

Feedback by Clean Air Action Group to the Commission's Consultation on European climate resilience and risk management – integrated framework¹

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According to the Global Risk Report 2025 of the World Economic Forum (https://reports.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Global_Risks_Report_2025.pdf), the top risk is **misinformation and disinformation**. Awareness of the causes of climate change and the necessary mitigation and adaptation measures is extremely low among the population and often among decision-makers, too. This situation is conspicuously reflected in the rise of populist forces all over Europe, which either deny that climate change is caused by humans or, more often, oppose the necessary measures with false arguments. The latter is also true for certain Member State governments; this is exemplified by their effort to postpone or at least water down the implementation of the emission trading system for buildings and road transport (ETS2). For example, they use the argument that ETS2 would hit vulnerable households the hardest, while the truth is that the current system highly favours the rich at the expense of the poor (<https://www.euki.de/en/our-campaign-on-stop-subsidising-the-rich/>), and the implementation of ETS2 with appropriate compensation for households would reduce social inequality (<https://ceenergynews.com/voices/everyone-must-be-compensated-when-fossil-fuel-prices-rise/>). Another, often expressed – but false – argument is that ETS2 would hurt the economy of the EU (or a Member State), while the truth is that postponing the ETS2 would only benefit extremely polluting established industries, waste public money (due to enormous opportunity costs and the continuation of providing harmful subsidies), and delay the inevitable transition to a better functioning economic system (https://www.levego.hu/sites/default/files/Would_ET2_hurt_the_economy_FINAL08-2025.pdf). – The social media and, in several Member States, even the media is inundating the public with misinformation and disinformation. At the same time, the voices trying to dispel climate-related misinformation and disinformation are usually much weaker (especially on social media) than the voice of those spreading disinformation. If this tendency continues, the EU's climate policies are doomed to failure (see <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jun/19/climate-misinformation-turning-crisis-into-catastrophe-ipie-report>).

The lack of information is a major risk, too. For example, many people are not aware of even the simplest methods to keep their homes cooler during the summer heat. – Environmental NGOs lack the funding to meaningfully counter the colossal misinformation and disinformation that is spread by certain business groups, media, and political forces. So, NGOs often feel like trying to extinguish a forest fire with a glass of water.

We recommend the following: (1) European Commission should provide much more funding for awareness raising and combatting misinformation and disinformation; (2) it should urge progressive national governments to do the same; (3) the EU should implement the measures proposed by Martin Andree (<https://ioplus.nl/en/posts/breaking-the-stranglehold-of-big-tech-why-media-monopolies-must-end---and-how-we-can-do-this-without-spending>); and (4) climate misinformation and disinformation and fossil fuel lobbying should be criminalised (<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jun/30/un-expert-urges-criminalizing-fossil-fuel-disinformation-banning-lobbying>).

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14770-European-climate-resilience-and-risk-management-integrated-framework/feedback_en?p_id=58929884