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## Clean energy for a free world

Over the past year, we have been saying that the war in Ukraine has shown who is who: this devastating situation has exposed lies, silence and selfish interests. People have now finally opened their eyes to what is happening in energy.

After 2014, when Russia violated international law, sanctions were imposed. But even in Europe, they did not want to give up the comfortable life they had acquired thanks to Russian coal, oil and gas.

After 2014, when Russia's war against Ukraine began, Putin was building Nord Stream 2, and Germany refused to stop construction against the wishes of many Eastern European states. Only a full-scale invasion on 24th February 2022 and the death of thousands of Ukrainians could stop the construction. As Putin kills Ukrainian women and children, Russian gas is contaminated with their blood. Buying fossil fuels is funding his war machine.

This war has shown that energy independence is a necessity; indeed, it is the national security of any country. And now green energy will play an important role.

When we talk about clean energy, we don't only mean energy with no carbon emissions. Clean energy is also energy from clean countries with a clean regime. Today, Russia is breaking all laws and regulations by using energy as a weapon. Who will be next?

The free world cannot be dependent on its enemies for its energy. Of course, you can cooperate with a country where the law reigns, where human rights are respected, and all norms are observed. But being dependent on countries ruled by a tyrant is always a bad idea. This is a trap. Are we ready to sacrifice freedom for energy dependence? I think not.

Dictatorships and authoritarian regimes do not think about the environment. Only democratic, free countries, where they respect the law and respect people, care about this issue.

Look at what the dictator Putin is doing now. He has started a war in a free country, seized Europe's largest nuclear power plant at Zaporizhzhya, and blackmailed the whole world with a nuclear disaster. In addition to having nuclear weapons and the ability to blackmail with nuclear missiles, he further seized energy facilities to use for his criminal purposes. Nuclear power plants should work for the benefit of people, help industry, help develop the country - but in

the hands of a tyrant they turn into a dirty tool of blackmail. In the hands of a tyrant, a necessary thing becomes a potential threat.

Or let's look at the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station. This is a water-powered generator that does not emit carbon into the atmosphere. But Putin captured it and blew it up, flooding the towns downstream. And once again such a necessary and useful source of energy turned into a real threat.

Let's go further. Putin is now ordering missiles to be fired at energy infrastructure. This is not just blackmail; it's terrorism. That is, he uses an attack on energy facilities as a tool of war against civilians.

Therefore, we can conclude that authoritarian, despotic, tyrannical regimes should not be able to establish control over energy supplies and pipelines. Otherwise, with the threat of blackmail, free countries will not be able to exist.

We must explain to all people in all countries that it is better to have one harsh winter than to be constantly blackmailed by a tyrant. Should we have anything in common with people who are willing to say they will send missiles if we give up gas? It looks more like madness than politics. This is definitely not democracy; this is terrorism. If we allow unfree countries to dictate their terms, the whole world will be engulfed in chaos.

Are climate issues important? Very. Is it necessary to engage in climate policy? Yes. But in order to engage, it is necessary to have a world order where countries with democratic regimes have the largest share in the global economy, have the most powerful militaries, and have the most powerful intellectual sphere. First must come the economy and military power, then the climate. And only in this order.

How many dictatorial, authoritarian, or undemocratic regimes are taking care of the climate? What serious climate protection programmes are there in Russia or China? Are they trying to extract

oil more ecologically in Iran? It sounds like a joke. Because we all know that these regimes are not interested in preserving the land, but in preserving their power. And when we say that we need a climate agenda, that our mission is to save the earth, it is true. But on this earth we live together. Ukraine, UK, Germany, China, or Russia, we are all on the same globe, where it is impossible to make the climatic conditions in Germany better than in China. If Germany stops CO2 emissions and China doesn't, this will not change anything.

Ukraine will win this war, and then our country will have to rebuild. When wars end, nations must rebuild what worked before and reform what didn't. In Ukraine we will not only have to rebuild our infrastructure, our schools, hospitals and homes, but also the economic relationships that led us here. Just as our allies are doing now, we will have to rebuild our own energy system to be resilient and independent. This will mean building renewables and nuclear power back up and diversifying our energy sources so that a single attack cannot turn the lights off. These low carbon energy sources dispersed across the country will make it harder to attack our energy while bringing people cheaper and cleaner energy. We cannot allow our country to be run on energy that could again be manipulated by a hostile country.

We will also need to rebuild our economic system. As Russia's armies have retreated, they have burned fields and destroyed businesses in order to inflict as much destruction as possible. Many people have been displaced and rebuilding their livelihoods will be a huge challenge. We cannot do this on our own. Providing support for Ukraine to build, and to build back greener and more resilient, will send a clear message about the solidarity of nations within Europe and the path that Ukraine has chosen. It will also show a clear commitment to our shared values of freedom and democracy. A stronger Ukraine will lead to a stronger Europe and ultimately a stronger free world.

The fight for the climate is a fight for the world order. Whoever controls the world economically, politically, and militarily can impose their agenda on this world. And if it is us, the free world, then we can talk about the climate and we can really achieve change. If it is China or Russia, then I will disappoint you: neither the climate, nor human rights, nor freedom of speech, nor any of our important and very necessary issues will be dealt with, but the opposite will happen.

The fight for climate change begins with the fight for world order. Only then can we save the Earth. Only by being strong can we achieve change. There is no other way.