

Open Letter to TEN-E Decision Makers: Calling for a Fossil Free Revision

Dear trilogue negotiators of the TEN-E revision representing EU Parliament, EU Commission and Council

The signatories to this letter are writing to you today to express concern over the revision of the Trans European Networks for Energy (TEN-E) regulation in light of the fifth Projects of Common Interest (PCI) list. The list contains a significant number of large gas infrastructure projects that would transport fossil fuels across Europe. In light of the European Commission's commitment to achieving a EU Green Deal, and in light of the strong alarm bells being rung at COP26 on the need to keep within 1.5 degrees of global warming as indicated in the Paris Agreement, giving continued priority status for fossil fuel expansion does not send the right message. Fossil gas is a highly potent greenhouse gas, mainly consisting of methane - with a global warming potential 87 times higher than CO2 over a twenty year timeframe - which will play a critical role in the short term reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. We therefore wish to question whether this priority project list can be considered as part of the much needed action on climate change, or rather the opposite.

Additionally, we are concerned to see loopholes for a further fossil gas grid expansion under the PCI list in the positions from ITRE Committee and the European Council on the TEN-E regulation revision. These positions could create avenues for future fossil gas projects under the guise of blending, or grandfathering gas PCIs. We urge representatives from the ITRE Committee, European Council, and the European Commission currently negotiating the energy infrastructure law to deliver a TEN-E revision that takes us one step forward on climate action, not one step back.

The signatories of this letter therefore object to the inclusion of fossil gas projects on the 5th PCI list on the basis of its incompatibility with a futureproof energy system, and call on those currently negotiating the TEN-E regulation to deliver a TEN-E revision free from fossil fuel loopholes and to remove the fossil fuel industry from its core position in the PCI process.

Initial signatories:

MEP Pascal Durand (Renew)

MEP Cornelia Ernst (The Left)

MEP Aurore Lalucq (Socialists & Democrats)

MEP Günther Sidl (Socialists & Democrats)

MEP Marie Toussaint (The Greens/EFA)

MEP Michal Wiezik (European People's Party)

Further signatories:

MEP Rasmus Andresen (The Greens/EFA)

MEP Manon Aubry (The Left)
MEP Michael Bloss (The Greens/EFA)
MEP Manuel Bompard (The Left)
MEP Marc Botenga (The Left)
MEP Reinhard Bütikofer (The Greens/EFA)
MEP Damien Carême (The Greens/EFA)
MEP Leïla Chaïbi (The Left)
MEP Ignazio Corrao (The Greens/EFA)
MEP Ciarán Cuffe (The Greens/EFA)
MEP Jakop Dalunde (The Greens/EFA)
MEP Clare Daly (The Left)
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MEP Martina Michels (The Left)
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