



## **A Composer+ in Glasgow**

### **Global climate priorities and the COP 26 decisions.**

The twenty-sixth United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP26) of the *UNFCCC, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* has taken place from 31 October to 12 November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland. The event was so awaited because it marks the beginning of a decade that will be crucial for the efforts of the United Nations on environmental and social sustainability.

In 2021, the effects of climate change have worsened all over the world: floods in China, India, Europe and the Philippines; heat waves in the Middle East and Canada, unprecedented fires in North America, Greece and Turkey. Furthermore, according to what was announced by the *EU Copernicus Climate Change Service* (C3S), **October 2021** was the third warmest October ever recorded globally.

Even assuming that current *National Determined Contributions* (NDCs – the climate target pledges by national governments. All available on <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NDCStaging/Pages/All.aspx>) will be fully implemented, *UNEP, United Nations Environmental Programme* scientists predict that by 2100 the temperature rise will be between +2.6 and +2.7 degrees. In a few words, all national governments of the world agree that the climate crisis is an emergency and that it is necessary to accelerate on decarbonisation.

The *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis* report published on last August 06 by the *IPCC* reaffirms the need to seriously pursue the goal of limiting global warming to **1.5 degrees centigrade**, if we want to avoid the frightening future we are going to dive in by making the wrong choices today. The report confirms that humanity has irreversibly altered the planet's climate, but the opportunity to change the trend is still possible if an urgent and strong action is undertaken immediately.

In two weeks, many Heads of State and Governments' High Level representatives took part at the event, several issues were discussed by the delegations that represented the countries of the world.

The final text, the **Glasgow Climate Pact** - [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop26\\_auv\\_2f\\_cover\\_decision.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop26_auv_2f_cover_decision.pdf) - adopted on 14<sup>th</sup> November, was signed by the 197 countries of the *UNFCCC* after a last-minute intervention by India to modify the final draft in the part relating to the cutting of emissions deriving from coal.

One of the most important topics faced in the conference was the need to phase out from fossil fuels, in order to accelerate the ecological transition and reach the climate neutrality by 2050.

Two of the largest global emitters, **China and Russia**, have established a **net zero target by 2060**. Another big polluter, **India**, said it will be climate neutral **by 2070**. Unfortunately, China and Russia leaders were the big absentees from COP26.

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At the end of the negotiations, the commitment *towards the **phase out of coal** without carbon dioxide capture systems* has been replaced *accelerating efforts towards the **phasedown** of unabated coal power*.

The transition from the **phasing out** to the **phasing down**, imposed by **India** and **China**, caused a lot of disappointment among the delegates and the environmentalists.

Developing countries denounced the absence in the *Glasgow Climate Pact* of the targets, originally foreseen by 2023, for the **100 billion of dollar a year fund** to help the decarbonisation of less industrialized countries, more exposed to risks than industrialized ones. Nor was a fund, loudly requested by states of the South of the world, agreed upon to restore the **loss and damage** due to climate change.

Finally, the review of the NDCs which was supposed to take place in Glasgow, was postponed to COP27 scheduled to take place in Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt on 07-18 November 2022.

**And this is the half empty glass. But let's analyze the half full one.**

Because there are certainly positive results as well, especially four main ones.

The target of **1.5 degrees centigrade was maintained**. We remind that today we are dramatically already experiencing an increase of 1.1 ° C.

Secondly, this is the first time in United Nations climate conferences that coal, the most harmful fuel, is specifically mentioned and condemned. An this is a good news.

Moreover, **three alliances** have been created among countries to act on several fronts with the decision to stop **deforestation by 2030** and to **reduce methane losses** by 30%, from extraction to gas pipelines, which are extremely harmful to the climate. Then, the **Boga (Beyond oil and gas alliance)** was launched, with the aim to overcome dependence on oil and gas and gradually stop using them as an energy source, to switch to renewables.

Finally, a **bilateral climate agreement between China and the US** has been signed: we hope this may turn into the positive continuation of COP26 and improve the implementation of the *Glasgow Climate Pact*.

### **New EU Commitments.**

On 01-02 November 2021, President Ursula von der Leyen represented the Commission at the World Leaders Summit which opened COP26. The President pledged €1 billion in funding for the [Global Forests Finance Pledge](#) on November 01. On November 02, the EU announced a [Just Energy Transition Partnership](#) with South Africa and officially launched the [Global Methane Pledge](#), a joint EU-US initiative which has mobilised over 100 countries to cut their collective methane emissions by at least 30% by 2030, compared to 2020 levels. President von der Leyen also kicked off the [EU-Catalyst partnership](#) with Bill Gates and European Investment Bank President Werner Hoyer.

From 07 to 13 November, Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans led the EU negotiating team in Glasgow. On November 09, Mr Timmermans [announced](#) a new pledge of €100 million in finance for the *Climate Adaptation Fund*, by far the biggest pledge for the Fund made by donors at COP26. It comes on top of significant contributions already announced by Member States, and also confirms the EU's supporting role to the *Informal Champions Group on Adaptation Finance*.

Vice President Timmermans is also responsible for the *European Green Deal* and [reiterated the need](#) to keep the Earth's temperature rise below 1.5 degrees, adding: *And I don't live in Palau. I don't live on Barbados. I don't live on the Marshall Islands. But there it's even far more personal because you're standing with your feet in the water. And this is what we need to address today. We need to make sure major emitters reduce their emissions so that we keep 1.5 alive. That needs to be at the heart of our conclusions*

today. We need to be able to say when we meet again in Egypt next year, we've done it, we're on track for 1.5. That is what we need to do between now and next year. Everyone needs to take their responsibilities. The European Union, we're doing our part, our targets are even written into law. So we will be sure to contribute to that. And if we need to do more, we will be doing more.

**Inputs for the *Compose+* Memorandum of Understanding.**

- Promote renewable energy sources (RES) and energy efficiency (EE) and also encourage territories and local institutions to completely phase-out from the use of fossil fuels.
- Activate local training courses on sustainable finance in order to raise awareness on the importance of green bonds, encourage *divesting* – to move funds from fossil fuels to RES and EE – and support investments of personal savings in climate-friendly products.
- Foster initiatives with local authorities, companies and civil society stakeholders to stop deforestation by 2030 in *Compose+* territories.
- Stimulate citizen participation and grassroots activism through informal meetings, conferences, debates and courses in schools in order to raise awareness of the need to tackle climate change-related consequences.
- Involve media in sharing information about *Compose+*, contributing to the dissemination of energy success stories and best practises in the Mediterranean area and beyond.
- Support in our own countries and in the EU the ambitious implementation of the *Glasgow Climate Pact*.

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