



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
 CLIMATE ACTION

Directorate A - International and Climate Strategy
CLIM.A4: Strategy and Economic Assessment
 Head of Unit

Brussels, 10 February 2014

Subject: 2030 reductions commitments to be achieved domestically

Dear John Nduna, Eva Filzmoser, Julian Newman, Wendel Trio, Constance Adolf, James Thornton and Jeremy Wates,

Thank you for your letter sent on 17 January 2014, in which you explain your organisations' positions with regard to the Commission's 2030 framework for climate and energy policies.

As you know, the Commission has just published the Communication setting out our proposal for the 2030 framework for climate and energy policies¹ which builds on the lessons learnt and successes of the 2020 framework.

We propose a binding greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction target of 40% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels, to be met through domestic measures alone (i.e. without the use of international credits). This is a realistic and ambitious target that puts us on the cost-effective path to achieve our global responsibility and reach 80-95% reductions by 2050, and is in line with the milestones as set out by the Commission in the 2011 Roadmap for moving towards a low carbon economy in 2050.² Our proposal also makes clear that should the outcome of the international negotiations expected in 2015 warrant a more ambitious target for the EU, we could increase ambition levels further through access to international credits.

The Commission proposal also continues a strong focus on renewable energy sources. It is in our interest to build a job-rich economy that is less dependent on imported energy. We propose an EU-wide binding RES target of at least 27%. The proposal would require a sincere effort and is an important signal for investors to give stability, boost green jobs and improve our security of supply. It means that the share of renewable energy in the electricity mix would increase from 21% today to at least 45% in 2030. The RES target will not be translated into national targets in order to allow greater flexibility for Member States to meet their greenhouse gas reduction targets in the most cost-effective manner in accordance with their specific circumstances.

Energy efficiency will also contribute to the transition to a competitive, secure and sustainable energy system and the cost-effective delivery of the 40% greenhouse gas emission reduction target. This will be further considered later in 2014 in the context of the review of the Energy Efficiency Directive. However, the Commission believes that we

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/2030/docs/com_2014_15_en.pdf

² <http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/roadmap/>

should continue our efforts, including working towards ambitious EU-wide energy efficiency standards for appliances, equipment, buildings and CO2 standards for vehicles.

A new governance process involving the Member States and the Commission has been proposed. This would be based on national plans for competitive, secure and sustainable energy which should promote greater coherence between climate and energy policies, enhance cooperation between Member States and promote further integration of the internal market for energy as well ensuring delivery of EU targets for energy and climate including that for the share of renewable energy.

The Commission Communication launches a dialogue with the Council, Parliament and other institutions about the key elements of the new policy framework for climate and energy. There will also be ample opportunity to discuss further with stakeholders concerned. Reaching a consensus on this ambitious framework will be important before concrete proposals are presented and in order to prepare for the next milestone in the negotiations of a new international climate agreement.

I would like to thank you for your continuing support for an ambitious 2030 framework, and I would encourage you to remain engaged in this important debate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stefaan Vergote', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stefaan Vergote