

CLIMATE CHANGE

Greenhouse gas emissions linked to human activity are altering the climate. CO₂ is responsible for 63% of the changes we observe. Its concentration is now 40% higher than it was in the Earth's atmosphere at the beginning of the industrial revolution. Other gases such as methane or nitrous oxide, although emitted in much smaller volumes, are responsible for 19% and 6% of climate change.

The last few decades have been the hottest decades on record. Experts estimate that during these years the global temperature has risen by 0.85 °C compared to the average recorded at the end of the 19th century. Extreme weather events are on the increase, illustrating the dramatic consequences of global warming. We are encouraging this increase with the energy options on which our industrial, agricultural, transport and housing activities depend.

Fortunately, the Paris agreement provides for a global agreement to reduce emissions by 55% by 2050. This means that global temperatures will not rise more than the average of two degrees that experts predict if no action is taken. Similarly, thanks to the Katowice climate package, the foundations and operational instruments have been put in place to turn words into action. In this context, the EU is called upon to play a key role as a global player. The current European legislature began with the launch of the Green Pact and the mission to achieve a climate pact that will promote transparent state plans and rigorous assessments of their results. On this basis, the EU aims to achieve emissions neutrality by 2050 and to legitimise itself as a world leader in sustainability. A growing climate ambition requires a profound transformation of our energy sources, moving towards a circular economy, developing integrated and intelligent mobility, intervening in the current system of food production, distribution and consumption, and protecting the biodiversity on which critical aspects of the planet depend, from pollination to the natural prevention of pandemics.

This agenda will only be possible if it is based on three pillars.

Individual commitment. The first link in the chain of change is man and his awareness of the environment and climate. Consumption and mobility habits and the impact of our individual behaviour are essential to preserve the planet. The integration of this parameter in education, in our direct social relations and in our daily life depends, to begin with, on ourselves.

Co-governance. Agenda XXI has demonstrated the importance of institutions that are closer to the citizens in order to promote individual commitment and to carry out

actions with a high impact because they are based on local actions that are part of a global reflection. This is why this level must be integrated into decision-making processes.

Participation. A change of this magnitude cannot be made against the productive system, but on its own initiative. This process will generate social costs that will have to be taken into account to maintain cohesion and will force a profound transformation of skills and abilities for the careers that are emerging now or will emerge in the future. Jobs in which digital skills will be essential. In order to achieve climate neutrality, agreement needs to be reached on the most effective way to achieve this.