



**Brussels, 12-05-2022**

**FROM:** Mr Dimitris Tsekeris  
Coordinator, European Community Power Coalition

**TO:** Mr Frans Timmermans  
Executive-Vice President for the European Green Deal

Ms Kadri Simson,  
Commissioner for Energy

*Copy to: Ms Ditte Juul Jørgensen, Director-General, DG Energy*

**RE: Putting citizens and communities at the heart of the REPowerEU**

Dear Executive Vice-President,  
Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to you on behalf of the European Community Power Coalition<sup>1</sup> in the context of the Commission's REPowerEU Communication<sup>2</sup>, which was recently published. We would like to express our recommendations on the role that energy democracy and community energy can play for a just and inclusive energy transition for a fossil-free Europe.

We live in difficult and challenging times, with multiple interlinked crises threatening the people and the planet. From the constant rise of social inequalities to the accelerated climate crisis and from the global pandemic to war outbreaks and the energy crisis, it is now the time to think and act out of the neoliberal box. Wars and conflicts are fuelled worldwide by dependence on fossil fuels and other non-renewable resources and are often caused by competition for them.

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<sup>1</sup> European Community Power Coalition website: <https://communitypowercoalition.eu/>

<sup>2</sup> REPowerEU: Joint European action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_1511](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_1511)



We must urgently get out of this dependence and ensure a just and inclusive transition toward system change that promotes a peoples' centred sustainable energy model to prevent catastrophic climate change and future military conflicts.

First, we would like to commend the Commission's commitment to support the development of citizen ownership through renewable and citizen energy communities as reflected in the Renewable Energy Directive<sup>3</sup> and the Internal Energy Market Directive<sup>4</sup>. Involvement of citizens through community energy is going to be vital to achieve the EU's climate targets and to deliver on the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C commitment.

### **Our 10+1 recommendations for the REPowerEU and the upcoming EU Solar Strategy**

**RePowerEU should recognize community energy as a key lever.** Fostering renewable community energy is a realistic way of moving away from fossil fuels by accelerating the energy transition in a just, participatory and inclusive way, as well as to tackle real social issues such as energy poverty. In order to boost the creation of new energy communities and a just energy transition, we make the following recommendations:

- 1. Full implementation of the Clean Energy Package (CEP) provisions for energy communities.** Prior to adoption of the enabling framework, Member States should carry out assessments in order to map the barriers and potential at national level.
- 2. Establishment of national and sub-national objectives for citizen and local community ownership and production of renewables in NECPs** as well as at regional and local/municipal level and adoption of RES targets to at least 50% by 2030. Lift all bureaucratic barriers for renewables deployment taking into account adequate biodiversity provisions while engaging with local communities. Set specific national and/or regional and local energy community objectives promoting local ownership of renewables.
- 3. Develop at least one Renewable Energy Community (REC) per local region** in order to support citizens to reduce their energy costs and tackle energy poverty through energy sharing, net-metering or virtual net-metering schemes. Access to renewables for all.

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<sup>3</sup> RED II: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32018L2001&from=EN#d1e2996-82-1>

<sup>4</sup> IEMD: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L\\_.2019.158.01.0125.01.ENG&toc=OJ.L.2019:158:TOC](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2019.158.01.0125.01.ENG&toc=OJ.L.2019:158:TOC)



- 4. Provide dedicated funding for technical support to renewable energy communities.** In order for barriers to be removed for citizens to effectively participate in energy communities, public schemes should be established to provide them with administrative and technical support. The specific barriers faced by energy poor households should be fully assessed, and addressed in those schemes.
- 5. Reduce energy demand:** The energy efficiency first principle must guide all actions and measures, in particular for vulnerable households, building renovations, massive heat-pump roll-out, and empower prosumers, especially in urban environments, where most people live. Reducing demand will also require behavioural change at all levels of society, along with long-term structural changes, which should be encouraged through public policies.
- 6. Assess current market structure and optimise electricity market design accordingly** in order to reflect the actual cost of energy.
- 7. Windfall profits should be taxed and revenue redirected to renewable, energy efficiency and community energy projects and to support citizens, especially the most vulnerable.** Such fiscal measures on high rents could make up to EUR 200 billion available in 2022.
- 8. Upgrade the grid infrastructure and provide preferential access to community energy initiatives.** Alternatively, allocate grid capacity for renewable community energy projects, especially if combined with energy sharing, net-metering or virtual net-metering schemes.
- 9. Withdraw the EU Taxonomy Complementary Delegated Act** which provides green labels to fossil gas and nuclear investments.
- 10. Do not replicate citizen energy community measures in Gas Market reform proposals.**
- 11. Assess the enormous potential of community energy.** Assign the Joint Research Centre (JRC) to conduct a research report regarding the community energy potential for quick decarbonization of the EU, with 2025 and 2030 as benchmarks.



We would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss our **RePowerEU4All** proposals in more detail with you. In the meantime, we attach our recently published briefing<sup>5</sup> for you and your team's consideration, which provides a thorough analysis on the above. Thank you for taking our views into account and we look forward to discussing them further with the Commission.

Yours in cooperation,

Dimitris Tsekeris

*Coordinator, European Community Power Coalition*

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<sup>5</sup> Briefing: Putting citizens and communities at the heart of the REPowerEU:  
<https://communitypowercoalition.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/RECs-and-the-energy-crisis-briefing.pdf>