



MANIFESTO FOR EU ELECTIONS 2024

CHAMPIONING BOLD CLIMATE ACTION, SOCIAL JUSTICE & PHASE OUT FROM FOSSIL FUELS

7 KEY DEMANDS TO DELIVER A JUST TRANSITION



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7 KEY DEMANDS TO DELIVER A JUST TRANSITION

Amidst the challenges the EU and the world are currently facing, the upcoming 2024 European elections mark a critical juncture. The past years have been marked by multiple and unprecedented crises from the global impact of COVID-19 pandemic, growing impacts of climate change, and conflicts in Ukraine and Palestine, among others. All these crises have triggered a ripple effect causing a profound impact on communities, especially the most vulnerable ones, with a surge in energy poverty and a deepening of social inequalities. **The upcoming EU legislators must provide concrete, just and effective responses to these crises, especially in the face of mounting Euroscepticism and the resurgence of far-right parties.** In this context the EU must reaffirm its dedication to the principles of unity, solidarity and inclusive governance.

In the face of these multifaceted challenges, the looming threats of climate change, such as extreme weather events, sea-level rise, biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse, are profound. Despite crucial improvements, **the Europe Green Deal (EGD) has not consistently met its ambitious objectives.** Major gaps remain in renewable energy investments, energy efficiency and savings measures, greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, and clear plans for phasing out fossil fuels, as well as addressing the social impacts of the energy transition.

It is vital to build on the EGD foundation and expedite efforts toward a sustainable and resilient future. A defining element will be building a clear, ambitious trajectory towards a phase out of fossil fuels, coupled with an immediate commitment to avoid further investments in fossil fuel infrastructure and reject false solutions such as fossil-based (e.g. 'blue' or 'turquoise') hydrogen or Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). However, the energy crisis resulting from the Russian invasion of Ukraine did not lead to a move away from fossil gas, but rather into a new dependency on the U.S. Liquefied "Natural" Gas (LNG) as well as increased Russian LNG imports. Alarmingly, LNG expansion poses climate threats and disproportionately impacts local communities. [EU's trajectory](#) to invest in LNG import capacity surpasses demand projections by 2030. Developing LNG comes at too high a price on many fronts.

We firmly believe that the time to deepen and accelerate a 100% clean energy transition is now. We must prioritize the well-being of people and the planet over the narrow interests of fossil fuel companies. We advocate for a future where clean energy takes precedence, safeguarding our environment, communities, and the very fabric of our shared existence. We urge the EU to lead the way towards a sustainable future for all and grounded in social justice.

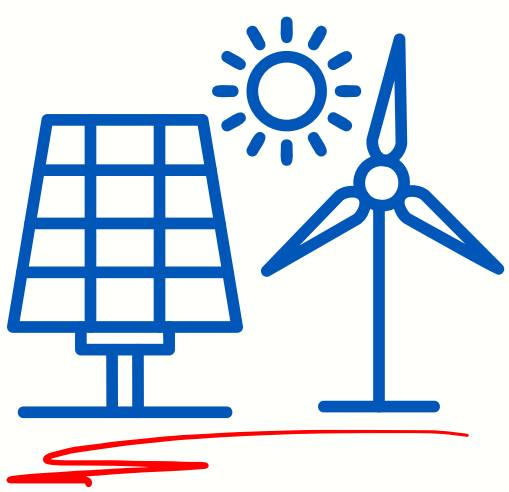
1. HALT INVESTMENTS IN LNG AND FOSSIL GAS PROJECTS TO ACCELERATE THE PHASE-OUT OF FOSSIL GAS.

As we urgently need to [move away from fossil gas](#), it is alarming to see the EU backing new LNG expansion projects, which are often tied to long term contracts. Further investment in new fossil gas infrastructure will create stranded assets, and in the end it is the consumers who will pay the bill. LNG is not a climate solution, but a deeply polluting fuel with emissions [higher than those of coal](#). By investing in it, we're diverting crucial resources away from the scaling up 100% renewable energy and prioritizing energy efficiency. It is therefore highly disappointing that, amidst the energy crisis, the EU is funneling financial support into new fossil gas and oil projects through the REPowerEU plan (worth [approximately €10 billion](#)) under the guise of meeting immediate supply needs. This is only one example of continued fossil fuel subsidies.



