



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

The Director General

Brussels, 04 February 2022
ENER/B3/CC/(2022)680812

DVGW e.V.,
Prof. Dr. Gerald Linke



Dear Prof. Dr. Linke,

Thank you for your letter of 15 October 2021 addressed to Mr Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal. I have been asked to reply on his behalf.

In your letter, you refer to the call of environmental organisations to phase out fossil-fuel based boilers from the EU market to achieve the climate goals, and argue in support of solutions based on renewable gases such as bio-methane and green hydrogen.

The phasing out of fossil fuels from the energy supply of buildings is an important element of several national long-term renovation strategies of EU Member States, and part of the overall European trajectory towards climate neutrality. For this reason, the option of phasing out of fossil-fuel based boilers is now explicitly envisaged in the proposed recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive that the Commission presented in December. An EU-wide ban on fossil-fuel based boilers in the ecodesign regulation should be carefully assessed as part of the current review. It would have to be balanced with the national prerogative of Member States to determine their own energy mix pursuant to Article 194(2) TFEU. In addition, it would require an analysis of the impact on consumers as regards the affordability and the life cycle cost of the product, as the Ecodesign Directive does not allow requirements that have significant negative impacts on consumers.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for the constructive regular meetings that you have with my services on these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Ditte Juul Jørgensen

c.c.:

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