

To: Energy Ministers of EU Member States
Cc: Commission President, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal and Commissioners for Environment, Transport, Energy, Industry; the Director General of DG Climate; the Chairs of the European Parliament Environment Committee; Industry, Research and Energy Committee; Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee; and Budgetary Control Committee; and Energy Attachés in Permanent Representations to the EU

Brussels, 8 September 2022

Input to Extraordinary Meeting of the Council (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy), 9 September 2022

Dear Ministers

On behalf of the European Environmental Bureau, I am writing to share with you our views on some of the issues on the agenda of the forthcoming extraordinary meeting of the TTE Transport, Telecommunication and Energy Council. We share the concern of the European Commission that high fossil fuel prices are creating challenges for many households across the Union. Direct support for affected households appears important to ensure social cohesion and continued support for EU foreign policy agenda. However, we are concerned about measures that do not address the challenges of reduced availability of fossil fuels while compromising our climate commitments and jeopardising our natural environment. Subsidies and price caps risk increasing consumption, endangering climate targets and creating security of supply issues.

We therefore call upon the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council to:

1. Implement consistent, common, EU-wide measures for greater energy efficiency: speed limits on highways and extra urban roads, limiting the extent of heating and cooling across both public buildings and homes.
2. Ensure that temporary measures on gas markets and infrastructures do not lock our economy into expensive technologies that contradict our climate commitments: The lifespans of the gas-related infrastructure projects proposed over the past months are inconsistent with the EU's climate targets.
3. Provide EU citizens with access to climate-friendly, non-polluting heating and transport technologies, in line both with environmental concerns and households' reduced budgets. Highly subsidised public transport options have been widely popular where implemented.
4. Promote energy sufficiency: shaving peak consumption by shifting consumption patterns to off-peak times should be a priority. Promoting public transport over private transport, teleworking, and the efficient use of office space should equally be priorities.
5. Introduce oversight over the supply chain of biomass being sourced for heating and energy: the increase in demand for biomass caused by high fossil fuel prices must not lead to an over-exploitation of EU forests, which have been severely hit by this summer's exceptional draught and fires.
6. Commit to taxing windfall profits to finance the above measures and ensure fairness and public support, building on the EC proposal.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these points that build on scientific evidence and practical experience and will support EU and national legitimacy in the eyes of the public in these very difficult times.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick ten Brink, Secretary General