

8<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Subject: Letter to the heads of the political groups in the European Parliament calling on them to end EU funding to fossil fuels and ensure a Just Transition**

Dear President Sassoli, dear Vice-Presidents, dear Group Leaders,

We welcome the role the European Parliament has played in shaping the political priorities of the Von der Leyen Commission, in particular the European Green Deal (EGD) and the alignment of Europe's recovery effort to Europe's climate and environment goals. The European Parliament has long played a critical role in holding the European Commission to account and in ensuring the EU's climate and environment ambition is fit to address the challenge that science has spelled out. Now that the negotiations on the EU's MFF and the new recovery instrument are entering into a decisive phase, it is essential that the European Parliament delivers on its commitments.

We are therefore deeply concerned about the position taken by the European Parliament's REGI Committee in the negotiations on the Just Transition Fund (JTF), proposing to subsidise new fossil gas investments. The European Commission's own scenarios for a long term strategy that would see the EU hitting carbon neutrality by 2050 would see demand for fossil gas reduce to 4% in the next 3 decades.

If adopted in Plenary commencing the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020, this would mean that the European Parliament would find itself in the unusual position of being the only one of the three co-legislators weakening ambition and integrity of climate action, contrary to its own declaration of November 2019, which underlined the importance for all legislative and budgetary proposals to align with the objective of limiting global warming at 1.5C°, thereby undermining its credibility as a climate leader.

The proposed JTF is one of the first pieces of legislation to implement the EGD and will therefore set an important benchmark for the EU's commitment to its green ambitions.

We therefore call on you as political leaders to enable the JTF to deliver for Europe's citizens, its workers and the climate by ensuring that:

- The European Parliament rejects the REGI Committee's draft position on Article 5 (exclusions) in support of gas in plenary<sup>1</sup>. To this effect we also recall the letter sent on 2nd July<sup>2</sup> demanding a full fossil fuel exclusion.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2020-0135\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2020-0135_EN.html) (Report of MEP Manolis Kefalogiannis), in particular its amendments 41 and 45 2 Joint open NGO letter

<sup>2</sup>[https://mk0eeborgicuyptuf7e.kinstacdn.com/wpcontent/uploads/2020/07/070220\\_open\\_letter\\_to\\_members\\_of\\_the\\_european\\_parliament\\_regi\\_committee.pdf](https://mk0eeborgicuyptuf7e.kinstacdn.com/wpcontent/uploads/2020/07/070220_open_letter_to_members_of_the_european_parliament_regi_committee.pdf)

- All finance to support the transition will be conditional on comprehensive and forward looking climate action and must be targeted where it is most needed; not be used as an alternative for raising capital on the marketplace by large companies.

In the interest of transparency, we make this letter and responses received public.

Signed on behalf of the organisations listed at the end of this letter,



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**BANKTRACK**



**CEE Bankwatch Network**



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**EMBER**  
COAL TO CLEAN ENERGY POLICY



**E3G**

**FOOD & WATER ACTION EUROPE**



**Friends of the Earth Europe**



**Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége**  
Föld Barátai Magyarország



**HEAL**  
Promoting environmental policy that contributes to good health

**GREENPEACE**



**LEGAMBIENTE**



**POW**   
PROTECTOURWINTERS.EU

**sandbag**  
smarter climate policy



**UMANO TERA**  
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