

Reducing Russia's oil exports

András Lukács
President
Clean Air Action Group

How to Decouple from Russia: Czech
Experience and Hungarian Option for the
Future of the Energy Sector

1 of April, - 10:00 - 12:00 CET

Location: Corvinus University of Budapest, Gellért Campus, 1118 Budapest, Mátyóki út 9.

Updated: 03.04.2026

Payments to Russia for fossil fuels

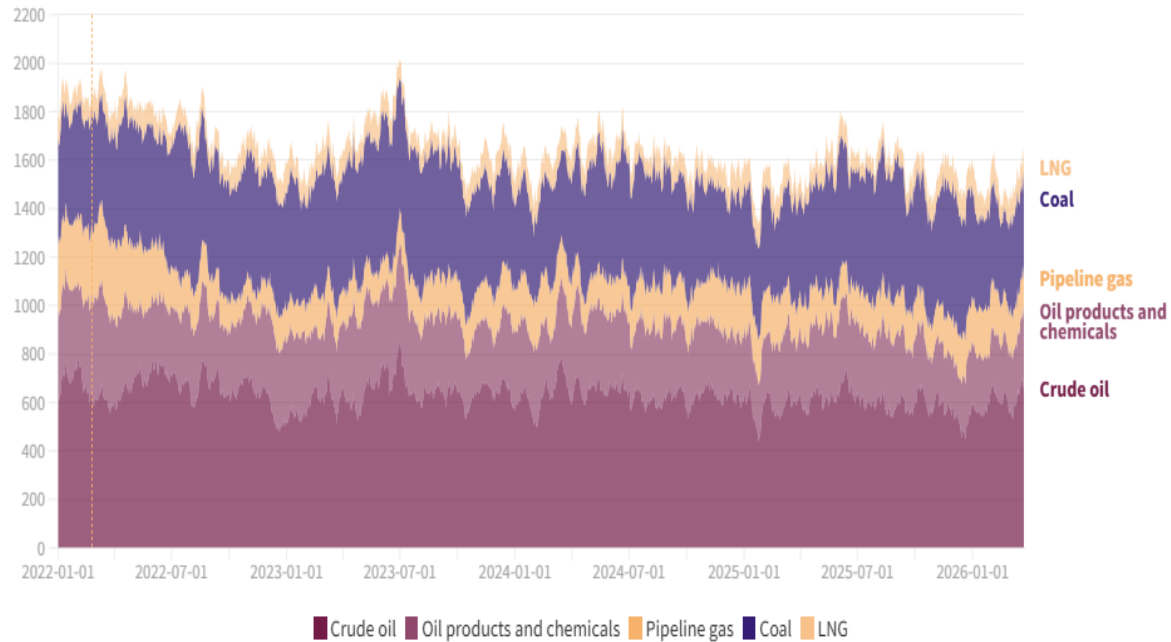
since 24 February 2022

Russian fossil fuel exports

14-day running average

Oil: 18% decrease since the invasion

Million EUR Thousand tonnes



Source: CREA analysis. • The dotted line represents the beginning of the invasion.

