

Executive Summary of the Sixth European Strategy Meeting of By2020WeRiseUp

This is the executive summary: [you can find the exhaustive minutes here](#).

In attendance were people from at least 12 different European countries representing mostly climate justice but also some social justice groups from all parts of the movement (grassroot groups, Fridays for Future, XR, and NGOs) or coordination efforts. The number of participants fluctuated due to the nature of the grassroots summit being online and varied from 23-36 a day.

The principal aims of the meeting were:

- Reaching an agreement on Autumn framework;
- How do current events affect the climate justice movements?
- What are the needs of the different groups and how can we be more coordinated?
- How can we have a stronger connection between social and climate justice?
- What is the future of platforms like By2020 after the autumn?

After the Brussels Grassroot summit in early March - at which the Fifth European Strategy Conference of By 2020 We Rise Up – the COVID crisis faced all participating groups to reevaluate our plans and drastically altered the agreed wave of action. In light of this By2020 began hosting bi-weekly European Calls for grassroots movement to share ideas, new tactics, and discuss the changes to our narratives that the current crisis required.

One thing that became clear in those discussions – and which shaped the proposals to this Strategy Meeting – was the need for the climate justice movement to connect and collaborate with other social justice movements in the face of these interconnected crises. This consideration framed the discussions and resulted in the autumn ambition and framework as well as the framing of the various moments that make up the autumn frame.

Due to the online nature of the conference, the agenda was significantly more streamlined towards working out and reaching consensus. Therefore, there was an unfortunate lack of space for conversations going above or sideways of the agenda. Consequently, the following executive summary consists of the reached consensus during the conference with the exception of the last section titled 'The Future of the By2020 Platform'.

The Autumn Framework

The Autumn Ambition

2020 has made everyone think about what is essential... how we need to care for people, for society and for the planet that sustains us. Crisis is all around us: health, the economy, colonialism, structural discrimination of all kinds, injustice and inequality, ecological collapse...And these crises are interconnected.

We recognize that both the roots and the solutions of these crises we face are intersectional. We cannot win alone and we need to collaborate with other social and racial justice movements to bring about systemic change. To that end we commit to keep educating ourselves about systemic oppression and

working on building relationships with allies in other social justice movements. Our ambition is to be part of creating coalitions capable of facing the interconnected crises we are in.

This autumn, the Climate Justice movement in Europe will face these challenges by taking 3 steps. First by taking direct action, based on local realities, to block politics and companies of mass destruction during the Climate Care Uprising. Then during the JusticeS Moment we escalate our work by taking concrete steps to build our relationships to other social justice movements and strengthen our connections to them. Finally, we commit to reclaim our power by bringing our groups together to sign the Glasgow agreement - setting us up to continue our struggle with increased momentum in 2021.

The Autumn Objectives

Not all objectives are to be achieved – this is a list of possibilities to help think strategically about what makes sense depending on the context & target.

- **Inclusivity:** Create forms and spaces of escalations that are not exclusively disruptive in a confrontational way. Allow the coexistence of different opinions and levels of radicality, while fighting for the same goal.
- **Intersectionality and JusticeS:** Practice intersectionality in targets & actions Intersectional messaging promoting other groups' solutions such as: bail out healthcare/ housing, end exploitation/ patriarchy, bring colonial fossils and statues down, offer support to other groups, listen to how climate justice movements can be useful to others.
- **Escalation:** Disrupting business as usual around the same time frame in order to increase impact. Reclaiming democracy, tie the momentum to the Glasgow agreement Visibility is power: common hashtags (eg: #EnoughIsEnough) + visual actions + media work to occupy mediatic space.
- **Empowerment:** Giving groups a framework so that activists can understand how they play a role Feeling of power and achievement Learning from one another and acting together Including solutions + radical solidarity Reinforce one another by taking turns in acting.

Climate Care Uprising

Narrative

The narrative for a common moment of action has been agreed upon as a common frame for external communication, but allows for adjustments and modifications to be made in order to better suit the local contexts: The following is a lightly edited extract, [you can find the full text here](#).

Our [so-called] political leaders [and CEOs] should be taking this moment to correct their dire wrongs, but they are failing miserably. Instead, they are neglecting basic human needs and rights, and are spending our money to feed the greed of corporate climate criminals who line their pockets through human exploitation and environmental extraction.

