

## OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT REGI COMMITTEE

### The Just Transition has to be fossil fuel-free

Dear Member of the REGI Committee,

We call on you to vote in favour of a better future for communities by voting for regions to leap forward, not backwards. In your vote on the 6 July, we ask the REGI Committee to exclude fossil fuels from the Just Transition Fund – including fossil gas – and support a just transition for all.

Fossil gas is a fuel with substantial CO<sub>2</sub> and methane emissions contributing to climate change and its catastrophic impacts on people and biodiversity. Methane is 86 times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) over a 20-year period, making it the second most important greenhouse gas, contributing to 25% of warming experienced today<sup>1</sup>.

Fossil gas infrastructure is also not compatible with most renewable gases, and almost certainly not for renewable gases at scale. The European Commission and the International Energy Agency (IEA) have successively scaled down gas demand projections for 2030.<sup>2</sup>

The EU's Just Transition Fund is an integral part of the EU Green Deal. It has the potential to ensure that Europe's transition to a climate neutral, resilient and healthy future leaves no region - or person - behind. But this requires a strong commitment to a climate-neutrality goal that would limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

Communities have an opportunity to leap forward to a more sustainable, more resilient and healthier future away from carbon extractive industries. Investing in fossil gas comes with huge cost to the climate, Europe's competitiveness and European societies. Meanwhile, renewable energy investments bring up to three times more jobs<sup>3</sup> per euro invested than the same amount invested in fossil fuels - and renewable jobs are more likely to be local than those in fossil gas.

**It's time to face the truth: fossil gas has no place in EU funds, including the Just Transition Fund. The Council realised this and so too must the Parliament.**

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<sup>1</sup>See Energy Watch Group (2019), "Natural gas makes no contribution to climate protection". Available at: <http://energywatchgroup.org/natural-gas-makes-no-contribution-to-climate-protection>

<sup>2</sup> See Stern (2017a), p. 7-8. IEA decreased its 2030 yearly gas demand projection for the EU in its World Energy Outlook from 684bcm in 2008 to 521bcm in 2016.

<sup>3</sup> IRENA, June 2020, "[Post-COVID recovery: An agenda for resilience, development and equality](#)"

**BANKTRACK**

**BELLONA**

**BOND  
BETER  
LEEF** VOOR DE  
TOEKOMST  
**MILIEU**

**Both  
ENDS**

**CAN**  
CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK  
Europe

**Carbon  
Market  
Watch**

**ClientEarth**

**CEE** **Bankwatch  
Network**

**The Climate  
Reality Project**  
EUROPE

**CLIMATE & STRATEGY**  
PARTNERS



**Citizens' Climate Lobby**

**Counter  
Balance** Challenging  
Public  
Investment  
Banks

**ODG**  
OBSERVATORI DEL DEUTE  
EN LA GLOBALITZACIÓ

**DOOR**

**ECOS**

**eco-union**

**ECOLISE**  
EUROPEAN NETWORK  
FOR COMMUNITY-LED  
INITIATIVES ON CLIMATE CHANGE  
AND SUSTAINABILITY

**EKOenergy**

**EMBER**  
COAL TO CLEAN ENERGY POLICY

**ENERGYCITIES**

**EJF** ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE  
FOUNDATION

**EEB**  
European  
Environmental  
Bureau

**EUROPEAN ALLIANCE TO  
SAVE ENERGY**  
Creating an Energy-Efficient Europe

**EGEC**  
GEOTHERMAL

**E3G**

**FEDARENE**

**Friends of  
the Earth  
Europe**

**Magyar  
Természetvédők  
Szövetsége**  
Föld Barátai Magyarország



**Latvijas  
Zemes  
draugi**

**focus**  
družstvo za sonaraven razvoj

**FUNDACJA  
ROZWÓJ  
TAK  
ODKRYWKI  
NIE**  
OGÓLNOPOLSKA KOALICJA



**GREENPEACE**

**INFORSE-EUROPE**  
International Network for Sustainable Energy



## Signatories:

BankTrack	HEAL
Bellona	International Network for Sustainable Energy – Europe
Bond Beter Leefmilieu	Koalicja Klimatyczna, Polski Klub Ekologiczny Okręg Mazowiecki and Stowarzyszenie "Wspólna Ziemia"
Both Ends	Latvian Fund for Nature
CAN EUROPE	Legambiente
Carbon Market Watch	Levego Munkacsoport, Clean Air Action Group
CEE Bankwatch Network	NAPE, National Energy Conservation Agency
Client Earth	Oil Change International
Climate Reality, Europe	Plan B for Slovenia, a network of NGOs for sustainable development
Climate Strategy	Polish Green Network – PGN, Alliance of Associations
Citizens' Climate Lobby Europe	Polish Green Network
Counter Balance	Reclaim Finance
Debt Observatory in Globalisation (ODG)	Reclame Fossilvrij (Fossil Free Advertising)
Divestera AP-fonderna (Divest the Swedish pension funds)	Re:Common
Door, Society for Sustainable Development Design	Réseau Action Climat France
ECOS	Society Competence Center of Ecodesign
Eco-Union	Solar Heat Europe
Ecolise	Stowarzyszenie Pracownia na rzecz Wszystkich Istot (Association Workshop for All Beings)
EKOenergy	The Danish Society for Nature Conservation
Ember	The Gastivists
Energy Cities	Transport and Environment
Environmental Justice Foundation	Urgewald
European Alliance to Save Energy	VšĮ "Žiedinė ekonomika"
European Environmental Bureau (EEB)	WWF European Policy Office ( <i>on behalf of the European network of offices</i> )
European Geothermal Energy Council	Youth for Climate Justice Slovenia
E3G	Zalabriviba – Green Liberty
FEDARENE	Za Zemiata – Friends of the Earth Bulgaria
Friends of the Earth Europe	ZERO, Association for the Sustainability of the Earth System
Friends of the Earth Hungary	350 Climate Movement of Denmark
Friends of the Earth Latvia	350.org
Focus (Slovenia)	
Fundacja Rozwój TAK - Odkrywki NIE	
Greenpeace	