



# *Bring The Bills Down*

**S&D GROUP'S  
WINTER SOLIDARITY PLAN  
TO BRING THE BILLS DOWN  
WITH 15 SOLUTIONS  
FOR PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES**

S&Ds propose a Winter Solidarity Package for people and businesses to help them weather the social and economic crisis brought about by Putin's war against Ukraine.

This truly progressive and socially just plan foresees 15 solutions to ensure solidarity and fairness, adequate energy measures to bring the prices down, and a sturdy social shield:

### **SOLIDARITY**

- 1** An EU Winter Solidarity Package to support people as well as small and medium businesses struggling with skyrocketing costs of living. This support should include:
  - > €100 billion of immediate support for families most affected by energy poverty;
  - > immediate income support measures under the Social Climate Fund;
  - > a permanent fiscal capacity;
  - > a permanent EU jobs fund (SURE\*);
  - > loans for SMEs
- 2** An adequate EU fiscal policy, including:
  - > the extension of the clause allowing the maximum flexibility of the fiscal rules for as long as needed, and
  - > the exemption of targeted measures related to the energy crisis from the calculation of the deficit within the fiscal rules.
- 3** An extension of the solidarity contribution, which is now required only from energy sector, to all sectors benefiting from windfall profits, and at least to banking and pharmaceutical sectors.
- 4** Ending Orbán's veto on minimum tax for multinationals.

### **BRINGING ENERGY PRICES DOWN**

- 5** Price cap on gas imports to lower bills for consumers. The cap should apply to both pipeline gas and LNG and should be negotiated with reliable third countries.
- 6** Temporary breaking the link between gas and electricity prices to immediately alleviate the burden of electricity bills.
- 7** Banning speculation and manipulation in the gas market.
- 8** Buying energy together as the EU, following the model used to buy vaccines in the Covid-19 pandemic, to increase the EU's bargaining power and achieve lower negotiated prices with reliable third countries.
- 9** Boosting investment in renewable energy production and gas and electricity interconnections.
- 10** Ensuring energy savings.

### **PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

- 11** Boost salaries with decent minimum wages. Member states should start implementing the new European law on minimum wages immediately.
- 12** Ensuring an adequate minimum income. European recommendations need to become law to guarantee that every person in Europe is covered by a minimum income scheme and that pensions ensure an income above the poverty line.
- 13** Securing the right to a warm home. Disconnecting vulnerable people from gas and electricity should be prohibited because having affordable heat and electricity is a basic right. Nobody should need to choose between eating, heating and cooling. This should also include reviewing the legislation to ensure access to essential services, such as energy, transport, water and sanitation.
- 14** Protecting children from poverty through a bolstered European Child Guarantee scheme with a dedicated funding of at least €20 billion.
- 15** Organising a new Social Summit to cope with the extraordinary social and economic situation.

*\*SURE is the European instrument for temporary support to mitigate unemployment risks in an emergency.*