



The Climate Change Politics: Power, Policies, and Role of the European Union

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ARTICLE INFO			ABSTRACT
Article History:			<i>This study explores the involvement of the EU in climate actions and fruitful roles, policies, and its augmentations that help to formulate the climate change panorama. The EU's active participation expresses the importance of climate change, one of the most urgent issues of our time, by putting its ambitious policies into action using its political power strategically. The data was composed by using qualitative techniques through observations, articles, reports, and case studies. These achievements of the EU have developed remarkable opportunities, including enhanced trade routes, increased infrastructure, streamlined border procedures, and access to financial resources, which are also important elements for climate change actions. However, challenges include diverging nations' interests, reliance on fossil fuels as an energy resource, providing financial support for the green transition barriers in infrastructure and technology, and others that affect the EU and the pace of climate change. This article concludes with strong guidance to accelerate contingency for climate change.</i>
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Introduction

Climate change is an environmental and scientific issue; it is a fundamentally political one that challenges the structure and priorities of global governance. He stresses that the traditional political approach tends to push climate change into the future, treating it as a long-term concern when it demands immediate and sustained attention. The dependence on multilateral UN accords, such as the Kyoto Protocol or the Paris Agreement, noting that while symbolically significant, these typically suffer from a lack of enforcement and delayed development. The more flexible and responsive bilateral or regional agreements might be more

practical and effective in achieving real emissions reductions. These businesses, typically firmly rooted in national economies and politics, must be addressed through concerted international pressure and policy adjustments. The rising power of global internet activism enables individuals, especially younger generations, to circumvent established political institutions and directly influence the public debate, hold governments responsible, and urge more aggressive climate action. (Giddens, 2015).

Since the early 1990s, the European Union has been actively looked at as a world leader in climate blueprints. Over time, particularly since roughly 2000, the EU has implemented several unique and occasionally trailblazing climate policies beyond individual national approaches. These policies employ various methods, including market-based procedures, legislation, voluntary activities, and information-based approaches. Several motivations have driven the development of these policies: the desire to reinforce the legitimacy of the broader European integration project, efforts to strengthen energy security, and the goal of boosting economic competitiveness through the concept of ecological modernization. Climate policy has also helped the EU enhance its worldwide influence. The EU has played an effective role in international climate debate, particularly in championing a 2°C global warming limit and advocating for specific emission reduction targets and deadlines (Carvalho, 2012).

The European Union plays an essential and frequently leading role in global climate change policy through its all-encompassing and creative approach. To lower greenhouse gas emissions and advance sustainable development, the EU has created various climate policies since the early 1990s, including market-based, voluntary, regulatory, and informational instruments. Several goals impact these policies, such as safeguarding the EU's internal market from policy inconsistencies, improving energy security, fostering economic competitiveness through ecological modernization, and bolstering the EU's influence internationally. The EU has steadfastly supported enacting policies like carbon trading and advocating for aggressive goals like the 2°C temperature limit. However, policy consistency and ambition are challenged by internal divides, especially between fossil fuel-reliant Central and Eastern European governments and more climate-progressive Western nations. Despite these conflicts, this organization is still a dominant player in determining international and regional climate policies.

Literature Review

In this study, the evolving position of the European Union as a notable leader in atmospheric politics, particularly in the road of climate actions, is examined. The European Union (EU) has developed a distinct worldly identity that has often been ambiguous and has increased its impact on regulating the global environment. The EU can coordinate and express a collective stance in international talks thanks to its unique institutional structure firmly rooted in the EU's distinctive institutional architecture. This approach contrasts with the United States' typically more fragmented and often hesitant position in climate change diplomacy. Furthermore, it highlights how the evolving nature of global environmental issues, which are becoming more complex and require collaborative action, aligns well with the multilateral and consensus-based strategy the European Union has adopted. The EU is well-positioned to continue playing a vital role in shaping future global climate strategies due to its expertise in institution-building and policy integration (Sbragia, Damro, 1999).

