



Kyiv, 20 December 2023

Directorate-General for Energy,
Directorate-General for Neighbourhood
and Enlargement Negotiations,
European Commission,
Rue de la Loi 15/Wetstraat 15,
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, Belgium

Dear Ms. Ditte Juul Jørgensen,
Dear Mr. Gert Jan Koopman,

We, the undersigned heads of Ukrainian coal communities and heads of NGOs working on just transition, are thankful for the possibility of being continuously involved in the activities of the Initiative for coal regions in transition in Western Balkans and Ukraine. So, it was quite regrettable to hear that it will stop functioning in its current form in 2024, as announced at the last Annual meeting.

We want to stress that the Initiative has helped us considerably since its establishment three years ago. It gave us real opportunities for networking, knowledge exchange, and learning through visiting other coal regions to see the examples of transformation with our own eyes so that we could learn whether similar solutions could be implemented in our communities.

During the last Annual meeting, it was mentioned that a separate Initiative for Western Balkans would be established, while nothing was mentioned about the future of the Initiative for Ukrainian coal regions.

We are adamant that the European Commission's support for just transition processes in Ukraine should also be continued through a similar Initiative or other format.

Given Ukraine's candidate status for accession to the European Union and the inevitable start of the membership negotiations, we insist on the importance of our European integration as a foundation for long-term development and a successful transition to a just and sustainable fossil-free future. We realise that our communities face significant challenges caused by the Russian full-scale invasion, but we still fully stand by our efforts¹ to plan and implement just transition measures.

We would appreciate any form of the Initiative for coal regions to be in place which would still support Ukrainian coal regions on our just transition journey, considering our challenges and needs. We, Ukrainians, don't want to be left behind.

Signatories:

Myrnohrad city military Administration	Yurii Kliuchka
Dobropillia city military administration	Andrii Bondarenko
Vuhledar city military administration	Serhii Novikov
Novovolynsk city territorial community	Borys Karpus
Chervonohrad city territorial community	Andrii Zalivskyi

¹ Coal mining communities joined forces and developed a common concept of just transition in the Reconstruction: <https://en.ecoaction.org.ua/concept-of-just-transition-in-the-reconstruction.html>



Ternivka city territorial community

Lytovezh village territorial community

Pavlohrad city territorial community

Verbky rural territorial community

Mykolaivka village territorial community

Pokrovsk city military administration

Hirske city military administration

NGO "Territory of Sustainable Development"

NGO "Pravopolis"

NGO Centre for Environmental Initiatives "Ecoaction"

NGO Luhansk Human rights centre "Alternatyva"

Vitalii Tarelkin

Olena Kasyanchuk

Anatolii Vershyna

Vitalii Kryvoshei

Viktor Odoievtsev

Serhii Dobriak

Oleksii Babchenko

Hanna Telychko

Valeriia Tishchenko

Olga Polunina

Valerii Novykov