EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR CLIMATE ACTION
Directorate E – Adaptation & Resilience, Communication and Civil Society Relations
CLIMA.E.2 – Communication, Civil Society Relations & Climate Pact

Brussels
CLIMA.E.2/LC/

Subject: Reply to your email and open letter sent to Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

Dear United for Climate Justice members,
dear signatories,

On behalf of Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, I would like to thank you for contacting us and sharing your letter 'It's time to walk the talk, end fossil subsidies now'.

The consequences of global warming are dramatic, and we can all see the impact of extreme weather events and longer-term climatic changes for citizens, livelihoods, communities and society more broadly. The science also shows us that this warming and its related impacts are set to continue, and we will therefore need to adapt and become more resilient to them.

Reducing, reforming or eliminating fossil fuel support is a priority for the Commission. The mission letters to Commissioner Hoekstra and Commissioner Jørgensen explicitly mention the need to create a framework to further scale down and phase out the use of fossil fuel subsidies as part of the work to reduce Europe's dependencies. This framework needs to be part of a common effort between the European Commission and Member States to commit to ending fossil fuel support while adopting measures needed to safeguard our competitiveness and protect vulnerable households.

Progress towards phasing out subsidies for fossil fuels is monitored as part of the European Commission's commitments under the Governance Regulation. Member States must include information in their biennial national energy and climate progress reports on phasing out energy subsidies, particularly fossil fuels. Looking at national phase-out plans, 43% or EUR 48 bn of fossil fuel subsidies are scheduled to end before 2025 as highlighted by a recent report from the European Commission ([1]). While more efforts are needed, this constitutes a positive step towards moving away from fossil fuels and building climate-neutral societies.

([1]) EUROPEAN COMMISSION, '2024 Report on Energy subsidies in the EU', published on 28 January 2025 and available online at eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0017.

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The EU has decisively embarked on an energy transition to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. Reaching this target requires action by governments, companies and individuals – everybody has a stake in the future of our planet and in shaping a more sustainable economy and society.

We look forward to continuing our engagement with United for Climate Justice, as well as with other civil society organisations and citizens.

Yours sincerely,

[e-signed]

Paolo CARIDI
Head of Unit

Electronically signed on 14/02/2025 16:21 (UTC+01) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121