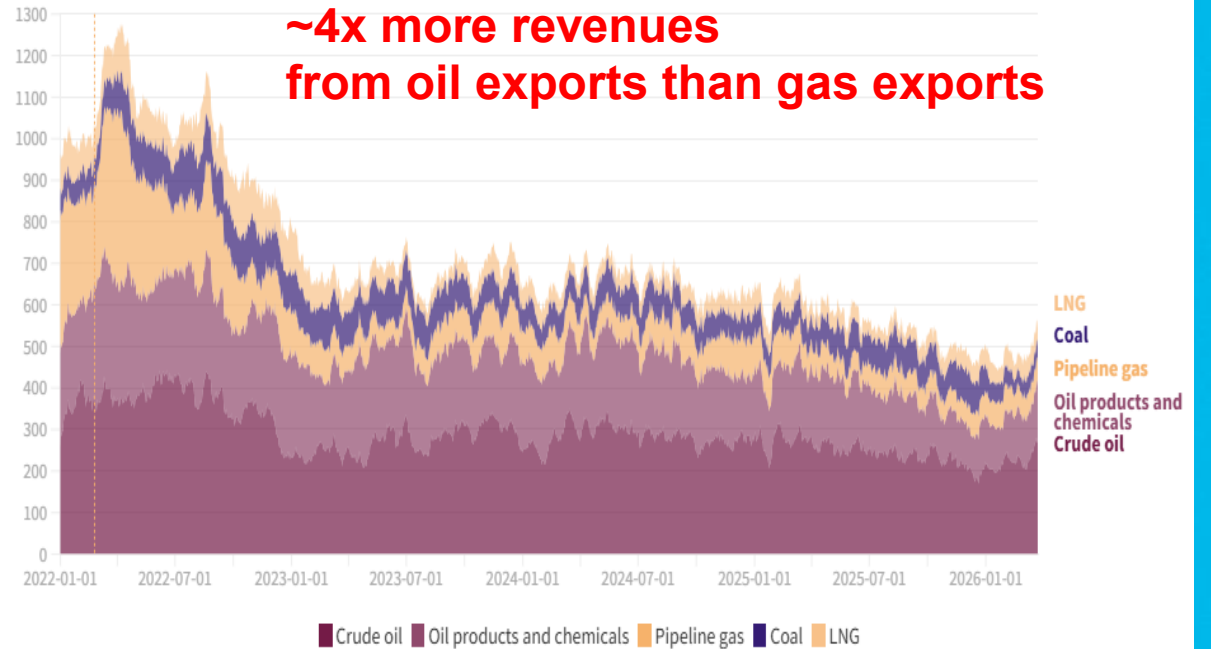


Russian fossil fuel exports

14-day running average

Oil: 45% decrease since the invasion

Million EUR Thousand tonnes

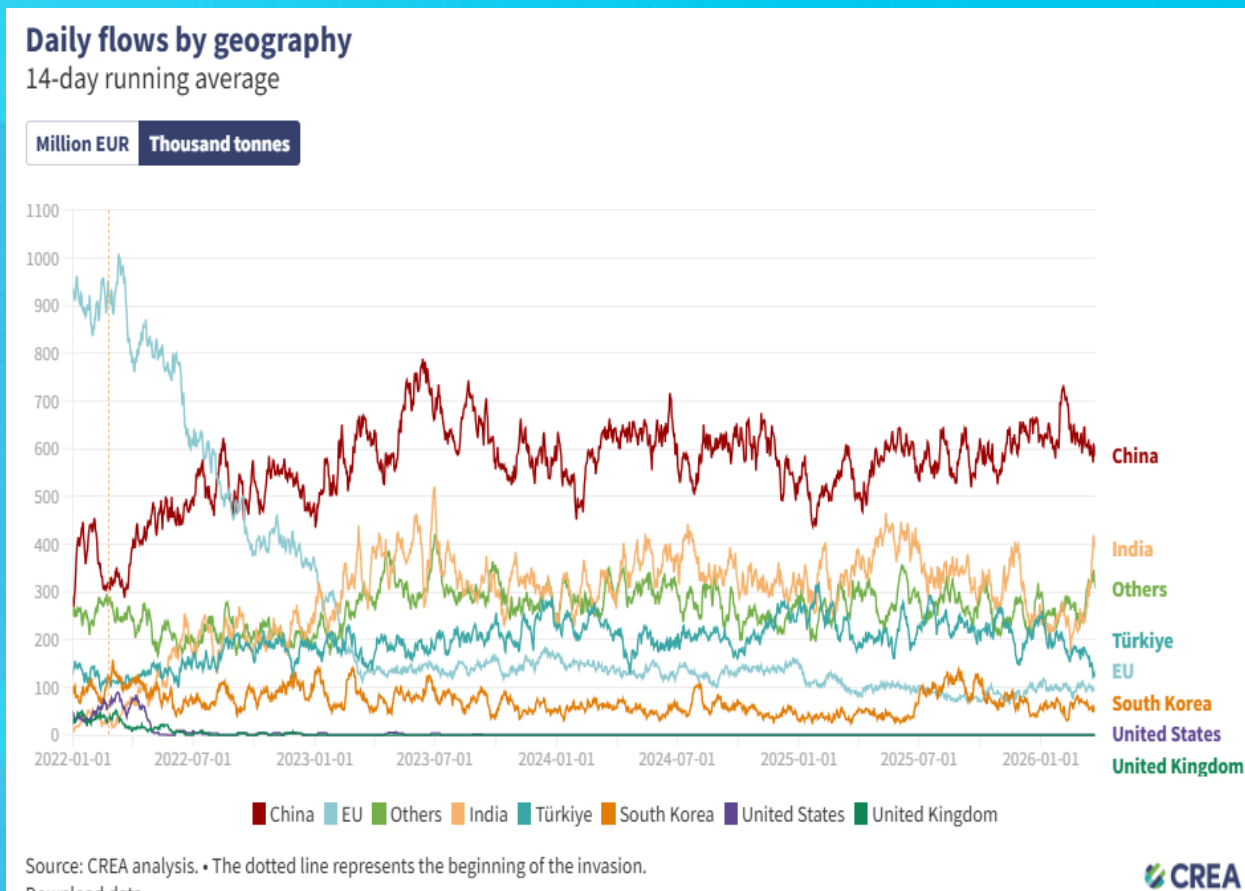


Source: CREA analysis. • The dotted line represents the beginning of the invasion.



Changes in Russian fuel export by geography (does not show the full picture!)

EU imports of plastics from China: US\$17.76 billion in 2025 (made from Russian oil?)