[If you like, insert a specific example here - it can be EU and national and/or local one that is adapted to the country/region using the narrative]

It's high time for a radical change. We are here to help make it reality.

We desperately need to heal ecologies, societies, bodies, public services and economies. To achieve that, we need to come together as a community and take direct action, based on local realities, to block politics and companies of mass destruction.

Economic, social and environmental/climate justice must rise on the agenda! We all must urgently take care of each other and our planet. It's essential work that cannot stay at home!

The crises we face can't be solved individually. We need to learn and listen actively. We need to take action collectively and carefully...

Announcement

We propose to have *two-stage announcement*. The first stage will target groups and activists who already connected to the Climate Care Uprising (mid August latest). The second, and bigger, announcement will take place just a few weeks before the Climate Care Uprising (early September) and will target wider public, and connected groups will be asked to spread the word through their channels.

We propose to have a coalition website for Climate Care Uprising (at climatecareupraising.org), created and managed by joint effort of coalition, data to be managed by By2020, domain to be hosted by Greenpeace.

The digital working group for the Climate Care Uprising continues to develop ideas incorporating the feedback

Next Steps

The working groups will now continue shaping the wave by developing tactics, digital output, outreach and continuing the work of the announcements. The narrative being set allows for all groups, both internationally and locally, to continue developing their plans and ideas with a common direction. If you would like to join a working group please reach out to sophie.bjerregaard@greenpeace.org.

JusticeS Moment

The supporting groups of By2020WeRiseUp intend to take the next step towards practical and concrete intersectional work in the JusticeS moment as part of the autumn choreography, following the Climate Care Uprising. It is important that intersectionality is neither just used as a label nor done performatively nor restricted to just being one moment in the autumn choreography. The JusticeS moment should be the next or first step in a long-term commitment to working intersectionally.

We acknowledge that different groups in different countries are in different places in regards to intersectionality. Intersectional work can and should take place within our movements and groups as well but perspective, the aim needs to be reaching out beyond our own struggles. Along the levels of intersectional work (Showing Support - Intersectional Demands - Building Coalitions) we intend to either intensify our intersectional work on the level we're at or step it up onto the next level.

Recommendations for framing our work and actions during the JusticeS moment include putting care, justice, life, and democracy at the centre of our relationships and societies. We should try to pose moral questions along the lines of: Which side are you on?

The Glasgow Agreement

Note: The consensus reached below do not imply any obligation to anyone, as is always the case in By2020 processes. They are merely an intent from participants at the conference to convey to By2020 supporting groups interested in the Glasgow Agreement process that they have an opportunity to engage and develop this moment. Participation is especially welcome given that the final text of the Glasgow Agreement is not finished and may change. This also means it is not binding to any group wishing to help shape it.

Joining the Glasgow Agreement

The groups in By2020WeRiseUp commit to entering and shaping the Glasgow Agreement process

Clarifications:

- Each group and not the platform
- Work on the process of building the agreement and the platform
- We understand that activists need to double check with their groups and confirm it by filling the form in the GA website

Signing the Glasgow Agreement

Create a working group to start thinking and organizing the regional signing event in Europe - the groups in By2020 commit to organizing and/or participating in the regional events.

Clarifications:

- The working group will understand if the best solution is to have 1 event or decentralized. If decentralized, groups organize in their local region. Otherwise, groups will organize or just participate in the regional event.
- The group will work with the finance and logistics WG from Glasgow Agreement that is responsible for the signature event.
- This will happen in November
- This was the proposal that raised most concerns (for example the time and energy that each group will have at the end of the wave)

The Future of the By2020 Platform

The following last section does not represent a consensus!

The conference dedicated much of Sunday to reflect on the future of the By2020 platform and what sort of platforms and spaces we need in the continuously evolving climate justice movement. This conversation will inform future conversations including the next Strategic Meeting.

Three identified options for next year by the By2020WeRiseUp facilitation-team:

- Merge with/handing over to Glasgow Agreement (GA):
- New Team, new name - similar platform
- End the campaign and focus energy/boost on the Climate Justice Action network (or other neutral coordination space)

The full and rich conversation can be found in the minutes. Much discussion was given to the first option and what impacts / requirements that would have on current plans within the Glasgow Agreement. It was identified that this needs to be a leading conversation of the next and perhaps final European Strategy Meeting of By 2020 We Rise Up to be hosted in the late autumn.