



European
Commission

What if we do not act?

The European Green Deal

December 2019
#EUGreenDeal



“The cost of the transition will be big, but the cost of non-action will be much bigger.”

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

Without action on climate change, the EU will see, in the lifetime of our children:



Pollution

⚠ **400,000**
premature deaths
per year today due to air pollution.

Source: European Environment Agency,
[Air quality in Europe - 2019 report](#)



Heat and drought

⚠ **90,000**
annual deaths as a
result of heatwaves¹

⚠ **660,000**
additional asylum
applications per year in
the EU at 5°C temperature
increase²

⚠ **16%**
of species at risk
of extinction at 4.3°C
temperature increase³

Source: (1) European Commission's Joint Research Centre PESETA IV, *in press*; (2) A. Missirian & W. Schlenker, Asylum applications respond to temperature fluctuations, *Science*, Vol. 358, Issue 6370, pp. 1610-1614, 2017; (3) IPBES 2019, [Global Assessment](#)



Water and flooding

⚠️ **40%** less available water in southern regions of the European Union

⚠️ **2.2 million** people exposed to coastal inundation each year

Source: European Commission's Joint Research Centre, PESETA IV, *in press*

⚠️ **Half a million** people exposed to river flooding each year



Economics

⚠️ **€190 billion** annual losses projected for a 3°C increase in global average temperature

Source: Ciscar et al., 2014: Climate impacts in Europe, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre PESETA II project

⚠️ Globally, the number of **people at risk** of being forced from their homes by river flooding could increase to **50 million** a year

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Assessing the impacts of climate change on flood displacement risk, 2019

⚠️ Climate change could lead to a **20% food price rise** in 2050

Source: COACCH, The economic cost of climate change in Europe, 2018

⚠️ **Economic costs of heat-related mortality** could amount to more than **€40 billion** per year

The longer we wait, the harder it becomes to reach low temperature targets and the more expensive the necessary efforts will become.