In accordance with international commitments made during the COP28 and responding to the urgency [expressed](#) by the European Parliament to stop all direct and indirect fossil fuel subsidies, **the EU should collaborate with Member States to develop national plans aimed at phasing out fossil gas** and achieving climate neutrality by 2050. These plans should include mandatory gas reduction targets, and explicitly prohibiting investments in new LNG projects.

2. OPPOSING FALSE SOLUTIONS & INVESTING IN 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY.



Halting investments in LNG projects is crucial (see *point 1*), but it is equally vital to steer clear from other false solutions. [Betting on Carbon Capture and Storage](#) (CCS) and [overestimating hydrogen technologies](#) will only divert resources from proven, clean and more efficient measures to tackle the climate crisis. In particular, we express deep concerns about the EU's [ambiguous stance](#) on defining low-carbon gasses in the "gas package," which might favor fossil-based hydrogen over phasing out fossil gas. Equally troubling are the proposals for the backing of CCS/CCU technology through the [Net-Zero Industry Act](#) and the EU strategy for establishing an [industrial carbon management market](#) by 2030. Those false solutions are not a climate-fix but a stalling tactic that allows the fossil fuel industry to continue business as usual and lock in dependence on fossil gas.



The EU must cease all subsidies for fossil fuel-based hydrogen and restrict the use of 100% renewable hydrogen to hard-to-abate sectors. This limitation must coincide with halting investments in failing and immature CCS technology, largely promoted by the fossil fuel industry to keep [marketing fossil fuels as 'clean'](#) by attempting to capture a mere fraction of the CO₂ emitted. Instead, **the EU must double expected mid-decade wind and solar deployment**. This is essential if the EU wants to limit global warming to 1.5°C, while ensuring that renewable energy projects adhere to nature protection standards during permitting processes.

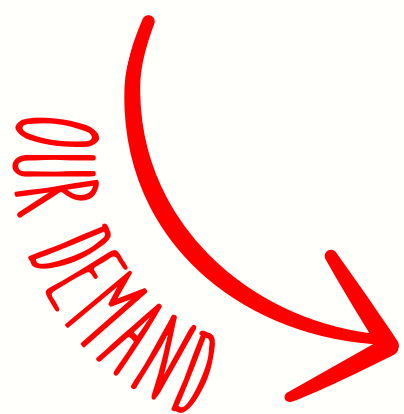
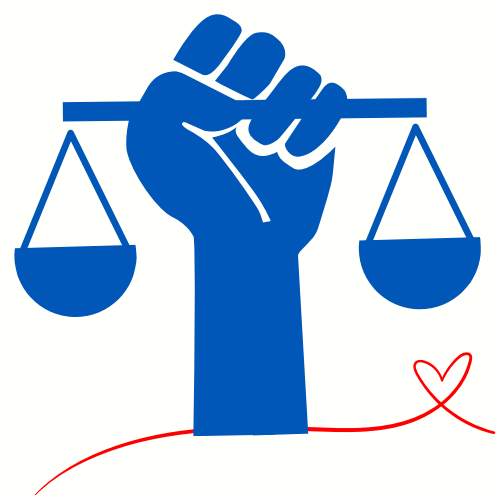
3. PROMOTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CUTTING ENERGY DEMAND.

In the bid to move away from Russian fossil gas, a move generally supported by FWAE, the EU's reliance on LNG imports from U.S., Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and other regions has come with a host of problems. Ironically, despite reducing pipeline gas, LNG [imports from Russia are on the rise](#), even as the EU currently [contemplates imposing sanctions](#) on Russian LNG imports. The shift to LNG does not offer a silver bullet for the EU's energy challenges, but could worsen them. The EU needs to go beyond short-term fixes. Investments in renewable-based electrification and sectoral integration must be coupled with a [resolute commitment](#) to slash energy demand in buildings, industry and transport, and by increasing the efficiency of end-use appliances. However, [structured, socially just, and sustainable efforts](#) to boost energy efficiency are [lacking](#) in many EU countries, exacerbating the energy crisis.



