

To: Dr Werner Hoyer, President, European Investment Bank

6/09/2022

Re: Not attending fossil fuel sponsored events



**Counter
Balance** Challenging
Public
Investment
Banks

Dear Dr Hoyer,

We are writing to you as the Fossil Free Politics campaign and Counter Balance, asking you to not attend the upcoming event “Go Next Zero Energy”, sponsored by fossil gas lobby Gas Infrastructure Europe and Cedigaz. The event will be attended by Total Energies, Shell, Saudi Aramco, Gazprom subsidiary Nis Gazprom and others and is scheduled for 20-22 September 2022.

The core business of the fossil fuel industry, including the organisations listed above, is incompatible with the Paris Agreement and the EU’s own climate commitments. Limiting global temperature rises to 1.5°C requires leaving the vast majority of fossil fuels in the ground. The International Energy Agency (IEA) made clear last year there is no room for new extractions if we want to reach the crucial 1.5°C objective. Yet these companies still plan to exploit new oil and gas fields and sell fossil fuels far into the future.

For decades, the fossil fuel industry has used its immense resources and influence to delay, sabotage and weaken effective climate policies, just like the tobacco industry did to public health policies before it. And like the tobacco industry, the fossil fuel industry uses the sponsorship of public events to greenwash its destructive business model and gain access to decision makers.

The Fossil Free Politics campaign, supported by over 200 organisations, wants to protect policy-making from the attempts of the fossil fuel industry to influence it in their own interests, so that policy can instead serve people and the environment. Counter Balance is a network of 9 NGOs whose mission is to make European public finance a key driver of the transition towards socially and environmentally sustainable and equitable societies. Making the EIB fossil free is one of Counter Balance’s main targets.

As an institution committed to tackling climate change, we are calling on you to withdraw from this event.

Given the mounting public anger surrounding the fossil fuel industry’s influence on politics and the urgency of the situation, lending your image to the industry - not just by attending the event but through the marketing materials created afterwards - will damage the reputation of the European Investment Bank and its fight against climate change. In particular, your participation runs counter to the commitment of the EIB to transform into the “EU Climate Bank” and to embrace the fight against climate change as a top priority. We would warmly welcome your withdrawal, and will make your response public.

If you would like more information on the campaign or the demands, we would be happy to discuss them further¹.

Yours sincerely,
Chloé Mikolajczak
Coordinator of the Fossil free politics campaign
On behalf also of the other members of the Fossil Free Politics coalition.

¹ <https://fossilfreepolitics.org/>

