

European Union Heads of State and Government
European Council President Charles Michel
European Ministers of Environment and Climate

December 3rd, 2020

We are counting on you

Dear EU Heads of State and Government,
Dear President of the EUCO Charles Michel,
Dear European Ministers of Environment and Climate,

We don't doubt you are fully aware of the magnitude of the decision you are about to make, in setting the EU's 2030 climate target at the upcoming European Council. We are writing to ask you to show the bold ambition this moment, our home planet and our civilisation so desperately needs.

Have you ever heard an Olympic athlete say 'I'm going for bronze'? A mountaineer aim to go just halfway up Everest? We call on you not to let the fear that you cannot succeed in leading a just climate transition hold you back.

The EU Commission's proposed target of 'at least 55%' does not go far enough, as the European Parliament has recognised in voting for 60%. An increase of this goal to 65% would make the EU the first region with commitments compatible with the Paris Agreement. Several studies show that it is feasible and several more highlight the costs of insufficient action. We are counting on you to set an ambitious target and certainly not to water it down by including carbon removals.

Europe has long led on climate and, inspired by your example, others have followed. As the world looks for new leadership, this is Europe's chance to continue to lead the way. We cannot settle for less.

As outdoor athletes, businesses and enthusiasts, we witness daily the impacts of shorter winters, reduced snowpack and increased rock fall on our livelihoods, our communities and the outdoor places we love. The Alps could lose 70% of their snow cover by the end of the century, threatening a €50 billion snowsports industry, driven by more than 60 million tourists a year. Half of Europe's glacier ice will have melted by 2050. The implications downstream in terms of reduced hydropower, water shortages and natural disasters are already being felt. And we fully recognise that the impacts are far greater still for regions less privileged in the Global South.

POW Europe and the undersigned are calling on outdoor industry brands, businesses and organisations, athletes and the outdoor sports community at large to join us in this call for you,

Europe's leaders, to show maximum climate ambition in setting the EU's 2030 climate target in line for no more than 1.5°C global warming.

We are counting on you to lead the way to net zero.

The world is watching.

Yours sincerely,

Europe's outdoor community

Signatories:

ATHLETES

Christian Haller, Snowboarding, X Games Bronze, Olympian
Kilian Jornet Burgada, Trail Running, Six Time World champion
Markus Wegge, Snowboarding And Skiing, 65 days on Bear Island
Andrew Goodman, CSR Manager Scott Sports
Manuela Mandl, Freeride Snowboarding, Freeride World Champion 2018
Emil Zulian, Snowboarding, 4th Place Big Air World Cup Quebec City
Erin Smart, Skiing And Mountain Guiding, 1st UIAGM Female Mountain Guide in La Grave
Lena Stoffel, Skiing, 5th at Tignes Games Slopestyle 2010
Liv Sansoz, Sport Climbing, Two Time World Champion
Alexander Payer, Snowboarding, Worldcup Winner
Melissa Brandner, Freeride Snowboarding, Winner of Norgescup 2017, Top 10 FWQ
Nathan Paulin, Highline, Multiple Word Record holder
Bas Elhorst, Snowboarding
Gaetan Gaudissard, Skiing
Julien Herry, Snowboarding, Many first snowboard descents in the Alps
Victor Daviet, Snowboarding, National Champion France
Robin Janvier, Skiing
Evelina Nilsson, Freeride Skiing, 3rd Place Freeride World Tour
Fernanda Maciel, Ultra Trail Running, Vice World Champion
Anne Wangler, Skiing, 1st FWQ*** Silvretta
Kilian Echallier, Freeskiing
Victor Galuchot, Skiing
Valentin Werner-tutschku, Freeride Skier, Award Winning Freeride-Filmproducer
Giulia Monego, Ski And Mountaineering, 1st place Verbier Xtreme
Ettore Personnettaz, Snowboarding
Valentina Greggio, Speed Skiing, World Record holder, 4 Crystal Globe, 2 Gold at WC
Magnus Granér, Freeskiing, X Games Gold
Konstantin Ottner, Freeride Skiing

Tom-Oliver Hedvall, Freeski
Will Cochet, Freeride Skiing
Simon Hitthaler, Freeride And Ski Mountaineering, 3 First Descents Dolomites
Sacha Pirard, Ski Freeride, 3rd at Freeride Junior Tour Andorra 3*** 2020
Elena Graglia, Snowboarding, 1st Place Transworld Rail Jam & 2nd Place Jib Queen
Omar Visintin, Snowboarding, WC Overall Winner 2014, WC (Team) Silver
Shanty Cipolli, Freeskiing, Several Podium Places FWQ
Rosina Friedel, Skiing, First Female at Level 1 SuperUnknown
Johanna Ratschiller, Climbing and Mountaineering
Federica Mingolla, Climbing, National Champion Italy
Gavaggio Enak, Skiing, X Games Gold Medal
Michael Strauss, Freeride Skiing, 1st Place FWQ Kitzsteinhorn 2019
Michael Sinn, Skiing, National Champion Italy
Chloë Roux-Mollard, Ski and Highline, 1st French Female FWQ 2013/2014/2015
Sevenec Alexis, Running and Ski Mountaineering, Gold Medal Individual Military JO Sochi
Paula Zibasa, Downhill Mountain Biking, Several Junior World Cup Wins
Aline Bock, Freeride Snowboarding, Freeride World Tour Champion
Johanna Sullivan, Mountaineering and Climbing
Favret Samuel, Freeride Skiing, Gold Medal Redbull Linecatcher
Robert Pallin Aaring, Freeride Skiing
Siobhan Challis, Freeride Snowboarding, National Champion Austria; 4th Overall FWT
Bernhard Braun, Freeski
Gachet Thibault, Ski, Two Time Mountain Cart World Champion
Clemence Philippart, Freeride Skiing

BRANDS

Arc'Teryx	Sven Radtke, General Manager EMEA
Burton Snowboards	Donna Carpenter, Chair of Board & Owner
Burton Snowboards Europe	Oliver Zaletel, General Manager
Jones Snowboards	Xavier Nidecker, Brand Manager
Koch alpin GmbH	Andreas Ried, Sales & Marketing Manager
Nidecker Snowboards & Flow Bindings	Thierry Kunz, Brand Manager
Northern Playground	Jo Egil Tobiassen, Founder
Picture Organic Clothing	Julien Durant, Co-Founder
Scott Sports SA	Pascal Ducrot, Vice President
Smartwool	Jennifer McLaren, Brand President
The North Face Europe	Jan Van Leeuwen, VP & General Manager
Uhl Günter Exclusiv Sportartikelvertrieb GmbH	Matthias Uhl, General Manager
YES. Snowboards	David Pitschi, Brand Manager
Zanier Sport GmbH	Markus Zanier, Executive Director

POW

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