



DG Energy
European Commission
1049 Brussels
Belgium

via email: ENER-PLATFORM-IAG@ec.europa.eu

4 October 2022

To whom it may concern:

We are writing to you to nominate Daniel Urban, Chairman of the Board of the Czech Steel Union (Ocelářská unie), as a member EU ENERGY PLATFORM INDUSTRY ADVISORY GROUP to represent the interests of large energy users.

The energy crisis in the European Union represents a grave danger to European industry. Our sectors dependent on natural gas and electricity the supplies of which have been severely damaged by the war in Ukraine. Security of supply, reasonable prices and functioning energy markets are of vital interest to our companies. Many of them have had to stop their production already as they had been unable to continue paying extremely high energy bills. This threat concerns hundreds of large and small companies and hundreds of thousands of people in the steel, chemical, cement, lime, ceramic, brick, glass and paper industries in the Czech Republic as well as their suppliers and customers.

These companies include the largest natural gas and electricity consumers in the country that could be at the forefront of joint purchasing, demand aggregation, and diversification. Their voice needs to

be heard and that is why we are nominating our representative to the EU ENERGY PLATFORM INDUSTRY ADVISORY GROUP.

Industry and our sectors must be at the lead of REPower EU. The EU needs to look for new ways to ensure security of supply while preserving a functioning gas market to provide the right signals to market participants and investors. We also need to reduce energy consumption and completely replace Russian natural gas supplies as soon as possible. Having functioning energy markets and affordable energy is a precondition for the EU economy to thrive and maintain its global competitiveness. Only then we can continue to be the global leader in decarbonisation.

Daniel Urban has many years of experience from the gas sector, having worked for the RWE group in the Czech Republic. He knows intimately the infrastructure, business, gas trading, global production trends and flows, the role of seasonal balancing and spot markets. He is well-versed in EU energy-related legislation. He was involved in unbundling RWE's infrastructure business in the Czech Republic from the trading side based on the second Gas Package. He is also well-versed in the relationship between the gas and power markets. In 2009, he served as the Commission's expert on a fact-finding mission to Ukraine during the 2009 energy crisis. In his role as head of the Czech steelmaking association, he is deeply involved in energy policy and markets from the side of large consumers that represent the bulk of EU consumption. can contribute to a constructive debate about the gradual replacement of piped natural gas with LNG and then hydrogen as well as about the necessary investments to develop infrastructure and ensure security of supply while keeping gas and electricity affordable, a key prerequisite for a stable European society.

Thank you very much for considering this nomination.

Sincerely,



Daniel Urban
Chairman of the Board
Steel Union



Petr Mazzolini
President
Association of the Glass and
Ceramic Industry



Roman Blažíček
Vice President
Union of Entrepreneurs in the
Construction Industry



Ivan Souček
Director
Association of the Chemical
Industry



Jaroslav Tymich
President
Association of the Pulp and
Paper Industry



Karel Šimeček
Executive Secretary
Association of Large Energy
Consumers



Josef Kotek
Chairman of the Board
Brick Association of Bohemia
and Moravia



Milan Schuller
Chairman
Czech Lime Association



Jan Gemrich
Executive Secretary
Union of Cement
Manufacturers