

Ursula von der Leyen

President of the European Commission

Charles Michel

President of the European Council

Kadri Simson

European Commissioner for Energy

Petr Fiala

Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Josef Sikela

Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic and President of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council

Brussels, 29 September 2022

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Dear President von der Leyen, dear President Michel, dear Commissioner Simson, dear Prime Minister Fiala, dear Minister Sikela,

Ahead of the crucial Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of the EU on Energy of tomorrow, CEC European Managers, the European recognized social partner organization representing the managerial workforce in Europe, would like to share with you a few considerations on the current challenges our societies are facing and the perspectives for policy interventions that you are going to adopt to tackle them.

The million managers we give voice to are the nervous system of the European economy. With their work, leadership and competences, they are responsible for ensuring the continuation of operations despite sudden changes of the conditions in which they operate, allowing for the economy to continue creating wealth while serving new societal objectives.

Two years ago, it was managers who imagined and implemented continuity plans in factories and offices, organizing for those essential activities and services to continue being provided in the COVID context. Today, it is managers who envisage viable and innovative solutions to ensure that production can continue, in spite of energy costs having increased by 4, 5 times in the course of one single year.

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As Europe enters the cold season and the probability of an unstoppable escalation of the war in Ukraine worsens by the day, the prospect a long winter of discontent to bring severe economic, political and social tensions is more than ever real, and potentially catastrophic. Clearly, swift and harsh decisions will have to be taken in the next months and weeks, choices be made prioritizing among different and equally important goals to be achieved.

There is a clear risk that the strategic objectives set for our continent over the last decade – the transition to a new, sustainable economic model and the fight against climate change; the fulfillment of an economy that works for people and a fair society where everyone can express their potential; the accomplishment of the digital transformation – will become impossible to achieve, if the immediate consequences of the crisis are not swiftly and courageously dealt with.

To face the long list of urgencies that are so well known by us all, we expect from Europe and its Member States leadership and the capacity to act with a single voice, setting common goals in a united manner, showing the same courage and determination expressed in the context of the Covid crisis.

Therefore, we welcome the meeting of tomorrow as the opportunity to finalize the set of initiatives intended to normalize the functioning of the European energy market, adopting all relevant measures – including price caps on gas and energy – to limit the artificial increase in the prices of electricity and mitigate the effects of higher energy costs for companies and families. Also, bold decisions are needed to accelerate Europe's progress on the path of energy autonomy and diversification, making use of all available technological solutions available – without preconceptions – while safeguarding our commitment to clean and sustainable energy sourcing.

Along the same line, we expect from you, European leaders in Brussels and in the capitals of Member States, to show cohesion and unity of intent in the coming weeks, as the time for tougher policy moves will eventually come. As we progress in this uncertain winter, new dimensions of the crisis will become more clearly exposed, including concrete risks for the territorial integrity of Europe as a consequence of an enlarged war scenario.

We are confident that you will be able to demonstrate leadership and courage in the difficult times ahead. You can be assured of the support of the managers of Europe, and their willingness to contribute with their knowledge, professionalism and sense of responsibility to helping Europe overcome this crisis and look with optimism at its future agenda. In this respect, please note that you are always welcome to call on CEC European Managers for aid and service in performing your tasks.

Yours sincerely,



Maxime LEGRAND
President



Marco VEZZANI
Deputy Secretary-General