

Mobilisation by Code Red against Engie gathers pace

In the beginning of May, Code Red announced that their next action would target Engie, the most climate-damaging company in Belgium. At just a couple of weeks from the start of the action, Code Red reports hundreds of enrollments, supported by an ongoing stream of info-sessions and trainings, all over Belgium.

The Belgian movement of mass civil disobedience action is pitching its tents at one of Engie's locations, this summer, from 5th till 9th of July. Although the exact place of the action is held secret until the very last moment, participants are given the possibility to follow a training that will allow them to take part in the action regardless of their level of experience. "I feel inspired, motivated and empowered to take action against the polluting companies who worsen the climate crisis. We need to take action collectively and do it now," says Lowie from End Fossil Gent, who just followed a Code Red training in Gent.

"The participants denounce the climate, social and human disaster caused by the activities of companies like Engie" explains Peter Paul. "Engie has made huge profits in recent years in a context of deep social and climate crisis, where families no longer know how to pay their energy bills. " In 2022, the industrial giant paid out €3.4 billion in dividends to its shareholders. In addition to those super-profits, the company benefits from a financial support of the Belgian state, such as a grant of €1 billion, shared between Engie and Luminus, for the construction of new gas power plants, one in Flémalle (Engie) and one in Seraing (Luminus). Public money knowingly spent on destroying the planet.

In view of these indecent profits, Code Red reiterates its solidarity with the workers of Engie, and keeps a close relationship with the workers unions, aware that this summer's action will affect their workplace. "The workers of the fossil industry need to be included in the necessary energy revolution, with a retraining plan, driven by trade unions, into meaningful jobs in a sustainable economy," says Alena.

Meanwhile, Engie unveiled last week their new scenario for "[net-zero neutrality around 2050](#)", which envisions the creation of 600 GW of additional flexible capacity, part of which rests on even more gas-powered plants. A new capacity promised to be carbon-free by 2050, and that in discordance with the IEA, who stated that [all electricity production in Europe should be carbon-free by 2040 2035](#). Furthermore, Engie's new scenario relies heavily on "carbon-free hydrogen" for sectors such as transports and industry, a technology whose scaling is [very unlikely to keep up with the amount needed](#) to render all our fossil-powered usages carbon-neutral in the time-frame that is given us to comply with the Paris agreement.

Faced with these disastrous political choices, Code Red made public their decision to use civil disobedience as their method of action. "If the fossil industry has the permission to keep destroying the planet and our future, then these actions are more than legitimate. It's our duty as citizens to act against this. By deliberately breaking the law, we are part of a long history of social struggles, where legitimate resistance opposes the power of corporations that put shareholder's profit before people and life. If the law does not punish the fossil industry, we will do it" says Léo.

Code Rouge will continue to take disobedience actions until companies and governments stop investing in the fossil industry.

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