



**European Grandparents for Climate**  
Schlachthausgasse 23-29/1/139  
1030 Wien  
Info@europeangrandparentsforclimate.eu  
<https://grandparentsforclimate.eu/>  
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## **Statement for the First Conference on Transitioning away from Fossil Fuels in Santa Marta, Colombia**

As wars are being fought and fossil fuel providers are earning extraordinary profits, leaders from 80 countries gather in Santa Marta, Colombia, with the explicit aim of transitioning away from fossil fuels. What could not be agreed upon in Belém, Brazil, because states with strong Big Oil interests would not allow it, can now be pursued vigorously: How to put an end to the fossil fuel era.

European Grandparents for Climate wholeheartedly support this initiative.

The climate crisis is escalating, and we are running out of time. The current energy crisis caused by the wars in the Middle East clearly illustrates how fossil fuel dependency has multiple dire consequences all over the world.

The Santa Marta conference represents a new hope for all people who have waited in vain for responsible leaders to act and put a stop to fossil fuels.

We call on the participating countries to act with courage, integrity, and urgency and

- **Advance a plan for a rapid, just phase-out of coal, oil, and gas.**
- **Put an end to subsidies and investment incentives that fuel destruction.**
- **Advance the global shift toward clean, fair, and renewable energy with decisive political measures.**
- **Make sure that environmental damage is reflected in pricing everywhere**
- **Regulate the financial rules so that sustainable investments are favored over predatory ones.**

Lead democratically for the people, not for the plutocrats and oligarchs. Future generations will be grateful.

*Godela von Kirchbach and Eva Riemer, Co-chairs*