



Petition to EU Vice-President Frans Timmermans

Delivered in Brussels 15th June 2021

The background of the bottom section is a photograph of a forest fire. The left side shows a lush green forest with tall trees and ferns. The right side shows a charred, blackened forest floor with a large, bright orange and yellow fire burning in the center. The text is overlaid on this image.

The EU must protect forests,
not burn them for energy.

219,759

signatures

The EU must protect forests, not burn them for energy.

**To: Executive Vice President of the European Commission,
Frans Timmermans, and governments of EU Member States.**

Preserving nature and avoiding the worst impacts of climate change will require an extraordinary commitment to protect and restore natural forests.

Yet, EU leaders are undermining our shared efforts to fight for our forests and the planet. How? EU policy is increasing forest logging and associated greenhouse gas emissions by misleadingly promoting the burning of forest wood as “zero carbon” renewable energy.

Logging and burning forests is bad for the climate, bad for human health and bad for the plants and animals that call forests home. Yet every year, the EU becomes more dependent on burning wood to meet renewable energy targets and consumers are forced to hand over billions in subsidies annually to this false climate solution.

These costs are too high.

We therefore call on EU policymakers and EU Member States to:

- End subsidies and other incentives for burning forest wood and redirect this critical support to energy efficiency and true low-emissions renewable energy sources
- Exclude energy generated from burning forest wood from counting toward renewable energy targets
- Prioritise forest protection and restoration and ensure that all EU policies safeguard our health, the climate and biodiversity.

This petition is endorsed and supported by the following NGOs:

- 2Celsius, Romania
- Agent Green, Romania
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft Regenwald und Artenschutz (ARA), Germany
- Arnhems Peil, Netherlands
- Avon Needs Trees, UK
- Baltic Environmental Forum, Lithuania
- Bergwaldproject, Germany
- Biofuelwatch, UK/USA
- BirdLife Europe, EU
- Bloei! in Arnhem, Netherlands
- Bomenstichting Achterhoek, Netherlands
- Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation, Bulgaria
- BundesBürgerInitiative Waldschutz, Germany
- Canopée, France
- Cape Fear Group of the Sierra Club, USA
- Carolina Wetlands Association, USA
- Carpatica, Poland
- CEEWeb for Biodiversity, Hungary
- Clean Air Carolina, USA
- ClientEarth, International
- Coastal Plain Conservation Group, USA
- Comite Schone Lucht (Clean Air Committee), Netherlands
- Conservation North, Canada
- Corporate Europe Observatory, EU
- Danmarks Naturfredningsforening (Danish Society for Nature Conservation), Denmark
- Denkhaus Bremen, Germany
- Dogwood Alliance, USA
- Earth Thrive, UK/Serbia

- Ecology Action Centre, Canada
- EDSP ECO, Netherlands
- Eesti Metsa Abiks (Estonian Forest Aid), Estonia
- Environment East Gippsland, Australia
- Eesti Püsimetsaühistu (Continuous Cover Forest Association), Estonia
- Eesti Roheline Liikumine (Estonian Green Movement), Estonia
- Eestimaa Looduse Fond (Estonian Fund for Nature), Estonia
- EuroNatur, Germany/EU
- European Wilderness Society, Austria
- Federation Against Biomass Plants, Netherlands
- Fern, EU
- Forests, Climate and Biomass Working Group, Environmental Paper Network, International
- Form Ökologie & Paper, Germany
- Foundation Alter Eco, Poland
- Foundation Conservation Carpathia, Romania/EU
- Foundation GAP Polska, Poland
- Friends of Nature Conservation, Canada
- Friends of the Earth, USA
- Friends of Fertő lake, Hungary
- Friends of the Irish Environment, Ireland
- Friends of the Siberian Forests, Russia
- Fundacja Albatros (Foundation Albatros), Poland
- Fundacja Dziedzictwo Przyrodnicze (Natural Heritage Foundation), Poland
- Fundacja Dzika Polska (Wild Poland Foundation), Poland
- Fundacja EkoRozwoju (Foundation for Sustainable Development), Poland
- Fundacja Niech Żyją! (Foundation Niech Żyją!), Poland
- Fundacja “Rozwój TAK - Odkrywki NIE”, Poland
- Fundacja Szkatułka, Poland
- Global Forest Coalition, International
- Green Impact, Italy
- Greenpeace
- Gruppo Unitario per le Foreste Italiane (GUF), Italy
- Hiite Maja SA (House of Groves Foundation), Estonia

