

Dear European Heads of State,

As European youth, we voice our deep concern about the present situation of the EU. The recent instances of human rights violations in certain member states have been a sign to us that the core values of the EU – freedom, democracy, equality, and the rule of law – are at risk. The apparent fragility of the political, social, and economic system brings about the fear that climate action will be set aside at the European Council Summit. Although we cannot sit at the negotiation table with you, our message is clear: **do not compromise our future.**

The European Union is built upon the rule of law in order for human rights to be provided for all. Securing this fundamental principle allows each member of the European community to enjoy freedom and civil security today. Yet we will not step into a tomorrow worth living unless climate action is equally prioritised. Although the rule of law and climate action are considered separate by many - the good condition of both is key, if we are to hope for a safe and democratic future.

The December summit will be a moment in which the fate of us - the young people in Europe and around the world - will be decided. If human rights are to fully be the foundation of the European Union, **we urge you to stand up for climate action in line with the 1.5°C target, while safeguarding democratic principles and a strong rule of law.** When the EU signed the Paris Agreement in 2015, it committed itself to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C by the end of the century. Considering our Union's historic emissions and immense wealth, the EU must lead in the fight against the climate crisis. We need to give a strong signal to other nations by substantially increasing our NDC to the Paris Agreement to avoid crossing irreversible tipping points. **55% emissions reduction by 2030 is not enough.** Only science-based targets, which exclude carbon sinks and aim to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C, are acceptable.

Young people around the world already suffer from the effects of the climate crisis. **Now is the time to make climate justice a reality.** If protecting human rights is what the European Union stands for, it needs to abandon its business-as-usual path and build a system that would allow the planet and people to thrive. The climate crisis cannot be merely seen through the lens of an ecological collapse. It has to be seen from a holistic perspective - as a human rights crisis - and acted upon accordingly.

The current pandemic showed us that you are able to respond to crises with sufficient urgency. **We all need to take lessons from the pandemic and build a more resilient future - with the rule of law, democracy, and real climate action defining what the EU embodies.** The European Council Summit must not be about compromises, but about responsible leadership. Make the Paris Agreement reality. Make sure our future is worth living.

With regards,
European youth climate activists



From Hungary:
Fridays for Future Budapest

Biodiversity
Action
Europe



From Slovakia:
Hnutie za klímu
Hnutie za zmenu
Medici za klímu

