

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

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Industry associations

Airborne Wind Europe	TrinaSolar
Electrification Alliance	E-Mobility Europe
Euroheat & Power	Renewables Grid Initiative
Eurosolar.org	Solar Heat Europe
Eurelectric	SolarPower Europe
European Heat Pump Association	

National organisations and associations

2Celsius	GAP Ireland
Action Solidarité Tiers Monde	Germanwatch
ADEME	Good Energies Alliance Ireland
AirClim	Gorichka – Friends of the Earth Bulgaria
Airfield Estate	Greenpeace Belgium
Aplinkosaugos koalicija (Environmental Coalition of Lithuania)	Greenpeace Czechia
An Taisce	Greenpeace Germany
Association for Nature Conservation "Baltijos vilkas"	Greenpeace Greece
A SUD	Greenpeace Romania
AutoMat, z. s.	Green Transition Denmark
Bankwatch Romania	Grootouders voor het Klimaat
Biom Association	Grandparents for Climate
BirdLife Austria	Flanders/Belgium
BirdLife Cyprus	Hellenic Ornithological Society
BirdLife Finland	Hnutí DUHA - Friends of the Earth Czech Republic
	Iceland Nature Conservation Association

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BirdLife Malta	International Presentation Association
BirdLife Norway	Institute for Sustainable Development Foundation
BirdLife Sverige (Sweden)	Irish Environmental Network
BirdWatch Ireland	Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice
BlueLink Foundation	Just Shift
Bond Beter Leefmilieu	Katholische Landjugendbewegung Deutschlands e.V.
Both ENDS	Klima-Allianz Deutschland
Bral vzw	Koalicija za trajnostno prometno politiko
CATAPA	Kyoto Club
CBM Ireland	Latvian Ornithological Society
Center for Climate Change, North Macedonia	LEGAMBIENTE
Center for Environment / FOE Bosnia and Herzegovina	Legal Initiative for Environment and Climate
Centre for Transport and Energy	Lipu BirdLife Italia
Christian Aid Ireland	LYCS
CIPRA Slovenija	Milieukontakt Albania
CIPRA Südtirol	Mission Possible Foundation
Cittadini per l'aria ETS	Mouvement Ecologique Luxembourg
Clean Air Action Group	NABU Deutschland
CNCD-11.11.11	natur&ömwelt a.s.b.l.
CO2 Cards	Natuurmonumenten
Coalition 2030	Natuurpunt
Cordaid	New Humanity NGO
ČSOP Veronica (Ecological institute)	Next Energy Consumer
Czech Society for Ornithology	

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Děti Země (Children of the Earth)	Notre Affaire à Tous
Deutscher Naturschutzring e.V.	NSC-Friends of the Earth Hungary
Deutsche Umwelthilfe	One Planet Port
ECO-UNION	Oxfam
ECOCITY NGO	Palombar - Associação de Conservação da Natureza e do Património Rural
ECODES	PowerShift e.V.
Ecological Manifesto - ManEco	Quercus
Ecoteca	Razom We Stand
Electra Energy	Réseau Action Climat-France
EKOenergy ecolabel	Salesian Missions Ireland/Don Bosco Aid
EiiF	Social Justice Ireland
Energiaklub Climate Policy Institute	Society for Sustainable Living
Environmental Association "Za Zemiata"	SPEA BirdLife
Environmental Investigation Agency UK	Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczne EKO-UNIA, Poland
Environmental Justice Network Ireland	Stop Climate Chaos
Environmental Justice Foundation Germany	Suas Educational Development
EUROPEUM Institute	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
FairFin	the Wilderness LLC
Fédération SEPANSO Aquitaine	The Environmental Forum
Fenntarthatóság Felé Egyesület ("Towards Sustainability" Association)	Think&Act
Fingo - Finnish development NGOs	Trócaire
FOCUS	Univerzity za Klima
Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini	VCÖ – Mobilität mit Zukunft
	VšĮ "Žiedinė ekonomika"

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Foundation for Organic Agriculture
BIOSELENA

France Nature Environnement

Friends of the Earth Ireland

Future Up

Workshop for All Beings

World Vision Ireland

ZERO - Association for the Earth
Sustainability

Zero Waste Alliance Ireland

