

To

President von der Leyen

Rue de la Loi 200 (Wetstraat 200)

1049 Brussels

August 24, 2026

Subject: Making this fossil fuel crisis Europe's last one

Dear President von der Leyen,

Your State of the European Union address comes at a defining moment.

This summer, Europeans are paying twice for the EU's continued dependence on fossil fuels. First, in higher energy costs: the second fossil fuel crisis in just four years has added more than €50 billion to Europe's energy bill for households and businesses. Second, in the human and economic toll of the climate crisis: successive heatwaves since May have brought record temperatures, devastating wildfires and severe droughts across the continent, with the June heatwave alone estimated to claim at least 14,000 lives in Europe.

None of this is accidental. Fossil fuel dependence has repeatedly undermined Europe's prosperity and constrained its ability to act in the world. As long as Europe relies on fossil fuels, its citizens remain exposed to price shocks and geopolitical decisions made elsewhere. That exposure is a choice, and Europe can choose differently.

To chart the future of the single market and Europe's competitiveness, you commissioned landmark independent reports that propelled these issues to the top of the EU's agenda. Europe's independence from fossil energy now requires the same ambition.

We therefore urge you to use your upcoming address to announce the launch of a comprehensive, science-based and independent report with one clear objective: to make this fossil fuel crisis Europe's last.

Led by an eminent independent figure and developed with academia, civil society, social partners and businesses, **this report should provide a shared strategic vision for the remainder of the mandate, and deliver a fossil fuel exit plan based on five priorities:**

1. **Quantify the full economic and financial burden of dependence:** put a number on what fossil fuels drain each year from households, industry and public budgets, including import bills, exposure to price shocks, health and environmental impacts as well as climate damages.
2. **Chart the fastest competitive exit:** identify, sector by sector, where fossil fuel vulnerabilities are most acute and set out a pathway to a complete phase-out built on the most cost-effective proven solutions: renewables, energy efficiency, circular economy solutions, modern grids and clean flexibility with secure supply chains for the critical materials European industry depends on. The pathway must not rest on overhyped and unproven technologies that risk delaying the transition and damage the ecosystems we depend on.
3. **Align every euro with the exit:** identify where EU and national finance, subsidies and spending still prolong dependence, and recommend how to align them with the phase-out.
4. **Leave no one behind:** identify the governance and financial support needed to deliver a truly just transition, ensuring vulnerable households, workers, companies and affected regions are supported. Worker organisations should be at the centre of its design.
5. **Make nature our ally and first line of defence in climate action:** set out how to unlock investments, at scale, in natural solutions that Europe already knows work: forests, wetlands and soils that absorb carbon, floodplains that absorb floods, green spaces that cool cities, all at a fraction of the costs of engineered alternatives. Identify what keeps these solutions underfunded despite the evidence, whilst disregarding the ones that pose a risk to nature.

By commissioning this report in your State of the Union address and committing to act on its findings with the urgency the situation demands, you can make this crisis a turning point, and give Europeans an energy system that works for them: affordable, renewable, secure and homegrown.

Yours sincerely,

The undersigned organisations



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EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

- 350.org
 - C40 Cities
 - ACT Alliance EU
 - Action from Ireland
 - BankTrack
 - Beyond Fossil Fuels
 - Birdlife Europe
 - Carbon Tracker Initiative
 - Caritas Europa
 - Climate Action Network Europe
 - Carbon Market Watch
 - Cool Heating Coalition
 - Child Rights International Network
 - ClientEarth
 - Climate Justice Universities Union
 - ECOLISE
 - EKOenergy ecolabel
 - Environmental Coalition on Standards
 - European Cyclists' Federation
 - European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy
 - European Environmental Bureau
 - European Grandparents for Climate
 - European Youth Forum
 - Fern
 - Friends of the Earth Europe
 - Generation Climate Europe
 - Global Witness
 - Greenpeace European Unit
 - Health and Environment Alliance
 - Jesuit European Social Centre
 - Laudato Si' Movement
 - New Humanity NGO
 - Pax Christi International
 - POLIS
 - RECS Energy Certificate Association
 - REScoop.eu
 - Seas At Risk
 - The B Team
 - Transport & Environment
 - Women Engage for a Common Future
 - World Green Infrastructure Network
 - WWF European Policy Office
 - Youth and Environment Europe
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INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

- Airborne Wind Europe
- Electrification Alliance
- Euroheat & Power
- European Geothermal Energy Council
- Eurosolar
- Eurelectric
- European Heat Pump Association
- E-Mobility Europe
- European industrial insulation Foundation
- Renewables Grid Initiative
- Skift - Business Climate Leaders
- Solar Heat Europe
- SolarPower Europe
- WindEurope

