European Commission - Press release

EU stood firm for ambition and implementation at COP31

Antalya, 23 November 2026

Yesterday at the COP31 UN Climate Change Conference in Antalya, the **European Union and all 27 Member States in unity showed the world their firm stance to limit global warming** through the Paris Agreement and their determination to **implement climate commitments** already made among global partners.

Throughout these two weeks, the **EU engaged endlessly with all Parties** to build bridges and **find compromises** that rely on **science**, that take steps forward towards the **transition away from fossil fuels**, as agreed in the first Global Stocktake (GST1) in Dubai in 2023, and that ensure the **clean transition is fair** and equitable for all. **Citizens are demanding the EU to act. The EU is not turning a blind eye on them** and the reality of this world.

The Union praises all efforts made by the Turkish and Australian COP31 Presidencies. However, the **EU and its Member States cannot accept a compromise that puts at stake the Paris Agreement** and the basic principles that will allow for a liveable future in this planet. Weather extremes this summer were unprecedented, global temperatures keep rising and the world will be increasingly facing devastating impacts of climate change, with tremendous economic losses and irreversible consequences for humanity and the environment. **Staying as close as possible in magnitude and duration to 1.5°C** above pre-industrial levels is a must to limit the temperature overshoot.

Multilateralism is alive and in action after COP31 **to fight climate change**. Today was an opportunity to reinforce that message. **We cannot allow any backtracking on either ambition or implementation**. A **broad coalition of more than 130 Parties**, including the EU with its 27 Member States and the most progressive countries around the world with Panama in the lead, stood by the Paris goals and called unanimously for **transition away from fossil fuels**. Consultations were initiated at this COP by Presidencies to **strengthen the UNFCCC process**. The EU looks forward to this process as the enabler to advance international climate action.

A key enabler is the clean transition, which is irreversible and advancing at high speed across the globe. For that reason, **implementing the GST1** is paramount, even more as Parties launched the GST2 in Antalya. As an important step forward and with the support of President **von der Leyen** at the COP31 Leaders' Summit, the EU endorsed with many other Parties, the **35-by-35 Global Electrification Pledge** launched by the Turkish COP31 Presidency.

This Electrification Pledge shows countries around the world that **electrification is the most efficient path to transition away from fossil fuels**, incentivising at the same time the **uptake of renewable energy**. It aims to boost the share of electricity in global final energy consumption by 35% by 2035. The **EU is a frontrunner on electrification from clean energy sources** with around 70% of the EU's electricity already coming from homegrown clean sources today. In June 2026, the Commission also launched Electrify Now to bring governments, industry and private companies together joining forces towards that goal. The COP31 Electrification Pledge complements other crucial **Global Pledges** to triple renewable energy capacity and double the global average annual rate of energy-efficiency improvements by 2030.

Science must be the guiding force informing climate decisions and policies worldwide. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) represents the most authoritative global scientific consensus on climate change. The EU underscores the importance of having the three working group reports of the Seventh Assessment Report available on time for the next GST.

On **climate finance**, Parties at COP30 agreed on a call for efforts to triple adaptation finance by 2035, as part of the New Collective Quantified Goal. The EU and its Member States are ready to

engage constructively and transparently while demonstrating the implementation of their solidarity commitments. They are the world's largest contributor of public climate finance with a total of **€32.3 billion from public sources** and **€9.3 billion of additional private finance** in 2025. For the EU, ensuring **easier access to climate** is now the main priority. Resources for mitigating and adapting to climate change must be made available faster and more easily to countries and communities who need them most.

In view of the increasing impacts of climate change, Parties also agreed to update the **Adaptation** fund to fully serve the Paris Agreement and create a taskforce to make the indicators for the Global Goal on Adaptation operational. The EU is leading in this domain seeking to become a climate-resilient continent, better preparing and protecting its citizens.

The EU engaged in the **Just Transition Mechanism** discussions at COP31 with a view to fully operationalise it and catalyse real action to keep 1.5°C as close as possible to enable fair and inclusive transitions. Despite EU efforts to ensure climate action is rooted in human and labour rights that leaves no one behind, Parties agreed to continue working together to deliver a mechanism next year.

