

Brussels, 13th July 2020

RE: Guaranteeing a Green Recovery across Europe in Next Generation EU

Dear:

MEP Pîslaru, MEP Mureşan, MEP Gardiazabal Rubial, MEP Mavrides, and MEP Urtasun;
EP Group leaders Weber, García Pérez, Cioloş, Junqueras, Schirdewan, Zahradil, and Zanni;
Permanent Representatives of Member States to the EU;
Commission President Von der Leyen, Vice-Presidents Dombrovskis and Timmermans, and Commissioners Gentiloni and Ferreira;

On May 14th the Green 10, the ten largest environmental networks in Europe with more than 54 million members, launched an [appeal](#) for a 'Green and just Recovery'. Ever since 160+ NGOs and more than 1,3 million people have supported the appeal also through petitions on WeMove, Sum of Us and Avaaz (see www.greenrecovery.eu).

Despite its best intentions the Commission's proposal for a Regulation establishing a Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) lacks sufficient environmental safeguards if the EU is to meet its climate and other environmental targets and emerge from this pandemic with a more resilient, safe, sustainable and future-proof economy.

The Commission's RRF Regulation proposal outlines the conditions that Member States will have to adhere to in national plans to avail of the €560 billion that will be invested across the EU via the facility. Although there is mention in the RRF Regulation of "twin digital and green transitions", a closer look at the proposal shows how the sustainability features of the recovery are largely optional. This lack of stringent criteria allows for industries and governments to invest in fossil fuels, obsolete technologies and environmental degradation, greatly increasing the risks of missing the goals of the Paris Agreement as well as the EU's zero pollution, non-toxic environment and sustainable development goals.

Therefore we, the undersigned environmental NGOs and 1,3 million people that have signed the petition for a green recovery call upon you to adopt an Environmental and Climate exclusionary list that defines what RRF plans must not include, and attach this as an Annex to the RRF Regulation.

Progressive elements already exist in exclusionary lists in various Commission proposals (i.e. Annex V to InvestEU, Art. 6 in the ERDF, and Art. 5 in the Just Transition Fund for example) but **to ensure that the recovery is compatible with the EU Green Deal, across the single market, the Environmental and Climate** exclusionary list must be extended to other activities and projects, in the RRF.

The RFF Environmental and Climate exclusionary list should explicitly include:

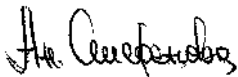
1. Investment related to the production, processing, distribution, storage or combustion of fossil fuels (Art. 5 JTF);
2. The decommissioning, operation, adaptation or construction of nuclear power stations (Annex V to InvestEU);
3. Hydropower, with the exception of investments for the improvement of sustainability of existing installations;
4. Crop-based biofuels and unsustainable bioenergy;
5. Investment in disposal of waste in landfill (Art. 6 ERDF);
6. Investments in installations for the combustion of waste, whether dedicated incinerators or cofiring in other facilities such as cement kilns;
7. Investment to achieve the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from activities listed in Annex I to Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (Art. 6 ERDF);
8. Internal combustion engine vehicles;
9. Expansion of aviation capacity;
10. Expansion of motorways;
11. LNG and diesel maritime vessels, with the exception of investments to retrofit existing vessels to substantially improve their energy efficiency and GHG emissions ;
12. Fossil gas (LNG/CNG) infrastructure for transport;
13. Chemical manufacturers unless for safe and sustainable chemicals;
14. Textiles industry unless meeting strict sustainability and human rights criteria.
15. Livestock farming, unless organic or extensive (<0.7 LSU/ha);
16. Activities involving live animals for experimental and scientific purposes insofar as in compliance with the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes cannot be guaranteed (Annex V to InvestEU);
17. Logging (forestry and saw mills), unless continuous cover/close to nature;
18. Fishing & fish processing, unless performed with vessels under 12 metres, in a fishery with a small scale fisheries plan, respecting scientifically established Maximum Sustainable Yield;
19. Aquaculture & processing, unless for extensive semi-natural wetlands or close circuit recirculation systems using fully vegetal feed;
20. Investment by companies registered in the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes (ECON opinion on JTF).
21. Investments in companies with track records of environmental, human and workers' rights abuse and violations, or corruption.

Without such an exclusionary list, there is no guarantee that the recovery will be sustainable. It is imperative, now more than ever, that the EU prioritises projects that are aligned with our climate and other environmental objectives, such as the circular economy and the defence of biodiversity, to ensure that the investment goes towards industries and employment that are safe and sustainable in the long-term.

The EU now has a unique chance to invest in ways that address the Covid health crisis, the economic crisis the pandemic has triggered, and the ongoing environmental crisis that will otherwise drive our next emergencies.

We invite you to listen to the call of civil society for a sustainable recovery.

Yours sincerely,



Anelia Stefanova, Strategic Areas Director, CEE Bankwatch Network and current Chair of the Green 10

BirdLife Europe - Ariel Brunner, Senior Head of Policy
Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe - Wendel Trio, Director
European Environmental Bureau (EEB) - Jeremy Wates, Secretary General
European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E) - William Todts, Executive Director
Friends of the Earth Europe - Jagoda Munic, Director
Greenpeace European Unit - Jorgo Riss, Director
Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) - Genon K. Jensen, Executive Director
Naturefriends International - Manfred Pils, Executive Director
WWF European Policy Office (WWF EPO)- Ester Asin, Director

Avaaz - Pascal Vollenweider, Climate Campaign Director
SumOfUs - Emma Ruby-Sachs, Executive Director
WeMove Europe - Laura Sullivan, Executive Director