



# EU climate change policy: a brief overview

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# *Overview*

- \* The scientific case for climate action
- \* EU climate targets and measures
- \* EU strategy on adapting to climate change

# *Climate change is happening now!*

## **We face a dual challenge:**

1. We must sharply cut greenhouse gas emissions to prevent unmanageable impacts ('**mitigation**')
2. We must also adapt to climate change to increase society's resilience and manage unavoidable impacts ('**adaptation**')



# Global scientific consensus:

## Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)



- \* **No doubt about global warming:**  
average global surface temperature  $+0.85^{\circ}\text{C}$  since 1880
- \* **Human influence is clear: 95-100% certainty**

### Impacts:

- \* **Atmosphere and ocean have warmed**
- \* **Snow and ice reduced, greenhouse gas concentrations increased**
- \* **Sea level rising**
- \* **Without action average temperature could be  $>4^{\circ}\text{C}$  higher than in pre-industrial era by final 2 decades of this century**
- \* **But if emissions cut significantly, warming could be limited to  $0.9^{\circ}\text{C}$ - $2.3^{\circ}\text{C}$**



# *Heed the science: keep global warming below 2° C*

- ✳ **Risk of irreversible, potentially catastrophic global impacts will greatly increase beyond 2° C** above pre-industrial temperature
- ✳ EU has long pressed for 2° C ceiling:
- ✳ **International community now agrees**
- ✳ **But even below 2° C there will be major impacts**



## *EU action: the European Climate Change Programme*

Set up in 2000 to identify most cost-effective EU-level measures to reduce GHG emissions

**Over 30 measures being implemented.**  
**Examples:**

- ✓ *Energy-performance standards for buildings*
- ✓ *Restrictions/phase-out of fluorinated industrial gases*
- ✓ *Limits on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from cars and vans*
- ✓ *EU Emissions Trading System*





## EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)

- ✓ Cornerstone of EU climate strategy
- ✓ ‘Cap-and-trade’ makes it possible to **reduce emissions at least cost**
- ✓ Covers **CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from c. 11,000 installations** responsible for **c. 45% of total EU GHG emissions**
- ✓ Also covers **aviation**
- ✓ **Carbon price should be key driver of innovation** in low-carbon technology, but currently too low: **structural reform needed to address surplus of allowances**





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## *Europe 2020 headline targets: Leading the way towards the low-carbon economy*

★ Commitment to transform Europe into a **highly energy-efficient, low-carbon economy**

✚ **2020 targets:**

- ★ **20% cut in GHG emissions by 20% (below 1990 levels)**
- ★ **Conditional offer to cut by 30% if other major economies do their fair share**
- ★ **20% of energy from renewable sources (c.14% today)**
- ★ **20% cut in energy use through energy efficiency improvements**

✓ *Good for the climate, energy security, innovation, growth, jobs and competitiveness!*



