

To:

Dan Jørgensen, European Commissioner for Energy and Housing
Wopke Hoekstra, European Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth
Apostolos Tzitzikostas, Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism
Miatta Fahnbulleh, UK Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
Heidi Alexander, UK Secretary of State for Transport

CC:

Christophe Hansen, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Food
Jozef Sikela, European Commissioner for International Partnerships
Angela Eagle, UK Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Ed Miliband, UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs

Dear all,

We, the undersigned, are urgently calling on you to immediately halt the use of damaging and inefficient food and feed crop-based feedstocks in European Union (EU) and United Kingdom (UK) biofuels, and to revise the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) respectively, to ensure no biofuels from any food crops are incentivised for as long as the global and European food price crisis continues.

This is imperative in light of this summer's [catastrophic falls](#) in [food production](#) due to the [escalating consequences of climate change](#) and the 2026-27 'super El Niño', exacerbated by the [US-Israeli war on Iran](#) (resulting in the [closure of the Strait of Hormuz](#)), along with [ongoing impacts of the Ukraine war](#); all of which combined pose an unprecedented threat to food security - both in Europe and around the world. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has referred to our current circumstances as a 'perfect storm'. Key [Ukrainian crops including wheat, sunflower oil, corn and barley continue to be disrupted by the ongoing Russian invasion](#). [The closure of the strait of Hormuz continues to impact flows of fertiliser, especially to South and Southeast Asia, Africa and Oceania](#). This has resulted in shortages and dramatic price increases for fuel. Meanwhile, crop failures are [increasingly common](#), due to erratic weather conditions resulting from climate change. The start of an extreme El Niño event raises serious concerns about [imminent drought in large areas of the Global South](#), including those already badly affected by fertiliser shortages.

Since 2020, the FAO food price index, a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities, has risen by [30.3](#) points, from 98.1 to 128.4, with no sign that the underlying conditions contributing to these increases will be resolved any time soon. Diverting food and feed crops to produce biofuels in this context is unconscionable and must be halted. And yet, demand for biofuels has been rapidly escalating. The International Maritime

Organisation's newest biofuels policy proposal alone would [demand a land area the size of Germany](#) to meet its requirements by 2030, while satisfying the UK's aviation fuel needs would take up [68% of its arable land](#). According to Transport and Environment, [demand for biofuels is estimated to increase by as much as 70% above current levels](#), if proposed mandates from around the world are fully implemented, driven by higher oil prices from the same war that is threatening food production in large regions due to severe disruptions of fertiliser imports.

Even at current levels, mounting evidence has shown that use of food and feed crops for biofuels negatively impacts [food security](#), while also [undermining biodiversity protections](#), [displacing local communities](#), [exacerbating gender-based inequalities](#), and [failing to deliver emissions reductions](#). Every year, the UK turns [enough food to feed 3.5 million](#) people into fuel. Biofuels from crops are clearly a dead end - none are carbon neutral and many are [worse for the climate from an emissions perspective](#) than the fossil fuels they replace. Diverting agricultural commodities to biofuels is hugely reckless, given that climate change is [weakening harvest yields and driving more people into poverty and malnutrition](#).

We ask that you suspend the use of food and feed-based biofuels in the EU and UK in light of the mounting food security crisis, and [prioritise sustainable farming that supports biodiversity and provides the public with sufficient healthy, nutritious food](#). In the long term, changes should be made to the RED and RTFO, removing biofuel incentives and instead prioritising electrification, wind and solar, and demand reduction.

Yours respectfully,

Biofuelwatch, UK/US
FoodRise, EU/UK
Global Forest Coalition, International
Corporate Europe Observatory, EU
Earth Thrive, Serbia/UK
Climate Farmers, Europe
Protect The Forest, Sweden
Robin Wood, Germany
Comité Schone Lucht, Netherlands
Snow Alliance, China
Green Step Forward, Serbia/Bulgaria
Global Justice Ecology Project, USA/International
Soil Association, UK
Landelijk Netwerk Bossen- en Bomenbescherming, Netherlands
Nature Friendly Farming Network, UK
The Wildlife Trusts, UK
GRAIN, International
Transport and Environment, Europe
Leefmilieu, Netherlands

Fern, Belgium/EU
Campaign Against Climate Change, UK
Mighty Earth, UK/International
ReCommon, Italy
Scientists for Global Responsibility, UK
Fossil Free London, UK
Quercus - ANCN, Portugal
Workers Planet
Health and Forest, Switzerland
Green Impact, Italy
Denkhausbremen, Germany
Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (SCCAN), Scotland
The Landworkers' Alliance, UK
Tipping Point, UK
Faith for the Climate, UK
Zero Hour, UK
Apel Green Aceh, Indonesia
Aceh Wetland Forum, Indonesia
The Coalition Against Mining in Aceh, Indonesia
EcoNexus, UK
Maiouri Nature Guyane, France
Trend Asia, Indonesia
DeutscheUmwelthilfe e.V., Germany
Ecologistas en Acción, Spain
WALHI Riau, Indonesia
Forest Watch Indonesia, Indonesia
Save Our Borneo, Indonesia
Stay Grounded, International
The Working Class Climate Alliance, International
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), UK
Natagora, Belgium
BirdLife Europe and Central Asia
Yayasan Insan Hutan, Indonesia
The Sustainable Food Trust, UK
ZERO - Associação Sistema Terrestre Sustentável, Portugal





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