



To the People of Europe,

To the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen,

To the President of the European Council Charles Michel,

To the President-elect of the European Council António Costa,

To the President of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola,

To the commissioners-designate for

Clean, Just and Competitive Transition Teresa Ribera,

Prosperity and Industrial Strategy Stéphane Séjourné,

Trade and Economic Security Maroš Šefčovič,

Economy and Productivity Valdis Dombrovskis,

Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth Wopke Hoekstra,

Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy Jessika Roswall,

Energy and Housing Dan Jørgensen,

Sustainable Transport and Tourism Apostolos Tzitzikostas,

Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport Glenn Micallef

cc:

Manfred Weber, Chair of the European People's Party

Iratxe García Pérez, Chair of the Socialists and Democrats

Valérie Hayer, Chair of Renew Europe

Bas Eickhout and Terry Reintke, Co-chairs of the Greens/European Free Alliance

Manon Aubry and Martin Schirdewan, Co-chairs of the Left Group

It's time to walk the talk, end fossil subsidies now

1 October 2024

We, European citizens and residents, climate scientists, economists, businesses, social and ecological justice activists, urgently write to you regarding the critical issue of fossil fuel subsidies within the European Union. These subsidies go against Europe's plans for a sustainable and just transition and fuel the devastating heatwaves and floods we have seen this

past summer in our continent. Europe is now the fastest warming continent;¹ we have reached a turning point and cannot afford to delay any further.

Fossil fuel subsidies in the EU, estimated at over 400 billion euros based on IMF data,² undermine efforts to achieve climate targets set forth in the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal. They distort energy demand, perpetuate dependence on polluting energy sources, and undermine European energy security, while subsidising industries that contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions.

Deliver what you promised

The European Union has committed to the phase out of fossil fuel subsidies "without delay" in the 8th Environmental Action Programme, which entered into force in 2022. To date, the European Union has failed to follow up on this commitment. European citizens are urgently waiting for the EU to act in line with the 2019 Declaration of Climate and Environment Emergency³ and:

1. **Set a timeline for the phase out of fossil fuel subsidies by 2025:** Set a deadline to fossil fuel subsidies on an EU and Member States' level, in line with a 1.5 °C pathway,⁴ and other international commitments.⁵ The phase out must be in line with the principles underpinning a just transition, without impacting the efforts to reduce energy poverty in the Union. The EU should provide technical and financial assistance to Member States facing challenges in meeting phase-out deadlines and offer incentives for achieving milestones ahead of schedule.
2. **Adopt comprehensive methodological guidance for member states:** Develop comprehensive methodological guidance that accurately and transparently accounts for both explicit and implicit subsidies associated with fossil fuels at the Union and Member States' levels. It is only with a clear definition of what subsidies are that there can be a concrete commitment to stopping them. The guidance must consider the external costs

¹ European Commission, '[2023 European State of the Climate Report confirms alarming trend of climate change impacts on our continent](#)' (2024).

² See [dataset](#) and [methodology](#).

³ European Parliament, [European Parliament resolution of 28 November 2019 on the climate and environment emergency](#) (2019).

⁴ "(ii) Setting a deadline for the phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies consistent with the ambition of limiting global warming to 1,5 °C" (Article 3, [8th EAP](#)).

⁵ G7 countries and the European Union are "committed to the elimination of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and encourage all countries to do so by 2025" ([G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration](#), 2016).

of fossil fuel subsidies, including environmental degradation, health impacts, and contribution to climate change.

3. **Adopt a framework for transparency and accountability:** Develop a binding Union framework to monitor and report on Member States' progress towards phasing out fossil fuel subsidies.⁶ Non-compliance by Member States with the agreed phase out timeline must have consequences, such as financial penalties and reduced access to EU funding.

No climate neutrality with fossil fuel subsidies

The European Union has set itself the objective to be the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, with interim targets of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 and by 90% by 2040. **This will not happen without an immediate phase out of fossil fuel subsidies,**⁷ as a step towards a fossil-free Europe. By ending fossil fuel subsidies, the EU and Member States can redirect resources to turbocharge climate solutions and future-proof the European economy, reducing climate-related financial risks.⁸ Taking this step is critical for international climate action, the protection of natural ecosystems, and the well-being of current and future generations, in Europe and globally.