## *Putting the 2020 targets into practice*

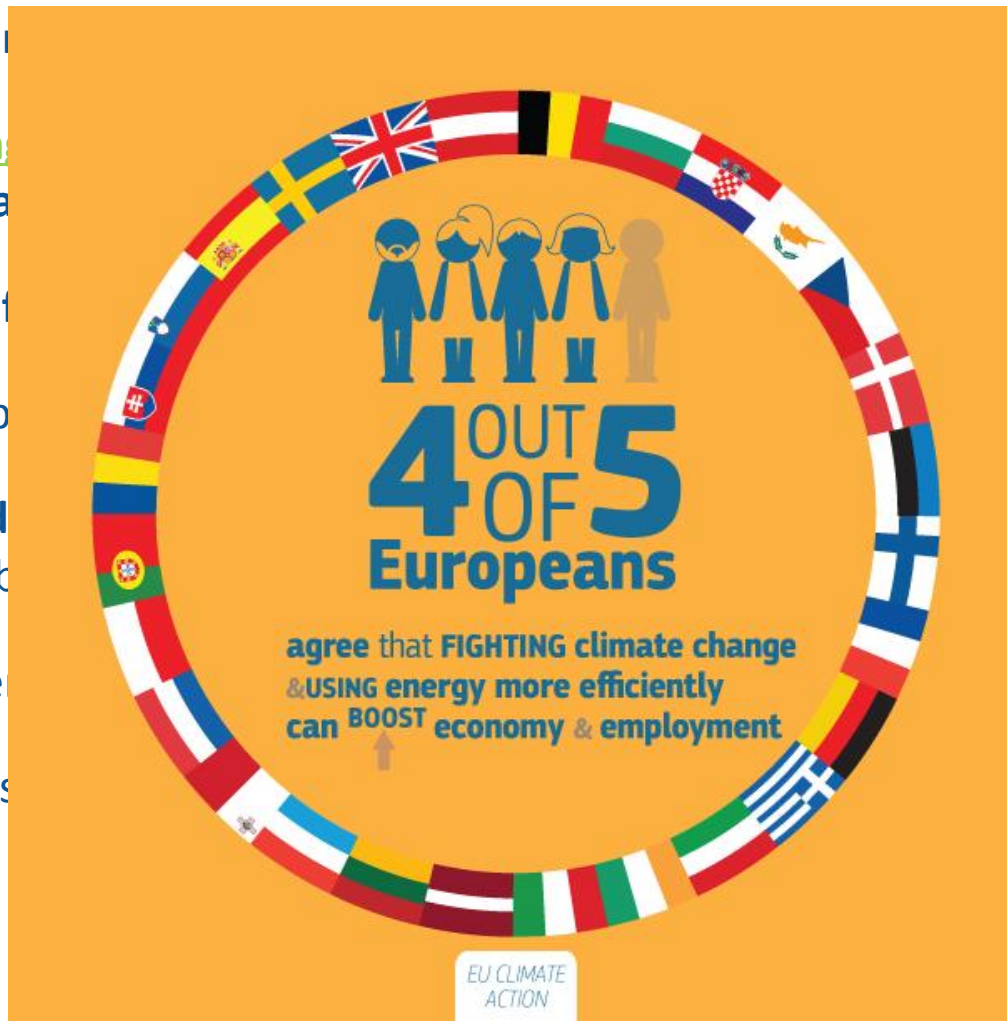
1. Strengthened EU emissions trading system
2. Reduction of emissions from sectors outside EU ETS eg buildings, agriculture, transport, waste
3. Binding national targets for share of renewable energy
4. *Energy efficiency directive with non-binding national targets*



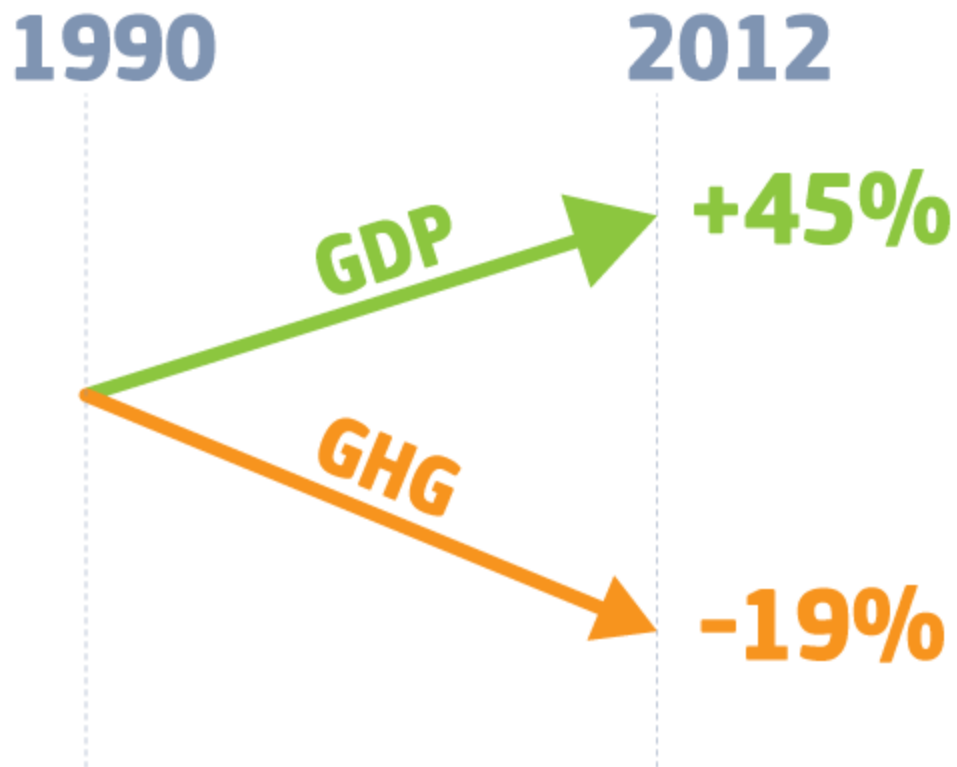
✓ **No other region has such ambitious targets  
and the legislative measures to meet them!**