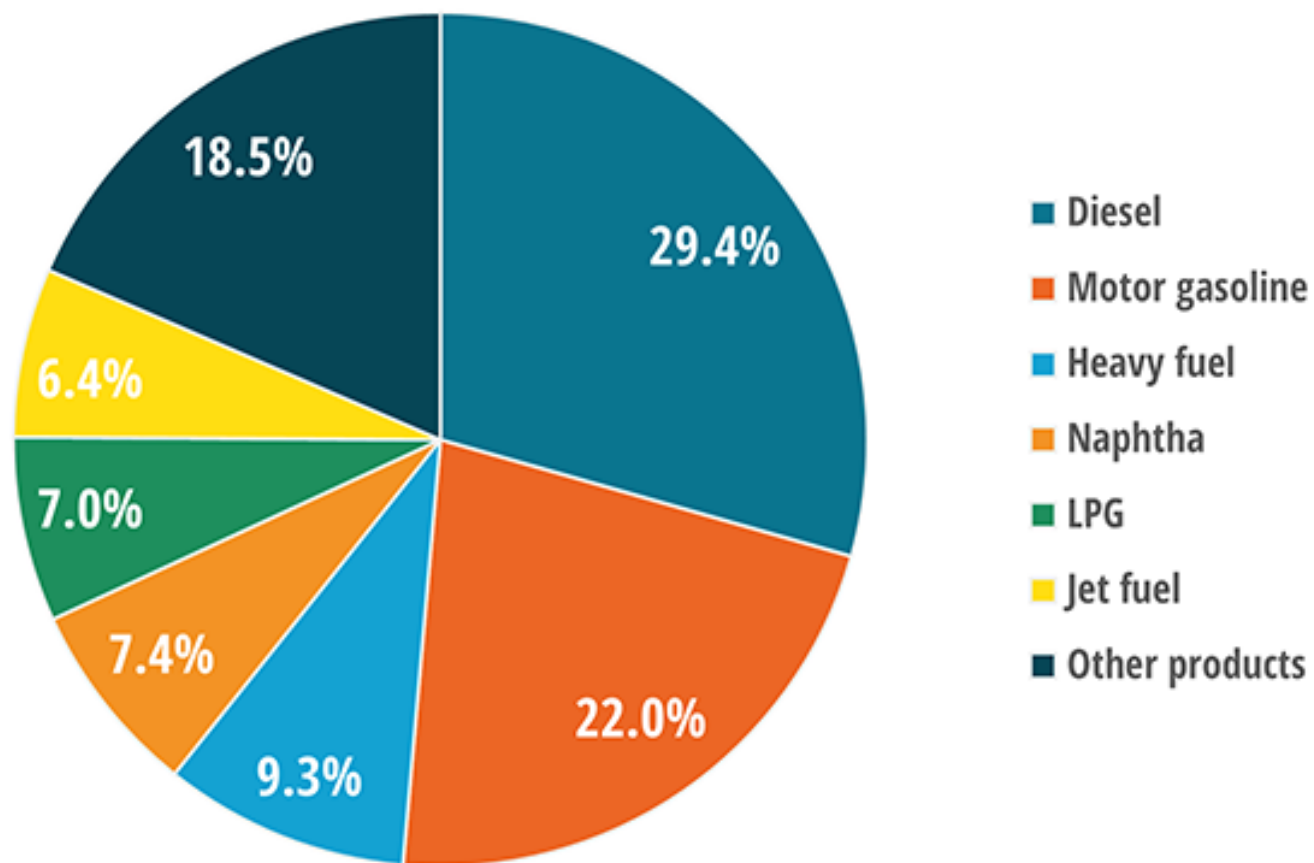
<https://www.russiafossiltracker.com/>

European Union Imports of plastics from China	Value	Year
Total	\$830.01B	2025
Other Articles of Plastics	\$5.69B	2025
Articles for Conveyance or Packing of Goods, Stoppers, of Plastics	\$2.06B	2025
Table Ware, Kitchenware, Other Household Articles, of Plastics	\$1.70B	2025
Floor Coverings of Plastics, Wall or Ceiling Coverings of Plastics	\$1.55B	2025
Other Plates, Sheets, Film, Foil, Strip of Plastics (Non-cellular)	\$882.77M	2025
Polyethers, epoxides & polyesters, primary forms	\$716.86M	2025
Self-adhesive Plates, Sheets, Film, Foil, Tape, Strip, of Plastics	\$590.25M	2025
Tubes, Pipes, Hoses, Fittings Therefor (Joints, Elbows), of Plastics	\$564.14M	2025
Other Plates, Sheets, Film, Foil, Strip of Plastics	\$483.34M	2025
Baths, Shower-baths, Wash-basins, Similar Sanitary Ware, of Plastics	\$390.89M	2025
Builders' Ware of Plastics	\$377.17M	2025
Petroleum Resins, Coumarone-indene Resins, Polyterpenes, Polysulfides	\$317.53M	2025
Monofilament, Rods, Sticks, Profile Shapes of Plastics	\$262.57M	2025
Natural Polymers and Modified Natural Polymers	\$244.24M	2025
Polymers of Vinyl Chloride or of Other Halogenated Olefins	\$240.24M	2025
Amino resins, phenolics and polyurethanes, primary form	\$227.19M	2025
Polyamides in primary forms	\$166.62M	2025
Silicones, in primary forms	\$166.66M	2025
Cellulose and Its Chemical Derivatives	\$145.17M	2025
Polymers of ethylene, in primary forms	\$126.53M	2025
Polymers of Vinyl Acetate or Other Vinyl Esters, Other Vinyl Polymers	\$125.18M	2025
Polymers of styrene, in primary forms	\$116.94M	2025
Acrylic polymers in primary forms	\$86.76M	2025
Ion-exchangers Based on Polymers of Ethylene or Natural Polymer	\$97.01M	2025
Polymers of propylene or other olefins, prim forms	\$90.83M	2025
Waste, Parings, Scrap of Plastics	\$5.36M	2025

<https://tradingeconomics.com/european-union/imports/china/plastics>

What is oil used for?

Global petroleum products output (2023)

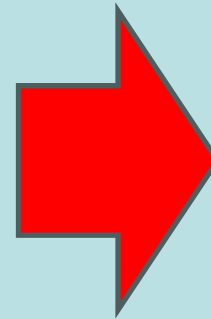


<https://www.enerdata.net/publications/executive-briefing/global-oil-market-trends.html>

Sanctions do not suffice. Consumption must be reduced!

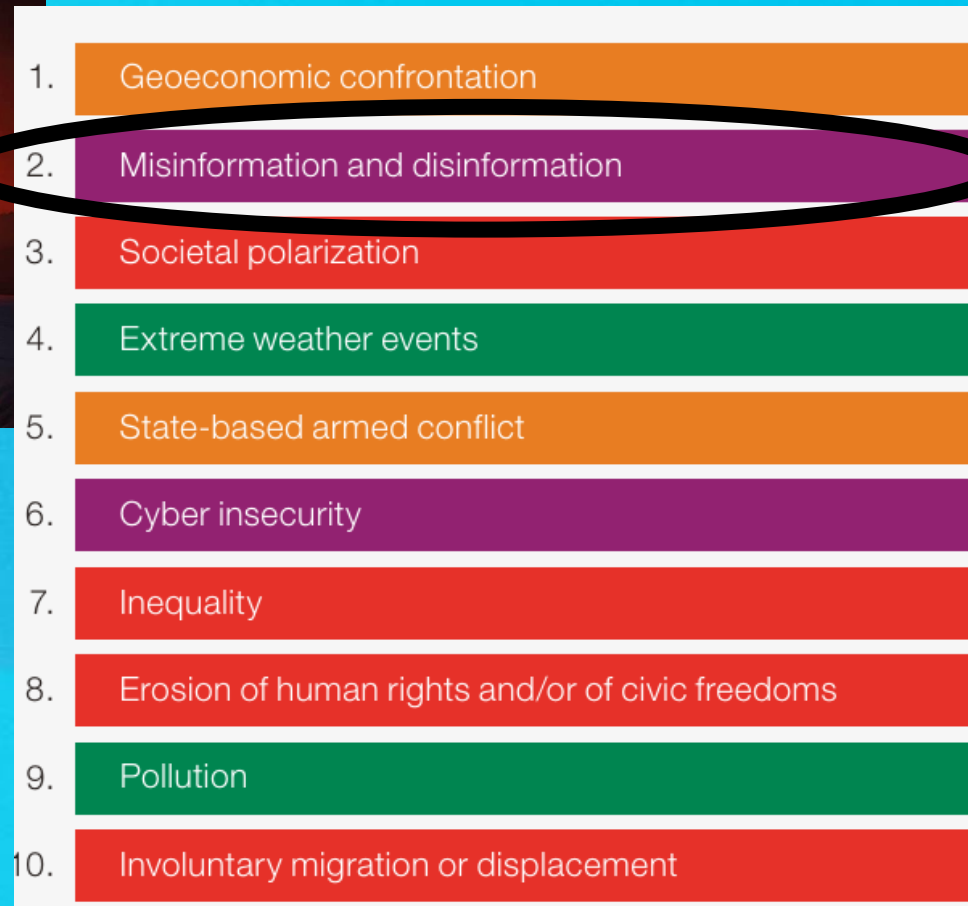
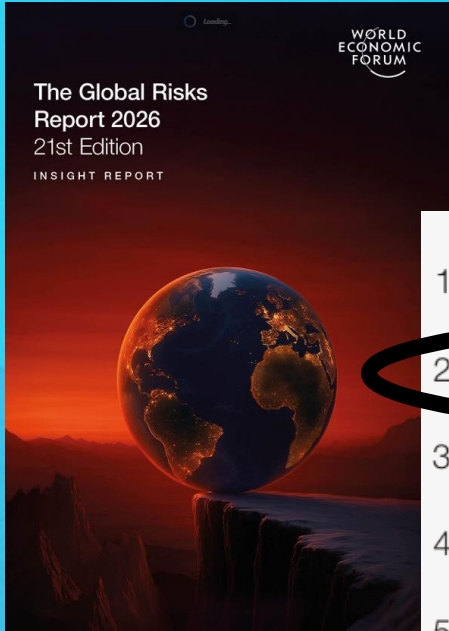
Methods

1. Awareness-raising
2. Administrative methods
3. Regrouping investments
4. Taxation/subsidy removal



Necessary but unlikely to reduce consumption on their own.

