

Dear Chancellor Merkel,

The world is watching as the conflict around the Hambach forest, neighbouring villages and coal mine is escalating. The recent actions by the government of North Rhine-Westphalia on behalf of coal energy company RWE have only further fuelled the conflict. Now instead of thousands, tens of thousands of people are peacefully demonstrating each week against the irresponsible behaviour of RWE and the regional government.

Your government has tasked a commission to deliver a plan for a sustainable phase-out of coal in Germany by the end of this year. We write to you today to urge you **to intervene immediately by supporting a moratorium on any tree felling activities** in the forest at least until the commission has made its recommendations which must be taken into account for any final decision about the forest; and **to commit to a swift and just coal phase out in Germany in line with the UN Paris Climate Agreement** starting without further delay.

Germany's international climate reputation has been linked with your leadership for many years. Its renewable energy policies within the 'Energiewende' have been an inspiration for the rest of world - and have directly contributed to making renewables the cheapest form of new electricity in over 100 countries already.

However, the unfolding events at Hambach Forest are casting a shadow upon Germany's global climate reputation. We support the thousands of citizens who are peacefully protesting against RWE's intention to raze the forest in the name of coal. Yet, the Hambach Forest is more than a symbol. If RWE is allowed to proceed with the destruction of the forest while the commission is negotiating a coal phase-out, then the German government would imply that Germany is not seriously considering to put itself back onto a Paris-compliant decarbonisation pathway.

In this regard, we note the [acknowledgement by 288 investors](#) with more than \$26 trillion in assets showing that the Paris Agreement temperature goals require a complete coal phase-out by 2030 in the EU and OECD countries. This 2030 OECD coal phase-out date is also supported by the UK and Canada-led Powering Past Coal Alliance, which includes 14 EU member states. The oldest and dirtiest coal power plants in Germany will therefore have to close in the coming few years, which in turn means that neither the Hambach Forest nor villages such as Keyenberg or Pödelwitz have to be sacrificed for coal.

There has never been a better and more urgent time for you to show climate leadership. Like many parts of the world, Germany has just experienced one of the hottest summers ever recorded. Around the world, heat waves, droughts, forest fires and storms are serving as urgent reminders that we must act on climate now.

Under your watch, Germany has not reduced its emissions over the last decade and is set to miss its agreed climate target for 2020 by a significant margin. The continued over-reliance on coal is the major reason for this failure.

Your government is in a unique position to be able to show the world how a socially just coal phase out can be done. You can combine climate protection with a pro-active regional transformation that supports communities and workers. If you want Germany to be seen as a climate pioneer globally, you need to act now.

We call on you to



1. Set an immediate moratorium on any tree felling activities in the Hambach forest at least until the "Coal Commission" has made proposals for a just and fair coal phase-out that are in line with the

Paris Climate Agreement. Ensure that RWE as well as the government of North Rhine-Westphalia respect this moratorium.

2. Commit to legally enshrining a just coal phase out in 2019, which puts Germany on track to meeting its 2020 climate target and setting a 2030 coal phase-out deadline.

Yours sincerely,






Jennifer Morgan, Executive Director of Greenpeace International

	Organisation	Contact	Logo
1	Europe Beyond Coal	Kathrin Gutmann Campaign Director kathrin@beyond-coal.eu	
2	BankTrack	Johan Frijns, director johan@banktrack.org	
3	The Sunrise Project	Lucie Pinson, lucie@sunriseproject.org.au	
4	Meteos	Sophia Tickell sophia@meteos.co.uk	
5	urgewald	Katrin Ganswindt katrin@urgewald.org	
6	IIDMA	Laura Dobarro (Comms), laura.dobarro@iidma.org	
7	ClientEarth	Prof. Dr. Hermann E. Ott Head, Berlin Office hott@clientearth.org	

8	WECF International - Women Engage for a Common Future	Sascha Gabizon sascha.gabizon@wecf.org	
9	Concerned Citizens against Climate Change	Arthur Mitzman, coordinator, postmaster@stopwarming.eu	
10	Clean Air Action Group (Hungary)	András Lukács, President	
11	ZERO - Association for the Sustainability of the Earth System (Portugal)	Francisco Ferreira, President francisco.ferreira@zero.org	
12	Centar za ekologiju i energiju (Bosnia and Herzegovina)	Denis Žiško, Energy and Climate Change Program Coordinator denis.zisko@ekologija.ba	
13	Fundacja Instytut na rzecz Ekorozwoju	Wojciech Szymalski, president	
14	Focus, društvo za sonaraven razvoj / Focus Association for Sustainable Development	Barbara Kvac head of Climate Change program barbara@focus.si	





15	Fundacja "Rozwój TAK - Odkrywki NIE" (Foundation "Development YES - Open-Pit Mines NO")	Kuba Gogolewski Project Coordinator and Senior Finance Campaigner k.gogolewski@fundacja.ri-on.pl	
16	Both ENDS	Danielle Hirsch, director	
17	Sandbag	Dave Jones dave@sandbag.org.uk	
	Rainforest Action Network	Patrick McCully, Climate & Energy Program Director paddy@ran.org	
	Energy Watch Group	Hans-Josef Fell, President office@energywatchgroup.org	
20	Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe	Joanna Flisowska joanna@caneurope.org	








