





**Draft resolution of the Vienna Memorandum Group**

**on the energy price crisis, the Green Deal and the ETS**

*The resolution is addressed to individual governments, the EU, industriAll Europe, member organizations of industriAll Europe*

In the countries of the Vienna Memorandum Group (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Austria and Germany/Bavaria), similar to other countries of the European Union, unresolved problems are piling up. Inflation is skyrocketing and, in some countries, reaching double-digit values, it is reflected in the prices of all products, food and services, as well as in people's fears about future developments. As a result of inflation, real wages fall and workers' purchasing power is eroded. Even the current collectively agreed wage increases are not enough to compensate for this drop in wages due to inflation. The number of households at risk of poverty is increasing every day, and it is no longer only single-parent households.

We, the trade unions of the Vienna Memorandum Group, do not want to wait for companies that employ our members to go bankrupt thanks to enormous energy costs. The loss of these jobs would be irreplaceable. Businesses must function and people must have jobs that will support them well and that will keep the consumption of the population at the required level.

In such a critical time, individual governments and the EU need to act! To solve the real problems of people and companies before the European economy falls into a deep recession. Employees are once again the victims of this crisis, which they did not cause. There is a deepening of existing inequality, a disruption of social peace in society and a division of people. The most affected are not only poorly paid employees and vulnerable groups, but also the middle class, which is already experiencing a sharp drop in living standards.

***The countries of the Vienna Memorandum group therefore appeal to the EU authorities and the governments of the individual countries to:***

* Immediately cap the final prices of all energy (electricity, gas and heating) for households, including rents and companies, so that they are affordable and do not lead to an increase in the poverty of citizens and a decrease in the competitiveness of manufacturing companies, or increased competition between individual EU member states as a result different national subsidy regimes. We note that capping energy prices is only the first step, further measures will be necessary, such as the separation of electricity prices from gas prices and measures against the abuse of market power and speculative transactions.
* Regulate not only energy prices, but also basic necessities of life in order to prevent speculation with the prices of goods and services.
* Ensure the maintenance of jobs by using programs to support the reduction of the risk of unemployment (Sure 2.0).
* Effectively taxed extraordinary profits (which has already been agreed at European level) to finance measures against energy poverty and maintain purchasing power. However, taxation at 33 percent is only the beginning, it will be necessary to take more ambitious steps in the coming years aimed at capturing profits hidden in tax havens.
* Minimize the impact of additional carbon costs under the emissions trading system and prevent speculative trading of emission allowances by all means. The signatories of the Vienna Memorandum group welcome the agreement of the European Council and the European Parliament to reorganize emissions trading in the European Union, and it will now be crucial for CBAM to act as a new tool against carbon leakage and protect sustainable industrial production in Europe.
* Support the implementation of the Directive on adequate minimum wages in the EU without unnecessary delays, i.e., to provide support for collective bargaining, especially at the sectoral level, with the aim of preserving the purchasing power of employees and citizens.
* Continue wage convergence in order to reduce the wage gap in the East and West of the EU.
* Adopt a realistic, meaningful and sustainable industrial policy at both European and national levels, which will ensure that companies invest their profits in transformation and not in the pockets of their shareholders.
* Reassess the time frame for the implementation of the Green Deal and follow-up policies to take into account the current geopolitical problems caused by the war in Ukraine (while maintaining the originally set course and goals).
* Took steps to maintain and preserve a competitive industry in the EU, the EU must remain a continent where we can live, work and do business decently, and not to turn into an inhospitable deindustrialized continent.

The EU and governments must guide citizens and companies through the current exceptional crisis so that no one who works and thus contributes to the country's economic performance, well-being and the budget of their country is not harmed.

**Governments are here for the people, not people for the governments.**

\*\*\*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| PRO-GE AustriaPresident Rainer Wimmer | SKEI SloveniaPresident Lidija Jerkič |
| OS KOVO Czech RepublicPresident Roman Ďurčo | VASAS HungaryPresident Lívia Spieglné dr. Balogh |
| OZ KOVO SlovakiaPresident Monika Benedekova | IG METALL Bayern GermanyPresident Johann Horn |