



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2023) 378 final*

*Miloš VYSTRČIL
President of the Senát
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4
CZ - 118 01 PRAGUE 1*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Joint Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - EU external energy engagement in a changing world {JOIN(2022) 23 final}.

The EU external energy engagement strategy was published on 18 May 2022 as part of a package together with the REPowerEU plan¹. Under the framework of REPowerEU, the Commission has put forward numerous policy initiatives, e.g. Commission proposals on gas storage, on coordinated gas demand reduction measures, and on an emergency intervention to address high energy prices and to reduce energy bills for EU citizens. On 18 October 2022, the Commission made additional proposals to fight high energy prices and ensure security of supply.

To increase the EU's autonomy and to make energy more sustainable and affordable, the REPowerEU plan proposes in terms of concrete actions more energy diversification, increased energy savings and an accelerated roll-out of renewables. The REPowerEU plan, as well as following initiatives, also takes into account the importance of shielding businesses and consumers, notably the most vulnerable ones, from high energy prices. None of the Commission's proposals touches upon the prerogative of Member States to decide on their own energy mix.

The REpowerEU plan also recognises, however, that "... shifting away from Russian fossil fuels will also require ... in parallel, [that]some of the existing coal capacities might also be used longer than initially expected, with a role for nuclear power and domestic gas resources too."²

¹ COM(2022) 230 final.

² REPowerEU plan (COM (2022) 230 final), page 2.

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Kadri Simson
Member of the Commission*