



**Draft**

**Title:** **Green and social solutions to the energy crisis**

**Tabled by:** Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament

**Draft text**

1 Russia's unjustified war against Ukraine has led to dramatic consequences,  
2 firstly for the people of Ukraine and for the entire world. Within EU Member  
3 States, we have witnessed a rise of social inequality, energy poverty, and  
4 inflation, leading to significant impacts, e.g. on employment and food prices.  
5 In addition, climate change is exacerbating this situation and aggravating  
6 inequalities by hitting the poorest the hardest.

7 Almost one in four Europeans are already at risk of poverty and social exclusion  
8 spiralling energy prices climate change will only make things worse. Women are  
9 disproportionately affected by energy poverty and mobility poverty, in  
10 particular single mothers, who represent 85% of single parent families with  
11 dependent children.

12 Energy prices for European households notably electricity prices have increased  
13 by up to 167% for people in some European countries with bills predicted to  
14 surge by €2 trillion at their peak, early 2024. Already many households are  
15 unable to make ends meet: this winter, many more will have to choose between  
16 eating and heating.

17 This also affects society at large as services like hospitals, universities or  
18 schools are impacted by the rise in energy prices. Small companies, are not able  
19 to pass on their rising energy costs to their customers, risking bankruptcy.  
20 Local authorities in charge of the front-line services rendered to European  
21 citizens will have difficulties finding the money, leading to disruption in  
22 public services.

23 Countries in Europe have different capacities to equitably manage prices and  
24 demand or provide the essential support to those who need it. Financial  
25 solidarity within the EU and between the EU and its neighbours is therefore  
26 essential.

27 Since inflation is regressive. Unavoidable expenditures such as rent/mortgages,  
28 food, energy, water, clothing, health and transport constitute a much larger  
29 part of the budget of low-income households, compared to wealthier households.  
30 We need to focus first and foremost on the lowest income sor at risk of a  
31 significant drop in income. We should also extend support to SMEs, upon which  
32 many livelihoods depend.

33 Russia's war against Ukraine shows the need to eliminate our dependence on  
34 fossil energy imports and fossil fuels in general, in particular from  
35 authoritarian regimes. The short-term EU strategy to focus on diversifying EU  
36 oil and gas imports, without regard for the Human Rights situation in fossil  
37 fuel exporting countries only feeds our addiction to fossil fuels and create new  
38 dependency on third countries, contrary to our climate and energy objectives for  
39 2030 and 2050.

40 The UN Sustainable Development Goal 7 aims to ensure access to affordable,  
41 reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. To do that, we need to reduce  
42 our energy consumption to a fair and sustainable level, ensure energy  
43 efficiency, boost renewable energies and better share the energy to keep prices  
44 at an acceptable level. Renewable energies are the most cost-effective energy  
45 sources and key to an environmentally sustainable system within the planetary  
46 boundaries. The International Energy Agency and IPCC have both warned that new  
47 fossil fuel infrastructures are incompatible with international climate goals.  
48 In order to become climate neutral by 2050, the EU should phase out fossil fuels  
49 in the energy system by 2035 at the latest already.

50 The EU is currently revising key "Green Deal" energy but more needs to be done  
51 to achieve climate neutrality before 2050.

52 This is why we are calling on the European Commission and Member States to:

- 53 • Recognize the right to energy, understood as the universal affordable  
54 access for citizens to safe and sustainable

55 ***Ensure immediate action to address the impact of high energy prices***

- 56 • Member States should focus support on those hardest hit by current prices,  
57 notably households in or at risk of energy poverty and SMEs as well as  
58 public services, such as social housing, education establishments or  
59 hospitals which are at risk of decreasing availability for all in need;
  
- 60 • The European Union should adopt a temporary dynamic price cap on EU gas  
61 imports to lower the price of imports and upgrade the EU energy platform  
62 to a joint procurement of energy sources in order to strengthen the EU  
63 bargaining power;
  
- 64 • Member States should immediately provide households with a basic amount of  
65 energy at an affordable price and provide temporary direct income support  
66 to vulnerable households and transport users, as a transitional measure,  
67 to absorb the increase in prices;
  
- 68 • They ought to ban disconnections from energy supply and stop evictions  
69 from homes, suspend rent indexation schemes and ensure access to  
70 alternative payment plans for bills, consumer advice and mediation  
71 services;
  
- 72 • The European institutions should implement a socially fair EU wide energy  
73 savings scheme ask most from energy intensive users, in order to ensure  
74 supply to households as well as public and private providers of essential  
75 goods and services is prioritised;
  
- 76 • Member States should limit, and prohibit where appropriate, the use of  
77 high energy consumption non-essentials such as private jets, short haul  
78 flights where a train journey alternative exists or heated private  
79 swimming pools;
  
- 80 • Member States should tax excess profits of multinational companies that  
81 have profited from the consequences of the war and market speculation and  
82 ensure that the collected revenues are distributed to the most vulnerable  
83 households, especially those in or near energy or mobility poverty; The  
84 European Commission should propose a permanent mechanism enabling, in a  
85 crisis, the orderly collection and redistribution of taxes on windfall  
86 profit tax on large companies across all sectors;

