



MINISTRY FOR ECONOMY AND DIGITALIZATION

MINISTRY FOR THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION
AND THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE

Mr. Frans Timmermans
Executive Vice-President for a European Green Deal
European Commission

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Executive Vice-President for a Europe Fit for the Digital Age
European Commission

Ms. Kadri Simson
Commissioner for Energy
European Commission

Madrid, 20th September 2021

Dear Vice-President, dear Commissioner,

The present letter aims at bringing to your attention our view on the potential consequences of the current surge in European electricity prices. Many European countries are starting to feel the impact of this unprecedented rise in energy prices. This situation does not only put at risk the much-needed European economic recovery, but may also derail our decarbonisation strategy, one so carefully built throughout the last years. This is, indeed, a challenge for the entire European Union.

In this context of unusually high energy prices, we have implemented a set of national emergency measures, always carefully within the limits of the EU legal framework, to preserve society's support in our decarbonisation strategy.

Spain has always been a strong advocate of the EU's emission reduction objectives. At the same time, we believe that the transition towards climate neutrality has to be fair and equitable for all European citizens and for all Member States. Our citizens must always be at the centre of the transition. Today's context puts this at risk.

We believe that if the rules of the game are set at the European level, remedies should too. The Commission should aim to increase certainty for consumers, incumbents and governments alike, with the design of a flexible set of guidelines with which to provide different policy options for Member States to cushion the effect of sudden increases in energy prices.

Today's context may be driven by one-off factors such as the rapid increase in demand brought by the aftermath of the COVID crisis. However, the road towards carbon neutrality will be surely subject again to the setbacks brought by unexpected events. We must try to anticipate and prepare for these.

We hereby annex a "Non-paper on energy and electricity markets" with which we wish to frame the necessary debate to be taken at the European level.

Yours sincerely,



Nadia Calviño
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