

27 July 2021, Brussels

To:

Ms Ursula von der Leyen

President of the European Commission
Head of the Recovery and Resilience Task Force (RECOVER)
ec-president-vdl@ec.europa.eu

For information to:

Ms Margrethe Vestager

Executive Vice-President of the European Commission
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Ms Kadri Simson

European Commissioner for Energy
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Mr Nicolas Schmit

European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights
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HE Mr Ioannis Vrailas

Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Greece to the European Union
mea.bruxelles@rp-grece.be

Re: Proof of taxpayers' money used within the Temporary Framework Support in favour of Greek oil and gas company Energean

Dear President von der Leyen,

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of industriAll European Trade Union, representing seven million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing industries in Europe, including Greece.

We are disturbed to hear reports from our Greek affiliated trade union, the Panhellenic Energy Federation (PEF), in relation to how the EU's COVID-19 support of €100 million to the Greek oil and gas company, Energean Oil and Gas S.A, is being misused.

The measures were approved under the State aid [Temporary Framework](#) to support the economy and specifically support and maintain employment during the current COVID-19 outbreak (2020/C 91 I/01 and C/2020/1863).

It is therefore most concerning to hear from the PEF that mass dismissals have been announced without proper information and consultation, enforced changes to employment contracts have been made, and serious health and safety issues have been raised at Energean Oil and Gas S.A.

Consultation of workers' representatives at the company immediately stopped after Energean Oil and Gas S.A received the approved State aid.

IndustriAll Europe strongly welcomed the adoption and implementation of the Temporary Framework in 2020. These supportive measures have ensured the recovery of the European economy and maintained many jobs during this unprecedented crisis.

Social dialogue and consultation of social partners are another key pillar of European action to ensure the recovery of the economy in the aftermath of the pandemic in all member states. Therefore, we believe the following issues must be addressed and we would be keen to discuss these further with you (or your services):

- Considering the objective of maintaining jobs within the Temporary Framework, what safeguards exist for existing jobs and social conditions in such a sensitive industry, notably within the State aid approval for Energean Oil and Gas S.A?
- What are the consequences for State aid recipients in the Temporary Framework in the case of mass dismissals of workers at the company and their replacement with outsourced and cheaper contractors, which undermines the EU Pillar of Social Rights?

We hope that you will share our concerns about how taxpayers' money has been used in this case and that you will raise the appropriate questions directly with the Greek authorities and your services.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Luc Triangle
General Secretary
IndustriAll European Trade Union