## Climate action: benefits and costs

- \* Preventing damage to annual GDP
- \* But not acting in long run may cause damage each year;
- \* In 2012 fossil fuel...
- \* 2020 renewable...
- \* Cost of not acting at least €100 billion
- \* Each euro spent...
- \* Opinion polls show...

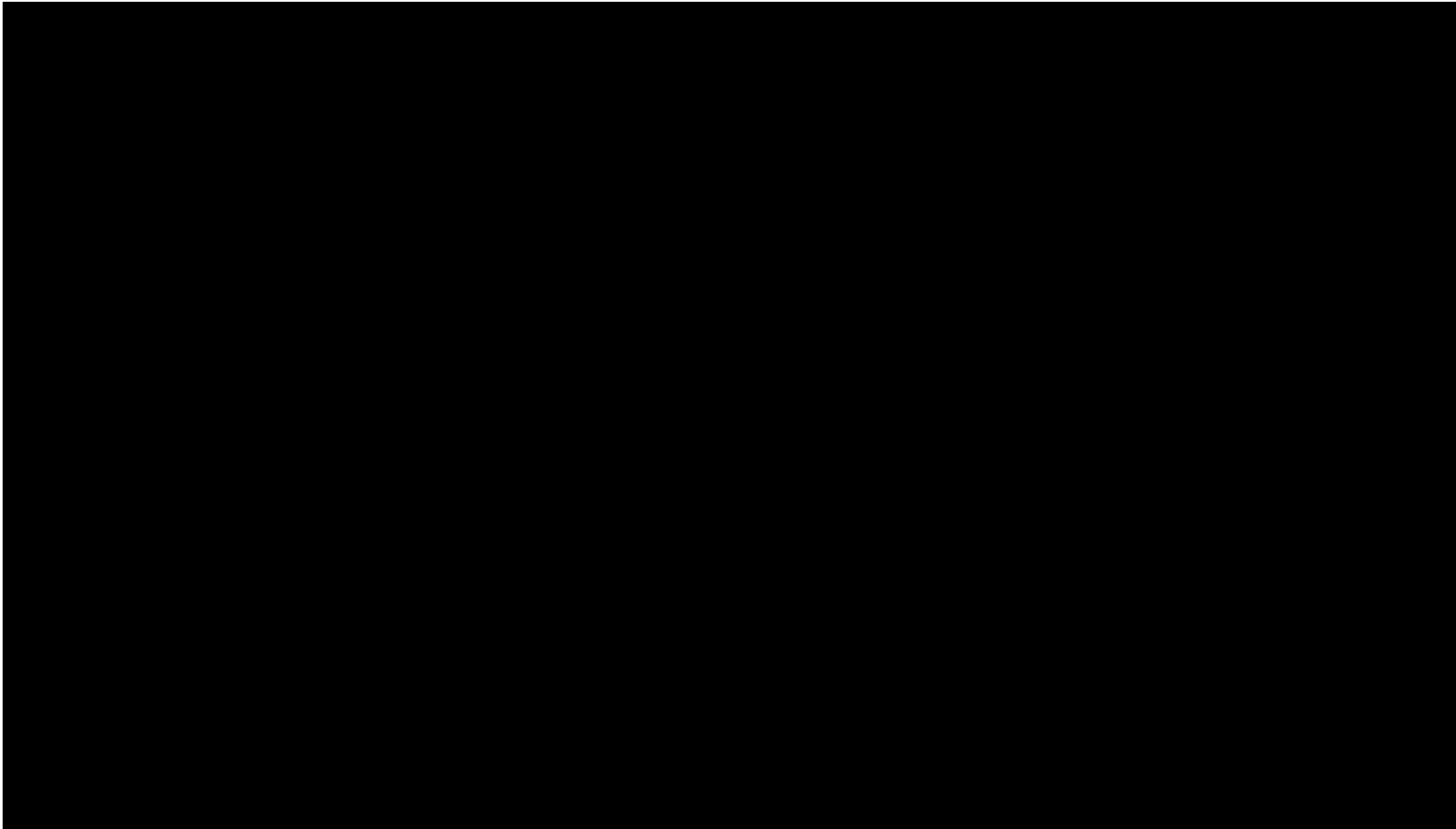


## *Successfully cutting GHG emissions while growing the economy*





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# ***EU adaptation strategy***

## **1. Promote action by all member states**

- ✓ Encourage all MS to adopt adaptation strategies
- ✓ Provide funding to help them build resilience
- ✓ Launch voluntary adaptation initiative for towns and cities

## **2. Make EU-level action 'climate-proof'**

- ✓ Further integrate climate adaptation needs into key vulnerable sectors eg agriculture, fisheries, energy, regional development
- ✓ Make infrastructure more resilient
- ✓ Promote insurance against disasters

## **3. Make decision-making better informed**

- ✓ Address knowledge gaps through research
- ✓ Develop European climate adaptation platform as 'one-stop shop' for adaptation information in Europe



## *EU in the lead of the international efforts*

- \* EU is in lead in the international efforts to cut GHG emissions, namely under the UNFCCC
- \* Binding GHG emissions reduction commitment under the Kyoto Protocol + incentives to increase the target if an increasing ambition is seek globally
- \* EU delivered €7.34 bn in 'fast start finance' over 2010-2012, beating €7.2 bn pledged
- \* Some €5.5 bn delivered in 2013, at least as much pledged for 2014



## *Leading provider of ODA and climate finance*


- \* EU is leading provider of official development assistance to developing countries (2012: more than 50% of ODA recorded)