The passage thoroughly examines the European Union's changing role in international climate diplomacy. The EU has taken advantage of opportunities to establish being a chief in environmental governance worldwide since the 1990s, especially following the 1992 Rio Earth Summit from the Kyoto Protocol. It can take independent action and impact world events, even though it is not a state. The EU created climate objectives to mainstream climate change into its international commitments as early as 1988. However, its leadership claims have been tested, especially at the 2009 Copenhagen Summit, when the EU's limited influence was made clear by its inability to reach a legally binding global agreement. The EU has been instrumental in influencing the conversation and policies surrounding climate change, internal intricacies, and the difficulties of functioning within a state-centric international system limit its efficacy and influence. The analysis's ultimate goal is to assess whether the EU's engagement in climate policy has improved its reputation and identity (Ugur, Dogan, & Aksoy, 2016).

The European Union has been one of the most prominent and active in ecological preservation, which helps to maintain the health and well-being of citizens and conserve natural resources. Even though it demands fruitful solutions to remarkable challenges such as climate change, the emission of pollution gas, sustainable production, combustion, and scarcity of natural resources, one of the goals of environmental policies is to make the economy more environmentally friendly for its member states. The European Union (EU) addresses ecological concerns. It provides recommendations to promote sustainability that might be implemented on businesses, individuals, and governmental organizations to collectively participate in the achievement of a more acceptable society, one in which issues like climate change or the production of gases are reduced to the extent possible. The objective is to work under the ideas that underpin the European Green Deal and the Circular Economy (Barr & Passarelli).

The EU holds a prominent position as the only regional organization that exists in climate politics. Unlike sovereign governments, since the EU shares its climate-related authority with its 27 member states, its global efforts supplement rather than replace those of individual nations. The EU's international climate role is split into three sections. The first one is to summarize theoretical discussions of actorness to lay groundwork for investigation. The second section covers two formal facets actorness: capability and external recognition. It points out that even if the EU has legal authority, member states continue to significantly impact its decision-making, which compromises its representation and coherence. It concludes that external conditions and internal cohesion have changed dramatically over time. Despite obstacles, the EU has frequently demonstrated leadership in climate diplomacy (Cifuentes, 2022).

The 1988 Toronto Conference linked climate change to world security. Despite rising knowledge, the world community has not reduced global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in over two decades. This circumstance has several meanings, especially for the EU. The Toronto alarm spurred international climate initiatives like the IPCC and FCCC, setting a course for positive, self-reinforcing progress. GHG emissions are rising, and climatic implications are already visible. The international community must decide whether to act or continue business as usual. Proactive action might avert climate-related conflicts and population displacement. However, focusing on climate change as a security concern may divert attention from economic, technical, and social solutions. Ignoring or underestimating the issue would postpone action and raise expenses. This gives the EU a chance to boost its peace and security efforts. The EU may improve its international position by leading climate policy and incorporating climate-related security issues into crisis management and peace-building missions. The EU should utilize crisis response to strengthen economic, social, and institutional climate initiatives. (Liberatore, 2013)

The European Union has been instrumental in global climate change policy. The United States' past unwillingness to commit to legally enforceable climate accords has also helped this leadership to be filled in by the EU, filling in a worldwide leadership void. The EU proved its ability to guide world climate discussions by supporting and ratifying the Kyoto Protocol. However, its complicated institutional framework and requirement for unanimity among several member nations can cause rigidity and internal conflicts. The EU has set antagonist climate targets, targeting for a 60–80% depletion of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, well beyond Kyoto's 5.2% target for Annex I nations by 2012. Public opinion in both countries indicates similar worry about climate change, even while transatlantic variations in climate policy continue. The EU might be less in treaty talks and more in the demonstrative effect of its home climate policy. The EU may inspire other nations and areas to follow similar strategies by demonstrating that deep decarbonization is feasible and financially sustainable, strengthening its reputation as a normative and transforming force in international climate policy (Vogler & Bretherton, 2006).

