Re: EU-U.S. Energy Council High-Level B2B Forum on LNG, 2nd May 2019, Brussels

Dear Commissioner Cañete and Secretary Perry,

The undersigned organizations submit this letter in opposition to the growing liquified natural gas (LNG) import/export relationship between the United States and the European Union. According to the EU-U.S. joint statement from March 8, 2019, EU imports of LNG from the U.S. have increased by 181% since July 2018. The continued use and import/export of fracked LNG torpedoes critical climate targets and violates basic human rights. In 2012, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) issued a "Global Alert" on fracking, concluding that fracking may have environmental impacts even if done properly. People in the EU do not want inherently harmful LNG being shipped into their communities, nor do people in the U.S. want to suffer the negative impacts of LNG infrastructure buildout that accompanies this massive push in increased exports.

Rather than working towards increased development of LNG on both sides of the Atlantic during your first EU-US Energy Council High-Level Forum taking place in Brussels on May 2, 2019, you should be focused on ways to eliminate our continuing reliance on fossil fuels, including LNG, as quickly as possible. To do otherwise ignores the existing crucial scientific evidence that proves the significant negative climate role of gas, in particular fracked gas, and the dire economic consequences related to ongoing fossil fuel consumption.

1. Negative climate impacts of fossil gas

Gas is just another fossil fuel that we need to phase out within the next 10 to 30 years if we want to avoid overshooting significant climate tipping-points. The scientific evidence shows that methane emissions from gas extraction in general and from shale gas in particular are a significant driver of global warming and climate change.ⁱⁱⁱ

In a recent talk titled, "The Role of Shale Gas Development in the Methane Cycle: New Insights from 13C and 14C Data," Dr. Robert Howarth, a researcher from Cornell University, concluded that the global increase in methane over the last 10 years is largely driven by the oil and gas industry. His updated estimate for average, full-cycle methane leakage rate from natural gas operations (fracked and non-fracked) is 4.1%. These kinds of leakage rates render natural gas just as, if not more, climate harmful than coal. Trade in LNG will increase global emissions and its overall full lifecycle greenhouse gas balance is comparable to or even worse than that of coal.

But even if we leave the existing significant methane emissions aside, we know that global - economically recoverable - fossil fuels extraction projects (currently producing and underconstruction), would take the world far beyond safe climate limits. Further development and trade of gas reserves is inconsistent with the implementaion of the vital climate targets. vi

2. Environmental and public health implications of fracking

More than a decade of large-scale use of fracking (mainly in the U.S. and Canada) to extract natural gas from the ground has underscored how harmful and destructive this extraction process can be, as confirmed and acknowledged by countless peer-reviewed scientific studies. There are numerous proven risks and impacts related to the development of fracking projects, such as heavy freshwater

consumption, water and soil contamination, public health impacts and the significant contribution to global warming.^{vii}

In 2012, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) issued a "Global Alert" on fracking, concluding that fracking may have environmental impacts no matter how it is conducted. Will Building out more infrastructure to support increasing import/export activity will further exacerbate the climate, environmental and public health impacts of fracked gas.

3. Fossil lock-in and stranded assets

New gas infrastructure has a significant economic lifespan (usually between 30 and 50 years) that goes beyond the point when we'd need to fully decarbonize. The construction of any new fossil fuel infrastructure, therefore, contributes to increasing the risk of missing the EU 2050 climate objective and Paris Agreement targets by creating a "lock in" effect to high levels of gas consumption.

Ongoing use of fossil fuels like gas beyond necessary climate goals will have devastating economic impacts on both side of the Atlantic. For example, the 2018 COACCH (Co-Designing the Assessment of Climate Change Costs) study outlines the hundreds of billions of Euros per year that represent the economic costs of climate change in Europe in different scenarios for different sectors. Their review indicates that the costs of inaction will be potentially large in Europe.^{ix}

Economic impacts will also arise because of stranded fossil fuel assets. A 2018 study, commissioned by the EU COM, on "The role of Trans-European gas infrastructure in the light of the 2050 decarbonisation targets" concludes that "the utilisation level of LNG terminals and import pipelines would significantly decrease, and some assets might need to be decommissioned or used for other purposes".

