

BUSINESS STATEMENT

For crisis management and a sustainable future: Making our economy more resilient with a climate stimulus programme.

Initiated by:



Signatories:



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The COVID-19 pandemic has already taken thousands of lives and is leading the whole world, Europe, and Germany into a deep, unprecedented crisis. We welcome the swift and resolute action taken by the German Federal Government to prioritize protecting human lives with emergency programmes to mitigate the social, societal, and economic impacts of COVID-19 nationally and in cooperation with its European and international partners.

The pandemic is also relentlessly demonstrating the vulnerability of our globalized economic system through a threat unable to be contained to specific regions or industries. In this respect, climate change poses a comparable challenge; a challenge that, compared with COVID-19, we are better prepared to face. Large parts of the economy from all sectors have already begun to gear their business models towards climate-friendly development based on scientific evidence and a broad political and societal consensus. In doing so, they are investing in secure jobs, domestic value creation, and the protection of resources and human health.

It is now essential to support the economy with short-term measures to help it on its way out of the corona crisis. However, medium and longer-term measures to cope with the effects of the corona pandemic must not conflict with the efforts of corporate climate action. The planned medium and longer-term economic aid measures must not only provide an economic stimulus, but also contribute to our common goal: a resilient economy and society that achieves climate neutrality through a high level of innovation and competitiveness.

We, businesses from all sectors of the German economy, therefore, call upon the Federal Government:

1. Closely link economic policy measures aimed at overcoming the corona and climate crises and systematically ensure that all relevant stimulus and investment programmes are climate-friendly. Ambitious and effective climate policy must remain a fundamental component of all economic and industrial policies aimed at crisis resilience.

2. Build on climate policy successes and consistently continue to design and implement climate policy measures. So as not to endanger existing investments and projects, and to maintain planning security for businesses, the Federal Government's forward-looking climate policy course should be maintained.

3. Preserve and increase the competitiveness of the German and European economies by resolutely crafting an ambitious and constructive Green Deal and develop it as a European innovation and growth strategy that also contributes to the mastering of the impacts of the corona crisis. The goal of making Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 offers the opportunity to establish the European economy internationally as the leading market for sustainable technologies and products by providing it with a significant innovation and modernization boost.

4. Work to ensure that all countries present ambitious climate commitments in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement by the next UN Climate Change Conference at the latest. In a globalized world, it is essential to avoid international distortions of competition that harm European businesses.

As businesses, we are assuming social responsibility in this situation and are prepared to play our central role in climate action as well. If we continue to make climate action a part of our business models, it will play an important role in dealing with the impacts of the corona crisis while at the same time helping to avoid profound impacts of the climate crisis.

We are therefore calling upon the German Federal Government to combine crisis management and climate policy and to support us businesses with long-term stimulus packages and reliable frameworks as we continue working towards achieving climate objectives in line with the Paris Agreement. In this way, ambitious and smart climate policy can become a sustainable modernisation project for the economy.

Initiated by: Stiftung 2°

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