



BRUSSELS, 1 July 2022

To:

Members of the European Parliament

Keep the EU Taxonomy fossil gas free for better health - vote against the delegated act

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

Next week, you will be voting on the proposed EU Taxonomy Complementary Delegated Act which includes classifying nuclear power and fossil gas as environmentally sustainable economic activities.

The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) is the leading not for profit organisation working for better health through a healthier environment. For almost two decades, HEAL has been active to raise awareness on how climate change and a polluted environment impact people's health, especially those of vulnerable groups, and to highlight the health harm of Europe's fossil fuel energy system, for which evidence keeps growing.

Last year, HEAL was an initial signatory to a [Healthy Prescription letter](#), signed by over 600 organisations representing over 46 million health workers, together with over 3,400 individuals from 102 different countries, calling for climate action, and urging for a phase out of fossil fuels. The World Health Organisation also [recommends](#) to end fossil fuel use in energy generation.

HEAL and other NGOs recently published the first assessment on the hidden health cost of the EU's fossil gas power generation.

Our [data shows](#) that In 2019 alone, burning fossil gas for power (and heat) generation caused over 2,800 premature deaths from air pollution (from PM2.5, NO2 and ozone) in the EU-27 and the UK. The price tag for this reliance on fossil gas is up to 8.7 billion EUR in health costs for that year, with the largest health burden falling onto Italy, Germany, the UK, France, the Netherlands and Spain.

This briefing underlines that the continued reliance on fossil gas is highly unhealthy. Given that gas power plants are located in areas of high population density, a large number of people are under threat from air pollution impacts.

The much needed way forward for better health is a zero pollution approach with the accelerated deployment of truly green and renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar, and not fossil gas nor nuclear.

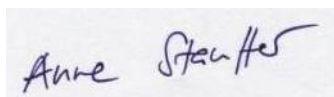
HEAL URGES YOU TO VOTE IN FAVOUR OF THE TABLED RESOLUTION THAT REJECTS THE COMPLEMENTARY DELEGATED ACT, IN ORDER TO KEEP THE EU TAXONOMY FOSSIL GAS FREE

In order to protect people's health, we need fossil-free, healthy energy systems across Europe.

Supporting an ambitious approach for the EU to shift away from its dependence on all fossil fuels altogether, and in particular to not fall in the trap of short-term, false solutions is within our reach.

HEAL and its members look to your leadership, and are ready to work with you in this transformational time.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Stauffer
Director for Strategy and Campaigns
Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)

The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) is the leading not-for-profit organisation addressing how the environment affects human health in the European Union (EU) and beyond. HEAL works to shape laws and policies that promote planetary and human health and protect those most affected by pollution, and raise awareness on the benefits of environmental action for health.

HEAL's over 90 member organisations include international, European, national and local groups of health professionals, not-for-profit health insurers, patients, citizens, women, youth, and environmental experts representing over 200 million people across the 53 countries of the WHO European Region.

As an alliance, HEAL brings independent and expert evidence from the health community to EU and global decision-making processes to inspire disease prevention and to promote a toxic-free, low-carbon, fair and healthy future.

HEAL's EU Transparency Register Number: 00723343929-96