There is substantial risk to the economies of the United States and other fossil fuel exporting nations from continued investment in fossil fuel infrastructure. A study published in Nature Climate Change found that between one and four trillion dollars in fossil fuel assets globally are at risk from "an already ongoing technological trajectory, irrespective of whether or not new climate policies are adopted".xi

All the public financial support LNG projects receive are at the expense of sustainable and zero-carbon solutions, with dire consequences for our climate and our economies — and lenders are starting to take notice. The BNP Paribas Groups, a leading financial services provider in Europe and worldwide, announced on 11 October 2017 that the group "will no longer do business with companies whose principal business activity is the exploration, production, distribution, marketing or trading of oil and gas from shale and/or oil from tar sands." Furthermore, it "will no longer finance … LNG terminals that predominantly liquefy and export gas from shale."xii

4. Fracking supports polluting plastics industry

The plastics industry has reaped under-the-radar benefits from the environmentally destructive fracking boom and an oversupply of cheap ethane in the past few years. This surge has been a boon for the plastics industry, which relies on petrochemical manufacturing to turn ethane, a hydrocarbon present in natural gas, into plastics. Beginning in 2012, chemical companies started aggressively investing in petrochemical plants and export facilities focused on tapping the ethane glut, creating further negative implications for human and environmental rights – right at a moment when we try to solve the big global plastic health and climate crisis. xiii

5. Fracking impacts human rights

In May 2018, the Permanent Peoples Tribunal (PPT) on Human Rights, Fracking and Climate Change heard testimony and received other evidence relating to fracking and its impact. Included were very substantial reports from four prior PPT Citizens' Tribunals that had gathered scientific, technical, social, cultural and experiential testimony from many community organizations, experts and individual citizens.

According to the preliminary statement of the PPT judges "the evidence clearly demonstrates that the processes of fracking contribute substantially to anthropogenic harm, including climate change and global warming, and involve massive violations of a range of substantive and procedural human rights and the rights of nature.... The evidence also shows that governments have, in general, failed in their responsibility to regulate the industry so as to protect people, communities and nature. In addition, they have failed to act promptly and effectively to the dangers of climate change that fracking represents." In the final Advisory Opinion, the PPT recommended – amongst other relevant points – that "fracking be banned" and that "the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment be asked to investigate the violations of the rights of humans and nature by the Unconventional Oil and Gas Extraction industry."

This finding is echoed elsewhere: In October 2018, the UN's CESCR issued an official warning concerning fracking for shale gas in Argentina, saying that "The Committee is concerned that this hydraulic fracturing project contradicts the State party's commitments to the Paris Agreement, with a negative impact on global warming and the enjoyment of the economic and social rights of the world population and future generations. (Article 1 (1) and 2 ((1))"XVI" In March 2019 the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) urged the British Government to "consider introducing a comprehensive and complete ban on fracking."XVII

We call on the EU and U.S. administrations to exercise their extremely important global responsibility and immediately stop the transatlantic trade in fracked hydrocarbons. Instead, we urge you to focus all efforts on working together towards the needed transition to 100% renewable energy and production systems and increased energy efficiency. This transition is not only achievable – it is underway. Increasing the trade in fracked hydrocarbons represents a huge step backwards in the needed shift to renewables and our joint efforts to save the planet from catastrophic climate change.

Sincerely,

- 1. Andy Gheorghiu, Policy advisor & Campaigner, Food & Water Europe
- 2. Scott Edwards, Legal Director, Food & Water Watch
- 3. Antoine Simon, Fossil Free Campaigner, Friends of the Earth Europe
- 4. Kate DeAngelis, Spokesperson, Friends of the Earth US
- 5. Delphine Lévi Alvarès, European Coordinator, Break Free From Plastic
- 6. Delphine Lévi Alvarès, Coordinator, Rethink Plastic Alliance
- 7. Joseph Corré, Founder, Talk Fracking
- 8. Jeremy Wates, Secretary General, EEB (European Environmental Bureau)
- 9. Magda Stockzkiewicz, Deputy Director, Greenpeace
- 10. Steve Mason, Campaign Director, Frack Free United
- 11. Patrick McCully, Climate and Energy Program Director, Rainforest Action Network
- 12. Lorette Philippot, Private Finance Campaigner, Friends of the Earth France
- 13. Samuel Martin-Sosa, International Coordinator, Ecologistas en Acción
- 14. Colin Rees, Senior Campaigner, Oil Change International
- 15. Eilidh Robb, Communications Coordinator, UK Youth Climate Coalition
- 16. Sebastian Schönnauer, Treasurer, Deutscher Naturschutzring e.V. (DNR)
- 17. Constantin Zerger, Head of Energy and Climate Protection, Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V.