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- EU institutions should adopt a harmonised definition of energy poverty in order to improve actions to fight it;
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89 ***Guarantee the necessary investments in energy savings and renewable energies***

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- Member States must invest in energy savings, efficiency and renewables as first choice solutions to fight high energy prices and dependencies, as renewable energy generation facilities have extremely low operating costs; Investment in long-lasting measures should be at least comparable in volume to the short-term relief and must be coordinated in order to effectively lift people out of energy and mobility poverty;
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- Member States should mobilise additional investments corresponding to at least 1% of their GDP per year into energy savings, notably also in the renovation of poorly insulated homes and renewable energy to the benefit of vulnerable households;
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- Member States have a duty to ensure that those who can contribute more to national solidarity pay their fair share of taxes; In addition, Member States should ensure that any support measures and investments they make respect the principle of 'do no significant harm' and safeguard social and labour rights; They should therefore reject investments in additional gas and oil infrastructure, which are not in line with EU climate targets and would create lock in to fossil fuel and dependency; European institutions should agree on binding national energy efficiency targets and a higher binding EU target of at least 20% by 2030; Similarly, they should support a higher binding EU renewable energy target of at least 56 % by 2030;
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- Member States should adopt ambitious and mandatory gas and electricity demand reduction targets; and end schemes to install fossil fuel boilers in buildings, redirecting such financing instead to support the most vulnerable households in switching to renewables; In addition, they should put in place binding measures to replace by 2025 the 64% of gas used in the industrial sector that is easily replaceable by mature renewable technologies;
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- Member States should proactively provide effective information and logistical and financial support to ensure the creation of at least one renewable energy community per municipality by 2023 so that citizens can
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120 produce, consume, store and resell their own renewable energy as  
121 individuals or communities;

122 • Where relevant, Member States should phase out nuclear power either by the  
123 dates announced or once nuclear plants have reached a lifetime of 40  
124 years, in order to limit the security and safety threats related to ageing  
125 nuclear plants;

126 • The European Central Bank should stop indirectly subsidising  
127 environmentally and financially destabilising fossil fuel related  
128 investments and instead use its highly influential asset purchase programs  
129 to encourage banks to favour investment in renewables and energy and  
130 resource efficiency;

131 ***Guarantee citizens are at the heart of the energy transition and of a social***  
132 ***Europe***

133 • The European Commission should put EU citizens at the centre of any future  
134 reform of EU energy market design; Such reform should promote a resource  
135 and cost efficient and socially just ecological transition towards a  
136 highly energy efficient and fully renewable based economy by 2040 at the  
137 latest; The European Commission should design a future EU energy market  
138 reform that is based on the principles of solidarity, cohesion, equity and  
139 justice between Member States, regions and generations;

140 • Member States should fully implement the 2018 Clean Energy Package,  
141 including the rights of renewable self-consumers and renewable energy  
142 communities; They need, with technical assistance from the European  
143 Commission, to empower municipalities to support the development of  
144 renewable energy communities so that citizens can produce, consume, store  
145 and resell their own renewable energy;

146 • Member States should lift existing administrative barriers to further  
147 accelerate the deployment of renewables with a swift permitting process,  
148 while ensuring proper public participation and the respect of  
149 environmental impact assessment procedures; In addition, the European  
150 Union should complete its infrastructures for balancing renewable energy  
151 demand and supply across the EU and its neighbours;

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- The European Union should adopt measures and means to strengthen social welfare and social protection systems, including the continuation and refinancing of SURE (Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency) and the swift adoption of the Social Climate Fund; It should adopt an EU Directive for Adequate Minimum Income Schemes that ensures an EU-wide minimum income level set at at least 60% of median income before allowances for specific needs such as disability so that every citizen in Europe can live a life in dignity; Member States should promptly implement the recently adopted Directive on Minimum Wages as soon as possible, since this will lead to a wage raise of 20 % for 25 million workers across the EU;
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- Member States should ensure access to decent and affordable housing for all notably by promoting the provision of new and deeply renovated, highly energy-efficient housing stock accessible to all and combatting the financialisation of residential property, They need to deliver the Renovation Wave target of doubling annual energy renovation rates in the next 10 years with a particular focus on housing for the lowest income groups as well as on the rental market;
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- The European Union should establish a new EU fund, similar to the Recovery and Resilience Fund (RRF) based on common EU borrowing redistributed as grants and loans and able to meet a substantial part the additional costs of accelerating the energy transition to 100% renewables and maximum energy efficiency while ensuring the elimination of energy poverty;
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- EU institutions should reform the EU's complex and short-sighted economic governance framework notably by promoting - rather than, as is the current case, discouraging - investment in the energy and wider ecological transition and the social infrastructure needed to ensure access for all to the goods and services necessary for a decent quality of life;
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- Member States should provide increased transparency and regulatory oversight of market based and over-the-counter gas trading to reduce market vulnerability, price speculation and spiralling bids; EU and national competent authorities should investigate, report and address possible cases of market abuse or market manipulation in commodity markets in general and in the gas market in particular; The European Commission should make the "just transition" an explicit and central policy

187 complement to the “Green deal” to ensure that socio-economic barriers to  
188 the fair distribution the benefits and burdens of the ecological  
189 transition are identified and removed.