The European Union's commitment to global governance matches the cooperative nature needed to address climate change. The EU's January 2008 decision to cut carbon elimination beyond Kyoto limits was a deliberate step to avoid long-term environmental and economic concerns. This leadership also wants a worldwide reputation, to influence global climate conventions, and to show that substantial carbon reductions are doable and economical. The EU wants to disprove the US claim that aggressive climate policies hurt the economy by showing that environmental protection and economic growth coexist (Gupta & Grubb, 2000). The EU also believes climate action can spur low-carbon technology innovation in developing nations, promoting global equity and sustainable development. This forward-looking approach

reflects the post-WWII European social welfare paradigm, which responds collectively to instability and risk. As the welfare state addressed social and economic threats, climate policy now addresses environmental threats. The EU utilizes climate leadership to promote its social-democratic values, solidarity, prudence, and responsibility, and strengthen its normative influence (Schmidt,2008).

The European Union climate change plan is connected to energy security, infrastructure modernization, and sustainable economic development. The EU has stressed the necessity of public-private financing solutions to manage early-stage investment risks and cash flow issues in the low-carbon economic transition. This strategy relies on the Connecting Europe Facility, for which the European Commission allocated €40 billion for 2014–2020, including €9.1 billion for energy infrastructure, €31.6 billion for transport, and €9.1 billion for ICT. This investment is crucial to a fully integrated and high-performing Single Market, notably in cross-border energy connections, promoting climate resilience and diversification. To encourage innovation, the EU has pledged primary research and development investment. The Common Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation received €80 billion from 2014–2020, expanding on a €60 billion investment from 2007–2013. These grants encourage renewable energy, smart grids, and climate-friendly technology, enabling the EU to lead green innovation. The EU seeks to promote systemic change across sectors, improve energy independence, and lead the global transition to a sustainable, climate-resilient time ahead by combining policy direction with significant financial commitment. (Santos & Delicado,2014).

The European Union responded with a renewable energy policy and climate change package based on model-based evaluations utilizing PRIMES and GAINS. This tool evaluated prospective GHG reductions, particularly non-CO₂ emissions, and aided in creating policy scenarios that met EU climate targets. In its low-carbon economy plan, the EU policy mandated these aims. Redistribution of non-ETS and RES objectives, the EU ETS, and renewable energy guarantee trading helped balance economic differences between nations. Flexible approaches reduced compliance costs while satisfying environmental goals. Carbon-free, locally supplied renewable energy supports energy independence and emissions reduction. Meeting these objectives is anticipated to cost 0.4% to 0.6% of the European Union's GDP, indicating that atmospheric action is economically doable and environmentally necessary. The EU has become a worldwide climate leader by combining environmental sustainability with economic policy and energy security through these comprehensive measures (Klaassen, & Ireland,2011).

Most climate policies in the European Union focus on carbon emissions but do not assess the impacts on biodiversity. This study reveals a significant gap between previous studies. Standard early warning systems, collaborative disaster reporting, and budget allocation mechanisms are important areas of focus that should be prioritized. On the other hand, land use conflicts need to be resolved to interpret climate change policies. The European Union (EU) family should prioritize the implementation of an innovative climate governance system to implement changes in climate policies at the international level. Simultaneously, rigorous analysis of policy coherence and data openness should be research topics.

Material and Method

This paper utilized a qualitative research approach. The information obtained for this article came from a variety of sources, including scholarly journals, government reports, and publications in the media, papers, and more. These materials helped analyze climate change politics and the function in which European Union plays in politics and its hegemony.

