

Good afternoon,

I am writing as an individual EU citizen regarding the revision of the Climate, Energy and Environmental Aid Guidelines.

This revision is an opportunity to broaden the scope for Member States to take the rapid and far reaching environmental action that is urgently required to tackle the ecological crisis and transform our economy and society so that they operate within the planetary boundaries.

As you will be aware, the joint IPCC-IPBES report that was published this summer concluded that the climate and biodiversity crises are so intrinsically interlinked that they must be solved together or we will not succeed in solving either of them. In line with this, it is imperative that action taken as part of the European Green Deal is coherent with all its goals. It is therefore critical that this revision of state aid guidelines approaches the ecological crisis in a truly holistic way, paying careful attention to all environmental impact of all actions undertaken.

When it comes to the enormous challenge of decarbonising the EU's energy sector, it is of utmost importance that action is coherent with the European Green Deal's other goals, for example biodiversity protection and restoration and drastically reducing pollution.

Given the detrimental impact of hydropower on the health of the EU's freshwater ecosystems, this revision should not allow Member States to subsidise the development of highly destructive new hydropower stations in the EU. As most large rivers already have dams on them, any new hydropower stations would be developed on smaller rivers with only very limited energy output. Water is also becoming a less and less reliable resource. Given these considerations, it would be wrong for marginal and potentially untrustworthy energy output to trump the extremely negative effects of hydropower on freshwater biodiversity.

On the introductory page to this consultation, it states that this revision aims to facilitate the phasing out of subsidies for fossil fuels. While this aim is to be welcomed, it must also be broadened to include all environmentally harmful subsidies, not just those that support fossil

fuels. Subsidising hydropower stations that actively harm a river's biodiversity while increasing its pollution levels amounts to an environmentally harmful subsidy.

The scale of the ecological crisis requires a systemic approach where policies are no longer developed in silos. Harmful hydropower that destroys nature must not be developed in the name "green" energy.

Kind regards,

Rose Ní Chléirigh

Timmerhoutkai 7

Brussel 1000

Belgium