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## RESOLUTION

### **Climate Neutral by 2050: The European Union can achieve net-zero carbon emissions without compromising prosperity.**

*Adopted at the 13th YEPP Congress in Belgium, 03.07.2021*

#### **Recognising that:**

The ambition of the European Union (EU) to become the first climate-neutral bloc in the world by 2050 is at the heart of the European Green Deal presented by the EU Commission and endorsed by the European Council.

- The Paris Agreement commits us to making the net-zero transition, and long-term strategic planning shows that many of the decisions and actions needed to get us on track must be taken imminently.
- The European Climate Law sets the 2050 target and the direction for EU policy, and gives predictability to public authorities, businesses and citizens.
- The COVID-19 pandemic recovery could be an important turning point in this regard. When economic stimulus packages are launched, these might be used to promote renewable energy investments, smart buildings, green public transport, and a wide range of further interventions that will help slow down climate change.
- the speed of decarbonisation depends on the availability of mature technology and the ability to scale up supply chains along with the early adoption of zero emission technologies which are crucial to meeting short term reduction targets. Recent advances have put climate neutrality within reach but laying the foundation in the next decade will be critical to achieving this goal.



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### Acknowledging That:

- The EU can achieve net-zero emissions without compromising prosperity. Decarbonising Europe can have broad economic benefits, including GDP growth, cost of living reductions, and job creation.
- Achieving climate neutrality in the EU could serve as a prime example to other regions and encourage other countries to take bolder action. Successful decarbonisation depends on ambitious and stable policy frameworks and regulatory environments which provide stable planning and investment signals that could incentivize low-carbon technologies and business models.
- Each country has specific challenges on the path to carbon neutrality, Member States should be proactive taking into account that energy transition has to be gradual and just.
- Achieving the necessary technological breakthroughs to reduce emissions in “hard to abate” sectors and accelerating their progress to market would require consistent public and private investment.

### YEPP Calls on:

- EU Member States to invest in R&D and negative emissions to close the gaps to net-zero by 2050. Increasing public and private investments in R&D that aim to drive down the cost of technologies such as direct air capture will be critical to achieving net-zero emissions. It will also be essential to invest in the creation of further economic incentives for reorganised land use to generate negative emissions through efforts such as reforestation and rewilding.
- The EU to boost industry-wide innovation, funding mechanisms and encourage synergies for deploying early technology.
- The European Commission and EU Member States to mobilise green capital and investment. A significant increased public and private funds would need to be invested in pre-commercial procurement and in deploying commercially mature infrastructure. These



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include solar, wind, and nuclear power, Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure, efficient building insulation, and district heating systems.

- European Union Member States to follow a cost optimal roadmap that would enable them to achieve climate goals collectively by pooling each other's comparative advantages and thus also lowering transition costs.