Discussion

- Political ideologies, economic systems, and national interests significantly impact how EU countries respond to climate change. These factors determine whether a state supports or opposes the EU's broader climate efforts. Wealthier Western and Northern European countries, such as Sweden, France, and Germany, often take the lead in promoting policies like the European Green Deal, making significant investments in renewable energy, and advocating for aggressive climate targets. On the other hand, several Eastern and Southern EU countries, such as Poland or Hungary, oppose stricter rules due to their dependence on coal, lack of financial resources for green

investments, or political resistance to EU directives. For example, Poland has opposed increasing carbon prices under the EU Emissions Trading System, claiming it would further increase energy poverty and harm its coal-dependent economy. To achieve equal implementation across all member states, these national disparities often hinder consensus on climate legislation, requiring complex negotiations and financial compensation systems such as the EU's Just Transition Fund. There are some essential steps that the European Union should implement in the future planning of climate modification.

- Most EU climate policies focus on carbon emissions but ignore their effects on biodiversity, an essential element that cannot be overlooked due to its significance. The EU needs to work to integrate biodiversity and climate goals.
- Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS) and Early Warning and Response System (EWRS), along with other multiple climate management services, are not enough to properly manage climate transformation. The European Union family should take serious initiatives to use prompt and effective early warning technologies.
- Strategies should be implemented to balance carbon farming, which is necessary for climate action (Wurzel & Connelly, 2010).

Climate Change and Politics

Politics and climate change are closely linked because addressing environmental issues involves concrete government action, policy formulation, and participation by people worldwide. Political leaders and parties often have different opinions regarding the origins, severity, and potential remedies for climate change. These differences are usually driven by economic interests, ideological beliefs, and lobbying efforts by industries such as fossil fuels. There is a desire to unify efforts through different agreements, such as the Paris Agreement. However, implementing these agreements depends on national policies and governmental will. Political decisions determine the financing, legislation, and innovation needed to address climate transition and the transition to sustainable energy sources. (Carter, 2014).

Brief Overview of the EU's Founding

After the culmination of World War II, the European Union (EU) was established to prevent future hostilities. Since its inception, the European Union has become a strong institution facilitating economic cooperation, democracy, peace, and stability across Europe. It operates through a network of supranational organizations. These institutions include the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council of the European Union. Furthermore, the European Union (EU) contributes its role in global issues, including climate change policy, trade negotiations, humanitarian aid, and collective security cooperation. The European Union is an integrated regional organization on the globe because its member states share sovereignty in areas such as environmental standards, consumer protection, and competition rules. This is accomplished through various treaties and agreements (Lähdesmäki, 2019).

Role of The EU in Climate Change

No doubt, the most critical role that the European Union plays in the fight against climate destruction is via the implementation of a wide variety of policies, initiatives, and international leadership. The following is a comprehensive summary of the European Union's participation in climate change:

EU Climate Law

In the light of European Union adopting climate actions in 2021, the EU made a formal commitment to reach a balance of climate by 2050, which means achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, the law targets a 55% reduction in emissions. To ensure that all sectors comply with the legislation, it is essential that long-term decarbonization strategies are developed for all industries and that these strategies are reviewed annually. It does this by introducing the Climate Target Adjustment Mechanism, which will enable adjustments to changes in global conditions and technological advances. Furthermore, the legislation emphasizes "just transition" to ensure that disadvantaged regions and sectors, such as communities

dependent on coal-based industries, are supported during the transition. It does this by ensuring that EU policies align with global climate goals, particularly the Paris Agreement, while reinforcing the EU's position as a prominent figure in international emissions reduction efforts (*Miloms, Köse & Tartaggia, 2021*).