- Inicjatywa dla Białegostoku, Poland
- Inicjatywa Dzikie Karpaty (Wild Carpathians Initiative), Poland
- INSPRO, Poland
- Kagu-Eesti Loodusrahvas MTÜ, Estonia
- Keskkonnaõiguse Keskus (Estonian Environmental Law Center), Estonia
- Keskkonnaportaal Bioneer, Estonia
- Klimabevægelsen / 350 Denmark, Denmark
- Lakelands Citizens for Clean Air, USA
- Latvijas Ornitoloģijas biedrība (Latvian Ornithological Society), Latvia
- Leefmilieu, Netherlands
- Lesoochranárske Zoskupenie VLK (WOLF), Slovakia
- Lumber Riverkeeper, USA
- Magyarországi Eghajlatvédelmi Szövetség (Hungarian Climate Alliance), Hungary
- Medical Advocates for Healthy Air, USA
- Mobilisation for the Environment (MOB), Netherlands
- Päästame Eesti Metsad (Save Estonia's Forests), Estonia
- Nature.Net.au, Australia
- Niilusoo MTÜ, Estonia
- NOAH Friends of the Earth, Denmark
- North Carolina Sierra Club, USA
- NRDC, USA
- Obóz dla Puszczy (Camp for forest), Poland
- Opolskie Towarzystwo Przyrodnicze, Poland
- OTOP/BirdLife Poland, Poland
- Partij voor de Bomen op Texel, Netherlands
- Partnership for Policy Integrity, USA
- Pivot Point, USA
- Plastic Ocean Project, USA
- Polska Zielona Sieć (Polish Green Network), Poland
- Polskie Towarzystwo Ochrony Ptaków, Poland
- Pracownia na rzecz Wszystkich Istot (Workshop for All Beings), Poland
- Pro REGENWALD, Germany
- Protect the Forest, Sweden

- Ptaki Polskie, Poland
- Rachel Carson Council, USA
- Rådet for Grøn Omstilling (Green Transition Denmark), Denmark
- Rakendusökoloogia Keskus, Estonia
- Rannamänniku kaitseks MTÜ, Estonia
- Reflex Környezetvedelmi Szervezet (Reflex Environmental Association), Hungary
- ROBIN WOOD, Germany
- Roheline Pärnumaa, Estonia
- Schoorlse Bos Moet Blijven, Netherlands
- Sierra Club Canada Foundation, Canada
- Society for Investigation Practices, Green Law Initiative, Bulgaria
- SOS Forêt, France
- South East Region Conservation Alliance, Australia
- Southern Environmental Law Centre, USA
- Southern Forests Conservation Coalition, USA
- Stand.Earth, USA
- Stichting De Woudreus, Netherlands
- Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczno Kulturalne Wspólna Ziemia, Poland
- Stowarzyszenie MODrzew - Monitoring Obywatelski Drzew, Poland
- Stowarzyszenie Okolica (Okolica Association), Poland
- Strajk dla Ziemi - Łódź (Earth Strike Łódź), Poland
- Strajk dla Ziemi - Warszawa (Earth Strike Warszawa), Poland
- Tänu Loodusele MTÜ, Estonia
- Towarzystwo na rzecz Ziemi (The Society for Earth), Poland
- Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group, Ukraine
- Verdens Skove (Forests of the World), Denmark
- Waccamaw Riverkeeper, USA
- Werkgroep Bomen Groningen (Workinggroup Trees Groningen), Netherlands
- Wild Europe Initiative, EU
- WildLand Research Institute, UK
- Winyah Rivers Alliance, USA
- ZERO, Portugal