- \* Largest contributor of climate finance flows to developing countries
- \* Climate change increasingly mainstreamed into EU development cooperation since early 2000s
- \* EU delivered €7.34 bn in 'fast start finance' over 2010-2012, beating €7.2 bn pledged
- \* Some €5.5 bn delivered in 2013, at least as much pledged for 2014

## *To conclude...*

- 1) Facts and information provided by science are important but need to be made accessible.
- 2) Awareness of climate change in EU has increased with increasing relevant policies and measures.
- 3) Communicating success stories increases interest and fosters further involvement.
- 4) Long-term strategies provides stability to investors and the private sector.
- 5) Using traditional communication tools (e.g. press releases) but also increasingly the social media...

 **Connie Hedegaard** @CHedegaardEU · 23 sept.

My statement today on the UN climate summit, [#climate](#) finance and US/China [goo.gl/bQ896a](http://goo.gl/bQ896a) [#Climate2014](#)

 **José Manuel Barroso** @BarrosoEU · 23 sept.

[#EU](#) is a strong ally for [#ClimateAction](#). My speech @ [#ClimateSummit 2014](#) @UN [ow.ly/BOzD6](http://ow.ly/BOzD6) [ow.ly/i/6YPb7](http://ow.ly/i/6YPb7)

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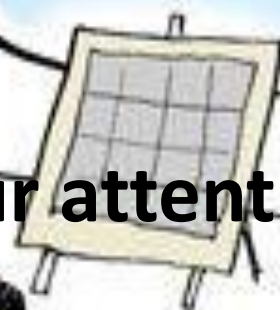


# CLIMATE SUMMIT

WHAT IF IT'S  
A BIG HOAX AND  
WE CREATE A BETTER  
WORLD FOR NOTHING?

- ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
- PRESERVE RAINFORESTS
- SUSTAINABILITY
- GREEN JOBS
- LIVABLE CITIES
- RENEWABLES
- CLEAN WATER, AIR
- HEALTHY CHILDREN
- etc. etc.

**Thank you for your attention!**



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