1. Awareness-raising



https://reports.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Global_Risks_Report_2026.pdf

<https://razomwestand.com/new-report-fuelling-russias-oil-and-gas-influence-in-europe/>



Incomparably more resources are spent on disinformation than on correct information.

For those combatting disinformation, this is like trying to extinguish a forest fire with a glass of water.

Much more funding is needed for combatting disinformation!

Photo by [Matt Palmer](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Photo by [Manki Kim](#) on [Unsplash](#)

2. Administrative methods

2. Reduce highway speed limits by at least 10 km/h

Lower speeds reduce fuel use for passenger cars, vans and trucks.

iea Search everything

New IEA report highlights options to ease oil price pressures on consumers in response to Middle East supply disruptions

News
20 March 2026

<https://www.iea.org/news/new-iea-report-highlights-options-to-ease-oil-price-pressures-on-consumers-in-response-to-middle-east-supply-disruptions>



<https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/land-use-biodiversity/french-senate-backs-law-curb-ultra-fast-fashion-2025-06-10/>

**Prohibition of artificial pitches and turfs on playgrounds needed)
(all the more, because they are detrimental for children's health)**



Photo by András Lukács

3. Regrouping investments



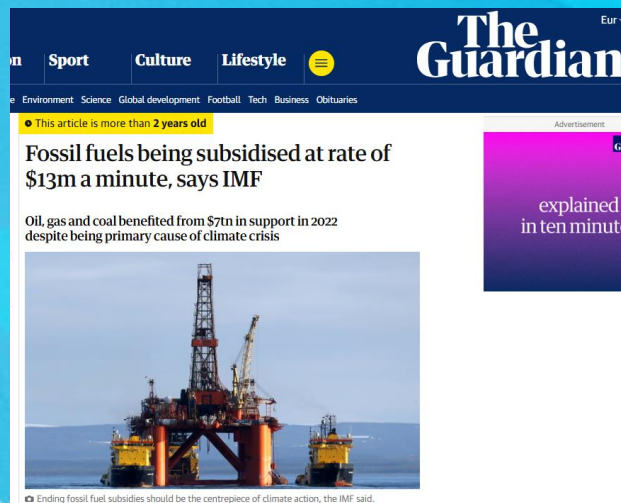
Photos by András Lukács

4. Increasing taxes/removing subsidies

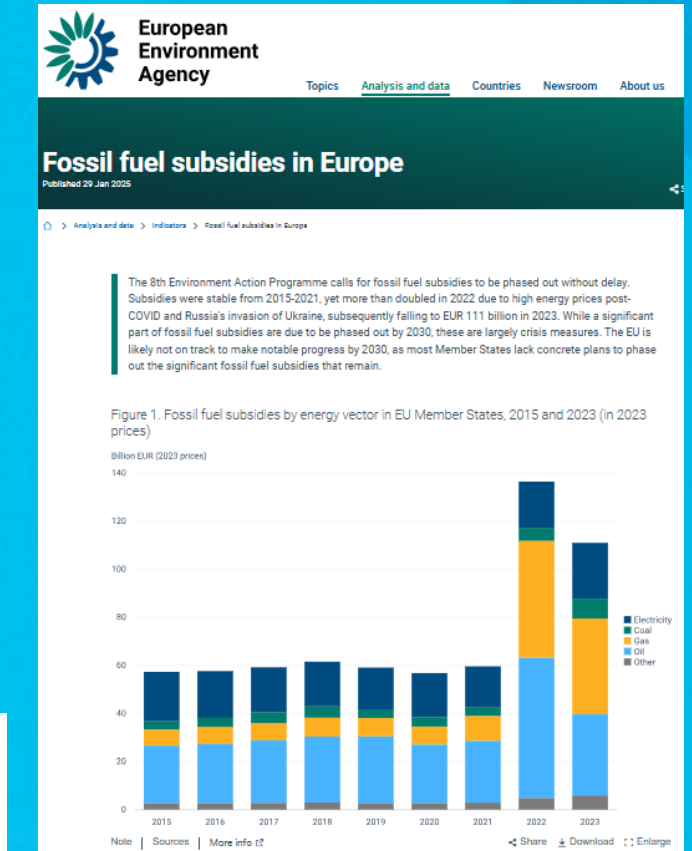


<https://www.imf.org/en/topics/climate-change/energy-subsidies>

<https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/opinions/phasing-out-fossil-fuel-subsidies-while-ensuring-european-competitiveness-mitigating-cost-living-crisis-and-promoting>



<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/aug/24/fossil-fuel-subsidies-imf-report-climate-crisis-oil-gas-coal>



<https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/indicators/fossil-fuel-subsidies>


<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0017>

How Russian fuel feeds the world of plastic: a study of the correlation between fossil fuels and plastic



Co-funded by the European Union

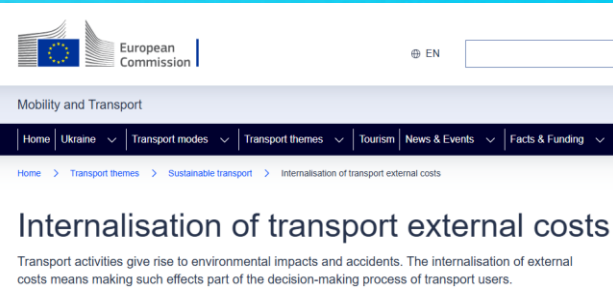
https://drive.google.com/file/d/19vXOCiyQ8_x1nPnmf1oSDB768qAotZ4h/view

 Levegő Munkacsoport

High taxes on plastic bottles!

