

POSITION ON

THE PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION ESTABLISHING THE JUST TRANSITION FUND

The European Enterprise Alliance approves the idea of establishing the Just Transition Fund. We consider the transformation of the energy sector to be one of the biggest challenges in the near future of Europe. Having said that, we would like to point out some general remarks on the proposal.

First of all, we believe that the Just Transition Fund, as an instrument naturally limited in terms of the amounts used to establish it, should only be part of a broader mechanism to support energy transformation in Europe's most deprived regions. We draw attention to the fact that the overall costs of achieving the ambitious goals of the European Union's climate policy will be more than significant, and that those Member States that will have to make the most effort to remodel their energy policy will not be able to bear the costs themselves. Thus, we call for consideration of the possibility of implementing an ambitious comprehensive approach to supporting energy transformation, taking into account the differing economic conditions in individual countries.

We are of the opinion that the Fund should support the widest possible range of projects aimed at reducing CO₂ emissions and modernizing energy blocks, transmission system and other infrastructure elements. From this point of view, we consider it reasonable to extend the scope of projects financed from the fund to include investments in nuclear energy and fossil fuels less harmful to the environment, such as natural gas.

As a more general remark, we emphasize that different Member States have different starting points as part of the energy transformation process. This diversity should be taken into account as much as possible in the European Union's support policy. At the same time, all types of financial transfers should be correlated with actual actions aimed at reducing CO₂ emissions.

We would like to put emphasis on the fact that the criteria of distributing support from the Just Transition Fund are very clearly pointed to in the proposal. Therefore, we consider it to

be a closed catalogue and we would like to discourage using any kind of additional indicators, not mentioned in the proposal. It will be crucial for the credibility of the Fund.

In conclusion, we would like to point that we believe that transformation of the energy sector, while it may be a burden for many Member States, is a great chance for the European industry to prove its ability to create new, innovative products and systems. Therefore, to achieve our greatest goal, which is to go down the road of climate-neutral energy while remaining competitive and innovative, we need to support the transition itself. But, we also have to sustain a business-friendly, open and stable regulatory environment for entrepreneurs, as much as possible.