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Title: **Climate Adaptation Against Inequalities**

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Time is up: the climate has changed. The 1.5°C target has been missed and it is foreseen that 2027
will set a new record. Europe and the Mediterranean are warming faster than the global average and face severe heat, wildfires, and water risks, including droughts, floods, extreme precipitation, and glacier melting.

Mitigation remains indispensable, but adaptation can no longer be postponed. Climate change amplifies inequalities: wealthier people and businesses can buy protection, insurance, cooling and relocation, while poorer people rely on public infrastructure and services for relief.

The crisis is visible. In summer 2026, Europe's fifth heatwave affected around 300 million people. Paris, London and Brussels experienced unprecedented temperatures, associated with an estimated 35,000 deaths across the continent, totalling 200,000 over the past four years. Heat and drought pushed rivers to record lows and expanded wildfire risks beyond traditional southern hotspots. The agricultural sector is facing declines in yields, changes in growing areas and new pests. Floods, such as Storm DANA in Valencia, Spain, and landslides in Sicily, have caused severe losses and damage.

Climate change is a threat multiplier while adaptation itself can actually deepen inequalities through green gentrification and unequal access to protection. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the European Environment Agency (EEA), older people, children, pregnant women, people with chronic conditions and outdoor workers are the most

vulnerable, having fewer resources to adapt while facing greater exposure. Rural communities dependent on agriculture and tourism, people encountering housing and energy poverty, and densely-populated neighbourhoods are more vulnerable to extreme weather.

While right-wing politicians continue to minimise such problems, the Greens must promote inclusive, cooperative adaptation that protects people now while, at the same time, addressing structural causes, both locally and internationally.

Adaptation must be inclusive: affected communities must shape planning; EU funding must include social-justice criteria; and public infrastructure must take priority over private protection solutions.

Adaptation must be coordinated: governments, communities and businesses should share information, align investments and address interconnected risks, ensuring local adaptation does not create risks elsewhere.

Adaptation must be based on functioning ecosystems: public investment should prioritise innovative nature-based solutions, whereas the private sector can complement these efforts.

We need practical measures able to make an immediate impact on daily life.

Heat: guarantee free drinking water and cooling spaces; introduce heat health plans; enforce temperature thresholds and compensation for outdoor workers when work is unsafe; adapt school and office schedules and invest in insulation, cool roofs and green spaces.

Wildfires: strengthen firefighters, civil protection and critical infrastructures; improve early warnings and preparedness; establish firebreaks; balance active land management through diversification, restoration and the rewilding of ecosystems; increase cross-border cooperation.

Agriculture and water: prioritise naturally climate-resilient crops, soil and water conservation and sustainable irrigation; ensure fair water allocation and prioritise essential needs and ecosystems.

Floods and landslides: invest in flood management and restore ecosystems that

retain water and stabilise landscapes and urban spaces.

Adaptation has limits: when ecosystems collapse, people are forced to move. Migration can be an adaptation strategy when people have resources and choices, but when systems fail it becomes a necessity. Europe must prepare for internal displacement and increasing migration from neighbouring regions.

Demands

Therefore, as European Greens, we demand:

• Binding EU adaptation targets and infrastructure stress tests against severe scenarios

• Universal protection from extreme heat, including cooling spaces, drinking water, shade and heat health plans

• Enforceable temperature thresholds and adapted conditions for workers and children

• Affordable insurance and public risk pooling that rewards risk reduction

• Huge investment in climate-resilient public infrastructure, including cooling systems in buildings and schools, flood protection, healthcare and water systems

• Ecosystem restoration as adaptation infrastructure, preventing maladaptation and green gentrification

• Stronger European civil protection and wildfire prevention through public funding, preparedness and cross-border cooperation

• Support for climate-resilient livelihoods, such as agriculture, forestry, tourism, reinforcing agricultural methods and traditional knowledge of shared land use

• Solidarity-based adaptation finance prioritising the most exposed communities and closing the international finance gap

• Preparation for climate displacement, protecting legal mobility, the right to seek protection and European solidarity

• Accelerated mitigation alongside adaptation. Every fraction of a degree avoided reduces adaptation needs, losses and risks to peace and stability.

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