

Thursday 8 July 2021

Open letter to Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, President, European Commission and Executive Vice President Commissioner Timmermans

Call for a massive acceleration of capacity build-up of renewable energy in Europe

Dear President von der Leyen,
dear Executive Vice President Timmermans,

A successful transformation towards climate neutrality fundamentally rests on a European approach towards the massive acceleration of renewable energy deployment for industrial transformation.

As a unique alliance between Members of the European Parliament and CEOs from leading companies, which have pledged climate neutrality by 2050, we are jointly calling upon the Commission to show more ambition and determination when it comes to making Europe's energy system fit, already for 2030. All planned policies and measures being decided now are paving the road to climate neutrality in 2050, and that is why today's action counts.

Today, a massive ramp-up of renewable energy production must ensure that the EU renewable energy system is operational as soon as possible. Although EU's Renewed Industrial strategy falls short in this regard, with the upcoming legislative package we have another chance to set this right.

If the EU is to be a front runner for climate friendly manufacturing through the deployment of low carbon process technologies and ground-breaking innovations, the key enablers are infrastructure, access to abundant renewable electricity supply and rapid commercialization of new processes at competitive energy prices. Without a stronger European policy focus and increased investments boosting the availability of renewables for industrial use, we not only risk delaying needed GHG reductions, affecting industrial competitiveness but also our overall credibility to deliver on our common commitments.

We are still far from the needed volumes and capacity in terms of renewable energy to unleash the industrial electrification business case, as the Green Deal and its measures require. Only through the build-up of a truly European framework and by integrating national attempts, we will manage this successfully. To speed up industrial electrification efforts, we must abolish grid bottlenecks quickly, ensure that cross-border interconnectors enable free flow of energy between countries, avoid barriers for renewable energy integration of the power used in industry and ensure access to industrial consumers with no local/regional capacities.

Many companies in the European Union are ready "to walk the talk", so should the European Commission. The fundament of tomorrow's single market needs to be laid out today - thereby supply side and demand side measures need to go hand in hand. Global competitors are moving fast. We must not fall behind in our actions. Now is the time to act and be resolute. This is the only way to ensure we can kick start the journey towards deep industrial emissions reductions already before 2030.

Yours sincerely,

Signatories from the European Parliament and industry CEOs

CC to:
Executive Vice President Commissioner Dombrovskis, Executive Vice President Commissioner Vestager,
Commissioner Simson and Commissioner Sinkevičius

Members of the European Parliament (18)

MEP Hildegard Bentele, EPP
MEP Nicola Beer, Renew
MEP Michael Bloss, Greens/EFA
MEP Daniel Caspary, EPP
MEP Sara Cerdas, S&D
MEP Mohamed Chahim, S&D
MEP Bas Eickhout, Greens/EFA
MEP Jens Geier, S&D
MEP Andreas Glück, Renew
MEP Jytte Guteland, S&D
MEP Svenja Hahn, Renew
MEP Martin Hojsik, Renew
MEP Peter Liese, EPP
MEP Ville Niinistö, Greens/EFA
MEP Christoph Oetjen, Renew
MEP Dragoş Pîslaru, Renew
MEP Maria Spyrali, EPP
MEP Nils Torvalds, Renew

Industry CEOs (21)

Martin Lundstedt, CEO AB Volvo
Benoît Potier, CEO Air Liquide
Oliver Bäte, CEO Allianz
Lakshmi N. Mittal, Executive Chairman ArcelorMittal
Dr. Martin Brudermüller, CEO BASF
Thomas Gangl, CEO Borealis
Dr. Markus Steilemann, CEO Covestro
Ola Källenius, CEO Daimler
Dimitri de Vreeze, Co-CEO DSM
José Ignacio Sánchez Galán, CEO Iberdrola
Hilde Merete Aasheim, CEO Norsk Hydro
Dr. Alfred Stern, CEO elect, OMV Group
Mads Nipper, CEO Ørsted
Markus Krebber, CEO RWE
Dr. Roland Busch, CEO Siemens
Ben van Beurden, CEO Shell
Ilham Kadri, CEO Solvay
Martina Merz, CEO ThyssenKrupp
Dimitri Papalexopoulos, CEO Titan Cement
Patrick Pouyanné, CEO TotalEnergies
Anna Borg, CEO Vattenfall