The agreement of the **Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) Declaration** at COP31 is a step forward to ensure climate reporting under the Paris Agreement. The **EU is leading the way with the timely delivery of its second BTR** showing the Union's progress towards its climate targets and commitment to open, rigorous, and accountable climate reporting. It calls on all Parties to submit their BTR by 31 December 2026.

Key COP31 announcements

The EU supported several plurilateral initiatives recognising their important role in advancing the global implementation of climate action.

It supported the Global Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF6) Pledge to reduce global emissions from the world's most potent GHG and make grid infrastructure cleaner. The Union also signed up to the Antalya Compact for Energy Efficient Buildings with a collective ambition to reduce buildings' energy intensity by at least 25% by 2035; joined the Global Geothermal Ambition 2050 to scale up global geothermal energy supply for power and heat to 12 times 2025 levels by 2050; and endorsed the Antalya Green Industrialisation Compact, an initiative for industrial decarbonisation supported by the Climate Club.

The Open Coalition on Compliance Carbon Markets (OCCCM), launched by the EU in Belém, reaffirmed in a COP31 declaration its ambition to advance compliance carbon markets. This is a key priority for the Union who continues to support partners through its Task Force for International Carbon Pricing and Markets Diplomacy. At COP31, the EU continues the dialogue with global partners to exchange on best practices on policy measures to combat climate change and its impacts, including those preventing carbon leakage.

Similarly, the EU continued its international efforts to reduce non-CO2 emissions by endorsing the Ministerial Declaration on the Global Methane Pledge with a focus on implementing actions, and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition Ministerial Declaration on Super Pollutants setting priorities for implementation and necessary actions across different areas and sectors.

On research, the OceanEye Internation Alliance launched by the EU earlier this year is expanding with new members joining forces to strengthen global ocean observation. The Commission also launched the first global alliance on climate and health research funding.

At COP31, the Commission launched climate-related actions under the Pact for the Mediterranean and in the field of finance, it signed a €25 million Contribution Agreement to the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage. The EU and the Global Green Growth Institute signed a €10 million agreement to mobilise up to €1 billion in climate-aligned investment.

For more information

Joint EU Declaration on the COP31 cover decision

Remarks by Commissioner Hoekstra and Irish Minister O'Brien following the closing plenary

Speech by President von der Leyen at COP31

Press release: EU endorses Global Electrification Pledge at COP31

EU negotiating mandate for COP31

EU at COP31 UN Climate Change Conference

JP/26/2538

Quote(s):

"This COP followed a devastating summer — a summer of truth, in Europe and across the world. The science is clear: we need more ambition and, above all, action. We came to Antalya for more than words. Together with over 100 countries, we pushed for meaningful action to limit the magnitude and duration of the 1.5°C overshoot. Unfortunately, the final outcome fell short. It represents a step backwards on science and ambition, failing to recognise the urgent need to transition away from fossil fuels. We cannot afford to let ambition slip when the climate crisis demands more action, not less."
Wopke Hoekstra, Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth - 23/11/2026

"We came to this COP with a shared vision to focus on implementation, to build on previous outcomes, and bring about real progress across mitigation and adaptation. The EU and its Member States were focused on forging a credible response to the climate emergency, to work with nations right across the globe on a meaningful and impactful outcome. However, we could not, and did not, endorse a cover decision that did not respond to the science, and that did not acknowledge the role that fossil fuels play in driving climate change. We remain committed to the UNFCCC process and the EU's preparation for COP32 in Addis next year starts now. The stance we took [yesterday] at COP31 is not a rejection of multilateralism: on the contrary it is a reflection of our determination to stand up for multilateral action that reflects the needs and the realities of the many. "
Darragh O'Brien, Minister for Climate, Environment and Energy and Minister for Transport - 23/11/2026

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Related documents

Joint EU Declaration on the COP31 cover decision.pdf