

To the attention of Ms Ursula Von Der Leyen,
President of the European Commission

Cc: Mr Franz Timmermans, Vice-President of the European Commission
Ms Kadri Simson, European Commissioner for energy

Bruxelles, 15th of July

Dear President Von der Leyen,

In view of the adoption of the Winter Preparedness Action Plan at the next meeting of the College of Commissioners, to be held on the 20th of July, we wish to express a call of unity and ambition that is necessary in these historical moments.

The unprecedented disruption of gas supply combined with resulting record hikes of energy prices and inflation rate will lead the EU into unpredictably devastating social and economic impact during this winter.

Exceptional time require emergency measures where the Union needs to act as jointly and united as ever.

The Winter Preparedness Action Plan should provide immediate solutions to alleviate the cost of the crisis for consumers. In order to be effective, the Plan must include emergency and exceptional measures to tackle energy prices. In addition, we, Socialist and Democrats believe that the EU must give a strong answer against unfair and speculative conducts by addressing and taxing windfall profits. This is indispensable in order to finance and implement the objectives of the Plan and of RepowerEU. We expect that the Winter Preparedness Action Plan to embed the following measures:

- addressing and reducing the gap between natural gas acquisition prices and wholesale market prices;
- limiting the number of intermediaries between producers and buyers;
- expanding the scope of the position limits regime to energy commodities alongside food commodities;
- disconnecting natural gas prices from electricity prices;

In light of the sensitivity of the decisions that will be made, in order to succeed, the Plan requires a full-fledged democratic support and accountability where all the EU institutions need to be involved and accountable.

This is especially true considering that the Plan aims to implement provisions deriving from the Security of Gas Supply Regulation, dealt under ordinary legislative procedure. While the European Parliament is already working at full speed to adopt the RepowerEU legislative proposal, it has already demonstrated the responsibility and ability to work under urgent procedure with the legislative proposal on Gas Storage.

The European Parliament and the S&D Group will always be open and reliable partners and we hope that the European Parliament will be fully involved in the decision-making process.

Sincerely yours,

Dan NICA - MEP, S&D Coordinator for the ITRE Committee

Mohammed CHAHIM - Vice-Chair, S&D Group the European Parliament

Patrizia TOIA – Vice-chair for the ITRE Committee

Nicolás GONZÁLEZ CASARES -MEP

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