Fit for 55 and EU

In 2021, the European Commission introduced the Fit for 55 packages as part of the European Green Deal. The package consists of a comprehensive set of legislative proposals designed to help the European Union meet its climate goals. It covers various sectors, including manufacturing, transport, and energy, as part of the reform process. The EU Emissions Trading System will be expanded by broadening its coverage to include additional sectors, such as maritime and road transport, while the Carbon border adjustment mechanism will be implemented to prevent carbon emissions from imports. These are two central steps of the plan. In addition, the package proposes to impose stricter pollution standards on vehicles, promote the adoption of renewable energy sources, and tighten regulations on energy efficiency. In addition, the package proposes to establish a climate social fund, which aims to support vulnerable communities and businesses affected by the transition. The overarching goal of the Fit for 55 initiative is to accelerate the transition to a climate-neutral economy, ensuring that the transition is fair and equitable for all member states. This will be achieved through coordinated policy efforts at both the national and European Union levels.

Climate Neutrality Target By 2050

The climate's sustainability in the 2050 target is the central point of the European Union's climate law. This indicates that by 2050, the entire amount of greenhouse gases produced in the European Union will be in balance with emissions from the atmosphere. This can be achieved through environmental processes such as forestry or carbon capture technologies. This ambitious target aims to lessen the harmful effects of climate change by reducing carbon emissions from all the segments of the economy, including agriculture, industry, transport, and energy, and by promoting sustainability across the EU economy. Due to the legally binding nature of the target, the European Union's commitment to reducing emissions is unwavering. In addition, the legislation emphasizes that this goal must be achieved in a fair and socially inclusive way, aiming to ensure that the transition does not disproportionately affect disadvantaged populations.

2030 Emissions Reduction Target

This target aims to ensure the European Union is on track to become carbon neutral. The EU has set a target of 55% as part of its efforts to meet its obligations under the agreement. The 2030 emissions reduction target is an intermediate target set in the EU climate law. It aims to reach 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, ideally. Tackling environmental change and transitioning to a low-carbon economy over the next ten years is a significant undertaking, and the 2030 target is ambitious. To do this, substantial changes are needed in the areas of energy production, transport, and industry. The legislative efforts of this will help to achieve this goal. These proposals include deploying a carbon pricing system and stricter emissions regulations. Achieving the 2030 target is crucial to guarantee that the European Union remains on the exact road to meet its long-term climate goals.

Guidelines for Achieving Climate Neutrality

These concrete strategies and action plans are called pathways for achieving climate neutrality, and the European Union will implement them to reach its goal of being climate-neutral by 2050. These pathways will be set out in a series of long-term plans and updates provided by the European Commission. These plans and updates will provide a concrete roadmap for decarbonizing the major domino of finance. Switching to hydropower sources, promoting circular economy practices, increasing energy efficiency, and reducing emissions in agriculture and industry are some of the measures that need to be addressed. In addition, technological breakthroughs, such as hydrogen generation, and green infrastructure, will be considered when developing the pathways. To ensure that the EU maintains flexibility in its approach, it is essential to note that the pathways will be reviewed regularly to accommodate new scientific findings and

technological developments. However, the overall policy at the EU level will be coherent and integrated with EU climate law. It will be the responsibility of each Member State to implement these pathways in a way that reflects the circumstances in its region. To achieve climate neutrality, it will be necessary for governments, corporations, and individuals to work together, with a primary focus on reducing emissions and increasing carbon sequestration.

Long-Term Plan

The EU's long-term plan to get a climate-friendly economy by 2050 is known as the Long-Term Strategy. The European Green Deal presents this plan, which will be reviewed regularly to consider developments in economics, technology, and global climate policy. The transition in a circular economy, the decarbonization of the energy system, and investment in green infrastructure are all key parts of the EU's long-term plan. Promoting innovation in clean technologies, such as energy storage, sustainable transport systems, wind, geothermal, and hydrogen, is a key component of this approach. The plan also highlights how important it is to maintain climate resilience while preparing for the inevitable effects of ecological change, such as rising sea levels and extreme weather. To ensure a fair and equitable transition, the strategy also considers social factors. For the EU to adapt its approach and remain at the forefront of global climate efforts, EU climate law requires that this long-term plan be updated every five years to consider new opportunities and constraints.

