

We, the students of the Europeaness Erasmus+ project, declare that the following demands on sustainability are vital for the Europe we want to live in:

Recycling

We demand a more efficient deposit system (e.g. for bottles, glass, plastics) everywhere in the EU. We should have more control over the recycling process to ensure the sustainability. This includes a restriction of exports of waste into developing countries, a harder persecution of the illegal disposal of hazardous waste, more public bins and especially a better separation of waste. Financial support of multiple-use products as against disposable single-use products can significantly reduce waste levels in Europe.

The Usage of Plastics

We demand a more responsible usage of plastics. The recycling of plastics should be taken more seriously by EU politicians. Plastic bags for example should be forbidden like it is already implemented in a few countries. There should go more thought into which products need to be packaged in plastic and which do not. Buying products in bring-your-own containers should be made more attractive than buying prepackaged products.

Food Waste

We demand a reduction of the food that is being wasted every day. Supermarkets, restaurants and citizens are throwing away 88 million tons of food every year in the EU. Reducing industrial farming and agricultural overproduction, stopping overfishing and using local and seasonal food would help against this and reduce CO₂ emissions. Organic farming being more strongly state-subsidized could help with these points. Food that is wasted often still has a good quality. Expiry date promotions should be obligatory at an early stage to make expiring food products more attractive for consumption.

Education

We demand a greater focus on environmental education (e.g. recycling, pollution control etc.) from kindergarten age onwards. Initiatives of environmental actions like 'Earth Day' (22nd April) should be more strongly promoted Europe-wide.

Energy

We demand renewable energy to be less expensive, and private investments in solar panels and wind turbines to be more attractive (e.g. less expensive, less paperwork, better price to sell the overproduced electricity). There should be differentiated fair prices of kW/h for each country depending on their economy. That would help countries with weaker economies to develop a higher GNI. We also demand a more responsible way of dealing with resources. If a country decides to stop using a specific non-renewable energy source, it should not be allowed to import electricity from that source either. Hydrogen Fuel should be state-subsidized in order to develop it as a viable alternative for fossil fuels.

Supply Chains

We demand shorter and more sustainable supply chains which should lead to more local and regional products. Fast Fashion should be reduced. Clothing and other products travel thousands of kilometres and through many different countries before arriving at a shop. This cannot be considered sustainable. Going towards a sustainable Europe, this should be changed.

Public Transport

We demand a more affordable and better connected system of public transport. Projects like the 9€ ticket of summer 2022 in Germany showed that if public transport was more affordable, many people would use it rather than a car. This would decrease the need of new highways which destroy big parts of our nature. Introducing more trains on the same route could help against overcrowding and would make many routes faster. A quicker way of travelling by train could motivate European citizens not to use planes for short distances.