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01/07/2026

Reducing fossil gas dependence: A strategic pillar of EU Energy Security

To: Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen

Cc: Vice-President Teresa Ribera, Commissioner Dan Jørgensen, Executive Vice-President Stéphane Séjourné, Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis, DG ENER Director General Celine Gauer, Deputy Director General Mechthild Wörsdörfer, DG ENER Head of Unit F.4. Monika Zsigri and DG ENER Director of Unit A Pierre Schellekens

Dear Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen,

We, the undersigned organisations, welcome the European Commission's efforts to strengthen Europe's resilience in response to growing geopolitical instability and energy security concerns, including the recently announced [AccelerateEU catalogue](#) of measures.

In particular, we welcome the Commission's recognition that the measures could [reduce fossil gas demand by 10–15 bcm annually](#), underlining the central role of demand reduction in strengthening Europe's energy security, affordability and strategic autonomy. However, this represents only part of what is needed to meet the objectives of REPowerEU, which requires an annual reduction of around 30 bcm to bring EU gas demand to 190 bcm by 2030 (you can find more information in this [Annex](#)).

As the Commission prepares the revision of the EU Energy Security Framework, and has postponed its publication to after the summer, we urge you to place the ending of fossil fuel dependency at its core and establish a clear pathway towards reducing and ultimately phasing out Europe's reliance on fossil gas.

More specifically, we call on the Commission to:

- 1. Develop a comprehensive Fossil Gas Exit Strategy** that sets out a clear pathway to progressively reduce and ultimately end the EU's dependence on imported fossil gas, aligned with the Union's climate, competitiveness and energy security objectives.
- 2. Establish an EU fossil gas demand reduction target including a binding annual gas demand reduction trajectory of 7- 8 %¹** as a central pillar of this Gas Exit Strategy and to be anchored in the revised Energy Security Framework.
- 3. Establish a roadmap to phase out the EU's LNG import dependency, with a particular focus on US LNG by 2032.** The legal commitment to end Russian fossil gas imports by 2027 should serve as a blueprint for a broader strategy that avoids replacing

¹ For more information, see [ANNEX](#) outlining the analytical aspects of the joint letter

one fossil gas dependency with another and instead prioritises structural demand reduction through energy savings, renewables-based electrification, and the deployment of non-fossil flexibility solutions such as demand-side response and storage.

4. **Hold the line on ambitious implementation of the EU Methane Regulation.** As a key component of Europe's energy security architecture, the Regulation can help reduce gas losses. According to the [IEA](#), eliminating methane leaks and ending non-emergency flaring worldwide could recover around 200 bcm of fossil gas and enhance supply resilience. It is [unacceptable](#) that the Commission proposes a three year break on the EUMR penalty mechanism and the legal robustness of that proposal is highly questionable.

The revision of the Energy Security Framework offers an opportunity to align Europe's security, competitiveness and climate objectives around a common goal: reducing dependence on fossil fuels. Lasting energy security will not come from securing new sources of gas imports, but from accelerating efficiency, electrification, renewable energy deployment, flexibility and fossil gas demand reduction including a permanent phase-out of investment subsidies for fossil fuels. We urge the Commission to seize this opportunity and place a 7 - 8% annual gas demand reduction trajectory at the heart of the revised Energy Security Framework.

Only by taking a courageous step towards a genuine fossil gas exit strategy, can the European Union strengthen its resilience to future shocks, shield consumers from volatile fossil fuel markets, and reinforce its energy independence and strategic autonomy in an increasingly uncertain world.

Yours sincerely,

Chiara Martinelli, Director at Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe, on behalf of

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|---|--|
| 1. Aarhus center in Bosnia and Herzegovina | 23. Fundacja Instytut na rzecz Ekorozwoju |
| 2. Agent Green | 24. Genç Düşünce Enstitüsü |
| 3. Andy Gheorghiu Consulting | 25. Global Witness |
| 4. Bankwatch Romania | 26. Greenpeace European Unit |
| 5. Berliner Wassertisch | 27. Italian Climate Network |
| 6. Beyond Fossil Fuels | 28. Koalicja Klimatyczna |
| 7. Bond Beter Leefmilieu | 29. Linha Vermelha |
| 8. BUND e.V. | 30. Mission Possible |
| 9. Bürgerinitiative Lebensraum Vorpommern eV | 31. NSC-Friends of the Earth Hungary |
| 10. Centre for transport and energy | 32. Polski Klub Ekologiczny Okręg Mazowiecki |
| 11. Comité Ciudadán de Emergencia, Ría de Ferrol (España) | 33. Polska Zielona Sieć (Polish Green Network) |
| 12. Debt Observatory in Globalisation (ODG) | 34. PowerShift e.V. |
| 13. Deutsche Umwelthilfe | 35. Razom We Stand |
| 14. Ekowyborca | 36. Réseau Action Climat France |
| 15. EKOenergy ecolabel | 37. Seas At Risk |

- 16. Electra Energy
- 17. Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA UK)
- 18. European Environmental Bureau
- 19. Fern
- 20. Food & Water Action Europe
- 21. Friends of the Earth Europe
- 22. Fridays For Future Germany

- 38. Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczne EKO-UNIA
- 39. The Green Tank
- 40. Umweltinstitut München
- 41. VšĮ Žiedinė ekonomika
- 42. Workshop for All Beings
- 43. ZERO - Associação Sistema Terrestre Sustentável





Deutsche Umwelthilfe



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Koalicja
Klimatyczna



Magyar
Természetvédők
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PowerShift



SEAS AT RISK



Umweltinstitut
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ANNEX outlining the analytical aspects of the joint letter is available [here](#).