



Brussels, 21 April 2026

Dear President von der Leyen, dear President Costa,

We write to you at a moment of profound consequence for the European Union and its citizens. Across the continent, millions of households are struggling under the weight of soaring energy bills, rising food prices, and stagnating real wages. Meanwhile, fossil energy companies have recorded profits that can only be described as scandalous, while families are struggling to make ends meet.

Furthermore, Europe's continued dependence on fossil fuels — much of it sourced from politically unstable or openly hostile regimes — has been laid bare by years of geopolitical turbulence. The time for incremental measures has passed. Our institutions must lead with urgency, ambition, and solidarity to provide the relief that our citizens desperately need.

To address the ongoing crises, we call on the Commission and the Council to act now and with the scale that the moment demands. We call for:

1. A Trump tax on the windfall profits of the fossil fuel companies who are benefitting from the crisis

We call for an EU-wide windfall profits levy on fossil energy companies that is robust in design, resistant to legal challenge, and scaled to the profits made. Instead of taxing a minimum of 33% of the windfall profits of fossil companies, we should tax at least 50%. The revenues raised must be ring-fenced for both short-term relief measures for those who are energy poor and vulnerable as well as for long term transition funding to end our fossil fuel dependency via building renovation, renewables roll out and just transition measures.

2. Free public transport financed by the EU budget

We call on the Commission to work with Member States to introduce free public transport for vulnerable groups as an immediate measure, financed through the cohesion funds. Directing a portion of these resources toward free or heavily subsidised public transport is fiscally feasible, legally sound, and socially transformative.

3. A strong next MFF with housing at its centre

We need a Multiannual Financial Framework that is ambitious in scale and places affordable, decent, energy-efficient housing at its heart. This means dedicated EU housing funding instruments, binding targets for energy-efficiency and massive renovation programmes, and a decisive end to EU rules that have historically discouraged Member State investment in public housing.

4. A genuine European anti-poverty strategy with binding targets and real money

We demand a paradigm shift in how European policy is made. The Commission must present an anti-poverty strategy that includes ambitious legally binding poverty reduction targets, a dedicated funding line within the MFF, and enforceable minimum income standards across Member States. Central to this strategy must be a mandatory Social Check. This will serve as a political filter for all future European files, ensuring that legislation is blocked if it fails a robust assessment of its distributional impact. This is a matter of democratic legitimacy; no law should pass if it worsens inequality or leaves the most vulnerable behind.

5. An emergency fund for Energy Sovereignty shielding the most vulnerable

To shield citizens and businesses from current and future price shocks, this fund should accelerate smart electrification, renewable integration and energy efficiency measures. We need immediate funding for energy savings, building renovations, flexibility roll-out, renewable deployment, and electrification across the EU, not only for big industries but also for SMEs and citizens, especially the most vulnerable and those wishing to become prosumers. An immediate funding plan and reinforcement of relevant next MFF funds, such as ECF, NRPP, and CEF, should be developed for this purpose.

A continent that controls its own energy supply cannot be blackmailed. Energy independence is the foundation upon which all other forms of European sovereignty rest. A continent whose citizens are shielded from global commodity volatility is a continent whose democratic institutions remain stable and trusted. The cost of living crisis and the need for energy independence are therefore not separate policy problems; they are two dimensions of the same fundamental challenge: ensuring that the European Union can defend its interests, its values, and the wellbeing of its people in an increasingly contested world.

We recognise the complexity of the task before you. We acknowledge the difficult trade-offs, the competing interests of twenty-seven member states, and the genuine constraints you face. But we call on you to seize the informal leader's Council in Cyprus as the definitive moment to prioritise social well-being and affordability. This meeting should be remembered as the Social and Energy Independence Summit, where the EU finally meets the scale of the challenge. The citizens of this Union, who in their daily lives are already absorbing the high costs of inaction, are watching, and they will remember.

Yours sincerely,

Bas Eickhout and Terry Reintke
Co-Presidents of the Greens/EFA Group