

AN OPEN LETTER TO:

Ursula von der Leyen, President-elect of the European Commission

Charles Michel, President-elect of the European Council

David Sassoli, President of the European Parliament

Dear Presidents,

PROTECT OUR LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM

The ocean plays a critical role in human health and the health of the planet. It buffers us against the worst impacts of climate breakdown, generates the oxygen we breathe, and provides sustenance and livelihoods for people across the world. The ocean protects and provides for us all.

The new Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere (IPCC SROC) sets out clear evidence that the ocean is bearing the brunt of the climate crisis. It offers a grim diagnosis of the state of our ocean, showing that our planet's life support system is under attack.

We all share the responsibility to pass a liveable planet on to our children and grandchildren. If the destruction of the ocean continues, this will not happen.

The climate crisis is not limited to land. There is much that can and must be done to protect the ocean, the largest habitat on Earth, so that it can continue to protect us. We urgently need to boost the ocean's chances of survival in the face of climate breakdown by removing the stressors that are within our reach.

To revive the ocean, we are calling for leadership to:

- End overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. All EU institutions and member states must implement and enforce in full the Common Fisheries Policy, specifically the deadline to end overfishing by 2020.
- Put in place a robust High Seas Treaty by the end of 2020.
- Protect at least thirty percent of the ocean through implemented, highly and fully Protected Areas by the end of 2030, with the remaining 70 percent of the ocean sustainably managed.
- Protect the deep ocean, through a precautionary pause on deep sea mining.

The scale of the pressure on the ocean is only matched by the size of the opportunity for leadership in restoring the planet's greatest source of life. As presidents we are asking you to exercise that leadership.

Yours sincerely,

