



Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe is Europe's leading NGO coalition fighting dangerous climate change. With 200 member organisations active in 40 European countries, representing over 1,700 NGOs and more than 40 million citizens, CAN Europe promotes sustainable climate, energy and development policies throughout Europe.

21/02/2024

Action Plan on Affordable Energy: EU Investments into foreign fossil gas/LNG infrastructure – a geopolitical and economic mistake

Dear Commissioner Jørgensen,

We are writing to express deep concerns regarding the **EU's potential commitment to invest in foreign fossil gas/LNG export infrastructure** in exchange for long-term contractual engagements and supposedly cheaper gas prices. Such an approach would be risky both from a geopolitical and economic point of view, running counter to the EU's strategic interests on energy security and its climate commitments.

The U.S. Department of Energy's 2024 [LNG Export Study](#) confirms that **increasing LNG exports will lead to higher domestic gas and electricity prices** in the U.S. while imposing additional costs on EU consumers due to the intrinsic expense of liquefaction, shipping, and regasification. This economic burden will only grow if the EU locks itself into long-term LNG supply contracts. Also, U.S. LNG — predominantly derived from fracked gas — has a [greenhouse gas footprint 33% worse than coal](#) when accounting for methane leaks across the supply chain. With the **EU Methane Regulation restricting imports of high-methane gas from 2027 onwards**, long-term U.S. LNG contracts would be in contradiction with EU law.

Today, the [EU's gas demand is in structural decline](#): Europe's LNG imports declined by 19% in 2024, the continent's gas consumption fell by 20% between 2021 and 2024, and Europe's 2030 regasification capacity will be more than three times higher than its projected LNG demand. Agreeing on long term contracts now, despite these facts, is not only uneconomic but also **breaching the EU gas package** which mandates an end to those long term contracts by 2049.

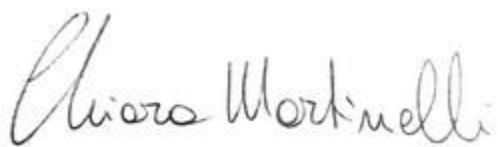
For the EU to achieve its climate targets, it must implement a [staged phase-out plan of fossil gas](#) and a stark reduction of energy demand. A starting point for this is the **continuation of gas demand saving measures implemented under Regulation 2022/1369**. The past two years have demonstrated that gas savings are feasible and necessary to avoid volatility and overreliance on expensive and unsustainable energy sources. Those savings have been achieved also because of the ramp up of **cheap renewables which should be the focus of this Action Plan for Affordable Energy**.

However, the proposal for collective EU gas purchasing and investment strives towards the opposite: **perpetuating fossil gas dependency by trading Russian with U.S. dependence, a**

highly risky bet at the outset of the Trump term with yet unknown consequences for Europe and the world.

We strongly urge you to **reject any measures that deepen Europe's dependence on foreign LNG**, as such commitments will drive up energy costs rather than lowering them and pose significant geopolitical risks. Commissioner Jorgensen, we call on you to **champion a structured and strategic plan to phase-out of fossil gas**, as promised during your hearing, in alignment with EU climate and energy security objectives, ensuring benefits for both citizens and industry made in the EU.

Sincerely yours,



Chiara Martinelli, Director of CAN Europe

CAN Europe on behalf of:

EU level network organisations

- Beyond Fossil Fuels
- CEE Bankwatch Network
- Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe
- Corporate Europe Observatory
- European Environmental Bureau
- Food & Water Action Europe
- Friends of the Earth Europe
- Greenpeace
- 350.org

EU National and local level organisations

- Advocates for the Future
- Andy Gheorghiu Consulting
- Attac Austria
- A Sud ecologia e Cooperazione
- Bond Beter Leefmilieu
- BUND Kreisgruppe Cuxhaven
- Campagna Nazionale Per il Clima Fuori dal Fossile
- Comitato Liberi Cittadini No GNL Brindisi

- Conexiones Climáticas
- Coordinamento Ravennate Fuori dal Fossile
- Deutsche Umwelthilfe (Environmental Action Germany)
- Ecologistas en Acción
- EKOenergy ecolabel
- Emergenzaclimatica.it
- Forum Ambientalista
- Friends of the Earth Ireland
- Global Witness
- Innovation pour le Développement et la Protection de l'Environnement
- Institute for Sustainable Development Foundation (Poland)
- Leave it in the Ground Initiative (LINGO)
- Linha Vermelha / Red Line - Portugal
- Movimento No TAP/SNAM Brindisi
- Netzwerk Energiedrehscheibe Wilhelmshaven
- New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance
- Polish Ecological Club in Gliwice
- Polish Green Network
- PowerShift e.V.
- Reclaim Finance
- ReCommon
- Shale Must Fall, Ireland
- Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczne EKO-UNIA
- The Green Tank
- Urgewald
- Workshop for All Beings (Poland)
- Za Zemiata - Friends of the Earth Bulgaria
- Zukunftswerkstatt Wilhelmshaven

US, Canadian and African organisations:

- Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
- Chispa Texas
- Coastal Watch Association
- For a Better Bayou
- Gulf South Fossil Finance Hub
- Habitat Recovery Project
- South Durban Community Environmental Alliance
- South Texas Environmental Justice Network
- Texas Campaign for the Environment



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