

The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
COP President Designate
9 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AS

28 October 2021

From: Fair Energy Transition for All (FETA)

A European Model for Fair Energy Transition

Dear President,

As you prepare to chair the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow next week, you have spoken of the need for a “clean and fair energy transition”.

We welcome that commitment, as philanthropy institutions in Europe that are working, within the Network of European Foundation (NEF Europe), to ensure that the interests of our region’s poorest and most vulnerable citizens are respected as we move towards net zero emissions. We believe that our experience can offer an example of an equitable exit from carbon, including for regions which suffer far more than we in Europe from energy poverty, inequality, and conflicts over resources.

Our nine-country listening exercise, Fair Energy Transition for All, gives a voice to fellow citizens who face the greatest hardships, whether consumers or workers in fossil fuel-intensive industries. We aim to see their concerns reflected in policy – for without a just strategy, accepted by a broad public, Europe may struggle to live up to its responsibility to rapidly reduce its own high CO2 emissions.

Europeans tell us in focus groups of showering in cold water, of reliance on polluting coal and wood, of wrapping children in blankets to save on heating. They tell us of their fear of energy bills as incomes remain low and fragile. They speak of doubts, fanned on social media, that climate change is not real or will not affect them – despite deadly evidence of disrupted weather patterns across Europe. Many speak with suspicion of political leaders and their motivations for changing energy policies.

We at FETA will be bringing together these voices, with those of policy experts, to offer concrete recommendations next year for how our part of the world can meet the carbon-cutting challenges set by the COP while benefitting our most vulnerable fellow citizens. We aim to foster consensus, rather than conflict, over the pathway to “net zero”. To do this, economic impacts and incentives must be aligned - and seen to be aligned - with the needs of those with fewest resources to cushion change.

Of course, most Europeans suffer much less from energy poverty and the effects of climate change than those in the developing world. But we believe that the FETA approach offers elements of a model to craft a fair energy transition. It has been informed by recent successes in Europe, such as managing the social impacts of an exit from coal, and is based on sounding out diverse vulnerable groups in a variety of countries before making proposals for a judicious blend of policies in response.

FAIR ENERGY TRANSITION
for all

Our concern, to leave no one behind as the world moves to a cleaner future, is one surely shared by all leaders meeting in Glasgow. We are pleased to offer this preliminary insight into our continent-wide research and look forward to providing recommendations in due course. We wish you success in making this latest UN Climate Change Conference a success for all the world's people.

Most respectfully,



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President, Network of European Foundations

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[Fair Energy Transition for All](#) (FETA) is a consortium of members of the [Network of European Foundations](#), coordinated by the [King Baudouin Foundation](#). The other partners are [Fondazione Cariplo](#), [Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt](#), the [IKEA Foundation](#), [Stiftung Mercator](#) and the [Open Society European Policy Institute](#).

For more information visit: <https://fair-energy-transition.eu/>