Climate Change and the Powers of the European Union

Jurisdiction or Power to Regulate

Through legally binding laws, the European Union has a powerful capacity to define environmental policy. The European Union (EU) and its member states can legislate in areas such as energy and the environment. By enacting comprehensive climate legislation, such as the European climate law, the EU has demonstrated its ability to exercise this authority. This law legally commits to achieving climate neutrality by 2050 and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. Furthermore, it sets out the means of monitoring and enforcing compliance by Member States, including through the European Court of Justice. Additionally, the European Union (EU) requires changes to national laws and corporate practices across Europe through directives and regulations. This effectively coordinates with all 27 members of the EU states.

Market and Fiscal Power

By managing financial resources and influencing markets, the European Union exercises considerable influence in the economic sphere. At least 30% of its budget for 2021-2027, which amounts to 1.8 trillion euros, is allocated to climate-related measures. This includes investments in clean energy, sustainable transport, innovation, and biodiversity. The EU Emissions Trading System plays a key role in this context. In addition, the European Union (EU) uses financial legislation to guide sustainable investment through the EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Activities. This taxonomy classifies "green" investments, which channel public and private funds towards environmentally friendly measures. The Just Transition Fund is taking additional measures to ensure that no region is left behind in transitioning away from fossil fuels. These include supporting coal-dependent regions through retraining and economic diversification.

Institutional Power and Coordination within the Organization

Another source of influence the European Union has within its borders is its ability to coordinate actions among its many member states. As the executive body, the European Commission prepares legislative proposals, monitors national progress, and ensures compliance. One of the most critical aspects of this process is the National Energy and Climate Plans, which mandate that each nation submit and keep up-to-date its strategy for the attainment of the climate set goals by the European Union. By analyzing data on emissions, energy consumption, and environmental performance, the European Environment Agency (EEA) provides support for this effort. This data is then used to guide policymakers (Rayner & Jordan, 2016). Through this institutional structure, the European Union can maintain a coherent climate strategy while also

considering the different capabilities and interests of its member states. However, decision-making can be complicated because some aspects, such as taxation and energy mix, remain under national authority. Furthermore, many measures require majority approval, leading to potential obstacles.

Challenges

The European Union (EU) has many difficult obstacles to overcome when fighting climate change. These issues affect the effectiveness and pace of climate action and are political, economic, social, and technological. Here's a full explanation:

Diverging National Interests

A significant problem facing the EU is the clash of political and economic agendas among its 27 member states. Some nations, particularly in Eastern and Central Europe (such as Poland or Hungary), rely heavily on coal and other fossil fuels. Concerns about job losses, energy security, and prices have made these nations more hesitant, if not hostile, to rapid decarbonization. On the other hand, wealthier countries, such as the Netherlands, France, or Germany, often aim higher. Decision-making slows down, and internal tensions arise.

Dependence on Fossil Fuels

Despite advances in renewable energy, many nations in the European Union continue to rely on fossil fuels for heating, transport, and industry. The energy instability caused by the warfare in Ukraine, especially the region's previous dependence on gas from Russia, exposed Europe's vulnerability. It leads to a temporary increase in coal use, which has undermined the commitment process in the short term. Fuel remains difficult and expensive to obtain.

Providing Financial Support for the Green Transition

The change in green finance requires large-scale stake in electric transport, grid infrastructure, renewable energy, and building upgrades. Even though the EU has committed large amounts of money (for example, through the Green Deal and the Next Generation EU Recovery Fund), the demand intensity may exceed the cash available, especially in economically disadvantaged regions or those dependent on coal. Regarding new environmentally friendly technologies such as hydrogen or carbon capture, there are also gaps in private investment due to market risks and the unpredictability of regulatory policies.

