

The President

Ms Nataliya Lushnikova
Project and program
management specialist
NGO Ecoclub
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Strasbourg, 10 May 2022

Dear Ms Lushnikova,

Thank you for sharing with me a joint letter from the Ukrainian Climate Network, NGO Ecoclub and NGO Ecoaction dated 22 April 2022 calling for a support of the Russian fuel ban in the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

First of all, I would like to reiterate that the Congress has condemned in the strongest terms the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine as a blatant breach of international law and an attack on the principles and values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, as expressed in Congress Declaration 5 (2022) "The Russian Federation's war against Ukraine", and other relevant statements that I have issued as the Congress President since the beginning of the war. The Congress stands determined in its solidarity and support for the Ukrainian nation, its people and its authorities.

For all political statements and concrete actions of the Congress in response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine, I invite you to consult a special Congress web-page: [Russian Federation's war against Ukraine | Political statements and concrete action \(coe.int\)](https://www.coe.int/t/09004178/declaration/declaration_5_2022_en.asp)

As you rightfully stress in your letter, Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has also led to dramatic consequences for the environment and energy security in Ukraine and the whole of Europe and has brought the energy security issue to the fore.

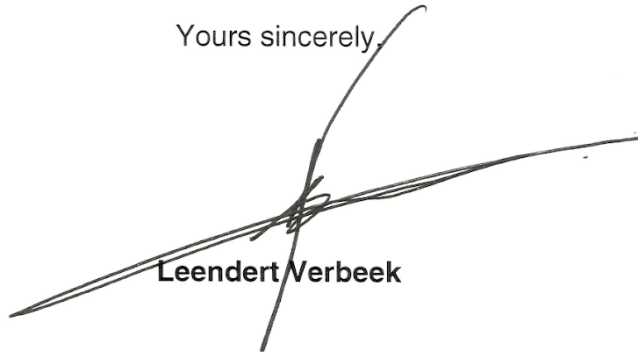
In this respect, I would like to highlight that in 2011 already the Congress warned against an excessive dependence on a limited number of energy suppliers or energy supply methods in its resolution "Energy supply and energy efficiency at local and regional levels: promoting energy transition". Among other things, this resolution called for accelerating the energy transition process, using renewable energies, lowering energy consumption in order to make our societies less vulnerable and guide them towards a more judicious use of natural resources, with due respect for the balance of the biosphere.

Furthermore, environmental issues and climate action have been one of the five thematic priorities for the Congress mandate 2021-2026.

Therefore, in line with this priority and building up on its work on the protection of environment, the Congress will consider a possibility of holding a debate related to energy security and its impact in local and regional contexts.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your co-operation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of several overlapping, fluid strokes that form a stylized representation of the name Leendert Verbeek.

Leendert Verbeek