

Ms Ursula von der Leyen,
President of the European Commission

Mr Frans Timmermans
Executive Vice President, European Commission
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels

3 May 2022

Dear President von der Leyen,
Dear Executive Vice President Timmermans,

In the midst of the global pandemic and a growing climate emergency, the EU is also confronted with Putin's cruel war in Ukraine. The culmination of crises is a stress-test for multilateral institutions and unity among the 27 EU Members. **No stone should be left unturned to support Ukraine and cut finance to Russia.** We believe that a strong and effective response to the Ukrainian crisis goes hand in hand with a bold implementation of the European Green Deal. **In fact, the EU is in a prime position to support Ukraine's green and resilient reconstruction.** The stark warnings contained in the latest IPCC reports also remind us that our window of action to counter the growing climate emergency is rapidly closing.

While the immediate response to the Russian invasion has rightly focused on sanctions and securing supplies for the next winter, it is of vital importance that the attention now shifts to increasing the political, geopolitical and socio-economic resilience of Europe. **A war financed by fossil fuels reinforces the need to drastically cut Europe's dependence and use of fossil fuels.** Simply diversifying the import of fossil fuels will only serve to maintain EU energy dependence on other countries, many of which do not respect EU values. On the contrary, deep system transformation is needed to achieve truly resilient economies, overcome resource depletion and maximise the potential of circularity.

The EU has a duty to show its resolve with a double effort: creating a **Green Emergency Pact** that scales up all efforts in a war-time mobilisation over the next 18 months and an **overhaul of the most relevant parts of the Fit for 55 package** to enable an increase of ambition by policy-makers.

The Green Emergency Pact

Businesses, investors and society at large in the EU are ready to step up and drive change, for Ukraine's and Europe's prosperity. RePowerEU can maximise this potential by instantly creating a Green Emergency Pact focusing on:

- **Scaling up energy efficiency and energy saving measures as well as wind and solar power through a war-time mobilisation now**, backed by an EU-wide campaign to empower citizens to lower demand,
- **Incentivising businesses to focus production on technologies for the green transition and to enhance circularity**, and supporting them with training of workforce and resources, and by cutting red tape,

- **Setting up a “fit for purpose” social support scheme** for low-income households facing an inflationary shock driven by, increasing food and energy prices,
- **Creating adequate fiscal space** for governments to invest and support economy and society,
- **Supporting local authorities** accommodating all people fleeing the war in Ukraine,
- **Addressing supply-chain constraints and promoting circularity to prevent natural resource extraction where possible** to enhance greater resilience throughout.

Increasing the ambition of the Fit for 55 Package

- The urgent need to reduce the EU’s dependency on gas, oil and coal **combined with a stronger political backing for the EU Green Deal provides the Commission with an imperative to present the analysis behind stronger targets and demand-reduction measures in the relevant legislation:** Renewable Energy Directive, Energy Efficiency Directive, Energy Performance for Buildings Directive and CO2 standards for Cars and Vans.
- **Preventing further carbon lock-ins is paramount** given the instability it causes and can be achieved through ensuring new gas deals are time bound, the withdrawal of the Delegated Act that labels gas a green investment as part of the EU taxonomy and adjusting the gas package that has been published in December.

Dear Ms President, we commend you on your resolve to preserve EU unity and align with international allies in response to Russia’s aggression. It is of vital importance to ensure that the urgent short-term actions undertaken to respond to the crisis do not lock the EU into a dependency on fossil fuels from other countries. The EU should also consider that a drive to increase LNG imports in the context of a limited international supply market risks pricing out poorer countries that are still facing the health and economic impacts of the pandemic. **The EU is well-placed to strengthen its commitment to financing an accelerated energy transition in these countries and can also act to forestall the looming international food crisis that would create further instability and suffering.**

We stand ready to support your efforts.

Yours sincerely,

László Andor
 Vytenis Andriukaitis
 Anna Diamantopoulou
 Jyrki Katainen
 Carlos Moedas
 Andris Piebalgs
 Janez Potočnik
 Romani Prodi
 Vladimír Špidla

(Initiated by)
 Connie Hedegaard
 Pascal Lamy