

## PRESS RELEASE

### EAERE Statement on EU climate policies collects nearly 900 signatures

Venice, 22 June 2022 – The Policy Outreach Committee (POC) of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE) released a statement on the [EU's legislative proposals on climate change, the Fit for 55 package](#), to gather endorsements from the whole scientific community and civil society in Europe and worldwide.

The statement, which builds on the current discussion at the European level on the legislative package, aims at drawing the attention of policymakers and public opinion on the implications of the reforms and on some key challenges that need to be addressed in the future.

The statement is also meant to emphasize that, by leveraging the momentum created by the increasing climate concerns and the current energy crisis, the EU's proposal is a step in the right direction to delivering on the bloc's climate ambitions and to achieving climate neutrality by mid-century.

#### The main points of the statement

Given the severe and inevitable consequences of climate change, more ambitious and urgent climate policies are needed. Back in July 2021, the European Commission presented the **'Fit for 55'** package with a number of legislative proposals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55% in 2030 compared to 1990 and to reach climate neutrality by 2050. Today, the climate emergency imposes us to act quickly and environmental economists from EAERE call for a rapid agreement on the European level on the ambitious package for delivering the European Green Deal.

A central element of Europe's climate policy has been the setting of a price on carbon under the EU's Emissions Trading System (EU ETS): the Statement welcomes the **deepening and widening of carbon pricing**, including the proposal to revise the Energy Taxation Directive. Appropriate measures will be needed to avoid that higher carbon prices may lead to the so-called **'carbon leakage'** - a delocalization of polluting activities towards countries with less ambitious environmental regulations.

Public perception regarding **distributional consequences of climate policy** is key to the success of the "Fit for 55" package. The Social Climate Fund is a useful tool to address

the distributional concerns. Moreover, **green and low-carbon innovations are bound to be rolled out in massive investments** to inspire other countries by demonstrating that the adoption of more ambitious environmental policies does not harm overall economic welfare and the wellbeing of citizens.

The Statement highlights the need for more efforts to step up **international cooperation** in the field of environmental and climate governance and concludes with a pledge for **more financial support to be directed to developing countries**, which are particularly vulnerable to climate change.

Nearly 900 among environmental economists and other academic professionals have already signed the statement, which has been officially translated into 8 languages. To read and sign the statement, connect to the EAERE website at [this page](#).

### **The Policy Outreach Committee of EAERE**

**EAERE** is one of the largest and most prominent scientific associations worldwide in the field of Environmental and Resource Economics. With more than 1200 members in over 60 countries from Europe and beyond, from academic and research institutions, international organisations, the public sector, and the business world, it has been working for more than 30 years for the development and application of environmental, climate and resource economics as a science in Europe.

Established in 2018 as a tool to increase the Association's influence in the EU policy arena, the Policy Outreach Committee is composed of 15 senior and experienced EAERE members with a strong reputation in the policy scenario and capable of designing successful actions.

The POC Secretariat is based in Florence, at the [European University Institute](#). To know more about the EAERE Policy Outreach Committee, visit [this page](#) on the EAERE website.

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