

August 24, 2026

Dear President von der Leyen,

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

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.

August 24, 2026

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

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
Carbon Tracker Initiative	Jesuit European Social Centre
Caritas Europa	Laudato Si' Movement
Climate Action Network Europe	New Humanity NGO
Carbon Market Watch	Pax Christi International
Cool Heating Coalition	POLIS
Child Rights International Network	RECS Energy Certificate Association
ClientEarth	REScoop.eu
Climate Justice Universities Union	Seas At Risk
ECOLISE	The B Team
EKOenergy ecolabel	Transport & Environment
Environmental Coalition on Standards	Women Engage for a Common Future
European Cyclists' Federation	World Green Infrastructure Network
European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy	WWF European Policy Office
	Youth and Environment Europe

Industry associations

Airborne Wind Europe	TrinaSolar
Electrification Alliance	E-Mobility Europe
Euroheat & Power	Renewables Grid Initiative
Eurosolar	Skift - Business Climate Leaders
Eurelectric	Solar Heat Europe
European Heat Pump Association	SolarPower Europe

National organisations and associations

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

August 24, 2026

BirdLife Malta	Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice
BirdLife Norway	Just Shift
BirdLife Sverige (Sweden)	Katholische Landjugendbewegung Deutschlands e.V.
BirdWatch Ireland	Klima-Allianz Deutschland
BlueLink Foundation	Koalicija za trajnostno prometno politiko
Bond Beter Leefmilieu	Kyoto Club
Both ENDS	Latvian Ornithological Society
Bral vzw	LEGAMBIENTE
CATAPA	Legal Initiative for Environment and Climate
CBM Ireland	Lipu BirdLife Italia
Center for Climate Change, North Macedonia	LYCS
Center for Environment / FOE Bosnia and Herzegovina	Milieukontakt Albania
Centre for Transport and Energy	Mission Possible Foundation
Christian Aid Ireland	Mouvement Ecologique Luxembourg
CIPRA Slovenija	NABU Deutschland
CIPRA Südtirol	natur&ëmwelt a.s.b.l.
Cittadini per l'Aria ETS	Natuurmonumenten
Clean Air Action Group	Natuurpunt
CNCD-11.11.11	Next Energy Consumer
CO2 Cards	Notre Affaire à Tous
Coalition 2030	NSC-Friends of the Earth Hungary
Cordaid	One Planet Port
ČSOP Veronica (Ecological institute)	Oxfam
Czech Society for Ornithology	

Děti Země (Children of the Earth)	Palombar - Associação de Conservação da Natureza e do Património Rural
Deutscher Naturschutzring e.V.	
Deutsche Umwelthilfe	Polish Green Network
ECO-UNION	Polish Society for the Protection of Birds
ECOCITY NGO	PowerShift e.V.
ECODES	Quercus
Ecological Manifesto - ManEco	Razom We Stand
Ecologistas en Acción	Réseau Action Climat-France
Ecoteca	Salesian Missions Ireland/ Don Bosco Aid
Electra Energy	Social Justice Ireland
EiiF	Società Coop. soc. Eliante Onlus
Energiaklub Climate Policy Institute	Society for Sustainable Development Design
Environmental Association "Za Zemiata"	Society for Sustainable Living
Environmental Investigation Agency UK	SPEA BirdLife
Environmental Justice Network Ireland	Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczne EKO-UNIA, Poland
Environmental Justice Foundation Germany	Stop Climate Chaos
Estonian Fund for Nature	Suas Educational Development
EUROPEUM Institute	Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto ry
FairFin	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
Fédération SEPANSO Aquitaine	Terra Cypria - The Cyprus Conservation Foundation
Fenntarthatóság Felé Egyesület ("Towards Sustainability" Association)	the Wilderness LLC
Fingo - Finnish development NGOs	The Environmental Forum
FOCUS	Think&Act
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

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