

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

19.04.2023

Dear Prime Minister,

As the impacts of climate change become more present across the UK, European Union, and globally, creating an increased threat to the economy and livelihoods of our citizens, we hold a shared responsibility to tackle this challenge. We are writing to you as a group of Members of the European Parliament, who are pushing for the EU to take bold and decisive action on climate change.

The evidence is clear that we cannot construct new fossil fuel infrastructure if we are to achieve the Paris Agreement's target of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees. And as we see energy being weaponised by Russia, the imperative to move swiftly away from oil and gas has never been more stark. We urge the UK to exhibit international leadership by reconsidering your stance on new oil and gas projects, while also investing in greener and fairer employment opportunities across the country. To this end, we urge you to reject the Rosebank oil field development.

Rosebank is the largest undeveloped oil field in the UK. The burning of its extracted oil and gas would generate CO2 emissions equivalent to those produced annually by the 28 lowest-income nations combined. The IPCC says that we must decrease global emissions by approximately 43% by 2030 in order to restrict global heating to 1.5 degrees, and that just burning the reserves from existing fossil fuel infrastructure would likely push us past that target. Adding new reserves like Rosebank will only push us closer to parts of our world becoming uninhabitable.

The United Kingdom is positioning itself as a global leader in the fight against climate change, a development which has been well-received by Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). The need for strong leadership on this issue is critical. However, it is evident that the exploration and development of new oil and gas fields is incompatible with the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The International Energy Agency (IEA) has clearly stated that the exploration of new oil and gas fields must be avoided if the Paris Agreement targets are to be met. We urge the UK not to deviate from the international coalition working to achieve the Paris targets. The European Union requires committed partners in its struggle to implement effective climate policies.

Furthermore, renewable energy is currently multiple times cheaper than gas, and every new oil field project impedes the fair transition to a more affordable, renewable energy system. With gas

prices projected to remain high for years to come, we encourage you to instead invest in energy efficiency and lower-cost, homegrown renewable energy, which are the quickest and safest means of strengthening energy security and lowering bills.

Additionally, whilst the UK has played an important role internationally in protecting our shared oceans, we urge the UK to consider that the development of new offshore oil and gas fields poses a significant threat to the UK's Marine Protected Areas. Such developments would risk harming the diverse range of marine species, including dolphins, whales, and seabirds, that thrive in these waters.

Together, the UK and EU must take action to combat climate change. Rejecting the proposed Rosebank oil field would be a step in the right direction. By investing in renewable energy sources and promoting a fair transition to a low-carbon economy, we can create a sustainable future for the global community and future generations.

Yours sincerely,

1. Michael Bloss, Greens/EFA, Germany
2. Pär Holmgren, Greens/EFA, Sweden
3. Marie Toussaint, Greens/EFA, France
4. Pierre Larrouturou, Socialists & Democrats, France
5. Margarete Auken, Greens/EFA, Denmark
6. Kira Marie Peter-Hansen, Greens/EFA, Denmark
7. Rasmus Andresen, Greens/EFA, Germany
8. Jakop Dalunde, Greens/EFA, Sweden
9. Alice Bah Kuhnke, Greens/EFA, Sweden
10. David Cormand, Greens/EFA, France
11. Monika Vana, Greens/EFA, Austria
12. Henrike Hahn, Greens/EFA, Germany
13. Mounir Satouri, Greens/EFA, France
14. Sara Matthieu, Greens/EFA, Belgium
15. Helmut Scholz, The Left Group, Germany
16. Damien Carême, Greens/EFA, France
17. Anna Cavazzini, Greens/EFA, Germany
18. Francisco Guerreiro, Greens/EFA, Portugal
19. Bas Eickhout, Greens/EFA, Netherlands
20. Rosa D'Amato, Greens/EFA, Italy
21. Petros Kokkalis, The Left Group, Greece
22. Cornelia Ernst, The Left Group, Germany
23. Aurore Lalucq, Socialists & Democrats, France
24. Sirpa Pietikäinen, EPP, Finland
25. Anja Hazekamp, The Left Group, Germany
26. Mohammed Chahim, Socialists & Democrats, Netherlands

27. Lara Wolters, Socialists & Democrats, Netherlands
28. Grace O'Sullivan, Greens/EFA, Ireland
29. Lara Comi, EPP, Italy
30. Thomas Waitz, Greens/EFA, Austria
31. Malte Gallée, Greens/EFA, Germany
32. Katrin Langensiepen, Greens/EFA, Germany
33. Leila Chaibi, The Left Group, France
34. Ciarán Cuffe, Greens/EFA, Ireland
35. Ignazio Corrao, Greens/EFA, Italy
36. Jutta Paulus, Greens/EFA, Germany
37. Niklas Nienaß, Greens/EFA, Germany
38. Manuela Ripa, Greens/EFA, Germany
39. Alviina Alametsä, Greens/EFA, Finland
40. Daniel Freund, Greens/EFA, Germany