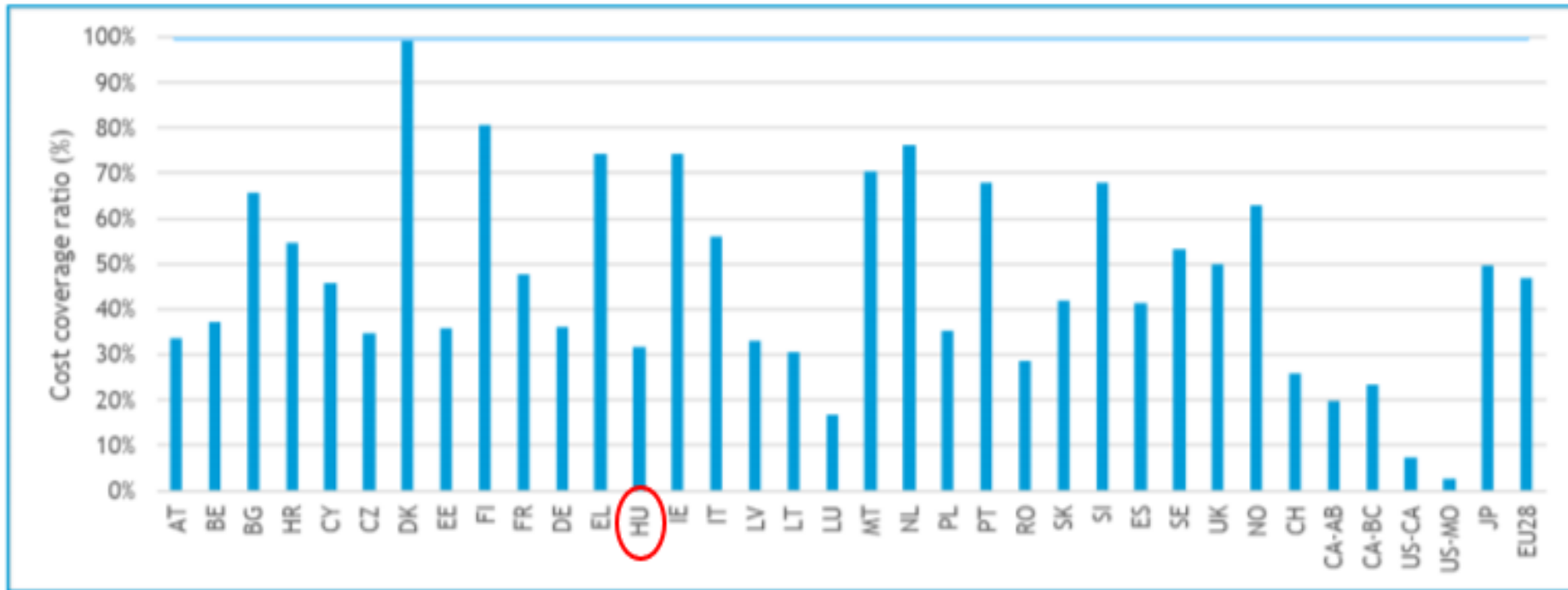


Photo by [tanvi sharma](#) on [Unsplash](#)



In Hungary, car users pay only one-third of the costs they cause to society.

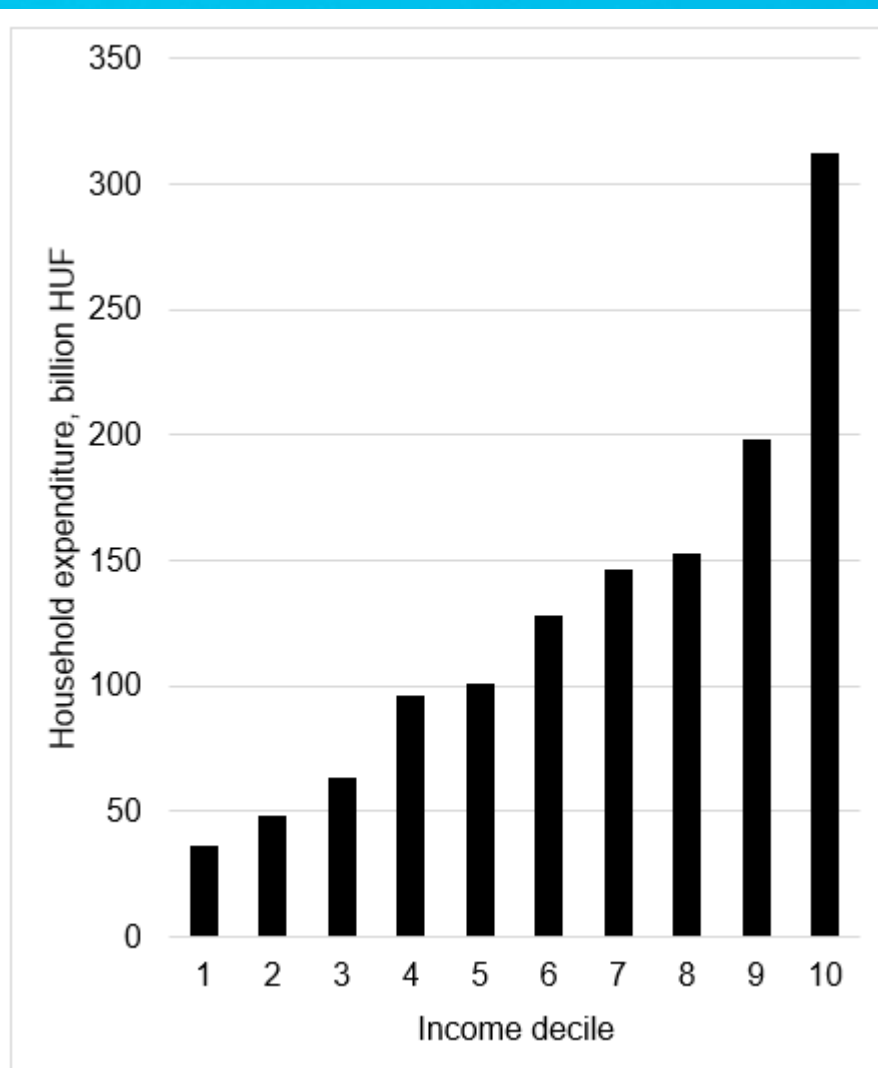
Figure 17 - Overall cost coverage ratio for road passenger transport in the EU28, Switzerland, Norway the US, Canada and Japan



<https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/studies/internalisation-state-of-play-isbn-978-92-76-01413-3.pdf>

Subsidising car transport is extremely unjust socially.