Reducing energy demand and ensuring energy efficiency reduces not only emissions but also energy dependency. **The energy transition ultimately requires accelerating investments that can durably reduce energy demand.** This entails e.g. adopting further measures to support investments in non-fossil heat sources like solar and heat pumps and accelerating the distribution of smart-meters. Establishing at a same time an independent monitoring body to evaluate progress at national level and ensure the compliance of EU-wide requirements.

4. CLIMATE JUSTICE THROUGH INCLUSIVE EU CLIMATE POLICIES.

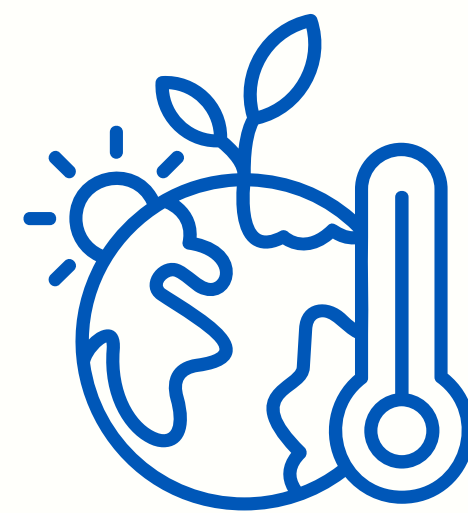


In embracing a 100% clean energy transition, the EU must ensure a transparent and just approach. A just transition means moving from an extractive economy to a regenerative and inclusive one based on care. This means challenging existing power relations, and historic and present injustices. In the midst of an energy and cost of living crisis, this transformative process needs to be people-centered, leaving no person and no place behind. Specific attention must be paid to vulnerable groups. The EU's responses to fostering a just transition have been patchy, i.e. the social dimension of the European Green Deal remained underdeveloped, and instruments such as the Just Transition Mechanism and the Social Climate Fund are [insufficient](#).

We ask the future EU legislators to **implement a robust just transition framework that prioritizes people living in vulnerable situations**, such as low income households, older people, those living in rural/isolated areas, minorities, migrants and people with disabilities among others. It is vital to foster democratic participation and social dialogue at all levels, while looking at the impacts on the existing labour market.

5. CLIMATE RESPONSIBILITY.

While the upcoming EU legislators must prioritize more ambitious greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets, expanding LNG infrastructure contradicts this goal. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, eight LNG terminals have come into operation across Europe and four [were expanded in 2022 and 2023](#). EU countries plan to increase LNG import capacity to [227.2 billion cubic meters \(bcm\) per year](#), leading to a staggering rise in CO2 and methane emissions. By 2030, EU LNG import capacity will [far exceed demand](#). The U.S. is the EU's top LNG supplier and most of its fossil gas is [produced from fracking](#), a technology that is [driving global methane emissions](#) and exacerbating the climate crisis. Despite the EU methane regulation in the energy sector, set to enter into force soon, efforts to address methane emissions from gas imports [remain alarmingly inadequate](#), particularly U.S. LNG sourced from fracking.

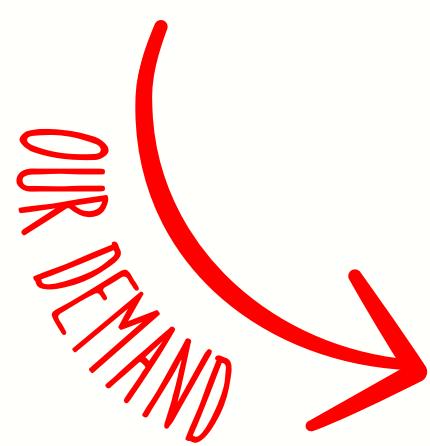


It is imperative that the upcoming EU legislators prioritize the implementation of an **immediate ban on imported fracked gas** which has a highly damaging impact on our global climate, surpassing even the impacts of coal. This will and must address the hypocrisy whereby many countries around Europe have banned the controversial fracking method, but end up importing fracked gas via LNG through the backdoor.

