

### **1. Who are the people behind your ECI?**

We are a group of students from all over the EU. We represent every sphere of Europe, from the South to the North, and from the East to the West. With this, we hope to create a more enriched environment that can help our ECI grow and succeed.

### **2. Which main problems do you want to solve?**

Our journey began when we heard in November 2018 that the fuel used by the most carbon-intensive mode of transportation - aviation – remains untaxed in Europe. Despite the ever-increasing availability and usage of commercial flights, the horrid environmental impacts of these developments have remained unaddressed. As we realised that most people are not aware of dangers due to rapid development of the aviation sector, we sought to address this growing concern by attracting the attention of not only policy-makers, but first and foremost of the European citizens themselves.

The aviation sector continues to enjoy unfair and lucrative tax advantages, while other modes of transportation such as trains cannot compete with the air-travel industry. That is why we chose to pursue an action that seeks to achieve a logical response: putting an end to the tax exemption on aviation fuel (kerosene) while providing European citizens with more sustainable and viable alternatives for transportation. Furthermore, the price of kerosene needs to be higher to incentivise airlines as well as aircraft manufacturers to move away from fossil fuels and use truly sustainable and renewable fuels.

### **3. Why choose the ECI procedure?**

The European Citizens' Initiative is the only instrument that citizens can use at the European level to voice their concerns and put pressure on their governments and on the EU. The aim of the ECI is not only to put forward a legislative proposal, but also to show to national governments that citizens throughout the European Union are concerned about climate change and more importantly that they are ready to take necessary actions to build a greener future. To be adopted, our initiative requires a unanimous agreement of all EU member states' governments in the Council of the EU, that is why it is key for all member states to see that this project is widely supported by their own citizens.

### **4. What is the concrete goal of your ECI?**

The proposal of our ECI seeks the introduction of a pan-European kerosene tax for flights within our Union. What is equally important is to incentivise people to use alternatives and environmental-friendly means of transportation such as trains, instead of the most climate-damaging mode of transport. Aviation plays a central role in today's globalised world and we recognise that fully. Nevertheless, we believe that substitutes to planes should be promoted.