

CHANGE TO THE 5 GREEN STARS

We should have a European regulation for green cities to become greener in Europe by 2030

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SUMMARY

We want the EU to support our cities to become “green” and to introduce a common regulation at European level that sets a minimum ecological living standard.

All European cities have to be at the same environmental level, and in order to reach that, the EU Commission should provide necessary funds for the cities that are in need of it. Furthermore, this project will contribute to reach the goals set in The Paris Agreement.

PROBLEMS

Our cities aren’t “green” enough. That means that the nature isn’t sufficient (trees, plants, parks, etc.). So, this will steer to air pollution and hinder to breath: because of the low air quality 400.000 Europeans die each year prematurely, and in the world, 93 % of the children (1.8 billion) breathe polluted air¹.

Another big issue is society’s lack of awareness concerning about environmental problems. People don’t care and don’t have the information about what is going to happen if we don’t reduce pollution.

These problems will lead to terrible consequences, and one of the most important ones will be related to health problems. At the same time the weather will face extreme changes such as floods, unbearable temperatures. The high quantity of concrete, and lack of green areas contribute to higher temperatures and stop rainwater from draining away.

¹ Report of World Health Organization.



GOALS

We want people to live healthier in our cities and to have less polluted air.

Some urgent initiatives must be taken to solve the environmental problems our communities are facing. Europe needs to invest more in developing “green” cities.

We want to develop more green cities within Europe by 2030.

Green cities are sustainable urban areas where there is an efficient waste management system, sustainable public transportation that will use alternative energy, eco buildings, eco-friendly infrastructures (cycling lanes, green areas, etc.), renewable energy (including energy storage), ecology protection and conservation (protect biodiversity).

The nature can be our friend. 20 mature trees can absorb the pollution of a car that travels 100 km / day, they can stop the overheating of areas where there are large areas of concrete; green spaces influence people's well-being and exposure to areas with rich vegetation has a beneficial role on the general state and reduces stress

ACTIONS

The "butterfly effect" is widely applied when it comes to the environment. The consequences of pollution in a city are felt not just at local level but also at European level.

For this reason, a collective effort is a must in order to make an efficient and fast change.

To encourage our cities to become green cities, we want the EU to introduce a European regulation to set some minimum ecological living standards. These will be the objective criteria based on real statistical information.

The topics that will be taken into consideration are waste management, renewable energy, eco buildings, green areas, the level of air pollution, recycle. (For example, 10% of the cities will be green area).

In order to evaluate the advancement in ecological city building we want to introduce a 5-star rating system following the model of the tourism industry.

The European Environment Agency will be responsible for the evaluation and the management of the stars system. For all the cities that have more than 250.000 habitants it is compulsory to reach the minimum standards (one star). For gaining more stars, the cities can apply optionally to the same Agency. The cities that will not reach the minimum conditions till 2030 will be fined.



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The EU should create a fund for supporting the cities to achieve the minimum criteria set by the regulation (1 green star). This fund will be set in a cooperative way, to help the poorest cities which do not have enough resources and knowledge to invest in green policies.

FINAL CLAIM

When the Planet is getting sick, the human health becomes worse. We need to tackle both problems at the same time.

We want the EU to support our cities to become “green”.