

Press Release Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute and Climate Action Network (CAN)

Climate Change Performance Index 2019: Not enough countries prove political will to prevent dangerous climate change

Global CO₂ emissions are rising again / Sweden and Morocco leading countries, Morocco with significant expansion of renewable energy / eight of the G20-countries perform very low - USA and Saudi Arabia at the bottom of the index

Katowice (December 10th, 2018). After three consecutive years of stable CO₂ emissions, emissions are rising again. The Climate Change Performance Index 2019 (CCPI), published today at COP24 in Katowice, shows only few countries have started to implement strategies to limit global warming below 2 or even 1.5°C. While there is a continued growth and competitiveness of renewable energy, especially in countries that had low shares before, the CCPI shows a lack of political will of most governments to phase out fossil fuels with the necessary speed. Because of that, in most countries the climate policy evaluation by national experts is significantly lower than in the last years. Jan Burck, co-author of the CCPI at Germanwatch, comments: "Based on techno-economic developments in the last years, delay in implementation of low-carbon solutions can hardly be justified. While the G20 summit has shown strong support of 19 countries to support the Paris Agreement, the political will of those Governments to set the right frameworks and incentives for its national implementation is not yet reflected in these words."

"Before Paris the world was heading to 4-5°C of global warming. Now we are still on a path to more than 3°C, still a catastrophic perspective. The costs of electricity from wind and solar have dropped by roughly a third since then, so all countries can increase ambition and pace", Prof. Niklas Höhne, co-author from NewClimate Institute, adds. In 40 of the 56 analysed countries, the emissions decreased between 2011 and 2016. However, investments in fossil fuel infrastructure leading to a high risk of a lock-in into high emissions pathways.

The gap between current emission levels and what is needed to put the world on track for a well-below-2°C or even 1.5°C pathway is widening. We are also seeing a widening gap on leadership at a time when countries must be strengthening the climate regime. "It is very important now that EU needs to enhance its current climate commitment to show leadership.", Stephan Singer from the Climate Action Network (CAN), co-publisher of the CCPI, says.

Key results of CCPI 2019

The top three of the CCPI 2019 are still unoccupied, because none of the 56 countries or the EU are clearly on a well below 2°C pathway in their overall performance. In total, the countries' ambition as well as the level of implementation is not high enough. Niklas Höhne: "There are bright spots in all categories, but no country performs well in *all* categories. If all countries would follow the leaders, we would come a long way towards a well below 2°C pathway."

With comparably good ratings in emissions and renewables Sweden again leads the ranking (Rank 4), followed by Morocco that significantly increased its share of renewable energy capacity and has an ambitious national climate target. India moves to rank 11 as a result of an improved performance in renewable energy, comparatively low levels of per capita emissions and a relatively ambitious mitigation target for 2030.

Germany falls again, from place 22 to place 27 and is now in the middle of *medium*-performing countries. It is the second lowest ranking for Germany in the history of the CCPI. The country shows a relatively *low* performance in the emissions category, emissions have not decreased since 2009. It is rated *medium* regarding renewable energy and climate policy. Jan Burck explains: "Decisions on a coal phase-out or a strategy to decarbonise the transport sector are still lacking. In addition, a CO₂-pricing scheme to ensure for emissions reductions across all sectors is not put in place yet. This leads to a lower national policy rating in comparison to the last years. But the government has the opportunity to improve its rating again with a strong climate protection law next year."

China climbs to rank 33, being in the group of the *medium*-performing countries for the first time. China performed relatively well regarding its emissions trend from 2014 to 2016, but emissions started to increase again recently. The overall high rating in the climate policy category reflects the government's progress on regulating industrial emissions, building emissions and a successful renewable energy support scheme.

In the group of *very low* performers we find almost half of the G20 countries: Japan (49), Turkey (50), Russian Federation (52), Canada (54), Australia (55), Korea (57) and - at the bottom of the index - USA (59) and Saudi Arabia (60). The USA again lost several places due to its low to very low-rated performance in the GHG Emissions, Renewable Energy and Energy Use. The experts from the USA rated the climate policy of the Trump administration *very low*, but they highlight some positive signals because of climate action in several states and cities and because of the Democrats promise to push climate policy with their new majority in the House of Representatives.

About the Climate Change Performance Index 2019, developed by Germanwatch and the NewClimate Institute:

The Climate Change Performance Index by Germanwatch and the NewClimate Institute published together with the Climate Action Network (CAN) is a ranking of the 56 countries and the EU, together responsible for about 90% of global GHG emissions. The four categories examined are: GHG emissions (40%), renewable energy (20%), energy use (20%) and climate policy (20%). The latter is based on expert assessments by NGOs and think tanks from the respective countries. The CCPI also evaluates to what extent the respective countries are taking adequate action within the categories emissions, renewables and energy use to being on track towards the global Paris-goal of limiting global warming to well below 2°C. Therefore, the CCPI is an important tool in contributing to a clearer understanding of national and international climate policy.

For more information, all category rankings and detailed information about country performances, please see: www.climate-change-performance-index.org

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