

Commissioner Kadri Simson
Wetstraat 200

1049 Brussel

Dear Commissioner Simson,

The energy crisis that started last fall has gotten worse over time and is now causing untenable inflationary pressures which are hitting our households and our businesses hard. We acknowledge the efforts made by the Commission and the measures it has put forward to face the crisis. But we have yet to tackle the most serious problem of all: the wholesale price of natural gas. The price cap that has been requested since the beginning by an ever increasing number of member states is the one measure that will help every member state to mitigate the inflationary pressure, manage expectations and provide a framework in case of potential supply disruptions, and limit the extra profits in the sector.

The cap should be applied to all wholesale natural gas transactions, and not limited to import from specific jurisdictions. It can be designed in such a way as to ensure security of supply and the free flow of gas within Europe, while achieving our shared objective to reduce gas demand. This cap is the priority and can be complemented with proposals to strengthen the financial oversight of the gas market and develop alternative benchmarks for gas pricing in Europe.

In light of the above, we the undersigned Ministers of Energy call on you to present us with a proposal in this direction to be discussed at the extraordinary Energy Council of 30 September, followed by a legislative proposal as soon as possible.

Thanking you for your consideration, we remain at your disposal,

Yours sincerely,

Tinne Van der Straeten, Minister of Energy, Belgium

Rossen Hristov, Minister of Energy, Bulgaria

Davor Filipovic, Minister of Economy and Sustainable development, Croatia

Agnès Pannier-Runacher, Ministre de la Transition énergétique, France

Konstantinos (Kostas) Skrekas, Minister of the Environment and Energy, Greece

Roberto Cingolani, Minister for Ecological Transition, Italy

Ilze Indriksone, Minister of Economics, Latvia

Dainius Kreivys, Minister of Energy, Lithuania

Miriam Dalli, Minister for the Environment, Energy and Enterprise, Malta

Anna Moskwa, Minister of Climate and Environment, Poland

Duarte Cordeiro, Minister of Environment and Climate Action, Portugal

Virgil-Daniel Popescu, Minister of Energy, Romania

Karel Hirman, Minister of Economy, Slovakia

Bojan Kumer, Minister of Infrastructure, Slovenia

Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Third Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Spain