

FOSSIL FREE POLITICS: IN DEPTH DEMANDS



Overarching rationale:

To avert climate breakdown, the vast majority of the fossil fuel industry's gas, oil, and coal reserves need to stay in the ground. Fossil fuel lobbyists have relentlessly tried for decades to deny science, and delay, weaken, and sabotage climate action - despite knowing their business heats the planet and destroys communities. Their business model is killing our future. To tackle the climate emergency, and ensure that climate policy is conducted entirely in the public interest, we must cut fossil fuel interests out of our politics, similar to existing restrictions on the tobacco industry.

We need a fossil free politics before it's too late. This means no more meetings, conflicts of interest, partnerships, or collaborations with fossil fuel lobbyists in our democratic institutions (including the UN and EU institutions).

In concrete terms, this would mean:

1) Institute a firewall to end fossil fuel industry access to decision-making: no lobby meetings; no seats in expert and advisory bodies; no role in governmental research bodies.

This would include but not be limited to:

- **Ending lobby meetings** with the fossil fuel industry but also interactions with organisations or individuals that work to further the interests of the fossil fuel industry, such as consultancies, law firms, think tanks and public relations (PR) companies;
- Interactions with the fossil fuel industry should only occur where strictly necessary to enable lawmakers, regulatory bodies, and public authorities to effectively regulate the industry and accelerate the transition to a fossil free Europe.
- Where interactions do occur, they must be requested by public officials or law makers and be conducted transparently, for example through public hearings, public notice of interactions, minutes of meetings.
- Fossil fuel corporations and their representatives are excluded from participation in public institutions' **expert and advisory bodies** (including representatives of fossil fuel corporations who are 'in personal capacity');
- Fossil fuel corporations and their representatives are **excluded from participation in public research bodies**;

2) Address vested interests: no conflict of interest, no revolving door between public office and the fossil fuel industry; no industry side jobs or placements; no hiring of industry consultants.

This would include but not be limited to:

- **Closing the revolving door** by introducing restrictions on moving from the public sector to the fossil fuel industry or vice-versa (5 years for regular officials/staff; 10 years for Commissioners or ministers. No placements, internships or sabbaticals from fossil fuel company staff in governments or the other way around)
- Members of parliaments **can't have any side jobs** with fossil fuel companies, either directly or indirectly (e.g. working for law firms or consultancies that provide services to fossil fuel companies).
- Public authorities do **not hire consultancies or other contractors** for services related to climate and energy policy-making if these consultancies also work for fossil fuel companies.

3) End preferential treatment of the fossil fuel industry: no involvement in climate negotiations; no place on government delegations to international negotiations or trade missions; no more subsidies or incentives for the use of fossil fuels or activities that promote or prolong the use of fossil fuels.

This would include but not be limited to:

- Excluding fossil fuel corporations and their representatives from regional, national or EU **delegations to international negotiations** and on **trade missions** to other countries
- **Not giving any public subsidies** or other incentives, including favourable tax regimes, for the use of fossil fuels or activities that promote or prolong the use of fossil fuels.

4) Reject partnerships with the fossil fuel industry: no sponsorships or partnerships; no sharing platforms with industry representatives; no hosting or attending of industry events; no party or candidate donations.

This would include but not be limited to:

- Governments and/or decision makers **not accepting any sponsorship, partnership or other direct or indirect gifts/donations/support** from fossil fuel companies or representatives.
- Public authority representatives do **not appear at fossil fuel sponsored events**, debates or activities, and **do not invite fossil fuel corporations** or representatives for public debates, events or other activities.
- Fossil fuel companies or their representatives (including consultancies, law firms and public relation companies) are **not allowed to organise events**, exhibitions or other activities on **government premises, including national and European parliaments**.
- Political parties, politicians and their campaign vehicles not accepting money or donations in kind from the fossil fuel industry.

At regional, national and European level, there are sufficient resources and administrative capacity to implement and monitor this policy. They are also provided with effective sanctions and enforcement mechanisms.