

For the attention of Jean-Christophe Laloux

Brussels, 30th September 2026

Dear Mr Laloux,

We are concerned that on 28th and 29th September, you attended a major conference on Data Centers and Energy that notably lacks any participation from civil society, citizens or workers representatives.

The conference is the “Future Grid & AI Data Centres Europe 2026”, claiming to be Europe's Leading Event at the Nexus of Energy and Digital Infrastructure. Yet, as the uncontrolled build-up of new AI data centres worsens energy poverty, leads to an increase in fossil gas demand and cannibalises existing renewable energy sources, we ask you to critically reconsider their place in the future investments of the EIB Group .

Furthermore, the conference where you were a keynote speaker is directly and indirectly sponsored by fossil fuel companies: Engie, E.ON, BP via the Net Zero Innovation Hub for Data Centres, and others. We must remind you that the EIB positions itself as the EU's Climate Bank and that these companies earn immense profits by burning fossil fuels and charging unbearably high energy prices to European households.

In the coming months, the EIB Group will make strategic decisions on the public financing of data centres. The president of the European Data Centre Association recently declared that “Europe must prioritize artificial intelligence over its immediate climate ambitions”. This association was also present in the Frankfurt conference that you attended.

This is why we, the undersigned, would like to request a meeting with you in the coming weeks to better understand the projects that the EIB Group will advise and/or finance in the realm of AI and data centre. More importantly, we urge for the EIB to apply strict criteria to ensure that they do not exacerbate the ongoing climate crisis and raise the energy bills of all Europeans.

We would also like to stress that direct access to high-level decision-makers should not be the privilege of private actors, sponsoring closed-door corporate events. We expect the EIB Group to operate transparently and start a dialogue with civil society and trade unions on major decisions impacting communities, workers and the environment.

Signed by

Counter Balance

Friends of the Earth Europe

Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)

Fossil Free Politics

Corner House

Bank Climate Advocates

ECOS

Urgewald

Observatori del Deute en la Globalització (ODG)