

R11 2% of GDP towards climate solutions

Proposer: Jong Groen
Agenda item: 1. Resolutions

Motion text

1 To keep global warming below 1.5°C, strong action by national governments is
2 needed urgently. One way these governments can contribute to climate solutions
3 is by investing structurally in a just transition. Scientists at Sapienship
4 calculated that the 1.5°C target could be achieved with only 2% of global GDP
5 invested in climate solutions. The Global North bears a historic responsibility
6 in the climate crisis. As long as GDP is the main indicator for the financial
7 situation of a country, European governments should incorporate 2% of their GDP
8 towards a just transition in their (annual) budgeting.

9 Translating the 1.5°C goal agreed on in the international Paris Agreement into a
10 national commitment of 2% of GDP towards climate solutions, makes the fight for
11 1.5°C more tangible. This clear and reasonable demand allows young green
12 activists to effectively put pressure on the budgeting of their governments, and
13 keeping them accountable in the execution of their financial plans.

14 The focus of these investments should be in line with the focus points and
15 priorities stated in the FYEG Political Platform for a just transition towards
16 climate neutrality. Technical fixes thus cannot be the center of these
17 investments. National governments should think how they could invest public
18 money towards climate solutions in the most cost-effective way, aligned with
19 their national policy matters. Climate solutions oftentimes are interlinked and
20 feed into each other. For thematic practical implementation, we again refer to
21 our views in the FYEG Political Platform. Since more than 75% of greenhouse gas
22 emissions in the EU stem from the energy sector and as example case, the
23 investments of public money towards a just energy transition will be displayed
24 in the following:

25 The most effective way to save energy is by not using it. Energy efficiency
26 should be the number 1 priority for public spending by national governments.
27 Investments should go towards the insulation of all homes and buildings by 2030.
28 For a society that runs on 100% renewables, as it should by 2050, the energy
29 grid needs to be electrified. Public money should thus flow towards the
30 electrification of the energy grid and energy infrastructure.

31 Energy should be generated from renewable sources. Investments in wind and solar
32 energy would be part of the 2% GDP towards climate solutions package. Although
33 nuclear energy emits less carbon emissions, they cannot be included in this
34 budget, as they have other environmental implications (like the extraction of
35 uranium, security risks and the production of nuclear waste). Investment in
36 fossil fuels does not belong within this budgeting package, as it's an energy
37 source from the past and needs to be phased out of the energy mix completely as
38 soon as possible. As the production of hydrogen is energy-intensive, it can only
39 be considered a sustainable and green source of energy if produced in a 100%
40 renewable way and used when no more energy efficient options are available.
41 Investments in research & development on hydrogen are eligible, yet should not
42 be the core objective of the 2% of GDP towards climate solutions. In this
43 investment package, the focus stays on the funding of an urgent just transition,
44 rather than the development of technical fixes. Also 'green hydrogen' imported
45 from the Global South can not be considered an investment in a sustainable
46 energy transition, as the transportation of hydrogen is an energy-intensive
47 process in itself and threatens the energy security of communities in the
48 exporting countries.

49 These investments will not only save us from climate catastrophe, but will also
50 generate economic & societal gain. This resolution focuses on 'national
51 governments', but 2% of of budgeting towards climate solutions should be the
52 goal of every government & could also be a goal for budgets of non-state actors
53 (organisations, universities, schools, ...) all from their own focus & competence.
54 From the economic and financial gain that will emerge from these investments,
55 European governments have more budgetary room to pay up for 'loss & damage', to
56 countries in the Global South. 'Loss & damage' is not part of this financial
57 plan, but should get its own program in government spending.

Reason

Some references: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SiCvGQnweAg> &
https://www.sapienship.co/decision-makers/2-percent-more?_gl=1*1bgswg0*_up*MQ