- 18. Xavier Sol, Director, Counter Balance
- 19. Brook Lenker, Executive Director, FracTracker Alliance
- 20. Heather Cantino, Steering Committee Chair, Athens County's Future Action Network, aka Athens County (OH) Fracking Action Network
- 21. Garret Patrick Kelly, Principal, SEE Change Network
- 22. Alexandra Caterbow, Co-Director, Health and Environment Justice Support International
- 23. Ann Rennacker, Secretary, Ocean Protection Coalition
- 24. Shefali Sharma, Director, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy Europe e.V.
- 25. Suzie McCoy, Spokesperson, FUUSB (First Unitarian Universal Society of Burlington)
- 26. Peter Kodde, Climate & Energy Organizer, Milieudefensie
- 27. Eddie Mitchell, Spokesperson, Love Leitrim
- 28. Johnny McElligott, Spokesperson, Safety Before LNG
- 29. Pascoe Sabido, Spokesperson, Corporate Europe Observatory
- 30. Julian Brave NoiseCat, Acting Policy Director, 350
- 31. Jim Emberger, Spokesperson, New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance
- 32. Barbara Warren, Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility, AZ Chapter
- 33. Lise Masson, Spokesperson, BankTrack
- 34. Ángel López, President, Asociación de Cultura Popular Alborada Gallur
- 35. Anne Marie Harrington, Spokesperson, Futureproof Clare
- 36. Hilde Lindner-Hausner, Spokesperson, Abgefrackt Bündnis Weidener Becken gegen Fracking
- 37. Karen Feridun, Founder, Berks Gas Truth
- 38. Karen Feridun, Co-Founder, Better Path Coalition
- 39. Monica Di Sisto, Spokesperson, Stop TTIP/CETA Italia Campaign
- 40. Alberto Zoratti, President, Fairwatch Italy
- 41. Jose Luis Gutierrez Aranda, Policy Officer, AEFJN
- 42. Rosa Correia Guedes, Spokesperson, Glocal Faro
- 43. Juan Carlos Gracia, Board Member, Plataforma Ciudadana Zaragoza sin Fractura
- 44. Jane Patton, Director, No Waste Louisanna
- 45. Robert Spottswood, M.A. LCMHC, Board Member, Vermont Mental Health Counselors Association
- 46. Jennifer Krill, Executive Director, Earthworks
- 47. Roxanne Groff, Chair, Buckeye Environmental Network
- 48. Mary Martin, Spokesperson, Keep Cornwall Safe
- 49. Mary Gutierrez, Spokesperson, Earth Ethics, Inc.
- 50. James Leon Meyer, Coordinator, Fridays For Future Dithmarschen
- 51. Ángel Encinas, President, Ecologistas en Acción de Zamora
- 52. Mary Pendergast, Ecology Director, Sisters of Mercy
- 53. Tawn Feeney, Spokesperson, Little Lakes Sustainability Network
- 54. Sabria Barka, Director, Eco-Conscience
- 55. Madeline Monaco, Spokesperson, Save Asbury's Waterfront
- 56. Nikolaj Kornbech, Researcher and Campaigner, NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark
- 57. Norbert Pralow, Spokesperson, BUND LV Schleswig-Holstein (Friends of the Earth Schleswig-Holstein)
- 58. Debra Stoleroff, Spokesperson, Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance
- 59. Franziska Buch, Energy Policy Campaigner, Umweltinstitut München e.V. (Munich Environmental Institute)
- 60. Vivian Stockman, Spokesperson, OVEC-Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
- 61. Naomi Kreitman, Spokesperson, Gastivists
- 62. Estelle Tardy, Spokesperson, Collectif Causse Méjean Gaz de Schiste NON!
- 63. Estelle Tardy, Spokesperson, Collectif Florac Stop Gaz de Schiste (48)
- 64. Javier Casado, Spokesperson, Podemos Sanitat Catalunya
- 65. Harald Rücker, Spokesperson, Bi lebenswertes Korbach

