

Commissioner Connie Hedegaard
DG Climate Action
European Commission
Brussels B-1049
BELGIUM

6th January, 2014

Dear Connie,

Copied: Commission President Barroso, Commission Vice-President Rehn, Commission Vice-President Tajani and Commission Vice-President Almunia.

We are writing to you to underline the shared and firm view of our Governments that the Commission's forthcoming draft EU energy and climate change policy framework should include **a domestic EU 2030 greenhouse gas emission reduction target of at least 40%**.

As you know, the UNFCCC will meet in Paris in November 2015 to seek to agree a post-2020 global climate change framework. This would be a world first and it is essential that we get an ambitious agreement if we are to avoid the most serious and damaging effects of climate change. Europe has a leading role to play in building momentum and raising ambition in the lead up to Paris 2015, including at the Ban Ki-Moon hosted world leaders' climate summit in autumn 2014. But to play this leading role, the EU must have an early, clear and ambitious position on its domestic emission reductions through to 2030, and must set early European policies and regulations to implement its safe and sustainable decarbonisation strategy.

Moreover, an ambitious greenhouse gas target of at least 40% domestic emission reductions will be central to unlocking the tens of billions in low carbon investments we urgently need, driving forward cutting-edge innovation, jobs and growth that will strengthen our economies. To create these jobs in Europe, effective measures against carbon leakage, especially in energy-intensive sectors facing international competition, are necessary. Furthermore, an ambitious safe and sustainable decarbonisation strategy is essential for tackling Europe's key strategic energy challenges: the EU's declining indigenous energy resources and our growing import dependency on increasingly expensive and volatile fossil fuels.

We therefore urge you to ensure that the draft 2030 energy and climate policy framework includes a clear and unambiguous proposal for an EU 2030 greenhouse gas target of at least 40% domestic emission reductions.


Yours sincerely,



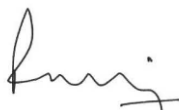
Dr. Barbara Hendricks
Federal Environment Minister
GERMANY



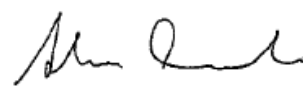
Dr. Sigmar Gabriel
Federal Minister for Economics & Energy
GERMANY



Ed Davey
Energy & Climate Change
Secretary
UNITED KINGDOM



Philippe Martin
Minister of Ecology,
Sustainable Development &
Energy
FRANCE



Andrea Orlando
Minister of the Environment
and Protection of Land and Sea
ITALY

