Charlles Michel  
President of the European Council  

Petr Fiala  
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic  

CC: Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the European Union  

RE: Yes to 45% - or higher - Renewable Energy by 2030  

For our people, security, prosperity, and climate  

Dear President Michel, Prime Minister Fiala,  

The IPCC warns that we are entering code red for humanity: more than 1.5 °C warming is inevitable unless we make deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions immediately. Pressure on European fossil supplies following the Russian invasion of Ukraine tells us what we already know – renewable energy is security and fossil fuel dependency is vulnerability. Consumption of Russian fossil fuels directly funds the invasion, while gas-driven energy price hikes overwhelm European citizens. This exceptional backdrop compels us to urgently reshape national and European energy policies.  

Accelerated renewable deployment is critical to our independence from Russian fossil energy and will protect our citizens and economies from rapidly rising energy prices.  

We must act now to speed up the renewable energy transition. **Securing a European-wide 45% renewable energy target for 2030 – or higher – in REDIII negotiations is paramount** to ensure that European citizens and businesses have access to clean, secure, and affordable energy.  

**PEOPLE**  

A 45% target will bring energy generation closer to citizens. **Every step away from fossil energy will help Europeans regain control over their energy bills.** Moreover, renewable energy value chains will underpin a just transition, with local, future-proof jobs. By 2050, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) forecasts a minimum of 43 million jobs in renewable energy, globally.  

**SECURITY**  

This is a key moment to strengthen Europe’s strategic autonomy in key sectors and reinforce the continent’s energy resilience. Crucially, the 45% target has been proposed by the European Commission as part of the REPowerEU war response to alleviate Europe’s dependency on Russian gas. **To back away from the 45% goal now would undermine European solidarity with the Ukrainian resistance.**
PROSPERITY

Europe’s renewable energy future will be built on globally diversified supply chains, strong domestic manufacturing, and upstream supply. Securing the necessary level of ambition – a minimum 45% goal – sets the pathway to a resilient, green, economy, for the benefit of all Europeans.

CLIMATE

The studies\(^1\) are crystal-clear: 45% renewable energy in our energy mix by 2030 – or higher – is the most cost-effective path to achieve 2050 climate neutrality. A 40% target, as currently endorsed by the Council of the European Union, will only delay the energy transition, prolong our dependence on fossil energy imports, and fuel further inflation.

As REDIII goes through trilogues, it is crucial that the Council makes the right choice for our people, security, and climate by supporting a 45% renewables target – or higher – for 2030.

Signatories:

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\(^1\) LUT University, 2020. 100% Renewable Europe