We demand that the European Union moves beyond promises and takes concrete, immediate action to fulfil the initiatives outlined in the 8th Environmental Action Programme during the upcoming legislative cycle. We are looking forward to seeing plans for the phase out of fossil fuel subsidies in the next Commission work programme.

Year after year, commitments have been made and left unfulfilled, and we can no longer accept inaction. **Until these necessary changes occur, people will continue to take to the streets to make our voices heard and hold you accountable.** The time for change is not in the future—it is now.

Yours sincerely,

⁶ "(i) A binding Union framework to monitor and report on Member States' progress towards phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, based on an agreed methodology" (Article 3, [8th EAP](#)). This should be done by, inter alia, amending [Implementing Regulation 2022/2299](#) (Annex VIII and Annex XV).

⁷ See, for example, '[Towards EU climate neutrality: progress, policy gaps and opportunities](#)' (2024) by the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change.

⁸ Piero Cipollone, '[Europe's tragedy of the horizon: the green transition and the role of the ECB](#)' (2024).



United for Climate Justice
and its members

Extinction Rebellion Austria
Extinction Rebellion Belgium
Extinction Rebellion Democratic Republic of Congo
Extinction Rebellion Finland
Extinction Rebellion France
Extinction Rebellion Germany
Extinction Rebellion Krakow
Extinction Rebellion Netherlands
Extinction Rebellion Norway
Extinction Rebellion Portugal
Extinction Rebellion Serbia
Extinction Rebellion Spain
Extinction Rebellion Sweden
Scientist Rebellion Mexico
Scientist Rebellion Netherlands
Scientist Rebellion Portugal
Scientist Rebellion Sweden

Palestinian Refugees for Dignity
Psychologists for XR UK
Scientists for XR UK
Mothers Rebellion
Meme Rebellion
Growth Kills Belgium
Last Generation Germany
World Congress for Climate Justice
Wschod Poland
Drop Fossil Subsidies
Stop Rosebank

Other signatories

350.org
ActionAid International
Atlas Movement
Attac France
B Lab Foundation Switzerland
Cello Octet Amsterdam
Cittadini Sostenibili APS
Climate Democracy Street Walks
Climate Express
Climate Reality Project Europe
ClimateVoice
Corporate Europe Observatory

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Future International
Ali Musa Ogwang, Climate Justice Activist
Anders Giertz, PhD, Lund University
Andrea Cavalleroni, Energy Analyst
Anelli Janssen, Senior Researcher and Advisor

Cycling 4 Climate
De Klimaatwakers
DiEM25 Belgium
DiEM25 Europe
Earthly Institute
ECO Social Action
Ecologistas en Acción
Electra Energy
End Fossil Fuel Uganda
End Fossil Occupy International
ènostra
EUCLIPA.IT APS
European Alternatives
Extinction Rebellion Denmark
Extinction Rebellion Global Support
Extinction Rebellion Italy
Extinction Rebellion Poland
Extinction Rebellion Switzerland
Extinction Rebellion UK
Fair Finance International
FIAB - Federazione Italiana Ambiente e
Bicicletta
Fondazione Finanza Etica
Fossilvrij NL
Fossil Free Football
Fridays For Future Austria
Fridays For Future - Fayetteville, NC, United
States
Fridays For Future - Littleton, CO, United
States
Fridays For Future Italy
Fridays For Future Map
Fridays for Future Morocco
Fridays For Future Spain
Genitori Antismog ETS
Green Growth Generation
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Greenpeace EU
Green Serendipity
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Kawanda Youth Environmental Group
Legambiente
Laudato Si Movement
Marš sa Drine Collective
Mercado Social de Madrid
More Than Enough
Move your Money
Oikos - Cooperação e Desenvolvimento
Oxfam
REScoop.eu - European Federation of Energy
Communities
Rete Legalità per il Clima
Rise For Climate Belgium
Rodzice dla Klimatu (Parents for Climate,
Poland)
Scientist Rebellion
Scientist Rebellion France
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Urban.nl - The International Institute for the
Urban Environment
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