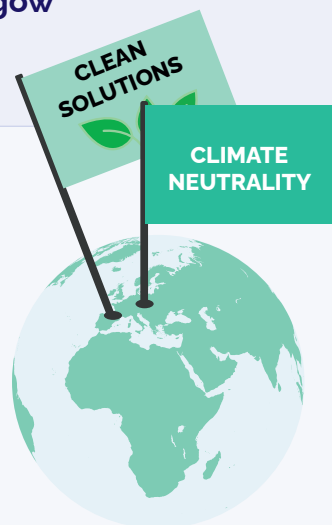


COP26: Europe leads the way towards climate neutrality

From October 31 to November 12, countries worldwide are participating in the United Nations Climate Conference (COP26) in Glasgow to step up the global response to the climate emergency.

The European Union is responsible for 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions, bringing European societies to climate neutrality¹ is therefore necessary to limit climate disorder. The clean solutions developed and deployed in Europe's transition can furthermore support the rest of the world to achieve climate neutrality.

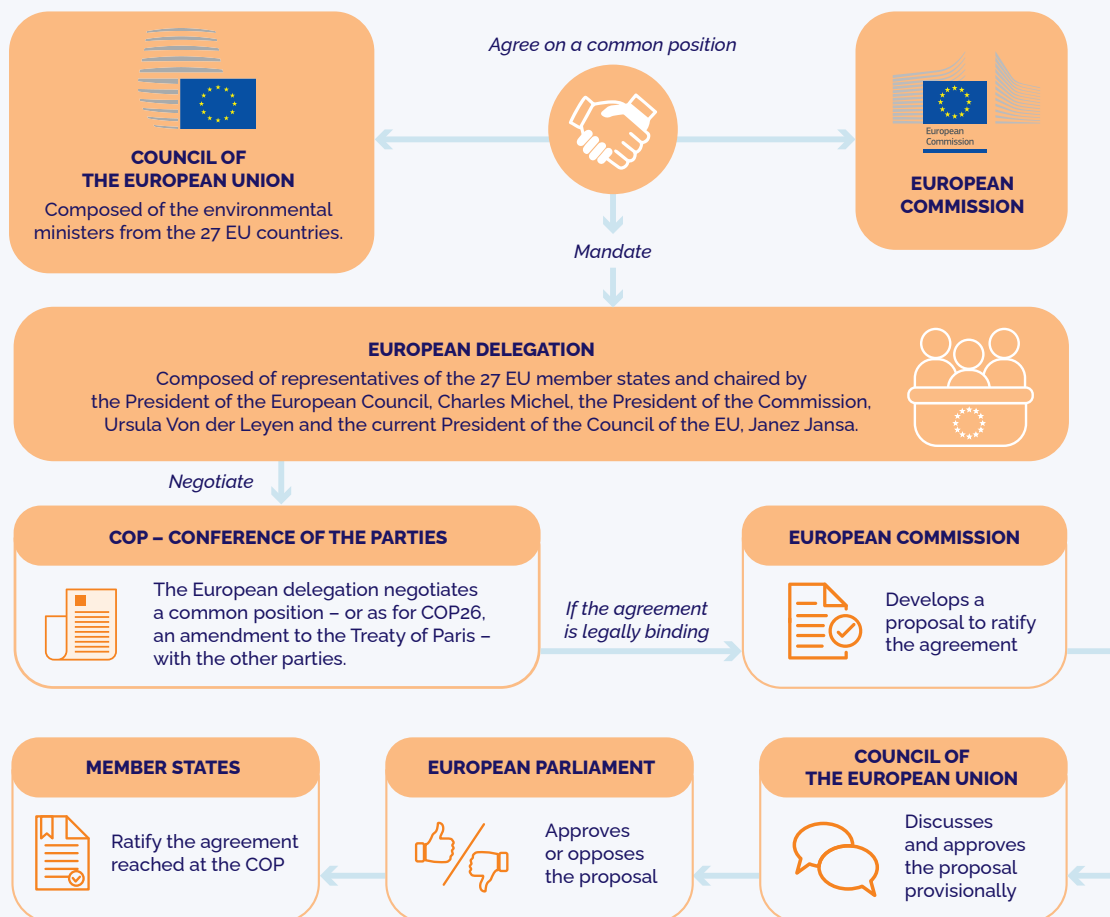
1. The objective of climate neutrality aims to drastically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions so that the remaining emissions can be fully captured by human activities such as reforestation. For more details, read our previous [infographic](#) on climate neutrality.



