To
Mr Simon Harris
Tánaiste and Minister for Finance
Department of Finance
Government of Ireland

September 8, 2026

Subject: Fossil fuel profit taxation and agenda of the next ECOFIN meeting

Dear Tánaiste and Finance Minister,

We are writing to urge you to put the issue of fossil fuel profit taxation on the agenda of the next Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) meeting on 18-19 September, as already requested by six Member States: Germany, Austria, Italy, Poland, Spain and Portugal.

As people in Europe face extreme climate impacts and cost-of-living pressures in the second fossil fuel crisis in four years, while fossil fuel companies have accumulated huge profits, it is time to adopt a fair tax framework that contributes to the energy transition and raises the urgently needed resources to support households, firms and public budgets, including for international climate finance.

We recognise the preference you recently expressed for an EU-wide approach on taxing fossil fuel profits. Now is the time to make this happen and respond to the large majority of Irish citizens, who believe this should be a priority for Ireland's EU Presidency.

We are aware that the European Commission believes that the conditions to legislate based on Art. 122 TFEU have not yet been met, and therefore unanimity would be required for a European tax framework on fossil fuel profits. However, inaction is not an option. There is very broad public support across the whole European Union for such a tax, and the tremendous human, economic, financial and environmental costs of climate change on citizens and public budgets require strong action. Emissions from oil and gas produced by EU-headquartered firms since the 2015 Paris Agreement are set to cause an estimated €1.5 trillion in climate damages worldwide.

Profits of the fossil fuel industry have been colossal over the last years, not only in war times. Fossil fuel companies made an estimated €82 billion in post-tax profits from their EU operations in 2023. Just eight major oil companies have made €7.5 billion of additional profits in Europe in the first half of 2026, compared to a similar period the previous year. Six oil companies have doubled their EU profits in the second quarter of this year compared to the same time last year due to volatility in the Middle East.

Rising energy prices have driven inflation and exacerbated the cost of living for the majority of households and SMEs. The high profitability of the fossil fuel sector attracts in turn investments, perpetuating a vicious circle of dependency and economic shocks for Europe.

For these reasons, a strategic discussion in the Council is needed. We believe that a first exchange of views could translate in a demand to the European Commission to:

- **Monitor fossil fuel prices in real time**, and **publicly report on profit margins** by fossil fuel companies operating in the EU on a periodic basis.

- **Collect and analyse** past and existing efforts to tax fossil fuel profits at national level and **highlight best practices**, including on revenue use.

- **Explore possible tax designs**, taking into account lessons learned from the 2022 Solidarity Contribution, as well as existing permanent top-up taxes on fossil fuel profits implemented in Norway and the United Kingdom.

- **Explore mechanisms to prevent fossil fuel companies from shifting profit to low-tax jurisdictions**, as profit shifting has been demonstrated to be very high in the fossil fuel sector, and even more prevalent in case of windfall profits. Unitary taxation of consolidated global profits should notably be explored.

- **Propose ways to prevent investors' protection provisions being used** to avoid taxation of fossil fuel profits.

Beyond the ongoing impact of the wars in Ukraine and Iran on fossil fuel prices and profits, our tax system must provide a clear signal that fossil fuels are not part of Europe's future. The return from a tax on fossil fuel profits should support the shift towards efficient, renewable, sustainable, and fair energy systems – a key ingredient of our collective security and resilience against both geopolitical shocks and climate breakdown.

Those very concrete initial steps can and should be on the table, as a way to support Member States eager to act at national level, while awaiting an EU approach. This is also necessary, as Europe is not operating in a vacuum.

Europe needs to play its part domestically and encourage coalitions of the willing at a global level. We welcome Ireland's leadership in co-hosting, with Tuvalu, the second International Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in 2027. This conference should build on the Santa Marta Vision, which recognises the need to reform national and international arrangements on fossil fuel taxation. The UN Tax Convention negotiations are also a major opportunity to advance this agenda and build broader political support to implement the polluter pays principle in order to fund sustainable development.

Thank you for your attention. **The people of Europe deserve more than a stalemate between the Commission and Member States on taxing colossal fossil fuel profits.**

Yours sincerely,

The undersigned organisations

European and International Civil society organisations:
Anne Jellema, Executive Director, [350.org](350.org)
Mahi Sideridou, Managing Director, Beyond Fossil Fuels
Sabine Frank, Executive Director, Carbon Market Watch
Josianne Gauthier, Secretary General, CIDSE
Chiara Martinelli, Director, Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe
Ioana Ciuta, Strategic Area Leader, CEE Bankwatch Network
Claire Roumet, Strategic Partnerships and Coordination, Energy Cities
Jean Saldanha, Director, European Network on Debt and Development
Emily Iona Stewart, Head of Policy and Advocacy, Global Witness
Magda Stoczkiewicz, Programme Director, Greenpeace European Unit
Filipe Martins, Director, Jesuit European Social Centre
Lorna Gold, Executive Director, Laudato Si' Movement
Marine Cornelis, Executive Director, Next Energy Consumer
Martha Inés Romero, Secretary General, Pax Christi International
Daan Creupelandt, Managing Director, REScoop.eu
Antony Froggatt, Senior Director, Transport & Environment (T&E)
Kelsey De Porte, Digital Campaigner, WeMove Europe

Irish civil society organisations:

Karol Balfe, CEO, ActionAid Ireland
Toni Pyke, Justice Peace and Ecology Coordinator, AMRI
Rosamond Bennett, CEO, Christian Aid Ireland
Lara Kelly, Congregation Justice Office, Dominican Sisters Cabra, Ireland
Wojciech Mroczek, Programmes Manager, Don Bosco Aid
Jim Farrell, Chair, Eco-Congregation Ireland
Deirdre Duffy, CEO, Friends of the Earth Ireland
Karen Ciesielski, CEO, Irish Environmental Network and Coordinator, Environmental Pillar
Niall Leahy SJ, Director, Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice
Sr Anne Carbon, Congregational Leader, Missionary Sisters of St Columban
Aoife O'Leary, CEO, Opportunity Green
Jim Clarken, CEO, Oxfam Ireland
Brian O'Toole, Director of Justice Desk, Presentation Sisters in Ireland
Seán Farrell, CEO, Trócaire