

## Draft letter to EB regarding ties with the fossil fuel industry

Dear board members,

Regarding the recent wave of occupations throughout the Netherlands and the discussions that followed, both on a university and a national level, we have also elaborately discussed our university's involvement with the fossil fuel industry. Furthermore, considering the recent decision by our own department of International Social Studies (ISS) and the decision by the VU Amsterdam to (conditionally) cut all ties, we think it is time that our university takes the first concrete steps to act.

First of all we want to emphasize that we are happy to see that the first steps towards transparency are taken, as this is a necessary step in the transition process. The council does acknowledge and recognize the (practical) difficulties that would come with the decision to cut ties with the fossil fuel industry, which is a possible outcome of the trajectory we would hereby like to suggest. However, given the urgency of this topic, the council is of the opinion that now is the time to put at least the two following things in motion, so we may prevent unnecessary delay in the decision making process:

1. We advocate for a one-year moratorium on collaborations with the fossil industry. During this stop, no new collaborations will be started, even if they are the result of ongoing applications. To protect researchers, existing projects can continue, provided they have nothing directly to do with fossil fuel extraction, processing or distribution.

During this year, a committee can be set up to assess whether the companies covered by the moratorium are eligible for restoration, under strict conditions, or permanent termination of partnerships. The one-and-a-half degree target of the Paris Climate Agreement should be a guiding principle in this assessment. The council has already collaborated with EUR-experts (such as the DIT platform) to come up with concrete proposals; these can be shared with the committee to help guide the discussion.

2. We ask the board to sign [the emergency letter](#) to the Dutch parliament, asking for an end to all fossil fuel subsidies that are making the climate crisis much worse and prevent an urgent and more just transition to renewable energy.

We would like to point out that we deem these first steps we are proposing to be reasonable, as they are simply in line with the Paris Climate Agreement and based on scientific consensus surrounding the climate and ecological crisis. Many fossil fuel companies, are starting new drilling projects all over the world and are clearly committed to expanding their production of fossil fuels rather than pushing for an energy transition, which is our primary source of concern. A one-year moratorium gives us the necessary time to carefully consider the conditions under which collaborations can actually contribute to a more just and swift energy transition.

Lastly we would like to inform you that the University Council will reach out to other University Councils to collaborate on this topic, as it affects not just our university but all universities in the Netherlands.

We look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

Erasmus University Council