

Call for high climate ambition in the FF55 negotiations

by AT, DE, DK, ES, FI, IE, LU, NL, SE, SI

On 7 April, we called on all Member States to unite in the ongoing Fit for 55 negotiations, to ensure an ambitious and swift implementation of the Fit for 55 package. An ambitious agreement is key to making the EU fit for energy independence of Russian fossil fuels and the only way we can address the climate crisis and ensure a clean, reliable and cheap independent EU energy supply for the future.

We fully agree that there is a strong sense of urgency to ensure swift decision -making, and we support the French Presidency in all its efforts so far to ensure progress towards possible General Approaches in the Council in a very complex negotiation environment.

Our main priority for the FF55 package must be to swiftly implement the EU's 2030 climate target, making sure that the EU delivers at least 55 % reductions in GHG emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 as enshrined in the EU Climate Law and puts the EU as a whole on the path towards climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest. The overall level of ambition must be reached by the sum of the different legislative proposals.

Therefore, we are looking with rising concern at the different calls to water down ambition across the files in the package – and the direction of travel of negotiations in this regard – in both the Council and in the European Parliament – and the concessions made in the context of finding compromises. Seen in isolation, these changes might seem justified or limited in impact, but adding them all up we risk missing the mark by 2030 and setting us on an impossible trajectory thereafter, which will have detrimental impact on the climate. The decisions we make now will thus have massive consequences for us all and will determine whether or not, the EU as a whole, Member States and all sectors are on the right trajectory to meet the EU's climate targets.

We therefore urge all EU decision makers not to let the sense of urgency or the current situation overshadow our climate commitments. Any decision on the FF55 package must add up to at least 55% reductions by 2030. Let's make this one right and fight the temptation to let short term motives stand in our way of taking the right long-term decisions. For the sake of climate protection, a cost effective transition for our citizens and businesses as well as energy security.

Leonore Gewessler, Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology of Austria

Robert Habeck, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action and Steffi Lemke, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection of Germany

Dan Jørgensen, Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities of Denmark

Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge of Spain

Maria Ohisalo, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change of Finland

Eamon Ryan T.D., Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications of Ireland

Joëlle Welfring, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development of Luxembourg

Rob Jetten, Minister for Climate and Energy Policy of the Netherlands

Annika Strandhäll, Minister for Climate and the Environment of Sweden

Uroš Brežan, Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia