Alternatives to gas projects on the 5th PCI are possible

In the middle of COP26,
a Green/EFA proposal
to replace fossil gas projects with projects
to achieve a 100% renewable based energy system

THE GREENS/EFA
in the European Parliament

Why is the 5th PCI list unacceptable ?

International momentum

- COP 26, the climate conference in Glasgow, is in full swing; the objective is to keep the 1,5°C target within reach, and for that we need to stop financing fossil fuels. As countries are committing in Glasgow to stop financing fossil fuels, the EU should stop its support for fossil fuels not only abroad but also at home, and redirect financial resources to renewable energies and energy efficiency
- 6 years after the Paris Agreement, the current climate objectives by countries throughout the globe are leading us to a catastrophic warming ... We must do more and faster!

Stop fossil fuels !

- Moving away from fossil fuels is key, as they still account for 80% of the world's final energy consumption.
- According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), aiming for a 1.5°C trajectory necessarily implies cutting all investments in the exploration or extraction of all fossil fuels → States must accelerate the shift away from fossil fuels, including fossil gas, to an energy system based on renewables by 2040, and based on the principle of "energy efficiency first", while ensuring a just transition that protects the most vulnerable.
- The European Commission estimates that fossil gas consumption would have to decline by 36% by 2030 to meet the EU's climate target, but it still proposes that public and private investment should flow into gas-fired infrastructure and power plants.

Unacceptable proposal for the 5th PCI list

- The European Commission will present on 11 November, in the middle of the COP, a list of "priority" energy infrastructures ("PCI list") entitled to apply for public financing ... and gas projects are still high on this list !
- The fossil fuels projects on this 5th PCI list are totally misaligned with EU climate targets, it will sink scarce public money into unsustainable projects.

Legal obligation

- The EU must respect Art. 2.1.c. of the Paris Agreement which obliges countries to align financial flows with the Paris Agreement temperature goal !
- On Art.6.4 of the EU Climate Law, the Commission is supposed to "assess the consistency of any draft measure or legislative proposal, including budgetary proposals, with the climate-neutrality objective set out in Article 2(1) and the Union 2030 and 2040 climate targets before adoption[...] When making its draft measures and legislative proposals, the Commission shall endeavour to align them with the objectives of this Regulation. In any case of non-alignment, the Commission shall provide the reasons as part of the consistency assessment referred to in this paragraph."

Alternative projects aligned with EU climate targets are available! Reject fossil gas projects and approve of alternatives with Greens/EFA!

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UNION LIST OF PROJECTS OF COMMON INTEREST (5th PCI list) - 2021

PCI list proposed by the European Commission

Examples of problematic gas projec

REJECTED

Eastmed (« TRA-N-330» TYNDP)

- Pipeline carrying fossil gas from the Levantine Basin (Cyprus, Israel and potentially Palestine) to Cyprus, Greece and Italy : Europe's longest, world's deepest pipeline
- Includes 1,300km of offshore and 600km of onshore pipeline sections + 2 compressors
- Cost : 5 to 10 billions €

BRUA Bulgaria-Romania-Hungary-Austria (« TRA-A-1322 » TYNPD)

- Pipeline carrying fossil gas from Podișor (Romania) to Recaș (Hungarian border), to be part of a Bulgaria-Romania-Hungary-Austria gas interconnector: Fossil gas from Azerbaidjan and the Black Sea
- 479km natural gas trunk pipeline + 3 compressors ; part of a 1300 km pipeline project
- Cost : 500 millions €

Melita « MTGP » (« TRA-A-31 » TYNPD)

- 159km offshore pipeline project + 7 km onshore, from Delimara (Malta) to Gela (Italy)
- Italian island already well connected to Italy by LNG terminals (only used at less than 25% of their capacities)
- Malta would be locked into fossil fuel while it has a high renewable potential

Additionnal LNG terminals

- Current LNG terminals are mostly underused. In many cases liquified gas is not used to heat households, but rather to produce plastics and fertilisers.
- The current gas crisis has shown that LNG terminals are not the silver bullet to energy security and affordable and sustainable energy system

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Alternative projects proposed by the Greens

APPROVED

All those projects could be replaced by an integrated, 100% renewables based and highly energy efficient energy system composed of:

- electricity grids, especially those allowing citizen to play an active part by producing renewable energy, storing it e.g. in batteries and reduce or shift energy demand through the relevant infrastructures, measures and policies
  - ➢ Example: Citizens Energy communities at the Dutch-German border

- offshore renewable electricity grids and interconnectors, as well as hybrid assets including also hydrogen infrastructure
  - ➢ Example: The North Sea energy island project

- electricity storage, demand response and power-to-X assets and infrastructures
  - ➢ Example: The battery storage and renewables project on an Azores island: Graciosa Hybrid Renewable Power Plant

- smart electricity grids, district heating systems and energy efficiency programs reducing the need for fossil energy generation and transport across borders
  - ➢ Example: The Sønderjyllands/Flensburg **district heating system**

- electrolysers and hydrogen transport infrastructure connecting renewable generation assets and industrial installations that need hydrogen for processes that cannot be electrified.
- Example: The HYBRIT project for sustainable steel making