

Ms Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Copy to:

Ms Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy

Ms Margrethe Vestager, Commissioner for Competition

Mr Frans Timmermans, Commission Executive Vice President and Commissioner for the European Green Deal

Mr Thierry Breton, Commissioner for the Internal Market

Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

[Letter sent by e-mail]

Brussels, 09 September 2022

SUBJECT: Winter Energy Package to support the EU Circular Economy

Dear President von der Leyen,

In this joint letter, the aluminium, paper, and plastic recycling sectors would like to draw your attention to the devastating impact the energy crisis has on the circular economy.

The undersigning associations are frontrunners for recycling a wide range of products, contributing not only to resource efficiency and thus Europe's resilience in raw material supply but also CO2 reductions. We understand these as core principles and objectives of a sustainable and circular European economy.

Unfortunately, the ongoing energy crisis threatens the viability of our operations. The industries represented by our associations are highly dependent on energy, to a degree where the expected scenario of threefold raising energy prices could mean the complete breakdown of the EU sector. Therefore, **we call on the European Commission to urgently decide on measures to limit the exorbitant surge in gas and electricity prices across the EU.** Our industries depend on immediate and effective solutions to withstand the crisis.

Furthermore, **we urge the European Commission and the Member States to consider the aluminium, paper, and plastic recycling sectors to be eligible for Member States' state aid and protect our critical industries for Europe's circular economy and decarbonisation policy objectives from the impact of the high electricity and gas prices.**

Measures such as gas supply guarantees for our recycling processes are pivotal for our industries to continue operating and supplying the European market with low-carbon secondary raw materials.

We thank you for taking our concerns into consideration and remain at your disposal for any further information.

Yours sincerely,

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