



*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;<sup>1</sup> 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,<sup>2</sup> 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 Emergency<sup>3</sup> 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,<sup>4</sup> and other international commitments.<sup>5</sup> 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

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

<sup>2</sup> See [dataset](#) and [methodology](#).

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

<sup>4</sup> "(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](#)).

<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup> 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,**<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup> 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,

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<sup>6</sup> "(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).

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

<sup>8</sup> 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  
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ECO Social Action  
Ecologistas en Acción  
Electra Energy  
End Fossil Fuel Uganda  
End Fossil Occupy International  
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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  
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  
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Greenpeace Belgium  
Greenpeace EU  
Green Serendipity  
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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,  
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Scientist Rebellion  
Scientist Rebellion France  
Scientists for Future NL  
Searious Business  
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Ultima Generazione Italia  
Urban.nl - The International Institute for the  
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