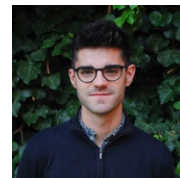
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Senior Climate &  
Land Use Policy  
Coordinator



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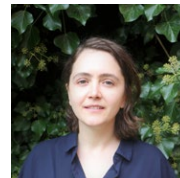
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Human Rights Policy  
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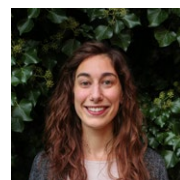
**FEDERICO MASCOLO**

Together For 1.5 Project  
Policy Coordinator



**RACHEL SIMON**

Senior Policy  
Coordinator,  
International Finance &  
Development



**SILVIA VALENTINI**

Climate Policy Officer



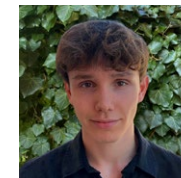
**BRIGI BOZSO**

Climate Policy  
Coordinator



**ADRIANO DELLA BRUNA**

Policy Project Assistant  
(Intern)



**MARCO IAROCCI**

Post-Election  
Advocacy Assistant  
(Intern)



**GIULIA NARDI**

Climate & Energy Policy  
Officer



**JAMES TRINDER**

International Climate  
Policy Coordinator

## ENERGY POLICY



**VERENA BAX**

Energy Savings Policy  
Coordinator



**ESTHER  
BOLLENDORFF**

Senior Gas Policy  
Coordinator



**ERMAN EROGAN**

Policy and Campaign  
Officer



**JONI KARJALAINEN**

Energy Transition  
Analyst



**SEDA ORHAN**

Renewable Energy  
Campaign Coordinator



**FLORA WITKOWSKI**

Gas Policy Officer



**FLORE BELIN**

Renewable Energy  
Policy Coordinator



**EVA BRARDINELLI**

Buildings Policy  
Coordinator



**CHRISTOPHE JOST**

Energy Policy  
Coordinator



**THOMAS LEWIS**

Energy Policy  
Coordinator



**MONICA VIDAL**

Heating Campaign  
Coordinator

## WESTERN BALKANS & TÜRKİYE



**FROSINA  
ANTONOVSKA**

Climate & Energy  
Policy Coordinator  
for Western Balkans



**ÖZLEM KATISÖZ**

Senior Policy  
Coordinator For  
Türkiye



**ELIF CANSU İLHAN**

Policy Coordinator  
for Türkiye



**DENİZ MINE ÖZTÜRK**

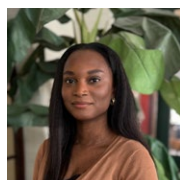
Coal to Clean Power  
Coordinator

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**ISABELLE BRACHET**

Fiscal Reform Policy  
Coordinator



**JENNIFER KWAO**

Trade & Corporate  
Accountability  
Campaign Officer



**AUDREY CHANGOE**

Trade & Investment  
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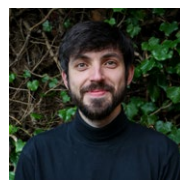
Finance & Subsidies  
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## PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION



**GREG VAN ELSSEN**

Senior Production  
& Consumption  
Coordinator



**BORIS  
JANKOWIAK**

Steel  
Transformation  
Policy Coordinator



**DOREEN FEDRIGO**

Industrial  
Transformation Policy  
Coordinator

**CAN Europe also gives great thanks to the following staff members that helped implement work in 2024, but have since left the organisation:**

Seden Anlar,  
Communications Officer

Marta Anczewska,  
Energy Policy Coordinator

Ariadna Bartra,  
Policy Project Assistant (Intern)

Victor Berishaj,  
Western Balkans Energy and  
Climate Policy Coordinator

Tom Boyle,  
Head of Network Development

Marie-Amélie Brun,  
Communication Coordinator

César Chantraine,  
Human Resources Coordinator

Eulàlia Craus Vidal,  
Climate Policy (Intern)

Laura Franceschin,  
Communications Coordinator

Matthew Gosztony, Volunteer

Agata Meysner,  
EU Sustainable Consumption &  
Lifestyles Project Coordinator

Emilia Runeberg,  
Climate & Development Policy  
Coordinator

Alva Rödström,  
Buildings Policy &  
Campaign Assistant (Intern)

Nina Tramullas,  
Head of Communications

Dimitris Tsekeris,  
Energy Scenarios  
Project Manager



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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.**



Climate Action Network Europe  
Mundo-B, Rue d'Edimbourg 26  
Brussels 1050, Belgium

[www.caneurope.org](http://www.caneurope.org)

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