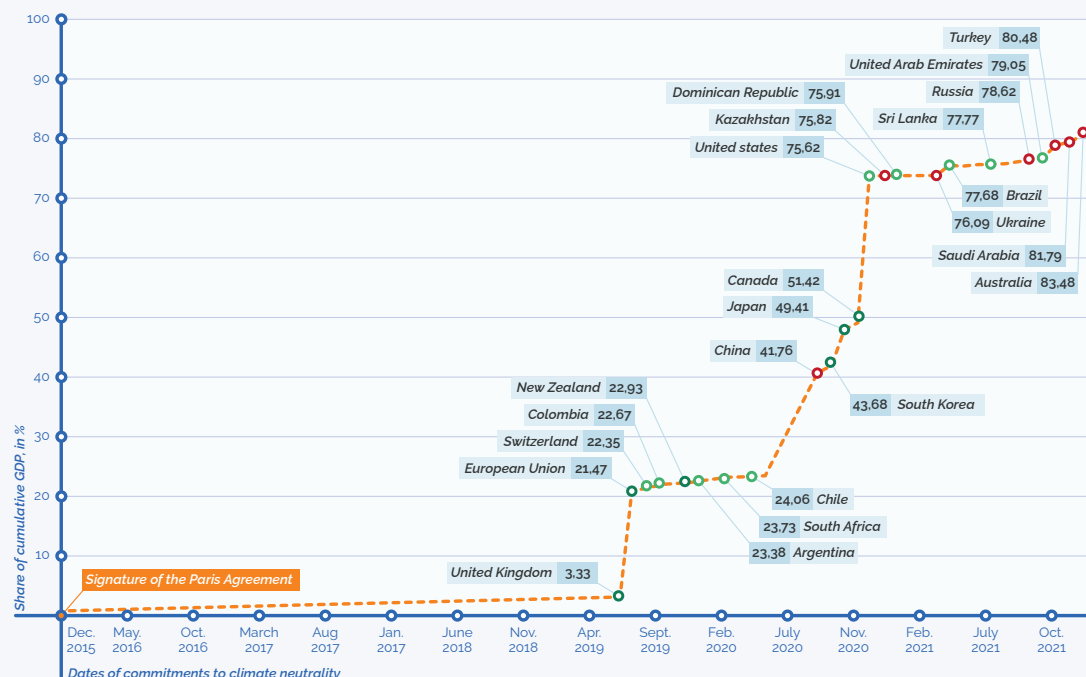
To drive global change, the EU must make use of its diplomatic and economic strengths to support the global community to find its path towards climate neutrality.

The international negotiations on climate policy take place within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Countries and country alliances, the "parties", meet once a year on the occasion of the **Conference of the Parties** (COP).

► The European Union is a sovereign party and negotiates on behalf of its 27 member states



After the EU committed to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, the world's largest economies have followed suit.



- Decisions to "achieve climate neutrality by 2050" enshrined in law.
- Decisions to "achieve climate neutrality by 2050" announced.
- Decisions to "achieve climate or carbon neutrality² by 2060 at the latest" announced.

2. Climate neutrality aims to reduce all greenhouse gases (GHGs), while carbon neutrality only aims to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

Source: Jacques Delors Institute, based on 2021 forecast data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Climate Watch Net-Zero Tracker (last accessed October 18, 2021).

Note: This graph lists the commitments of the world's 50 largest economies. More countries outside of this ranking have adopted climate neutrality goals. The list can be viewed [here](#).

All of the largest economies that aim for climate or carbon neutrality by 2050-2060 account for more than **80% of global GDP**! By delivering on their commitments together, they have what it takes to stabilise the climate.

Recommendations

In order to translate climate ambition into concrete actions, the EU and its Member States can lead the way by:

1

Making the COP26 in Glasgow a success: all countries must have their own climate targets. To reach this goal the EU should revitalize the High Ambition Coalition³ to increase its negotiating power during COP 26.



Adopting ambitious legislation, for example by withdrawing the most polluting products from the market, to reduce its emissions by 55% compared to 1990 in 2030 and achieve climate neutrality by 2050. In order to do so, the EU must also develop measures to promote energy sufficiency, in addition to energy efficiency and renewable energies.

2

3

Committing to ending support for fossil fuels through public funding.



Investing in clean innovation to develop green solutions and put them to use to transform our lifestyles (for example, traveling in an electric bus made from green steel)⁴.

4

3. The High Ambition Coalition (HAC) is an informal group of around 60 countries within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that are committed to supporting more climate ambition.

4. To go further, read the Jacques Delors Institute [infographic](#) on innovation.