

Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change

Esteemed Chair(s) of the Committee,
Your Excellency President Pacheco,
fellow delegates, distinguished guests,

Climate change has a major impact on the state of the environment, the economy, public health and well-being.

The extreme weather events we are witnessing across the planet are a clear sign that climate change is now more of an imminent threat to our lives, economies and ecosystems. Our presence here means that we realize how important it is to work together to make this threat reversible. Decisive action is needed from all countries and from each one of us personally to make this happen.

Science tells us that achieving a climate neutral society is challenging but possible – a society of new green jobs and growth that still limits warming and reduces it with 1.5°C. The European Union has already shown that it is feasible to decouple economic growth from emissions (since 1990, our GDP has grown by over 60% while net greenhouse gas emissions have fallen by a quarter). A small but important step forward.

Since July we are negotiating internally our legislative package to implement the European Green Deal and deliver a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of at least 55% by 2030 (compared to 1990) marking the the path to climate neutrality.

This transition in how we generate and use energy, move around, build and heat houses, and use the land and it has to be designed in the fairest way possible.

If we do so, The **world and** Post-COVID-19 Europe will be greener, more digital, more resilient and better fit for the current and forthcoming challenges.

Bulgaria is fulfilling its commitments to the Paris Agreement. As a member state, we will jointly deliver, with the other EU member states the target of climate neutrality by 2050, as well as a more ambitious target of 55% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

At national level, we have developed an entirely new set of investments and measures that represent our Recovery and Resilience Plan. This is the new roadmap for decarbonization of Bulgarian industry, for development and growth of the economy as part of a sustainable and preserved environment.

Our efforts are focused on three main areas:

- the creation of conditions for accelerated further development of renewable energy sources and hydrogen,
- intensified actions to increase the energy efficiency of the economy
- and sustainable mobility.

Only an existing and vital economy can be transformed. We cannot deny that all the measures that will lead us to the green transition are being implemented in the economic reality of today – far more with the conflict and war in Ukraine, as well as the rising energy prices.

The transition cannot take place at the expense of jobs and energy security of our country.

But the climate crisis is a global threat. We call on all partners to strengthen their climate mitigation and adaptation plans and come forward with new commitments as soon as possible.

We must underline that issues of climate change are a responsibility not only to governments but also to national parliaments and parliamentarians in all countries in the world.

Bulgarian parliament and bulgarian society are aware that it is the full implementation on a global scale, by all Parliaments and governments of the measures laid down in their respective nationally determined contributions, on which the real implementation of the aim that we look up to - **getting to zero** is dependent.

Bulgaria supports the collective efforts of both governments and private sector. The call from young people is clear: we need to listen to the science. General transformation is only possible by consensus and with the participation of the entire society, and involvement of the private and financial sectors.

Each and every individual has a role in this transformation.

We should stand together in our efforts.

No country alone is able to face the global threat of climate change.

Bulgarian parliament recognizes the critical importance of adaptation in the global response to climate change and the need to scale up adaptation efforts in an urgent manner. We do it through legislation and responsible acts to ensure an attractive investment climate for climate action in our country.

We know that our decisions and acts can improve our lives as well as lives of people all over the world **as long as we serve with care to nature and environment and work devotedly to further improve the balance between wellbeing and getting to zero emissions.**

Thank you.
Thank you all.