

Dear President Joe Biden, dear Secretary Granholm,

We, civil society organizations from across Europe with a deep understanding of the EU gas system, welcome your Administration's potential decision to halt further expansion of US LNG export capacity and the possible ruling to subject LNG facility build-out to a comprehensive climate and human rights/public interest assessment.

**We firmly reject the notion that further US LNG build-out would be necessary to serve Europe's energy security and lament the fact this specious argument is still being peddled by the fossil fuel industry.**

Measures taken by European policymakers since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, both from a supply and demand perspective, have already allayed concerns around the continent's future gas requirements. EU countries managed to reduce their gas demand by 19% from the time of the invasion to January 2023<sup>1</sup>, while a host of new LNG import terminals were added across the 27-nation bloc.

Research shows that even in the case of a cold winter combined with a total halt on Russian LNG, Europe would be able to maintain comfortably high levels of gas storage until the end of winter<sup>2</sup>. In other words, **Europe's existing gas supply network is sufficient taking into account both its own import infrastructure and US LNG export infrastructure.**

Indeed, energy market observers now believe Europe's build out of new LNG import infrastructure may already have gone too far. Average utilisation rates at Europe's existing LNG terminals stood at just 60% in 2023<sup>3</sup>, so questions are being raised about the need for these additional terminals, especially with Europe's gas demand set to decline over the course of the decade.

**Several EU-level policies, such as the EU Climate Law or the RePowerEU communication, include requirements for a significant, structural reduction of gas demand.** Combined clean energy measures in RepowerEU could result in a decrease of as much as over 50% of the EU gas demand by 2030<sup>4</sup>. Gas demand reduction will be key to comply with EU climate commitments and climate legislation.

President Biden has recognized that climate change is an 'existential threat' to humanity yet current plans for expansion of LNG in the United States will contribute to that existential threat. LNG is a particularly polluting fossil fuel, though our use of all fossil fuels must end. Research finds that methane emissions and energy needed along the supply chain of U.S. LNG leads to a

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/infographics/gas-demand-reduction-in-the-eu/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bruegel.org/analysis/european-union-ready-2023-24-winter-gas-season>

<sup>3</sup> <https://alsi.gie.eu/data-visualisation/terminal-utilisation/EU>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.e3g.org/publications/repowering-towards-eu-gas-demand-reduction/?\\_thumbnail\\_id=13963](https://www.e3g.org/publications/repowering-towards-eu-gas-demand-reduction/?_thumbnail_id=13963)

climate impact of LNG higher or even considerably higher than that even of coal<sup>5</sup>. **LNG capacity expansion is more than at odds with protecting the vital 1.5°C limit set by the Paris Agreement<sup>6</sup>.**

LNG has also been identified and listed by Europe's largest gas consumer Germany as a commodity with potential human rights risks in the supply chain, including in the United States - a significant issue which needs to be addressed by energy companies related to their supply chain.<sup>7</sup>

**In this context, we strongly urge you to decide for a stop of the LNG build-out, and to do your utmost to support truly clean energy solutions that serve the people and not fossil fuel interests.** The wellbeing of communities all across the planet and our global climate depends on your leadership and fast action to get off fossil fuels. A strong signal on stopping LNG expansion on both sides of the Atlantic would be a first, needed step.

Sincerely,



On behalf of



Deutsche Umwelthilfe



global witness



<sup>5</sup> [https://www.research.howarthlab.org/publications/Howarth\\_LNG\\_assessment\\_preprint\\_archived\\_2023-1103.pdf](https://www.research.howarthlab.org/publications/Howarth_LNG_assessment_preprint_archived_2023-1103.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <https://climateactiontracker.org/publications/massive-gas-expansion-risks-overtaking-positive-climate-policies/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.csr-in-deutschland.de/EN/Business-Human-Rights/Implementation-support/Sector-dialogues/Energy-sector-dialogue/publication-potential-human-rights-risks-along-supply-and-value-chains.html>



## All signatories:

Climate Action Network Europe

Greenpeace

Europe

EU

Fracking Free Clare	Ireland
Safety B4LNG	Ireland
Umweltschutzverein pro grün e.V. Paderborn	Deutschland
urgewald e. V.	Germany
Les Amis de la Terre / Friends of the Earth France	France
Women Against Nuclear Power - Finland	Finland
Fracking Free Bulgaria	Bulgaria
Collectif Val-de-Travers "Non aux forages d'hydrocarbures"	Switzerland
daHuat brennt	Österreich
BI Lebensraum Vorpommern eV	Deutschland
PowerShift e.V.	Germany
Fossielvrij NL	The Netherlands
Debt Observatory in Globalization (ODG)	Catalonia/Spain
Friends of the Earth Ireland	Ireland
Estonian Green Movement	Estonia
Aeris Futuro Foundation	Poland
Re-set: platform for socio-ecological transformation	Czech republic
Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczne EKO-UNIA	Poland
Deutsche Umwelthilfe	Germany
Workshop for All Beings	Poland
Bürgerinitiative Kein CO2 Endlager e.V.	Germany
Polish Green Network	Poland
Fundación Renovables	Spain
Berliner Wassertisch	Germany
Corporate Europe Observatory	EU
Friends of the Earth Malta	Malta
Transport & Environment	EU
BI "Saubere Umwelt & Energie Altmark"	Germany
Global Witness	

Zelena akcija/FoE Croatia	Croatia
Love Leitrim	Ireland
ReCommon	Italy
Fridays for Future Spain	Spain
Extinction Rebellion Netherlands	Netherlands
Milieudefensie (Friends of the Earth Netherlands)	Netherlands
Ecologistas en Acción	Spain
Gas No Es Solución	Spain
Bond Beter Leefmilieu (Union for a Better Environment)	Belgium
CDE (Centre for Transport and Energy)	Czech Republic
Polish Ecological Club	Poland
Society for the Earth	Poland
350.org	Global
Shale Must Fall	Global
Weald Action Group	UK
Frack Free Sussex	UK
Frack Off London	UK
<b>Non-European signatories</b>	
JA!Justica Ambiental	Mozambique
United Native Americans	USA
New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance	Canada
Breathe Easy Susquehanna County	USA
ARAYARA International Institute	Brasil, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay, Panamá, Paraguay, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname
COESUS - Latin American Coalition against FRACKING	Brasil, Uruguay,

OPG Oil and Gas Observatory

SLO CLEAN WATER

Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.

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Peru, Suriname,  
Guyana, Ecuador.

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Guyana, Venezuela,  
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