

Ms Ursula von der Leyen  
President of the European Commission  
European Commission

*With copy to:*

Mr Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal  
Ms Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy

8<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Dear President von der Leyen,

We witness with horror the escalating war in Ukraine. As NGOs, and appalled by the extreme violence inflicted on people in Ukraine, we stand ready to support you in helping the EU end its dependency on Russian fossil fuels in any way we can.

In view of the current policy processes and political debates in Europe and beyond, we believe the top priorities for EU action should be to:

- adopt immediate plans to stop the consumption of fossil fuels and uranium in a socially just manner,
- reduce energy consumption in the buildings, transport and industry sectors through substantially increasing energy efficiency and energy savings based on behavioural and structural measures (which will also bring important health co-benefits),
- significantly increase renewables, including by bringing down the barriers that hinder their accelerated deployment and improving permitting, while ensuring effective community involvement and nature protection,
- channel all financial flows (public and private) in support of the above mentioned measures in a socially fair way while aligning the EU taxonomy.

Such steps will not only increase EU energy security and help achieve the Paris Agreement objectives, they are also critical to cutting energy bills for vulnerable people, to preventing disease and ill-health, and to tackling the climate and biodiversity crises.

However, we would also caution strongly against pursuing false solutions. This includes building more fossil gas infrastructure, leading to stranded assets, reactivating or extending the operation of coal and nuclear power plants, burning more trees or crops for energy - something that will simply increase emissions and pollution compared to fossil fuels and harm food security - and relying on unrealistic levels of renewable hydrogen.

We expect RePowerEU to provide a clear strategy for the EU to shift away from its dependence on fossil and nuclear fuels altogether and in particular to not fall in the trap of replacing Russian imports with fuels from other authoritarian regimes or economies which will only continue to perpetuate Europe's energy dependence.

Ultimately, RePowerEU should also look beyond our energy sovereignty, and accelerate Europe's sustainability by delivering more efficient, non-toxic and circular use of materials, and the promotion of sustainable, healthy food systems that are less reliant on external inputs.

We would be glad to have a meeting with you at the earliest opportunity to discuss the more detailed recommendations we have on these issues as you and your services work towards the publication of your RePowerEU plan.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Jorgo Riss,  
Executive Director of Greenpeace European Unit and current chair of the Green 10.

Also on behalf of the Green 10 Directors:

Mark Martin, Executive Director Bankwatch Network  
Ariel Brunner, Acting Director & Senior Head of Policy BirdLife Europe  
Chiara Martinelli, Director Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe  
Jeremy Wates, Secretary General EEB  
Jagoda Munić, Director Friends of the Earth Europe  
Génon K. Jensen, Executive Director Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)  
Andrea Lichtenecker, Executive Director Naturefriends International  
William Todts, Executive Director European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E)  
Ester Asin, Director WWF European Policy Office