Household expenditure on car purchase and use in Hungary per income decile in 2018 (billion HUF)



When the populist claim that they protect poor people from higher fuel taxes, they only defend the privileges of rich people at the expense of poor people.



https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2015/05/in-it-together-why-less-inequality-benefits-all_g1g554a1/9789264235120-en.pdf

The Solution: Direct Payments (“Klimabonus”)

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

CASE STUDIES ON ENERGY SUBSIDY REFORM: LESSONS AND IMPLICATIONS

January 28, 2013

Prepared By

A staff team led by Benedict Clements and comprising David Coady, Stefania Fabrizio, Allan Dizioli, Katja Funke, Javier Kapsoli, Kanqni Kpodar, Alvar Kanqur, Masahiro Nozaki, Baoping Shang, Mauricio Soto, Vimal Thakoor, Louis Sears, and Lilla Nemeth (all FAD); Trevor Alleyne, Mauricio Villafuerte, Anton Op de Beke, Genevieve Verdier, Clara Mira, Farayi Gwenhamo, Antonio David, and Mumtaz Hussain (all AFR); Andreas Bauer, Carlo Sdravovich, Ozgur Demirkol, Kamal Krishna, Luc Moers, Draqana Ostojic, and Younes Zouhar (all MCD). General guidance was provided by Sanjeev Gupta (FAD), Roger Nord (AFR), and Daniela Gressani (MCD). Production assistance was provided by Jeffrey Pichocki, Mileva Radisavljević, and Pierre Jean Albert (FAD).

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<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2011/wp11167.pdf>

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN

Topics Publications, media Data, indicators, maps The FOEN

Homepage > Topics > Topic Climate > Information for specialists > Measures CO2 Act > CO2 levy

Measures CO2 Act **CO2 levy**

CO2 levy

Imposition

Redistribution

The CO2 levy is a key instrument for achieving statutory CO2 emissions targets. This incentive tax on fossil combustible fuels, such as heating oil and natural gas, has been levied since 2008. In making fossil fuels more expensive, it creates an incentive to use them more economically and choose more carbon-neutral or low carbon energy sources.

<https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/climate/info-specialists/reduction-measures/co2-levy.html>

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Climate Bonus and Anti-Inflation Bonus Come Earlier

People > Other Published: August 25, 2022: 20:56 (Vindobona)

<https://www.vindobona.org/article/climate-bonus-and-anti-inflation-bonus-come-earlier>

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

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Canada > Department of Finance Canada > News

Government Announces Climate Action Incentive Payment Amounts for 2020

From: Department of Finance Canada

News release

December 16, 2019 - Ottawa, Ontario - Department of Finance Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2019/12/government-announces-climate-action-incentive-payment-amounts-for-2020.html>

WP/11/167

IMF Working Paper

Iran—The Chronicles of the Subsidy Reform

Dominique Guillaume, Roman Zytek, and Mohammad Reza Farzin

<https://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2013/012813a.pdf>

Levegő Munkacsoport

Lessons learnt from the fossil fuel price reform in Ghana

by Nadia M. Quashie, Intern at Clean Air Action Group (Hungary)

<https://www.levego.hu/sites/default/files/fossil-fuel-price-reform-in-ghana.pdf>

Levegő Munkacsoport

Lessons learnt from the meat price reform in Hungary in 1976

by András Lukács

Many people express concern about the possible negative effects of high energy prices due to increased energy taxes and/or a stringer emission trading system. However, there should not be any concern about increased energy prices affecting the poor if there will be proper compensation. Such compensation could be done quite easily, there is nothing new about this. An instructive example of such a measure is the Hungarian meat price reform. In the first half of the 1970s, meat was heavily subsidised in Hungary. In 1976, the

https://www.levego.hu/sites/default/files/Meat_price_reform_Hungary.pdf

**Average per capita external-cost payments for car use,
compensation, and the difference between them per income decile
in Hungary (EUR/person/year)
(CAAG's proposal)**

Income decile	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Payment for external costs	207	278	366	553	584	737	842	884	1142	1799
Compensation	921	921	921	921	921	921	921	921	0,00	0,00
Difference	714	643	555	368	337	184	79	37	-1142	-1799
Payment for external costs	207	278	366	553	584	737	842	884	1142	1799
Compensation	739	739	739	739	739	739	739	739	739	739
Difference	532	461	373	186	155	2	-103	-145	-403	-1060

