

**Charles Michel**  
President of the European Council

**Petr Fiala**  
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

**YES TO**

**45% RES**

*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<sup>1</sup> 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:

**Bérénice Crabs**, Secretary General, ESTELA

**Dirk Hendricks**, Secretary General, EREF

**Dirk Vansintjan**, President, REScoop.eu

**Eckart Würzner**, President, Energy Cities

**Jorgo Chatzimarkakis**, CEO, Hydrogen Europe

**Pedro Dias**, Secretary General, Solar Heat Europe

**Philippe Dumas**, Secretary General, EGEC

**Paul Voss**, Director General, European Aluminium

**Rémi Gruet**, CEO, Ocean Energy Europe

**Thomas Nowak**, Secretary General, European Heat Pump Association

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**François Gemenne**, Director of the Hugo Observatory, University of Liège

**Joana Portugal Pereira**, Assistant Professor at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

**Ignacio Perez Arriaga**, Professor at Comillas University and Florence School of Regulation, Visiting Professor at MIT

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<sup>1</sup> LUT University, 2020. *100% Renewable Europe*