

## Executive summary of the Fifth European Strategy Meeting of By2020WeRiseUp

*This is the executive summary, [you'll find the exhaustive minutes here](#).*

In attendance were people from at least 23 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 between at least thirty and up to a hundred per day.

The principal aims of the meeting were:

- Empowerment
  - Turning a calendar full of European actions into a synergetic wave
  - Skill-sharing & Networking
- Strategy
  - Objectives of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> wave
  - Impact, tactics, targets, objectives, coordination, etc.

When creating the timeline for 2020 we saw a Spring for which many different groups across Europe have planned various actions. April and May are looking the fullest (with some also still / already (?) coming in March). And already quite a few actions are planned for September. *See exhaustive minutes of the full timeline, p. 3. All of the plans were made before the outbreak of covid-19.*

After breakout group discussions of what objectives different groups have and what tactics we have used (see exhaustive minutes for full lists) there were breakout group discussions on how to maximise impact as a movement. Based on those discussions, breakout groups were formed with the previously identified themes of:

- **Coordination** needs more *resources (people and funding)*, groups should be *specific* about what they need, a need to agree on a communication platform and to build a movement narrative (while mobilizing locally).
- **External communication** should be done strategically and coordinated/synergetic. Remember the basics: Who are we talking to? What do we want to convey? On what channels can we reach our target audience? Be as precise as possible with your call-to-action. Focus as much as possible on positive messaging, on what we want - not on what we don't want.
- **Internal communication**, in which there are two main aspects; security and accessibility. We currently have too many communication channels which makes it harder to communicate, while at the same time we need more communication between movements.
- **Tactics to increase escalation and pressure:** The two main threads are disruption and accessibility. The combined solution is complementarity – no one has the correct answer, but we all have parts of it. The question is how to we escalate while still respecting each others' principles, values and tactics. We complement each other's actions - for example through using more digital activism, through a combination of mass NVDA's and small affinity group actions.

- **Objectives** might be short or long term. Differences can best be handled through common, concrete projects! There is no way that all groups will agree to the exact same action form, targets, narrative, demands AND press work – but we might be able to agree on some or even most of these!

These discussions were followed by strategy workshops using two different movement theory models; movement action plan and momentum driving organising with different theories of change. *Loads of interesting insights about how to create system change in the exhaustive minutes p. 11.*

## Objectives for the 3rd wave

**The result of this working group reached consensus in the plenary:**

- **Weakening the system from inside and/or outside**
  - From the inside: work with or towards workers, scare shareholders, create fear for their business model.
  - Change popular understanding and acceptance of the system, contribute to change the narrative of what is normal, raise awareness and therefore possibilities for support in the long run, create losses (visible from the outside or not) to the companies mentioned below by (1) concrete disruption (blocking AGMs + disrupting harbours + (maybe) targeting other infrastructures) (2) financial targeting by taking action against their financial supports (banks) and BlackRock.
  - Names of the agreed targeted companies (implementation depending on groups' capacities and existing plans): Shell, Total, BP, Uniper, Exxon, Enagas, CAPSA, RWE, Eni
- **Reinforcing our own movement(s)**
  - Make strategy and coordination between our groups easier and more natural, by practising them around planning the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave.
  - Increased impact, and feeling it from our side.
  - Through increased impact, increased empowerment, helping us to keep internal people in our different groups, keep energies up and absorb newcomers more easily by finding roles for them.
  - Learn to work out and apply strategies internally (where do our groups situate themselves on different social movements models, *see exhaustive minutes on Strategy Workshop I*).
  - Train on choosing targets and tactics, and therefore implementing complementarity between movements, preferences and experiences.
  - Train on targets and tactics, gain experience on them for another wave.
- **Being a part of escalation**
  - Focus on general population - youth & workers, social media is a tool to amplify and make other struggles visible.
  - Climate justice is not going to be achieved in three months. However, the third wave/Spring can help us go in this direction concretely by weakening the system on specific points and reinforcing ourselves on others. By fulfilling both above-mentioned objectives and choosing what we do through a strategy of weakening the system in mind thanks to our complementarity, we can achieve an escalation “step by step” without burning ourselves while increasing our impact.

**The following three working groups were given a mandate to keep on working as part of the By2020 platform:**

- **Tactics**

- Sharing, improving, and learning
- Tactics consultants for active group (community of practice)
- “50 shades of tactics” toolkit
- Workshops on tactics
- Reinforcement for online activism: communication and disruption improvement

- **Coordination**

- The challenge is that there are currently too many channels and not enough people joining the connection calls and putting energy in internal organisation of coordination. We need to value our networking and common strategising.
- In light of that the group will be looking into different proposals - such as a Strategic communication team? Can a system be set up that makes communication possible during or from action to action? Can we set up a Delegate system with a max number from each group? The idea is that while not all groups will agree to use the same channels, all delegates could use the same channels. Only an estimated 2-3 hours per week are needed to be a delegate
- At least 3 core people / facilitation team to ensure the working group keeps running.

- **Narrative**

- Working out a narrative for the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave and a common declaration of the European climate justice movement rising up as a partially shared press release and call to action (issued on the same day by groups all over Europe. First paragraph to be a common declaration, further paragraphs group-specific [own plans, messaging, demands, etc]. Common declaration to be put on a neutral website. Two calls to action: Sign this declaration individually + Join your nearest climate justice group.)
- 'Climate' has to be core of the narrative but aspects of justice need to be a part of it as well.
- We want to pose a moral question: Which side are you on?
- Democracy frame
- Ideas we liked: Climate justice spring + talking about care

## **Beyond the 3rd Wave**

During the grassroots-summit, there was a track to prepare and plan for COP26. First results of this track and the By2020-conference regarding the autumn were exchanged. By2020 breakout groups tried to identify leading questions for planning and strategising for the Autumn. All of the following statements were approved in a consent procedure, meaning that everyone actively supported:

- **COP + By2020 + The Glasgow Agreement**
  - We aim at delegitimizing the COP
  - We want to take back the power on climate action

- We want to contrast the COP (as we think we cannot ignore it)
- Civil disobedience actions before the COP will help giving the Glasgow Agreement credibility
- Occupy COP (*confusing working title: it's not about the COP itself but about leading up to it*)
  - Tactical proposal to occupy places of power and hold assemblies
  - Logic: We're not addressing power-holders any longer
  - Possible narrative: Power to the people
  - *a mandate was given to a working group for a possible 4th wave on this basis*
- Include the EU-Mercosur trade agreement into narratives and objectives of the 4th wave

## **By2020WeRiseUp**

*The following statement was also approved in a consent procedure:*

By2020WeRiseUp is intending to continue its work as a platform for coordination, strategy, and escalation. Its mandate is renewed by its supporting groups. Due to a lack of personnel capacities in the current facilitation team, supporting groups will make their best effort to reserve a certain amount of their own personal capacities for coordination on a regional as well as European level.