- 66. Stephan Klose, Spokesperson, BI Gesundheit und Klimaschutz Unterelbe
- 67. Charlie Wiliams, Spokesperson, Keep Ireland Frack Free
- 68. Claude Girod, Spokesperson, Confédération Paysanne France (ECVC)
- 69. Bas Oudenaarden, Organizer, Rotterdams Klimaat Initiatief
- 70. Dr. Reinhard Knof, Spokesperson, Kein CO2 Endlager e.V.
- 71. Helena Peltonen-Gassmann, Board Member, Mehr Demokratie e.V. LV Hamburg
- 72. Luis Medel, Spokesperson, Plataformanocetatgnareus
- 73. Sigrun Franzen, Spokesperson, Berliner Wassertisch
- 74. Jan Juffermans, Chair, Dutch Footprint Group
- 75. Barry Cartwright, Spokesperson, Woodsetts Against Fracking
- 76. Yvonne Sibbald, Spokesperson, Frack Free Wakefield
- 77. Jean Hesketh, Co-Ordinator, Frack Free Dudleston
- 78. Christine Varenne, Spokesperson, Collectif Arcois pour la Planète
- 79. Bill Lyons, Spokesperson, Columbus Community Bill of Rights
- 80. Živa Kavka Gobbo, Chair, Focus Association for Sustainable Development
- 81. Paco Segura, Luis Rico, Lola Yllescas, Coordinators, Ecologistas en Acción
- 82. Maria Luisa Hernández, Coordinator, Attac Spain
- 83. Geoffrey Gardner, Spokesperson, Upper Valley Affinity Group Vermont
- 84. Ann Pinca, Spokesperson, Lebanon Pipeline Awareness
- 85. Paul Reynard, Spokesperson, Touche pas à mon schist
- 86. Marija Mileta, Spokesperson, Zelena akcija/FoE Croatia
- 87. David Larder, Spokesperson, Bassetlaw Against Fracking
- 88. Mila Bote, Spokesperson, Free the Soil
- 89. John Higgins, Spokesperson, Fracking Free Clare
- 90. Ana Carla Cabrita da Conceição, Spokesperson, Walkin' Sangres
- 91. Paulette Hammond, President, Maryland Conservation Council
- 92. Werner Diedrichs, Spokesperson, Bürgerinitiative Fracking Freies Hamburg
- 93. Irene Weiser, Coordinator, Fossil Free Tompkings
- 94. Virginia Rasmussen, Spokesperson, Frackbusters NY
- 95. Ingo Junge, Spokesperson, Berliner Netzwerk TTIP | CETA | TiSA stoppen!
- 96. Anne Aittomaki, Strategic Director, Plastic Change
- 97. Kathleen Byron, Committee Member, Our Forth
- 98. Rachael Martin, Spokesperson, Not Here Not Anywhere
- 99. Tracey Read, Spokesperson, Plastic Free Seas
- 100. Suzannah Glidden, Co-Founder, Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)
- 101. Andrea Miller, Executive Director, People Demanding Action
- 102. Alan Minsky, Executive Director, Progressive Democrats of America
- 103. William Snape, Senior Counsel, Center for Biological Diversity
- 104. Ezra Silk, Director of Strategy & Policy, The Climate Mobilization
- 105. Christfried Lenz, Spokesperson, BI "Saubere Umwelt & Energie Altmark"
- 106. Robert K. Musil, Ph.D., M.P.H., President and CEO, Rachel Carson Council
- 107. Rachel Smolker, Co-Director, Biofuelwatch
- 108. Earl Hatley, Spokesperson, LEAD Agency Inc.
- 109. Jerry Rivers, Environmental Scientist, North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)
- 110. Michael Stocker, Director, Ocean Conservation Research
- 111. Sonia Zilberman, Director South Caspian Energy and Environment, Crude Accountability
- 112. Doug Couchon, Co-Founder, People for a Healthy Environment
- 113. Rabbi Katy Allen, President, Jewish Climate Action Network MA
- 114. Patricia Popple, Spokesperson, Project Outreach
- 115. Evan Weber, Political Director, Sunrise Movement
- 116. Lisa J. Riggiola, Executive Director, Citizens For A Clean Pompton Lakes