<https://www.levego.hu/sites/default/files/kozlekedes-tamogatasdecilisek-en.pdf>

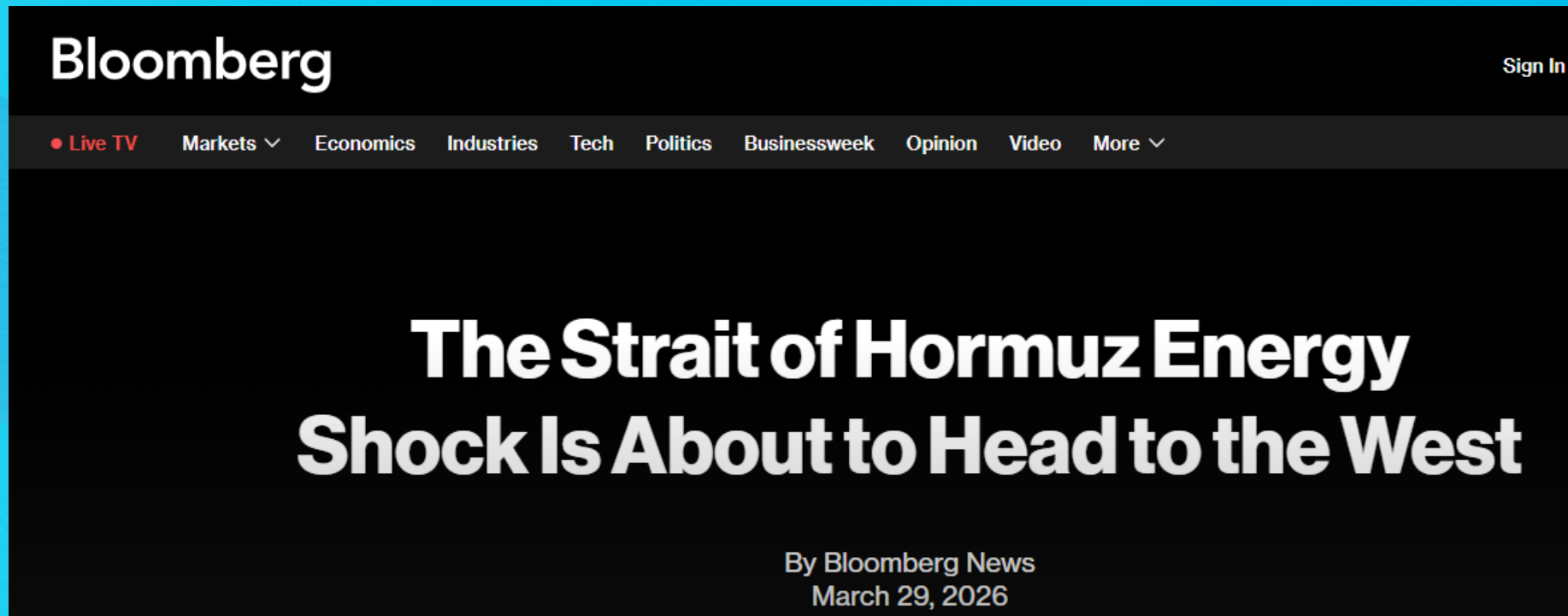


CARBON PRICING: GOOD FOR CITIZENS, GOOD FOR THE ECONOMY

KATALIN TARR · DECEMBER 11, 2025

<https://meta.eeb.org/2025/12/11/carbon-pricing-good-for-citizens-good-for-the-economy/>

Is it timely to advocate for higher taxes/removal of subsidies on oil today?



The image shows a screenshot of a Bloomberg news article header. The background is black with white text. At the top left is the 'Bloomberg' logo. At the top right is a 'Sign In' link. Below the logo is a navigation bar with links for 'Live TV', 'Markets', 'Economics', 'Industries', 'Tech', 'Politics', 'Businessweek', 'Opinion', 'Video', and 'More'. The main headline is 'The Strait of Hormuz Energy Shock Is About to Head to the West'. Below the headline, it says 'By Bloomberg News' and 'March 29, 2026'.

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The Strait of Hormuz Energy Shock Is About to Head to the West

By Bloomberg News
March 29, 2026

<https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2026-iran-war-hormuz-closure-oil-shock/>

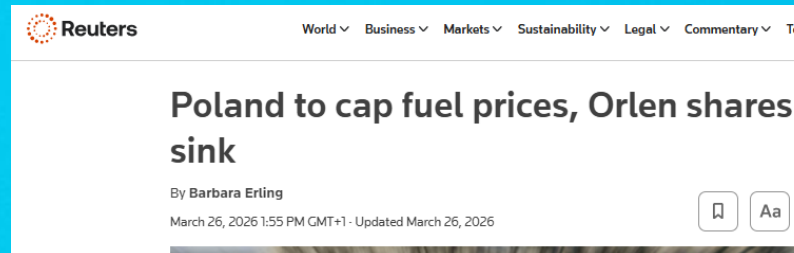
IT IS MORE TIMELY THAN EVER!

Governments are doing just the opposite of what should be done.



telex
Hungary reintroduces gasoline and diesel price caps
ENGLISH March 10, 2026 - 09:20 AM updated

<https://telex.hu/english/2026/03/10/hungary-reintroduces-gasoline-price-caps>



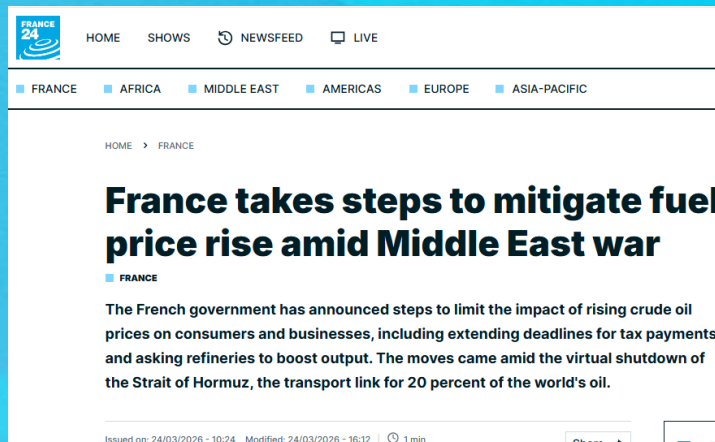
Reuters World Business Markets Sustainability Legal Commentary Tech
Poland to cap fuel prices, Orlen shares sink
By Barbara Erling
March 26, 2026 1:55 PM GMT+1 · Updated March 26, 2026

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/poland-cut-vat-excise-fuel-prices-surge-tvp-info-reports-2026-03-26/>



Reuters World Business Markets Sustainability Legal Commentary Technology
Czech, Romanian governments approve measures to stem fuel price rise
By Reuters
April 2, 2026 11:54 AM GMT+2 · Updated 16 hours ago

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/czech-government-cap-fuel-retailers-margins-lower-excise-tax-2026-04-02/>



FRANCE 24 HOME SHOWS NEWSFEED LIVE
FRANCE AFRICA MIDDLE EAST AMERICAS EUROPE ASIA-PACIFIC
HOME > FRANCE
France takes steps to mitigate fuel price rise amid Middle East war
FRANCE
The French government has announced steps to limit the impact of rising crude oil prices on consumers and businesses, including extending deadlines for tax payments and asking refineries to boost output. The moves came amid the virtual shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz, the transport link for 20 percent of the world's oil.
Issued on: 24/03/2026 - 10:24 Modified: 24/03/2026 - 16:12 1 min

<https://www.france24.com/en/france-takes-small-steps-to-mitigate-fuel-price-rise-amid-middle-east-war>



The Slovenia Times
BUSINESS POLITICS SOCIETY TRAVELS SPORT OPINION CORPORATE NEWS
Slovenia cushions fuel price rise with lower duties
March 9, 2026 - 20:22

<https://sloveniatimes.com/46843/slovenia-cushions-fuel-price-rise-with-lower-duties>



Reuters World Business Markets Sustainability Legal Commentary Technology
Italy to spend 417 million euros to cut excise duties on fuels, decree shows
By Reuters
March 19, 2026 11:22 AM GMT+1 · Updated March 19, 2026

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/italy-spend-417-million-euros-cut-excise-duties-fuels-decree-shows-2026-03-19/#:~:text=By%20Reuters,political%20stunt%20paid%20by%20taxpayers.>

42 reasons why fuel tax cuts and price caps just add fuel to the fire.

