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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

Directorate B – Just Transition, Consumers, Energy Efficiency and Innovation
B.4 – Energy security and safety

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Mr [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Poulos,

Thank you for your letter of 5 April to Mrs Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission, sharing your thoughts, concerns and suggestions. I have been asked to reply on her behalf.

For us in the Commission, letters like these are always welcome and appreciated, partly to gauge what EU citizens think but also to gain perspectives through your suggestions.

Our common values in Europe are of utmost importance, especially after Russia's military aggression and its invasion of Ukraine. Matters of energy security is one of the main priorities for the Commission and we can therefore no longer be dependent on Russia as our main supplier. Moreover, the rising energy prices are partly caused by uncertainty in the market regarding supplies from Russia, which highlights the need to phase out our dependence on Russian gas.

It is perhaps not lost on you that the Commission adopted the REPowerEU communication on 8 March 2022. In this communication, the Commission outlined an extensive plan to diversify away from Russian fossil fuels before 2030 and tackle rising energy prices. Diversifying away from Russian gas will be therefore be done through all routes, which should lessen your concerns. Besides, the REPowerEU communication addresses the need to save gas and structurally reduce demand, which in turn will lessen our dependence on third countries, both suppliers such as Russia and transit countries. The communication also includes other elements for the shorter term, such as increasing LNG imports (e.g. from the US) and ensuring sufficient gas storage filling levels. However, in the longer term, increasing emphasis on energy efficiency and our green transition can be the only lasting solution.

We would once more like to thank you for your input and we will make sure to consider your suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

Alejandro ULZURRUN
Head of Unit

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