- 117. Rabbi Michael Feinberg, Executive Director, Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition
- 118. Patty Katz, VP and Green Committee Chair, Reach Out America
- 119. Micah Parkin, Executive Director, 350 Colorado
- 120. Mark Lichty, Executive Director, Resolution Media Fund
- 121. Paul Otruba, Director of Research, Environeers
- 122. Mark LeClaire, Organizer, We Are One River
- 123. Corey E. Olsen, Owner/Activist, CEO Pipe Organs/Golden Ponds Farm
- 124. Mazeda Uddin, Executive Director, South Asian Fund For Education, Scholarship and Training (SAFEST)
- 125. Sarah Stewart, President, Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.
- 126. Vera Scroggins, Director, Citizens for Clean Water
- 127. Janet MacGillivray, Spokesperson, Seeding Sovereignty
- 128. Sharon Furlong, Spokesperson, Bucks Environmental Action
- 129. Arianne Elinich, Founder, Bucks County Concerned Citizens Against the Pipelines
- 130. Tim Spiese, Board President, Lancaster Against Pipelines
- 131. Elaine Cimino, Director, Common Ground Rising
- 132. Pat Lupo, OSB, Environmental Education and Advocacy, Benedictine Sisters of Erie PA
- 133. Barbara Jarmoska, President, Project CoffeeHouse
- 134. Nora M. Nash, OSF, Director Corporate Social Responsibility, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
- 135. Robert Cross, President, Responsible Drilling Alliance (RDA)
- 136. Dawn Dannenbring, Environmental Organizer, Illinois People's Action
- 137. Jason Miller, Director of Campaigns and Development, Franciscan Action Network
- 138. Jim Mackenzie, Coordinator, 350 New Mexico
- 139. Gene Binder, Member Steering Committee, Concerned Citizens For Change
- 140. Mary Smith, Communications Director, Church Women United in New York State
- 141. Eric Anspaugh, Chair, Preserve Franklin County VA
- 142. Pam Bishop, Principal, Concerned Citizens of Lebanon County
- 143. Nathalie Margi, Senior Advocacy Officer, Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights
- 144. Mark Laity-Snyder, Vice President, Reeva DIY
- 145. Tabitha Tripp, Board Member, SAFE (Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing our Environment)
- 146. Amy Scott, Spokesperson, Pocahontas County Organic District
- 147. Marie McRae, Spokesperson, DRAC (Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition)
- 148. Jen Deerinwater, Founder & Executive Director, Crushing Colonialism
- 149. Collen McKinney, Co-Founder, People Not Pipelines
- 150. Stan Scobie, Founding Director, GDACC (Gas Drilling Awareness Cortland County)
- 151. George Matthis, President, River Guardian Foundation
- 152. Allen Johnson, Coordinator, Christians For The Mountains
- 153. Mary Shesgreen, Chair, Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice
- 154. Vanessa Pesec, Spokesperson, NEOGAP (Network for Oil and Gas Accountability and Protection)
- 155. Drew Hudson, Founder, 198 methods
- 156. Patricia McPherson, President, Grassroots Coalition
- 157. Paulettte Hammond, President, Maryland Conservation Council
- 158. Wibke Langhorst, Spokesperson, Aktionsbündnis No Moor Fracking
- 159. Dough Couchon, Co-Founder, Elmirans and Friends Against Fracking
- 160. Fritz Buhr, Spokesperson, Pro Grün e.V. Paderborn
- 161. Terrie Baumgardner, Spokesperson, Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community
- 162. Dr. Maria Entrup-Henemann, Board Member, IG Fracking-freies Artland e.V.
- 163. Adrian Palmer, Spokesperson, Frack Free York and Villages
- 164. Matthew Mehalik, Spokesperson, Breathe Project