	Humanitas – Centre for Global Learning and Cooperation / Društvo Humanitas - Center za globalno učenje in sodelovanje	Mateja Kraševc, Managing director mateja@humanitas.si	
	OroVerde - Tropical Forest Foundation	Elke Mannigel, Coordination of International Projects emannigel@oroverde.de	
	Inštitut za trajnostni razvoj - Institute for Sustainable Development	Dr. Anamarija Slabe, director anamarija.slabe@itr.si	
	Climate Action Moreland (Australia)	John Englart, Convenor, johnenglart@climateactionmoreland.org	
25	Umanotera, The Slovenian Foundation for Sustainable Development	Gaja Breclj, Managing Director gaja@umanotera.org	
	Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR)	Prof. Dr. Kai Niebert, President niebert@dnr.de	
	Društvo gibanje za trajnostni razvoj Slovenije, TRS Movement for a sustainable development of Slovenia- Movement TRS	Lara Jankovic, president	

	Germanwatch e.V.	Christoph Bals, Policy Director [for queries contact Eva Schmid: schmid@germanwatch.org]	
	CEE Bankwatch Network	Petr Hlobil Campaigns Director petrh@bankwatch.org	
30	Oil Change International	Hannah McKinnon Program Director hannah@priceofoil.org	
	350.org	May Boeve Executive Director may@350.org	
	Climate Action Network	Hamza Tber Programs Director htber@climatenetwork.org	
	Plataforma Unitaria contra la Autopista Eléctrica	Carlos González Sanz Portavoz en Aragón noalamatmonzonisona@gmail.com bozalongo23@gmail.com	
	EKOenergy	Steven Vanholme Steven.Vanholme@slf.fi	

35	CliMates	Sofia Kabbej sofia.kabbej@climates.fr	
	Climate Tracker	Arthur Wyns arthur@climatetracker.org	
	Abibiman Foundation	Kenneth Nana Amoateng ken@abibimanfoundation.org	
	Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice	president@cusj.org	
	SEO/BirdLife (Spain)	David Howell dhowell@seo.org	
40	Amsterdam Fossilfree	Mischa Meerburg < mischa@amsterdamfossielvrij.nl >	
	Sierra Club	Mary Anne Hitt, Director of Beyond Coal Campaign maryanne.hitt@sierraclub.org	

	Avaaz	Iain Keith, Campaign Director iain@avaaz.org	
	Asociación de Cultura Popular Alborada (Gallur)	Ángel López alborada.gallur@gmail.com	
	Carbon Market Watch	Femke de Jong, Policy Director, femke.dejong@carbonmarketwatch.org	
45	Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES)	Yuki Tanabe Director tanabe@jacses.org	
	Ecologistas en Acción- España	Javier Andaluz Prieto. Climate Change and Energy Coordinator clima@ecologistasenaccion.org	
	Ecologistas en Acción Guadalajara	Alberto Mayor Barahona Secretario guadalajara@ecologistasenaccion.org	
	Swiss Youth for Climate	Victor Kristof President victor.kristof@syfc.ch	

	The Climate Reality Project, Europe	Zsolt Bauer Branch Manager zsolt.bauer.eu@climaterality.com	
50	Plataforma por un Nuevo Modelo Energético	Rosa Fraga Escudero Coordinación administrativa nuevomodeloenergetico@gmail.com	
	Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation	Veronika Móra director move@okotars.hu	
	CENTRAL VICTORIA CLIMATE ACTION	Trevor Scott	
	Greenpeace Africa	Nhlanhla Sibisi	
	Friends of the Earth Finland/ Maan ystävät	Eija Kärkkäinen, campaign coordinator eija.karkkainen@hiilivapaasumi.fi	
55	Association 3 Herissons	Ginger Li, president liyedan.ginger@gmail.com	
	France Nature Environnement	Michel Dubromel, Président michel.dubromel@fne.asso.fr	

	Stowarzyszenie Pracownia na rzecz Wszystkich Istot/ Association Workshop for All Beings	Diana Maciaga, climate coordinator, diana@pracownia.org.pl	
	Les Amis de la Terre France	Florent Compain, président, presidence@amisdelaterre.org	 Les Amis de la Terre France
	Bank Information Center Europe	Nezir Sinani, Co-Director	
60	Réseau Action Climat France	Neil Makaroff, EU Policy officer, neil.makaroff@reseauactionclimat.org	
	Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczne EKO-UNIA	Radosław Gawlik, president, rgawlik@eko.org.pl	
	fossil-free.ch Switzerland	Edwin Moser, edwin.moser@fossil-free.ch	
	Zukunft statt Kohle, Switzerland	Markus Keller, president keller.markus@gmx.ch	

	Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczne Eko- Przyjezierze	Józef Drzazgowski president jozefdrzazgowski@onet.eu	
65	Kiko Network	Mie Asaoka, President tokyo@kikonet.org	
	National Society of Conservationists – Friends of the Earth Hungary	Ákos Éger, executive president eger.akos@mtvsz.hu	 Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége Föld Barátai Magyarország
	Estonian Green Movement	Marian Hiire, board member marian@roheline.ee	 Eesti Roheline Liikumine Estonian Green Movement-FoE
	Koalicja Klimatyczna	Krzysztof Jędrzejewski Policy Officer k.jedrzejewski@koalicjaklimatyczna.org	 Koalicja Klimatyczna
	Polski Klub Ekologiczny Okręg Mazowiecki	Krzysztof Jędrzejewski Policy Officer k.jedrzejewski@koalicjaklimatyczna.org	 POLSKI KLUB EKOLOGICZNY
70	Centre for Environmental Rights	Robyn Hugo Pollution and Climate Change Programme Head rhugo@cer.org.za	 Centre for Environmental Rights Advancing Environmental Rights in South Africa
	Federació d'Ecologistes en Acció Catalunya	Fernando Daniel Saz Corcho Coordinador coordinacio@ecologistesenaocio.cat	 20 ANYS ecologistes en acció

	<p>Associació Salut i Agroecologia - ASiA</p>	<p>Fernando Daniel Saz Corcho President comunicacio@salutiagroecologia.ae.org</p>	 <p>ASSOCIACIÓ SALUT I AGROECOLOGIA (ASIA)</p> <p>Associació per la defensa de la Salut i la Agroecologia i en pro de la Sobirania Alimentària</p>
	<p>Energiaklub - Climate Policy Institute Affiliated Communication</p>	<p>Gabor Orban CEO orban@energiaklub.hu</p>	 <p>ENERGIAKLUB CLIMATE POLICY INSTITUTE APPLIED COMMUNICATIONS</p>
	<p>WWF Polska</p>	<p>Marta Anczewska Climate and Energy Policy Officer manczewska@wwf.pl</p>	 <p>WWF</p>
75	<p>Sustaining the Wild Coast</p>	<p>Prof Nicholas King, Board Director for Strategy nking@gecko-net.com</p>	
	<p>Towarzystwo dla Natury i Człowieka/Society for Nature and Man</p>	<p>Krzysztof Gorczyca krzysztof.gorczyca@ekolublin.pl</p>	 <p>Towarzystwo dla Natury i Człowieka</p>

	Priatelía Zeme-CEPA	Juraj Melichar, national coordinator, melichar@priateliazeme.sk	 Priatelía Zeme CEPA
	Society for the Earth	Robert Wawrety vice-chairman robert@tnz.most.org.pl	 TNZ
	E3G	Nick Mabey, CEO For contact: Chris Littlecott chris.littlecott@e3g.org	 E3G
80	European Environmental Bureau (EEB)	Jeremy Wates, Secretary General Contact: anton.lazarus@eeb.org	 EEB European Environmental Bureau
	Polski Klub Ekologiczny - Okręg Wschodnio-Pomorski	Agnieszka Fiszka Borzyszkowska, biuro@pke.gdansk.pl	 POLSKI KLUB EKOLOGICZNY

	Plataforma veciñal Mina Touro- O Pino Mon	Isabel Garcia gavi66@gmail.com	
	netzwerk n e.V.	info@netzwerk-n.org	
	BürgerInitiative Rettet die Lobau - Natur statt Beton	Obfrau Jutta Matysek jutta.matysek@gmx.at	
85	International Network for Sustainable Energy - Europe	INFORSE <ove@inforse.org>	
	Stowarzyszenie Domków Letniskowych w Wilczynie	Wojciech Krawczyk wojtuskrawczyk@o2.pl	STOWARZYSZENIE WŁAŚCICIELI DOMKÓW LETNISKOWYCH w WILCZYNIE
	Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczne EKO-Przyjezierze	Heliodor Ruciński h.r.strzelno@gmail.com	
	Fundación Ecosistemas (Chile)	Juan Pablo Orrego S., President, jp.orrego@ecosistemas.cl	
	Fundación Terram (Chile)	Flavia Libarona Céspedes, Executive Director, fliberona@terram.cl	

90	Chile Sustentable (Chile)	Sara Larraín, Executive Director, slarrain@chilesustentable.net,	
91	Plataforma Ciudadana Zaragoza sin Fractura -ZsF	Juan Carlos Gracia zaragozasinfractura@gmail.com	
92	ECOLISE	Eamon O'Hara Executive Director eamon.ohara@ecolise.eu	
93	350Ankara.org (Turkey)	Onder Algedik, Founder onder.algedik@rocketmail.com 350Ankara@gmail.com	
94	PIC (Slovenia)		

95	Pacific Islands Represent	Kelvin Anthony Head of Pacific Net Greenpeace Australia Pacific	
96	Destilator ; trajnostne rešitve / sustainable solutions (Slovenia)	Maja Modrijan, president of NGO maja.modrijan@destilator.si	
97	WWF International	viviane.raddatz@wwf.de	