

European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change  
Kongens Nytorv 6, 1050 Copenhagen, Denmark

Energy and climate ministers of the 27 Member States of the European Union

Frans Timmermans, European Commission Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal  
Kadri Simson, European Commissioner for Energy

Christian-Silviu Buşoi, Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) of the  
European Parliament

Pascal Canfin, Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) of  
the European Parliament

Potsdam, 7 February 2023

**Subject: Aligning policy responses to rising energy prices with EU's long-term climate neutrality objective**

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

Dear Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans, dear Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson,

Dear ITRE Committee Chair Christian-Silviu Buşoi, dear ENVI Committee Chair Pascal Canfin,

For over a year, the EU has been confronted with a severe energy crisis, caused mainly by reduced Russian energy supplies in context of its illegal invasion of Ukraine. Record-high energy prices have had significant adverse impacts on households and businesses throughout the Union. The EU and its Member States have taken a wide range of measures to tackle the crisis. Partly due to a relatively warm winter, energy prices have declined significantly since their peak heights in the summer of 2022. However, the crisis is far from over, as the EU will remain confronted with reduced Russian energy supplies in the foreseeable future.

As per the European Climate Law, the role of the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change (the 'Advisory Board') is to serve as a reference point for the European Union on scientific knowledge relating to climate change. The Advisory Board considers that the energy crisis and the related policy responses can have a significant impact on the EU's transition towards climate neutrality. The crisis provides a strong argument to accelerate energy savings and the deployment of domestic, renewable energy sources. However, there is also a risk that efforts to secure supply or soften energy prices through subsidies can delay the transition or even lead to long-term emission lock-ins.

With the peak of energy prices behind us, the time is now to shift from crisis-management to a more structural approach to reduce the EU's overall dependence on fossil energy imports while accelerating the transition to climate neutrality. In keeping with the relevant provision of the European Climate Law, the Advisory Board would hereby like to share its advice on how to align policy responses to rising energy prices with the EU's climate objectives.

Our key recommendations, presented in detail in the attached document, can be summarised as follows:

1. Tackle the roots of the energy crisis: reduce demand, increase clean energy supply
2. Save energy through efficiency improvements and behavioural change
3. At least double the expansion rate for renewable energy
4. Boost electrification to improve efficiency and shift away from fossil fuels
5. Provide direct income support to vulnerable consumers
6. Ensure that efforts to diversify gas supply are compatible with the long-term transition towards climate neutrality
7. Ensure a sustainable supply and use of biomass while minimising pressure on food production and biodiversity
8. Not invest in new coal and oil infrastructure

The Advisory Board urges the EU and its Member States to avoid any infrastructure investments and emergency measures that would result in long-term carbon lock-ins. We hope that this advice will support you in your decisions on future measures to tackle the energy crisis, and remain at your disposal to answer any questions that might arise.

Best regards,



Professor Dr. Ottmar Edenhofer

Chair of the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change <sup>(1)</sup>

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Energy and Environment Attachés of the Permanent Representations to the EU

Ditte Juul-Jørgensen, Director-General – Directorate-General Energy, European Commission

Kurt Vandenberghe, Director-General – Directorate-General Climate Action, European Commission

Peter Traung, Head of Unit – Secretariat of the ITRE Committee, European Parliament

Sarah Blau, Head of Unit – Secretariat of the ENVI Committee, European Parliament

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<sup>1</sup> The fifteen members of the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change are Ottmar Edenhofer (Chair), Jette Bredahl Jacobsen (Vice-Chair), Laura Díaz Anadón (Vice-Chair), Maarten van Aalst, Constantinos Cartalis, Suraje Dessai, Vera Eory, Edgar Hertwich, Lena Kitzing, Elena López-Gunn, Lars J. Nilsson, Keywan Riahi, Joeri Rogelj, Nicolaas Schrijver and Jean-Francois Soussana.