- 165. Sarah Martik, Campaign Manager, Center for Coalfield Justice
- 166. Dustin White, Spokesperson, OVEC Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
- 167. Marcy Kass, Spokesperson, 350 Vermont
- 168. Rebecca Jones, Spokesperson, 350 Brattleboro
- 169. Gonzalo Fernández Corrales. Spokesperson, Círculo de Hostelería y Turismo
- 170. Hélène Cabioch, Director, Association Internationale de Techniciens, Experts et Chercheurs (Aitec)
- 171. Robert Pilli, President, CRI-AC!
- 172. Johanna Fallert, Spokesperson, Mothers Out Front
- 173. Dr. Beth Cross, Lecturer, University of West Scotland (UWS)
- 174. RL Miller, Political Director, Climate Hawks Vote
- 175. Sukhgerel Dugersuren, Chari, Oyu Tolgoi Watch
- 176. Maurice Ouma Odhiambo, Executive Director, Jamaa Resource Initiatives
- 177. Ulrike Siemens, Spokesperson, Kein Frack in Wf
- 178. Penelope Cole, Chair, Frackwatch
- 179. Catherine Harrington, Frack Off London, Campaigner
- 180. Chriszanne Janse van Vuuren, Spokesperson, Support Centre for Land Change (SCLC)
- 181. Vladimir Bajzec, Founcer, Nonprofit civic initiative NAŠ Jadran
- 182. Bernd Ebeling, Spokesperson, BürgerInneninitiative Umweltschutz Uelzen
- 183. Bernd Ebeling, Spokesperson, AG Fracking der Bürgerinitiative Umweltschutz Lüchow-Dannenberg e. V.
- 184. Jessica Mullen, Coordinator, New Paltz Climate Action Coalition
- 185. Regine Richter, Energy Campaigner, Urgewald
- 186. Katja George, Campaigner, Gastivists Berlin
- 187. Josep Nuluart, Spokesperson, Observatori del deute en la globalització (ODG)
- 188. Maura Stephanes, Co-Founder, Coalition to Protect New York
- 189. Nicolò Wojewoda, Managing Director, 350 Europe
- 190. Rebecca MacMullan, Co-Chair of the Board of Directors, 350 Spokane
- 191. B. Arrindell, Spokesperson, Damascus Citizens for Sustainability
- 192. John Barnes, Advocacy Coordinator, Earth Forum of Howard County
- 193. Lawrence E. Couch, Director, National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
- 194. Sabine Holsten, Spokesperson, BI für Gesundheit Hemslingen/Söhlingen
- 195. Martin Heinze, Spokesperson, Klimaschutz-AG NABU Oldenburger Land
- 196. Pat Sodolak, Spokesperson, We The People NJ07
- 197. Maxime Combes, Spokesperson, Collectif citoyen de Pézenas, Castelnau de Guers (34 France)
- 198. Maxime Combes, Spokesperson, Collectif du Céressou (34 France)
- 199. Maxime Combes, Spokesperson, Collectif de Campagnan, St. Pargoire (34 FranceE)
- 200. Maxime Combes, Spokesperson, Ecolectif de Gognac (34 France)







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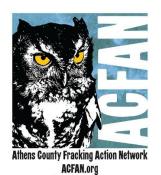












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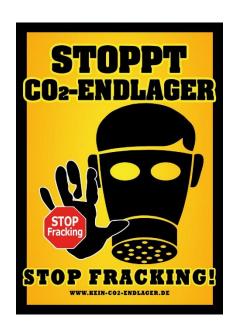
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STOPBANKING ON FRACKING





















URGENT ACTION FUND

FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS







plastic change





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- xii https://group.bnpparibas/en/press-release/bnp-paribas-takes-measures-accelerate-support-energy-transition
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- xvi CESCR International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. E/C/12/ARG/CO/4

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ⁱ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1531_en.htm

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^v Oil Change International. "First Comprehensive Analysis of Climate Impact of Jordan Cove LNG Terminal & Pacific Connector Pipeline" 11 January 2018. Available at: http://priceofoil.org/2018/01/11/report-first-comprehensive-analysis-of-climate-impact-of-jordan-cove-Ingterminal-pacific-connector-pipeline/.