



## Dear Praying Friends

God, the Creator, has entrusted the earth to us humans to cultivate and preserve it. This makes us housekeepers of God's gifts. As such, we are challenged to find the balance between human activities and preserving creation. The burning of fossil fuels (gas, coal, oil) releases CO-2 and warms the earth long-term. As a result, sea levels are rising dangerously, weather turbulence is increasing and floods are threatening. Climate researchers have calculated from their data the limits that should be set. For the sake of caution, we must act now with foresight.

The global community is called upon to take countermeasures. The previous 26 climate conferences have debated the issue of how our entire economy can become sustainable in the areas of energy production, transport, food and housing. Solidarity, understanding and courage are needed.

## Climate-friendly Europe

The world climate conference in Glasgow, "Conference of the Parties 26" (COP), in November 2021 argued about the implementation of the so-called "Paris targets", namely to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The loud demands made on the streets are simple, but their implementation is hugely complex. There is a deep chasm between recognition of the problem and action to solve it.

It is gratifying that the USA has recognised its responsibility, but China and Russia are keeping their distance. The next question is the fair distribution of the burden. So far, there are losers and winners.

With its **Green Deal** 2019, the EU has presented a vision that makes the complex consequences of climate change clear. In a coordinated approach, the fields of action are named: energy and pricing of CO-2 emissions; limits on pollutants from cars, planes and ships; storage of CO-2 in forests and peatlands; the restructuring of the economy is to be promoted with public and private funds; no one is to be disadvantaged in Europe, for which a social fund will be set up to combat poverty caused by excessively high energy costs.



### Fit for 55

In summer 2021, the EU set interim targets to be achieved by 2030:

1. The fuel consumption of a new car is to be reduced by 55 %.
2. The trading of certificates that allow the release of CO-2 (ETS) is to be made more expensive and extended to transport and building emissions to encourage investment in energy-saving technologies.
3. EU citizens who, for example, cannot afford to insulate their buildings to be supported by a fund endowed with €70 billion.

### Update:-

#### Europe and COVID 19

The countries of Europe are groaning under the 4th wave of Corona. Should there be a "general vaccination obligation" or a general lock-down again? Pray for wisdom from above for the politicians and acceptance by the people of the measures chosen

4. The current rising energy costs are causing intense social unrest and show the importance a social fund.

The Green Deal is a great vision for sustainable economic activity and fair sharing of the burden. But there are still many stumbling blocks along the way:

The member states have to agree. Disputes are foreseeable, for example when it comes to fleet targets for cars. All this takes time until the laws come into force.

The renunciation of fossil fuels, gas, coal and oil is necessary on the one hand. But if Europe is to go electric and the demand for electricity is going to increase massively, the question arises: Will renewable energies be able to cover the energy hunger in time? Will storage technologies be available when the sun and wind take a break? Can biomass cover any gaps that arise? Should nuclear energy be supported with money from the climate fund, as France proposes?

A consistent and universally accepted reporting and distribution system must be established.

There will only be acceptance of the many measures if the change is socially acceptable. This applies first and foremost to jobs.

These are all Herculean tasks for the Commission, the nation states, companies and civil society. Christians and their churches are invited to participate in a climate-friendly future with hope, perseverance and commitment. Psalm 24 motivates us to do so, verse 1: "The earth is the Lord's, with all its wealth; the world and all the people living in it."

### Prayer

1. A large number of agreements were reached at the climate conference in Glasgow. Let us pray for the follow-up, the implementation. The secretariat of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is in Bonn, Germany.
2. Some are impatient because what is necessary is being implemented so slowly. On the other hand, the transformation is complex and also brings fears, for example about jobs. We pray for understanding, especially between young and old.
3. We pray for solidarity with the countries of the South that are most affected.

### Additional Prayer Points:-

1. Several European governments are changing at the moment, in some cases with very long coalition negotiations. Pray especially for Holland, give thanks for Germany, think of Bulgaria and Sweden. Pray for stability for these countries and good leaders.
2. Pray for the children of Europe. Dealing with this pandemic is not easy, and we don't see the end of it yet. So many things not being possible due to Covid-19 makes them insecure and takes away their joy.

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