<https://theecologist.org/2023/jan/30/fuel-fire>

The Ecologist



Home » Comment

Fuel to the fire

András Lukács | 30th January 2023 | © The Author



Image: Andreas Lehner.

Source: Flickr
©Andreas Lehner / Creative Commons 2.0

42 reasons why fuel tax cuts and price caps just add fuel to the fire.

ClimateFair Monitor: Towards climate-neutral buildings and road transport



ClimateFair Monitor:
Towards climate-neutral
buildings and road transport

planning at the national level, identifying obstacles, best practices, lessons learned and mistakes committed.

The decarbonisation of buildings and road transport (DBRT) is high on the EU's agenda. Two powerful tools, the extension of the EU Emissions Trading System to cover these sectors (ETS2) and the Social Climate Fund (SCF) are expected to greatly contribute to this aim. These measures are closely related to households' daily life, making them socially sensitive and prone to be used by climate deniers to undermine the EU's climate policies.

The project aims to monitor the fairness, transparency and efficiency of current and proposed spending in DBRT and SCF, increase awareness among decision-makers and the general public, promote stakeholder participation, and thus help to build public support for effective carbon pricing and the best use of the revenues. The project also monitors the implementation of related policies, programmes and projects as far as the project partners' capacities allow. The project also contributes to the upcoming

Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Climate Action,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety



European
Climate Initiative
EUKI

on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag

Disclaimer: This document has been produced in the framework of the projects "ClimateFair Monitor: Towards climate-neutral buildings and road transport" funded by the European Climate Initiative (EUKI) and „For a Climate-friendly and Inclusive MFF" funded by the European Commission. EUKI is a project financing instrument by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN). The EUKI call for project ideas is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. It is the overarching goal of the EUKI to foster climate cooperation within the European Union (EU) [in order to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions](#).



https://www.levego.hu/en/campaigns/climatefair_monitor/

The opinions put forward in this document are the sole responsibility of Clean Air Action Group and do not necessarily reflect the views of the other project partners or the funders.

The Project „For a Climate-friendly and Inclusive MFF



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REPORT - February 2026

Taxing fossil fuel profits, not consumers

Recommendations:

- 1 Introduce a differentiated corporate tax framework for fossil fuel companies, building on the experience of the 2022 EU solidarity contribution**, to reverse the long-term decline in effective corporate taxation in the sector.
- 2 Prioritise profit-based taxation to complement existing consumption-based carbon pricing** when raising revenue from fossil fuels, as the risk of pass-through of taxes on corporate profits and capital income on to consumers are minimal.
- 3 Extend and institutionalise taxation of fossil fuel windfall and excess profits**, moving beyond one-off or temporary measures towards a more stable and predictable fiscal approach. An EU Regulation would ideally be needed to ensure the coordinated introduction of such a tax in all Member States. This would reduce the scope for aggressive tax planning and tax avoidance (profit shifting) within the EU.
- 4 Explicitly prohibit the pass-through of fossil fuel profit taxes to consumers** (households and businesses) in the legal design of any new tax. Establish a common EU-level methodology to monitor price pass-through, enabling effective enforcement of pass-through bans and the application of sanctions where violations occur.
- 5 Ensure strong flanking measures for workers in the fossil fuel sector**, so that the transition encouraged by higher taxation does not affect income, employment or working conditions. These measures include social conditionalities in public aid to companies to incentivise the creation and protection of quality jobs in the EU; a Just Transition Directive to anticipate and manage changes for workers in the fossil fuel industry; and full implementation of the Adequate Minimum Wage Directive target of collective bargaining coverage of 80%, including in new emerging green sectors.
- 6 To avoid profit shifting and tax abuses, put an obligation on fossil fuel companies to report their taxes on a public country-by-country reporting basis.** The threshold for fossil fuel companies to report on their tax payments should be lower than the current €750 million consolidated group revenue, and made public to all jurisdictions (as opposed to only EU jurisdictions and named harmful tax jurisdictions under the EU country-by-country reporting Directive).
- 7 Recycle revenues from fossil fuel profit taxes into the energy transition**, including: Support targeted consumer protection measures to guarantee vulnerable households and firms the right to energy, for renewable energy deployment, energy efficiency improvements, and reduction of fossil fuel dependence in heating, cooling, and transport, and for international climate finance.
- 8 Use fossil fuel profit taxation as a structural signal to investors**, discouraging continued investment in fossil fuel activities while allowing space for incentives that support genuine investments in renewable energy and related storage capacity.

<https://caneurope.org/taxing-fossil-fuel-profits-not-consumers/>

Press Release

Oil companies set to make €24 billion in excess profits from European drivers this year

March 30, 2026

T&E calls for a temporary tax on oil companies' super-profits

Oil majors are set to make a €24 billion[1] windfall from European drivers off the back of the latest conflict in the Middle East, [a new T&E tracker](#) shows[2]. Oil companies have already made €1.3 billion in excess profits, the analysis shows. T&E calls on the EU to implement a tax on excess profits and use the funds to support Europeans to become less vulnerable to future oil shocks.

Refiners and distributors set to earn €24 billion in excess profits on EU road fuels by the end of 2026

Estimates based on EU fuel prices between 2 March and 23 March, relative to pre-war levels



Source: Oil Bulletin, Bloomberg, UNFCCC, Eurostat



<https://www.transportenvironment.org/articles/oil-companies-set-to-make-eur24-billion-in-excess-profits-from-european-drivers-this-year>

Investments in nuclear energy would only exacerbate the problem (huge opportunity costs, time loss, etc.)



Levegő Munkacsoport

Building the nuclear power plant Paks II vs
improving the energy efficiency of buildings

Discussion paper

How many homes could be upgraded to be energy efficient with the money that would be spent on building the new Hungarian nuclear power station, Paks II? How much energy could we save with that money and how much energy would Paks II actually produce? These are the questions we are trying to answer.

<https://www.levego.hu/sites/default/files/nuclear-power-station-Paks-II-vs-energy-efficiency-CAAG.pdf>

Thank you for your attention.



András Lukács

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Clean Air Action Group's poster at the ARC Exhibition in Budapest

Photo by Ferenc Susánszky, CAAG