6. PROTECT ENERGY AND CLIMATE DECISION-MAKING FROM FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY INTERESTS.



As the EU struggles to reduce its reliance on Russian gas, fossil fuel companies are reaping [record profits](#), and pushing for more fossil infrastructure investment under the 'energy security doctrine.' Under the pressure of fossil fuel industry lobbying, the EU and European governments decided to invest in and [over-expand fossil gas imports and infrastructure](#). In this framework, LNG is touted as the crisis solution and is planned to remain so for decades to come through the signing of long-term contracts and the construction of new terminals. Instead of ditching fossil gas, the EU opts to replace Russian gas with imports from elsewhere, while locking Europeans into a dangerous fossil fuel dependence. **While fossil fuel industry influence on decision-making is not new, the current energy crisis underscores the urgency of limiting their sway and transition towards a fossil free politics.**



We urge the upcoming EU legislators, alongside [other civil society organizations](#), to limit fossil fuel companies' access to the EU institutions and reject partnerships with them. Similar to the [WHO's framework](#) to curb tobacco lobby influence over public health policy, we need a framework safeguarding energy and climate decisions from fossil fuel industry influence. To reduce their influence, the EU should e.g. revoke the privileged role of the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas (ENTSO-G) and establish a fully [transparent and independent body](#). Furthermore, the EU needs to ensure full transparency on fossil gas import data and make the protection of our climate and human rights a priority that can't be overridden.

7. THE EU'S ROLE IN THE WORLD.

To achieve a successful and just energy transition, international co-operation and support need to be enhanced and redesigned. **The EU's energy transformation must avoid replicating or perpetuating violations of human rights, recognizing the need to decolonize our energy system.** A just transition cannot mean exacerbating social inequalities and sacrificing the well-being of local communities elsewhere. Investing in LNG, for example, ends up worsening the living conditions of communities near such facilities – [as seen in the US Gulf Coast](#) – and communities suffer additionally from further production of fracked gas, which can contribute to unrest, terrorism, and displacement in places like [Mozambique](#). Moreover, moving away from Russian fossil gas shouldn't mean backing the Israeli apartheid system by [procuring gas](#) extracted unlawfully from the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and subsequently transporting it through Egypt, where human rights are consistently [overlooked](#). Similarly, it should not involve bolstering gas supplies from authoritarian regimes known for extensive human rights abuses, such as [Azerbaijan](#), [Algeria](#), [Nigeria](#), or [Qatar](#).

Additionally, the energy transition must avoid exploiting resources and people in the Global South, who bear the least responsibility for climate change yet suffer its consequences the most. The EU and its Member States continue to prioritise short-term profit and power over people's well being by turning to the Global South for resource extraction and exploitation. This is evident in efforts to [expand fossil gas production](#) in Africa to replace Russian gas, and in seeking renewable projects and raw materials from the Global South for Europe's green transition. [Despite the new EU corporate sustainability and due diligence rules](#), which will represent a step forward, albeit being weakened compared to the initial proposal, many gaps still exist to ensure sustainable practices and accountability for [corporate harms](#) so as to overcome neo-colonialist patterns of resources exploitation.

We call on future EU policy-makers **to halt investments in new fossil fuel imports that flagrantly violate human rights, and to expand and deepen the EGD by ensuring a strong external dimension to avoid any adverse impact on the Global South and foster a Global Just Transition.** It is absolutely crucial to avoid passing on the cost of energy transition away from fossil fuels to Global South societies and territories, in a neo-colonialist perspective that exploits non-European labour and nature to work for the realisation of EU climate policy goals. The next EU legislative cycle should see a genuine commitment to abandoning a logic of pure, destructive growth through the promotion on the international stage of a life-sustaining economy within planetary boundaries. The deepening of the EGD must prioritise the principles of transparency and inclusiveness, which must involve an extensive consultation with European and international partners, including NGOs and grassroots movements as well as affected communities.

