



S&D

*Bring The
Bills Down*



S&D PROPOSALS

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SOLIDARITY AND FAIRNESS

- An EU Winter Solidarity Package to provide support to citizens and SMEs in the face of high inflation and the cost-of-living crisis fuelled by high energy and food prices, including 100bn immediately available to support the households most affected by energy prices. Such financial support is to be made available using all potentialities of the EU budget and NGEU, EIB financing operations and, by starting to work immediately on a permanent fiscal capacity taking into account the success of NGEU, including developing SURE as a permanent tool. *
- An appropriate EU fiscal policy to cope with the energy crisis, including the extension of the escape clause as long as needed. Furthermore, the targeted measures related to the energy crisis should be excluded from the calculation of the deficit within the fiscal rules.
- Extension of the solidarity contribution to all sectors benefiting from windfall profits. The contribution adopted on 30th September 2022 only concerns energy sector while windfall profits are made elsewhere. This new solidarity contribution should be extended at least to banking and pharmaceutical sectors that both saw their profits increased due to the pandemic and the rise of interest rates. The revenues can contribute to finance REpowerEU and income support for households.
- Delivering on an effective minimum corporate income tax rate (15%)

* As mentioned in the PES 2022 Congress resolution adopted in Berlin: We continue to stand for a permanent long-term EU investment capacity with real European solidarity taking into account the success of Next Generation EU funding



BRING PRICES DOWN

- Price cap on gas imports to lower bills for consumers. The cap should apply to both pipeline gas and LNG and should be negotiated with reliable third countries
- A temporary decoupling of gas and electricity prices to immediately ease electricity bills. While we wait for the reform of the electricity market design, this measure will make sure that gas will no longer determine the price of electricity, for a limited time. The bills will immediately get lower because they will no longer be linked to the price of gas, which is much more expensive than any other energy source used to produce electricity. Instead, they will better reflect the actual price of the energy source used to produce electricity, e.g. renewables.
- Ending speculation and manipulation in the gas market by, inter alia, increasing financial oversight, transparency and adopting financial crisis tools (e.g. emergency breaks to transactions in case of excessive fluctuations, limits to reselling of commodities, price collars...) and by developing an alternative EU benchmark for the price of gas.
- A joint procurement mechanism to purchase energy sources following the model of the vaccines procurement to increase the EU's bargaining power and achieve lower negotiated prices with reliable third countries.
- Boosting investment in renewable energy production and gas and electricity interconnections, and ensuring energy savings

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

- Increasing minimum wages: Decent wages are an essential tool in helping households keep up with the rise of energy prices. It is essential promoting collective bargaining and ensuring that wages are not used as an economic stabiliser in order to contain inflation. Member States should go for a fast track implementation of the Directive on Minimum Wages, so that minimum wages are increased of at least 60% of a country's median salary or 50% of the average.
- Ensuring a minimum income scheme above the poverty line: It is essential that every person in need in Europe is covered by a minimum income scheme and that pensions ensure an income above the poverty line. The current Council Recommendation as proposed by the Commission should be turned into a Directive on a framework for minimum income schemes, with the purpose of safeguarding the right to a decent life, eradicating poverty and addressing the issues of adequacy and coverage, including a non-regression clause, as this is urgently required.
- Disconnections of gas and electricity to vulnerable households and consumers should be prohibited. Having affordable and clean heat and electricity is a basic right. Nobody should choose between eating, heating and cooling.
- Reviewing the legal framework for Services of General Economic Interest to ensure access for households in need to essential services of good quality, notably energy, transport, water, internet access and sanitation.
- Increasing the European Child Guarantee funding with a dedicated funding of at least 20 billion euros, in order to ensure that no child is in energy poverty in the EU: the current crisis will further deteriorate the situation of children in or at risk of poverty. The Commission and the Member States must speed up the implementation of the European Child Guarantee so that every child in the EU has full access to quality and free healthcare, education and childcare, is living in decent housing and receives adequate nutrition.
- A social summit including the EU institutions and the social partners in order to agree on measures related to the challenges of the extraordinary situation we are facing with increasing inflation and its social consequences, in particular regarding living conditions, a fair redistribution of wealth among different groups in society and decent wages, and to work on an update of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan agreed on 7 May 2021 in Porto to ensure that the objectives that were set are met by adopting additional proposals and/or financial means.