

Brussels, 25.3.2019

EU funding must leapfrog fossil fuel use to renewable energy and energy savings

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

On 27 March you will vote on the future of the EU's Cohesion Policy. We are writing to you in order to bring your attention to the importance of aligning future Cohesion Policy funding with the EU's climate objectives.

The European Commission has proposed to exclude fossil fuel funding from the next generation of Cohesion Policy funding. Your vote on the European Regional Development Fund will decide if the European Parliament turns back the clock, promoting investments in fossil fuel infrastructure which then will stay for decades, or if it will choose a path of sustainable development for Europe's regions, bringing them new jobs, competitiveness and modernisation.

To make decarbonisation a reality, voting down the eligibility of fossil fuels, including gas, is key. Fossil gas is a fuel with substantial CO₂ and methane emissions contributing to climate change and its catastrophic impacts. Moreover, fossil gas infrastructure is not compatible with most renewable gases, and almost certainly not for all gases at scale. Funding gas and prolonging the lifetime of existing coal capacity would lock European economies into fossil fuel dependency for decades, while at the same time hampering technically and economically feasible, climate-friendly solutions.

Spending EU funds on gas and high-carbon infrastructure would also mean holding back European citizens, investors and businesses from leapfrogging straight up the chain from fossil fuel energies to renewables and energy savings. This would be at a huge cost to the climate, Europe's competitiveness and European societies.

The European Commission proposed a long-term strategy for the EU to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 at the latest. Investing EU funds into fossil fuel infrastructure until 2027 would lock-in fossil fuels for many more years and be inconsistent with the imperative to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions, to accelerate the transition and to phase out fossil fuel subsidies.

'Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed': please consider voting for fossil fuel-free EU funds, for the benefit of the climate, the economy and EU taxpayers.

Best regards,

The signatories





AVERE – The European Association for Electromobility
BANKWATCH Romania
Both ENDS (NL)
BUDOY PRO BUDUCNOST - Buildings for the Future (SK)
BUND – Friends of the Earth Germany
CEE Bankwatch Network
Centrum Pro Dopravu a Energetiku (CZ)
CEPA – Friends of the Earth Slovakia
Citizens’ Climate Lobby
Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe
The Climate Reality Project, Europe
CPG – The Prince of Wales’s Corporate Leaders Group
DNR – Deutscher Naturschutzring Ring
Deutsche Umwelthilfe
Diakonia Sweden
E3G
Energy Cities
EKOenergy International (FI)
ELF – Estonian Fund for Nature
EPF - Euro Perspectives Foundation (BG)
Estonian Green Movement
EUREC – The Association of European Renewable Energy Research Centres
EEB – European Environmental Bureau
FEDARENE - European Federation of Agencies and Regions for Energy and the Environment
Friends of the Earth Europe
Focus (SL)
Green Liberty (LV)
IGBC – Irish Green Buildings Council
Levegő Munkacsoport- Clean Air Action Group (HU)
Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége – Friends of the Earth Hungary
Mouvement Ecologique (LUX)
Milieudefensie – Friends of the Earth Netherlands
Oil Change International
Polish Green Network

RAC France - Le Réseau Action Climat
ROENEF – The Association for promoting Energy Efficiency in Buildings
SAPI - Slovak Association of Photovoltaic Industry and RES
Solar Heat Europe
SKI - Slovak climate initiative
WWF - World Wildlife Fund for Nature
Za Zemiata – Friends of the Earth Bulgaria
ZERO (PT)
ZeroWaste Europe
350.org