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Re: Energy inflation in Europe – Extraordinary Energy Council meeting on September 9

Dear Mr Síkela, dear Mr Zajíček,

I am approaching you on behalf of the CESI, the European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions. As a recognised European sectoral social partner, CESI represents the interests of more than 40 national and European trade union organisations from over 20 European countries, with a total of more than 5 million individual members.

We write to you, as current holder of the Presidency of the Council of the EU, to express our support for and appreciation of the extraordinary Energy Council that you will be convening on September 9.

For more than a year, workers and their families across Europe have been hit hard by inflation, which has been driven especially by surging energy prices. Even more and more middle income earners face risks of falling into poverty or have already done so. With inflation approaching 10% and no end being in sight, the wealth that employees have worked hard for during decades is eaten away in no time.

Workers in Europe expect that they are being helped, that effective and immediate steps are being taken to maintain their purchasing power – also by public policy and beyond necessary broader and longer-term monetary action by the European Central Bank. Chiefly, public policy responses must include bringing down energy prices.

We have high hopes that on September 9, the national ministers responsible for energy policy will, under your leadership, not shy away from their responsibility towards their citizens and take bold steps. They need to agree on concrete common lines to decrease gas and electricity prices to affordable levels. After the meeting, there must be no way left for different levels of public policy – EU, national, regional and local – to scapegoat each other for not taking action.

We therefore call on you to do everything in your power to bring about a positive outcome of the extraordinary Energy Council on September 9. It would show that the EU can really make a difference and deliver to citizens and workers in times of hardship.

With kind regards,

Klaus Heeger  
Secretary General  
Commission on Women's Rights and Gender Equality of the  
European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (CESI)

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European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions

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