

ELECTRIFICATION ALLIANCE

Brussels, April 27, 2022

To:

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission
Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission
Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy

Dear President von der Leyen,

Dear Executive Vice-President Timmermans,

Dear Commissioner Simson,

As the Electrification Alliance, we welcome the focus on electrification as a key pillar of the Commission's RePowerEU Communication for reducing the EU's dependency on Russian fossil fuels. We are an alliance of 10 European associations that firmly believe electrification is the future of the EU's energy system. Electrification will allow the EU to produce clean and renewable energy locally, in a cost-efficient way, with proven technologies.

With the pledge to "Electrify Europe", the Commission sends a clear signal to stakeholders and investors. However, the Communication lacks ambitious measures to accelerate electrification, while putting an emphasis on superseding Russian fossil fuels with expensive "low-carbon gases" or other fossil gas supplies. While we recognize the current crisis calls for decisions with short-term impact, we urge the Commission to avoid that these short-term solutions generate stranded assets and erode the EU's ambition to decarbonise its economy in the longer term.

Europe can end its dependency on Russian fossil fuels and on fossil fuels altogether, by focusing on electrification, renewables, energy savings and flexible consumption, as has been demonstrated once more by [a coalition of researchers at the end of March](#). "Electrify Europe" should therefore be on top of the list of actions as the priority response to the crisis.

ELECTRIFICATION ALLIANCE

In this critical moment, the transition to a sovereign, clean and electrified energy system must be accelerated:

- An efficient European energy system largely based on renewable and clean sources such as wind and solar, is possible when deep and clean electrification is prioritised. This needs active support for the relevant supply chains, increased investment in power grids, the acceleration of permitting and the widespread use of sustainability and other non-price criteria in renewables auctions.
- The build-up of the necessary infrastructure requires integrated spatial planning to allocate space to renewables, electricity grids and nature protection.
- Adoption of heat pumps and rooftop solar panels in buildings should be promoted and accelerated as these ready technologies are energy- and cost-efficient.
- Demand-side flexibility can be rapidly activated through removal of regulatory barriers and active support to the deployment and management of decentralised energy resources.
- Member States should be incentivised to close the upcoming technical skills gap, to ensure skilled workers are available to quickly deploy renewable technologies.

We ask you to reflect these important elements in the elaboration of the REPowerEU plan in order to secure access to more affordable, secure and sustainable energy in the EU in the years and decades to come. Electrification can and must be the priority in achieving the transition to a clean and secure energy system.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these suggestions with you in more detail. In the meantime, we remain at your disposal to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

The Signatories:



AVERE - the European Association for Electromobility, the European Heat Pump Association, Eurelectric, the European Climate Foundation, the European Copper Institute, EuropeOn – The European Association of Electrical Contractors, the Renewables Grid Initiative, smartEn – smart Energy Europe, SolarPower Europe and WindEurope

For more information about the Electrification Alliance: <http://electrification-alliance.eu/>