

## Executive Summary

### of the Seventh and final European Strategy Meeting of By2020WeRiseUp

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

The seventh and final European Strategy Conference of By2020WeRiseUp took place on the 27th and 28th of November 2020. Due to the ongoing Corona-pandemic it had to again be held entirely online. This again led to significantly lower attendance than during in-person meetings. The number of participants fluctuated and varied from 15-20 people. Nonetheless, over a dozen European countries from all corners of Europe as well as all parts of the climate justice movement were present (“classical” climate justice grassroots groups, Fridays for Future, XR, and NGOs) or coordination efforts.

The principal aims of the meeting were:

- empowerment - reminding ourselves of the amazing work we have done so far and what can be achieved when we collaborate
- getting an understanding of what worked/was useful and what wasn't in the By2020-campaign
- finding out which impediments to coordination there are how they could be overcome
- gathering what is needed for coordinating European climate justice action in 2021
- getting an understanding of which coordination efforts already exist in 2021

The COVID crisis has shaped the coordination efforts of European grassroots all year. After the Brussels grassroots summit in early March – part of which was the Fifth European Strategy Conference of By 2020 We Rise Up – the COVID crisis forced all participating groups to reevaluate our plans and drastically altered the agreed wave of action. Through discussions on biweekly By2020 European calls and the Sixth European Strategy Conference hosted online in early August, the climate justice movement regained momentum this autumn by focusing on addressing the interconnected crisis we face through the Climate Care uprising moment and other calls to action.

However, as the year draws to a close, the By2020WeRiseUp platform does as well. The campaign had an end date built into it for a reason. We do not believe it makes sense for our movements to turn our collaboration platform into an institution for its own sake, and the current volunteer facilitation team does not have the capacity to overhaul and update the platform to best suit all of our needs. All good things must come to an end. However, we want to stress that the end of the campaign will by no means have to mean the end of coordination or strategy conversations on the European level of the climate justice movement! This executive summary will provide an outline for continued collaboration and recommendations based on lessons learned over the past few years.

*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 and additional recommendations for the establishment of a European coordination space within the [Glasgow Agreement](#).*

## **Concluding the By2020-campaign**

The By2020WeRiseUp-Campaign is concluding with the end of the year 2020. Its resources will remain accessible via the By2020-Website.

The supporting groups of By2020WeRiseUp intend to keep putting an emphasis on coordination, strategy, and an escalation of tactics to ensure that the just transition is happening fast enough to prevent further catastrophes such as climate change over 1.5°C or ecosystems and societies collapsing.

## **Climate justice action in 2021**

The participants of the Final By2020WeRiseUp European Strategy conference in November 2020:

- Encourage each other to work on system-sensitive points with key and system-relevant examples being finance & communication.
- Acknowledge that targeting a sensitive point of the system will look different depending on the country
- Encourage to dedicate time & capacities to coordination and strategy outside of our groups
- Look into establishing strategy space & invite people to it & connect it to a call for proposals and ideas
- Look into establishing a finance-targeting space & invite people to it
- Integrating what was said above into existing structures as much as possible

## **European coordination beyond By2020**

The participants of the Final By2020WeRiseUp European Strategy conference in November 2020 agree that future European collaboration between grassroots groups is key to combat the interconnected crises we are facing. To that end, we encourage

- groups:
  - to explore the Glasgow Agreement (GA) process and the interest in your groups to sign up to the agreement.
- both groups and individuals:
  - to engage in the Glasgow Agreement process - especially on the potential for a European Regional Glasgow Agreement space that can support European strategy and coordination
  - to re-energise the Climate Justice Action network (CJA) as a skillsharing & networking space

## **Recommendations for future European coordination**

The participants of the By2020 Strategy conference would like to provide the following input, questions and reflections to the Glasgow Agreement process on developing regional coordination spaces – given the experience of the By2020 platform and associated activities.

- That in Europe, we see a need and desire for continued spaces that encourage skillsharing, networking and sharing of plans between all grassroots groups. We recognise that the Climate Justice Action (CJA) network has traditionally held this space even though its not possible currently due to COVID. We encourage the individuals involved the Climate Justice Action network and the Glasgow Agreement Regional Spaces to explore ways to cooperate - for example, but not limited to, co-hosting European Grassroots Summits like the one held in Brussels in March 2020.
- There is need for a European Regional Coordination space of the Glasgow Agreement to host a continuous process of strategy development and coordination of activities. We encourage this space to at appropriate times be open for attendees from groups who haven't signed the Glasgow Agreement in order to maximize our impact and also provide a lower level of engagement to European collaboration. We hope this in turn will also lead to more groups who find it appropriate to sign the Glasgow Agreement.
- We recognise there are differences across Europe in terms of the reality and political landscape for activists, but also note that the By2020 process found a lot of common ground and opportunities for coordination that took these differences into account.
- We recognise the need for more territorial or smaller regional coordination but based on the experience of by2020 we encourage that to develop organically with time. To that end a regional space should remain as the main entry point to avoid confusion and extra levels
- There is need for participating groups to reserve capacity to be a part of and help coordinate a regional space - a best practice may be the Ende Gelände International Working group. To that end the regional space should clarify the expected capacity required to attend and as well clarify how much is expected from coordinators. The more this could stay consistent the easier it is for people to engage.
- Suggestions for the output of a European Regional Coordination space include:
  - regular in-person meeting spaces
  - regular calls or other ways of continuously staying in touch and up to date
  - being pro-active about communication - By2020 found a huge need for active outreach
  - coordinating around more than just hashtags and dates - making coordination visible and tangible by coordinating around objectives, targets, strategies
  - international mobilisation for actions in neighbouring territories
  - providing clarity and consistency on the (required) work by supporting groups - also in terms of scheduling
  - provide an (e.g. online) resource where information on campaigns, action moments, etc.. are easily available to avoid information hierarchies as much as possible
- We encourage the organisation of another conference, possibly online, in February or March of 2021 in order to make it easier for groups to understand the process and begin to get involved.