



## **Austria declares a Climate Emergency – and decides upon eight concrete policy measures to combat climate change**

**25. 9., National Council, Vienna, Austria:**

**4 parties raise the containment of the climate crisis to the top political priority and define eight measures which should turn Austria's climate policy upside down.**

In yesterday's session, the National Council declared a national Climate Emergency by a large majority (all parties except the Freedom Party). After Great Britain, Ireland and France, Austria is now the fourth European country to make climate and environmental protection a top political priority. But the proposal does not only contain a declaration of intent for more climate protection, but also eight concrete measures to bring Austria onto a 1.5°C path.

These are (1):

1. to **declare a Climate Emergency** and thus to recognise the containment of the climate and environmental crisis and its serious consequences as a **task of the highest priority**.
2. to use the scientific reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Austrian Panel on Climate Change (APCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) as an **objective basis for future climate and environmental policy** in addition to the publications of Austrian legal institutions,
3. and, building on this, to immediately prepare measures within the framework of the **improvement of the National Energy and Climate Plan (NEKP)** to demonstrably reduce greenhouse gas emissions without the use of high-risk compensation technologies and without the purchase of emissions certificates. The goal should be to reduce emissions as soon as possible, but before the middle of the century, and in a socially acceptable manner **beyond the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement** to net zero, in order to make Austria's appropriate contribution to limiting global warming to 1.5°C.
4. to **always have the effects on climate and climate protection determined in future decisions**, to present them in a transparent and comprehensible manner and to take them into account.
5. to have the six-monthly minutes of the Climate Protection Committee submitted to the National Council and the public on progress and difficulties in reducing emissions in particular, as well as on climate and environmental protection in general.
6. to **inform the Austrian population comprehensively and continuously** through all public channels about the climate and environmental crisis, its causes and effects as well as about the measures taken against it.
7. to **politically commit itself at EU and international level to the achievement of the 1.5°C target**, to call on other countries to take appropriate measures to protect the climate and the environment, to speak out



in favour of renewable energies and against nuclear fission, and to promote the fulfilment of the global target through Austria's own appropriate contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gases.

8. to cooperate and coordinate with the provinces and municipalities in the implementation of appropriate measures.

Although the parties now want to show higher ambitions than the Paris Agreement prescribes, **the scientific evaluation of the party programmes** (2) published yesterday by the Climate Change Center Austria (CCCA) paints a different picture. So far, not all party programmes provide for the necessary measures to guarantee Austria's adequate contribution to containing the climate crisis. It remains to be seen whether the Climate Emergency will lead to party programmes being sharpened and corresponding action being taken.

The national Climate Emergency is a clear mandate to the current and future Federal Government to act. In the same session, the increase of **Austria's contribution to the Green Climate Fund** to 100 million € was rejected by the veto of the conservative party and the freedom party despite the large economic consequential damages (3).

All parties are called upon to cooperate. No matter who the new government is: The youth will continue to increase the pressure on the streets until action is finally taken.

Questions to:

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- (1) Climate Change Center Austria:

<https://ccca.ac.at/wissenstransfer/informationsdokumente/ref-nekp-bewertung-partiepositionen-sept-2019>

- (2) Motion for a resolution on the National Climate Emergency:

[https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/VHG/XXVI/A/A\\_00935/index.shtml](https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/VHG/XXVI/A/A_00935/index.shtml)

- (3) Economist Karl Steininger: Lack of commitment to the Paris Agreement endangers Austria's future

[https://science.apa.at/site/natur\\_und\\_technik/detail?key=SCI\\_20190920\\_SCI3\\_9491352050658338](https://science.apa.at/site/natur_und_technik/detail?key=SCI_20190920_SCI3_9491352050658338)