

Dear Commissioner, Dear Mairead,

We take the liberty to contact you as we are concerned by the rumours we heard about the ongoing preparation of the complementary delegated act (DA) setting out technical screening criteria for climate mitigation and adaptation objectives notably for some energy sectors and agriculture. It was announced in the original communication that this complementary DA should be adopted in 2021.

Unfortunately, however, we face the problem that the Commission is keeping a very low profile with regards to the current processes, procedures and plans concerning the content of the dossiers as well as the timeline for adoption.

The work on the legislative files of the "FitFor55 package" has started, and you know perfectly well that energy plays a key role in the ongoing discussions. In this respect, the complementary DA will have far-reaching consequences on future investment frameworks and it will impact multiple and important economic sectors.

We would like to recall our firm position that the transition to climate neutrality needs to be organized realistically, responsibly and proportionally, especially thinking about small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Regarding the energy sector, and more specifically the planned emission thresholds of gas-fired power plants, the limit values need to be designed in a way that allows investments in highly efficient gas power plants and their operation to be classified as sustainable - at least for a transitional period.

Are you still intending on allowing only gas-fired power plants that don't emit more than 100 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per kilowatt-hour to qualify as a "sustainable" investment? The most modern combined heat and power plant (CHP) in Europe that started operation in Berlin in 2020 has a carbon footprint of about 220 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per kilowatt-hour. The transition to climate neutrality needs to be organised realistically and responsibly. Realistic thresholds are a first step in that direction.

Moreover, large parts of Europe's industry and parts of the energy sector plan to switch from coal-fired CHP systems to gas. National funding rules even support this change as a needed contribution to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions gradually. There is no need to exclude highly efficient CHP plants that are operated with natural gas from the definition of "sustainable" - again, in a transitional period and with a realistic level of limits.

Furthermore, will "regional aspects" play a role in the upcoming complementary DA as was previously suggested? In that context, the current energy price debate clearly shows that secure and affordable energy concerns each and every single citizen throughout Europe. For that reason, all regions affected by the energy transition should receive the same support, via State aid rules or financial support.

We would also like to underline that delegated acts serve to operationalise legislation and must comply with the principles enshrined in the respective laws. Therefore, we insist that the complementary DA should help to create the much-needed framework for a successful transition towards climate neutrality in 2050 - without any ideological influence leading to the exclusion of specific technologies, including nuclear. Our common European goal is to massively reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, not to favour or exclude any technological solutions.

We remain at your disposal for the discussion of this highly important matter.

Sincerely yours,

Markus Pieper, François-Xavier Bellamy, Christian Ehler and Marian-Jean Marinescu

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Dr. Markus Pieper MEP  
Chief Whip German Delegation of the EPP  
European Parliament  
ASP 15 E 101  
Rue Wiertz 60, B - 1047 Brüssel  
Tel.: 0032 - 2 - 2845305  
Fax: 0032 - 2 - 2849305  
[markus.pieper@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:markus.pieper@europarl.europa.eu)  
[www.markus-pieper.eu](http://www.markus-pieper.eu)