

# Civil society call to reject fossil gas PCI list

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

On October 31st, the European Commission published the proposed **4th list of Projects of Common Interest**. It is now up to Members of the European Parliament to scrutinise this list and **make sure it really is in the Common Interest of all Europeans**.

We are deeply concerned about the **continued inclusion of fossil gas projects** which are once again proposed to receive the highest national and EU priority, along with benefits such as streamlined environmental impact assessments, accelerated permit-granting processes and eligibility for funding through the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). Since 2014, the PCI list status has enabled **fossil gas projects to receive over €1.6 billion of EU taxpayers' money** and has helped to attract several billion euro in further investment for fossil fuel infrastructure

Yet, the **latest PCI list still contains over 55 costly gas transmission projects**, at a time when the EU Commission has declared its aim to reach a carbon-neutral EU economy by 2050<sup>1</sup>, and despite the fact that all scenarios in the Commission's Long Term Strategy point to a 60%-90% reduction of fossil gas demand by 2050. The list is published almost four years after the Paris Agreement, and since then, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)<sup>2</sup> has warned that the world is fast running out of time to address the climate emergency, after the European Investment Bank has proposed to stop funding fossil fuel projects, and even the executive director of the International Energy Agency has said "We have no room to build anything that emits CO2 emissions."<sup>3</sup>

The European Union is already oversupplied with gas infrastructure to meet existing demand, EU LNG import terminals have been used at an average of only ~23% in the past years<sup>4</sup> and the Commission's own figures show a further decline of demand as the new energy directives on efficiency and renewables are implemented. This should be further enhanced if the directives are revised in line with a carbon neutral Europe objective, yet the newest list contains a number of new gas **pipelines with a lifetime of at least 40 or 50 years**, well beyond the time when Europe needs to exit all fossil fuels. This dangerous policy is already locking Europe into a continuation of the fossil fuel energy system.

Furthermore, these projects are also highly controversial for non-climate reasons. Some projects would import gas from Azerbaijan or high-tension regions like the Eastern Mediterranean while **several new LNG terminals** which are on the list will not only import gas from countries like Qatar, Nigeria, Algeria or Russia, but also **increasing amounts**

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<sup>1</sup> [The European Commission](#)

<sup>2</sup> [The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [The Guardian](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Gas Infrastructure Europe \(GIE\)](#)

**of fracked gas** from the United States, with devastating impacts on communities, local environments and the climate.

The PCI-list is also based on a **selection process in which the gas industry has considerable and inappropriate influence**, presenting a conflict of interest rather than the common interest. 75% of CEF funding to gas projects has gone to project developers deeply involved in the selection process.<sup>5</sup>

**The young people on the streets demand it, and the science is clear: we must move away from fossil fuels NOW and we cannot afford to build new fossil fuel infrastructure.**

**We ask you to act in the common interest of Europeans and our future generations, to reject the PCI list in its current form and demand that the EU Commission draft a revised PCI list without fossil gas projects.**

Sincerely,

*Frida Kieninger, Food & Water Europe*  
*Colin Roche, Friends of the Earth Europe*

On behalf of:



<sup>5</sup> Own calculations based on [the European Commission](#)





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