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

- 2Celsius
- Action Solidarité Tiers Monde
- ADEME
- AirClim
- Airfield Estate
- Aplinkosaugos koalicija
(Environmental Coalition of Lithuania)
- An Taisce
- Association for Nature Conservation
"Baltijos vilkas"
- A SUD
- Austrian Bishops' Conference for
International Cooperation and Global
Church
- AutoMat, z. s.
- Bankwatch Romania
- Gorichka – Friends of the Earth Bulgaria
- Greenpeace Belgium
- Greenpeace Czechia
- Greenpeace Germany
- Greenpeace Greece
- Greenpeace Romania
- Green Transition Denmark
- Grootouders voor het Klimaat
Grandparents for Climate Flanders/Belgium
- Hellenic Ornithological Society
- Hnutí DUHA - Friends of the Earth Czech
Republic
- Iceland Nature Conservation Association
- International Presentation Association
- Institute for Sustainable Development
Foundation

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- Biom Association
 - BirdLife Austria
 - BirdLife Cyprus
 - BirdLife Estonia
 - BirdLife Finland
 - BirdLife Malta
 - BirdLife Norway
 - BirdLife Sverige (Sweden)
 - BirdWatch Ireland
 - BlueLink Foundation
 - Bond Beter Leefmilieu
 - Both ENDS
 - Bral vzw
 - CATAPA
 - CBM Ireland
 - Center for Climate Change, North Macedonia
 - Center for Environment / FOE Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Centre for Transport and Energy
 - Christian Aid Ireland
 - CIPRA Slovenija
 - CIPRA Südtirol
 - Cittadini per l'Aria ETS
 - Irish Environmental Network
 - Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice
 - Just Shift
 - Katholische Landjugendbewegung Deutschlands e.V.
 - Klima-Allianz Deutschland
 - Koalicija za trajnostno prometno politiko
 - Kyoto Club
 - Latvian Ornithological Society
 - LEGAMBIENTE
 - Legal Initiative for Environment and Climate
 - Lipu BirdLife Italia
 - LYCS
 - Milieukontakt Albania
 - Mission Possible Foundation
 - Mouvement Ecologique Luxembourg
 - NABU Deutschland
 - natur&ëmwelt a.s.b.l.
 - Natuurmonumenten
 - Natuurpunt
 - Next Energy Consumer
 - Notre Affaire à Tous
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- Clean Air Action Group
- CNCD-11.11.11
- CO2 Cards
- Coalition 2030
- Cordaid
- ČSOP Veronica (Ecological institute)
- Czech Society for Ornithology
- Děti Země (Children of the Earth)
- Deutscher Naturschutzring e.V.
- Deutsche Umwelthilfe
- ECO-UNION
- ECOCITY NGO
- ECODES
- Ecological Manifesto - ManEco
- Ecologistas en Acción
- Ecoteca
- Electra Energy
- Energiaklub Climate Policy Institute
- Environmental Association "Za Zemiata"
- Environmental Investigation Agency UK
- Environmental Justice Network Ireland
- Environmental Justice Foundation Germany
- NSC-Friends of the Earth Hungary
- One Planet Port
- Oxfam Novib
- Palombar - Associação de Conservação da Natureza e do Património Rural
- Polish Green Network
- Polish Society for the Protection of Birds
- PowerShift e.V.
- Quercus
- Razom We Stand
- Réseau Action Climat-France
- Salesian Missions Ireland/ Don Bosco Aid
- Social Justice Ireland
- Società Coop. soc. Eliante Onlus
- Society for Sustainable Development Design
- Society for Sustainable Living
- SPEA BirdLife
- Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczne EKO-UNIA, Poland
- Stop Climate Chaos
- Suas Educational Development
- Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto ry

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- Estonian Fund for Nature
- EUROPEUM Institute
- FairFin
- Fédération SEPANSO Aquitaine
- Fenntarthatóság Felé Egyesület ("Towards Sustainability" Association)
- Fingo - Finnish development NGOs
- FOCUS
- Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini
- Foundation for Organic Agriculture BIOSELENA
- France Nature Environnement
- Friends of the Earth Ireland
- Future Up
- GAP Ireland
- Germanwatch
- GLOBAL 2000
- Good Energies Alliance Ireland
- Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
- Terra Cypria - The Cyprus Conservation Foundation
- The Wilderness LLC
- The Environmental Forum
- Think&Act
- Trócaire
- Umanotera
- Univerzity za Klima
- VCÖ – Mobilität mit Zukunft
- VšĮ "Žiedinė ekonomika"
- Workshop for All Beings
- World Vision Ireland
- ZERO - Association for the Earth Sustainability
- Zero Waste Alliance Ireland

