



Warsaw, 20 May 2020

MINISTER OF CLIMATE

Michał Kurtyka

DZM-WSE.0730.25.2020.AD

Frans Timmermans
Executive Vice-President

Valdis Dombrovskis
Executive Vice-President

Kadri Simson
Commissioner for Energy

Elisa Ferreira
Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms

Thierry Breton
Commissioner for Internal Market

Excellencies,

In this difficult time of crisis and with strong intentions to provide recovery solutions, it is of vital interest to support our citizens and companies. Long-term efforts towards ensuring a brighter future for European society, economy and environment, shall not be wasted when the pandemic threat will be finally defeated.

Reaching climate neutrality has been recognized as one of the most important tasks to be completed by European Union in the next decades, there should be no doubt how important it is to have large variety of possible measures to be taken to achieve such an ambitious goal. Such variety of options is especially important as the energy mixes of Member States vary significantly. The EU policy should recognise the existence of national and regional differences and allow for tailored solutions which will allow for long leaps on the road to climate neutrality.

Therefore I am hereby informing you about the common view shared by a significant number of Member States regarding the role of gas in climate-neutral Europe. In this view natural gas has a role to play in the transition as a bridging technology replacing solid fuels and allowing to integrate renewable sources and decarbonised gases into the energy system. In future this system shall serve for decarbonised gases and may also serve as energy storage, therefore today's investments will serve in years to come.

Attached non-paper was prepared to explain and justify, how natural gas may support the European Green Deal and bolster investments in response to emerging crisis. It has been officially supported by the following Member States: Bulgaria, Czechia, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours faithfully
MINISTER KLIMATU
Michal Kurtyka
Michal Kurtyka

On behalf of:

Temenuzhka Petkova, Minister of Energy, Bulgaria

Karel Havlíček, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Industry and Trade and Minister of Transport, Czechia

Gerassimos Thomas, Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic

Péter Kaderják, State Secretary for Energy and Climate, Hungary

Žygimantas Vaičiūnas, Minister for Energy and acting Minister for Economy and Innovation, Lithuania

Virgil-Daniel Popescu, Minister of Economy, Energy and Business Environment, Romania

Richard Sulík, Deputy Prime Minister for Economics and Minister of Economy, Slovakia