Inequality and Resistance from the Social Order

Climate policy can impact society differently, provoking opposition from the general public. Low-income households and rural communities will likely be disproportionately affected by policies such as carbon pricing, rising energy bills, or bans on automobiles powered by internal combustion engines. This has resulted in a political backlash in some areas (for example, the yellow vest movement in France) and has contributed to propaganda portraying a "green elite" instead of regular individuals. One of the most difficult challenges is ensuring a "just transition," meaning that climate action is equitable and socially inclusive.

Gaps in Implementation and Enforcement Systems

Even when policies are agreed, their implementation at both national and local levels is often delayed. Some nations fail to meet emissions targets or take too long to incorporate EU policies into their domestic legislation. Pathways to implementation exist, although they can be slow or politically sensitive. Real progress on the ground is hampered by the absence of consistent monitoring, accountability, and administrative capacity, particularly in member states that are either smaller or more recent in their membership.

The Intersection of Global Pressures and Industrial Competitiveness

Recently tightened environmental laws have raised concerns about the global competitiveness of European industry. Carbon leakage is a concern that arises from the possibility that stricter climate regulations could cause businesses to relocate. To address this issue, this institution has implemented the Carbon border adjustment mechanism, which has led to increased tensions with trading partners and the possibility of retaliation in international trade (Frick & Schulz, 2014).

Barriers Arising from Technological Aspects and Infrastructure

Decarbonizing essential industries such as transport, aviation, shipping, steel, and agriculture is complex due to the shortcomings of existing technologies or the absence of viable alternatives. Scaling up technologies such as carbon capture, battery storage, and green hydrogen is expensive and still being developed.

Reliance on the Global Community and Pressure for Leadership

The European Union is under pressure to maintain its prestige as a global leader on climate change. If other major emitters, such as China, United States, and India, do not take commensurate action, this will erode the EU's global influence and raise internal doubts about the fairness and effectiveness of EU policies. In particular, given the fragmented nature of international climate efforts, the European Union (EU) needs to strike a compromise between ambition and realism.

Conclusion

To conclude, the European Union is playing a fruitful role in climate action. Through implementing ambitious policies, the strategic use of political power, and a commitment to multilateralism. The European Union (EU) has not just managed to promote internal reforms through initiatives such as the European Green Deal, but it has also been able to influence international climate policy by combining its regulatory authority, economic power, and diplomatic weight into a powerful position. On the other hand, its sustained leadership depends on unified internal action, successful implementation, and increased assistance to vulnerable countries. The European Union (EU) must maintain its momentum, close the gap between policy and action, and demonstrate that climate leadership is both a responsibility and a strategic opportunity for global stability and sustainable prosperity. This is because the world is currently facing increasing environmental challenges.

Recommendations

- Many organizations, along with the EU, are working on the issue of climate change. This issue demands full concentration. There are a few recommendations for EU states to combat the climate issue:
- Recommendation to strengthen and expand investment in renewable energy: Increase funding and infrastructure support for solar, wind, hydro, and green hydrogen projects in the EU and neighbouring regions. For example, the Repower EU initiative aims to double the capacity of solar photovoltaic devices by 2025 and install 600 gigawatts by 2030, assisting in lowering the reliance on fossil fuels
- Increase in effectiveness of environmental diplomacy and global partnerships. Use diplomatic channels within the EU to support international climate goals, especially with emerging economies and key alliances such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). For example, the EU has concluded green energy cooperation agreements with countries such as India, Egypt, and Kazakhstan through the diplomatic efforts of the European Green Deal policy.
- Inflict a carbon fee on imports from nations with fewer environmental regulations to encourage emissions reductions worldwide. Example: In 2026, the EU CBAM will start covering imports of cement, energy, fertilizers, iron, steel, and aluminum to encourage trading partners to adopt clean practices.

- Invest in carbon capture technology, soil carbon storage, and forest restoration to improve carbon sinks. For example, the European Union's 2030 Forest Strategy calls for restoring degraded ecosystems and planting 3 billion trees.

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