



The EQUINOX SUMMIT STATEMENT:

Brussels, 21-22 March 2023

Science and climate change

Recognising that science is fundamental to human development and wellbeing and particularly in understanding of weather, climate, and climate change.

Acknowledging the achievements of generations of inquiry and scientific endeavour in these areas, and the need to build on and continue to advance scientific understanding.

Recognising that the current understanding of the Earth's climate, including the human influence on climate, is one of the greatest scientific achievements.

Noting with concern the extent of anthropogenic climate change, its current impacts and the projections of its future impacts for the planet, humanity and nature.

The work of the IPCC and UNFCCC

Appreciate the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the IPCC, in its global role of assessing scientific understanding of climate change and responses to the challenges it poses.

Recalls and commends the role of the IPCC in informing the establishment of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UNFCCC, and subsequent development of global climate policy including the adoption in 2015 of the Paris Agreement and its goals.

Notes with appreciation the roles Europe has played in establishing and supporting the work of the IPCC and the significant contributions and leadership of European scientists and institutions to its work.

The European Research Area

Highlighting the work and contributions of European scientists in advancing climate change research and innovation and the academic and scientific excellence in universities and institutes across the European Research Area (ERA).

Stressing the fundamental and ongoing roles of European science and innovation to increasing understanding of, in addressing the challenges of, climate change and in providing solutions.

Noting that further steps are needed to realise the full potential of the European Research Area, including enhanced sharing and communication of knowledge, experience, learnings and using open science.

Emphasising the need to maintain and strengthen European excellence and leadership in climate sciences and to continue enhancing its capacity through investments in research and observation systems.

Strengthening scientific responses

Recognising the scale of responses that are needed to address climate change and the nature and extent of the climate impacts already experienced including the recent extremes in Europe and globally and that these are projected to increase and continue throughout this century.

Recalling the aims and objectives of the European Research Area and the need to realise its potential to inform effective responses to climate change across Europe.

Recalling Council decisions on establishing Joint Programming Initiatives to address the grand societal challenges by aligning national research programmes and activities under common strategic agendas in a trust based and flexible manner.

Acknowledging JPI Climate's role in jointly aligning and coordinating climate research, in achieving collective support for joint research projects, in related national activities under its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda and in working with other JPIs and European initiatives on climate change issues.

Noting the central roles of the EU Horizon Europe programme and linked EU activities and investments including the Green Deal and its climate related Missions.

Recognising the importance of observational infrastructures under the UNFCCC Global Climate Observation System (GCOS and the operational and institutional capacities of Europe including Copernicus, the Integrated Carbon Observation Systems (ICOS), the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Space Agency (ESA), [the European Environmental Agency (EEA)].

Recognising that timely access to current and authoritative scientific information is essential for informing responses by actors in the public, private sectors actors, institutes, and citizens.

Noting the value of such information for existing and emerging national climate advisory bodies, as well as the European Scientific Advisory Body on Climate Change and their needs for access to the latest science

Highlighting the urgency and need to accelerate the generation and transfer of knowledge into policy and actions through open exchange of learning and dialogue between these actors which is informed by science and the need to facilitate this.

The signatories of this Statement

Agree to establish a process to determine how to accelerate the transfer of knowledge from science and innovation to climate policy and actions, taking account of the need to forge a new generation of committed scientists and experts who are aware of the priorities related to the “Climate Change Science” and communicators, considering and including the role science plays in informing achievement of climate neutrality, climate resilience and managing social, economic, secure, and just transitions and transformations.

Request JPI Climate, in cooperation with the European Commission, to organize and manage this process and to provide an implementation plan within 12 months of this Summit.

Encourage all member countries of JPI Climate, the European Research Area, and Associated Countries to express and communicate their support for this statement within the next months.

THE SIGNATORIES:

On March 22nd 2023, the following countries endorsed this Statement:

1. Belgium
2. Czech Republic
3. Finland
4. Hungary
5. Ireland
6. Italy
7. Latvia
8. Luxembourg
9. Norway
10. Spain
11. United Kingdom



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Supported by the Belgium Climate Center

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ET LES INVESTISSEMENTS STRATÉGIQUES,
CHARGÉ DE LA POLITIQUE SCIENTIFIQUE