

December 12, 2023

Dear EU leaders,

COP28 demonstrated what multilateralism can achieve. On Day 1 COP28 agreed to the set up of the first ever Loss & Damage fund and, together with the European Commission, you stepped up to provide funding for it.

Now back from Dubai, you will meet in Brussels to agree the EU budget for the next four years - as part of the mid-term revision of the bloc's 7-year budget, the Multiannual Financial Framework. This is incredibly important for the EU's partners, in particular the poorest and most climate-vulnerable countries.

Against a backdrop of an increasingly multipolar world facing ever more global threats, what you decide will determine how Europe shows up internationally. Initially, the European Commission, then backed by the European Parliament, suggested increasing EU funding for global action, and rightly so. Several critical budget lines are already empty, but needs are only rising. Leadership on many issues such as climate change, pandemic threats, global health, education and food security must also come from Europe. But how can Europe lead with an empty wallet? How can the EU be a credible player if you cannot walk the talk on meeting your international promises?

The proposals from the Council foresee €4.5 billion cuts to existing programmes and over 70% cuts to vital funds for global action and to the EU's safety net to respond to unforeseen external emergency needs, compared to what is proposed by the Commission.

Don't forget in Brussels that you are not just negotiating a budget. You are defining Europe's role in the world for the years to come, in particular your partnership with Africa. From the COVID-19 pandemic, to climate justice, trust in Europe as a continent that can deliver global justice has been put into question as never before. Now is not the time to pull back: we will be watching.

Signed,

Michael Sheldrick, Co-founder, Chief Policy and Advocacy Officer, Global Citizen

Eloise Todd, Executive Director & Co-Founder, Pandemic Action Network

Jamie Drummond, Co-founder of ONE and Founder of Sharing Strategies

Gayle Smith, Chief Executive Officer, The ONE Campaign

Mark Vermeulen, Director, Aidsfonds - Soa Aids Nederland

Khalil Elouardighi, Director, Think Equal

Emmanuel Acha, Executive Director, Entrepreneurship Initiative for African Youth (EIFAY Africa)

Luca Bergamaschi, Co-founding Director, Italian Think Tank ECCO

Céline Mias, Director & EU Representative, CARE International

Deo Mutambuka, Executive Director, Envisage Africa

Amitabh Behar, Executive Director, Oxfam

Rym Ayadi, President & Founder, Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association - EMEA

Charline Burton, Executive Director, Search for Common Ground

Patrick Bertrand, Founder & Director, Global Health Advocates

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Jeroen Uytterschaut, EU Representative & Executive Director, World Vision EU Representation

Willy Bergogné, Director and EU Representative, Save the Children Europe

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Antoni Comín i Oliveres, Member of the European Parliament

Guido Schmidt-Traub, Managing Partner, Systemiq

Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Independent expert on sustainability, Former Director General, IUCN Chair,
the Villars Institute Foundation; The Alliance of Biodiversity & CIAT

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Nataliia Kitsenko, Head of Public Health Department, Odesa Way Home Foundation

Pascal Canfin, Member of the European Parliament

Sandro Gozi, Member of the European Parliament

Barry Andrews, Member of the European Parliament

Camille Etienne, Climate activist, Avant l'orage

Pierre Larrouturou, Member of the European Parliament

Javier Garcia de la Oliva, Head of Country Engagement and Transformation Europe and
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Chiara Martinelli, Director, Climate Action Network Europe

Olivier Bruyeron, President, Coordination SUD

Floris Faber, Director / EU Representative, ACT Alliance EU

Hélène Berger, Executive Director, Friends of the Global Fund Europe

Lukas Wank, Director, Global Responsibility

Mams Yaffa, President, Elus Locaux Contre le Paludisme (and deputy mayor of Paris 18e)

Niamh Nic Carthaigh, Head of EU Liaison Office & Senior Representative, Plan International EU Office

Aurore Lalucq, Member of the European Parliament

Raphaël Glucksmann, Member of the European Parliament

Jean-Yves Terlinden, International Cooperation and Humanitarian Director, Caritas Europa

Tanya Cox, Director, CONCORD Europe

Michael Jacobs, Professor of Political Economy, University of Sheffield

Frédéric Penard, Directeur Général ad interim, Action Contre la Faim