

23 December 2013

Commissioner Connie Hedegaard
European Commission
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Commissioner Günther Oettinger
European Commission
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Call for a renewable energy target in EU's 2030 climate and energy framework

Dear Commissioner Hedegaard,

Dear Commissioner Oettinger,

Europe is in the midst of a defining debate on our common climate and energy framework for 2030. A framework that must go hand in hand with the European growth agenda. Constructed in the right and cost effective way, the framework will secure more jobs, higher growth and increased competitiveness.

In its Green Paper A 2030 framework for climate and energy policies the Commission refers to higher shares of renewable energy and better and smarter energy infrastructure as some of the "no regrets" options for transforming the EU's energy system. We fully agree with this assessment.

We wish to emphasise the importance of a target for renewable energy in the 2030 framework. A target for renewable energy is crucial to provide the certainty that can ensure cost-effective investments in energy systems that will strengthen the internal market for energy. It will also lead to decreased dependency on energy imports and, hence, increase our common security of supply. A renewable energy target will pave the way for an efficient planning and expansion of the European grid. And it will be instrumental for the deployment of the necessary infrastructure, including increased interconnection capacity, in a sector characterised by long term investments of large scale.

Global demand for renewable energy solutions is increasing and is expected to remain on an upward trajectory in the coming decades. We are now shaping the energy system of the next decades, and by building on appropriate integration of renewables and energy efficiency we can ensure that European citizens and enterprises will have safe, competitive and clean energy for the future.

The binding renewable energy target for 2020 has been the main driver for the present deployment of renewable capacity in the EU, which has led to jobs and growth in the EU. We have to draw the lessons from past experience and ensure that the deployment of renewable energy is done in an even smarter way, i.e. through cost-efficient and appropriate support schemes. We can only succeed in this by having a renewable energy target for 2030 in the common framework that also includes an ambitious and

deliverable GHG target and facilitates further increase in energy efficiency and increased interconnection capacity.

Based on these arguments the signatories of this letter share the conviction that we must offer a robust, long-term framework supporting renewable energy sources, regardless of various views on the operational modalities. A target for renewable energy will strengthen European competitiveness and lead to more jobs and growth. We cannot afford to miss this opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Reinhold Mitterlehner, Federal Minister of Economy, Family and Youth and Federal Minister of Science and Research, Austria

Mr Melchior Wathelet, Secretary of State for Environment, Energy and Mobility, Belgium

Mr Martin Lidegaard, Minister for Climate, Energy and Building, Denmark

Mr Philippe Martin, Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, France

Mr Sigmar Gabriel, Minister for Economy and Energy, Germany

Mr Pat Rabbitte, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Ireland

Mr Andrea Orlando, Minister for Environment, Land and Sea, Italy

Mr Jorge Moreira da Silva, Minister for Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy, Portugal