



29 April 2019

Dear Heads of State and Government,

As you gather for the “Future of Europe Summit” in Sibiu on 9 May 2019, we are writing to urge you to endorse an EU strategy for climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest. Pursuing this objective will signal a new economic direction for Europe.

Collectively, we have an urgent task. To decarbonize the global economy in little more than a generation. Europe led the last industrial revolution. We believe it must lead the next one. This is essential to achieve a prosperous and secure future for Europe.

Putting climate change at the top of Europe’s agenda will provide business and investors with the clarity and confidence to invest in the sustainable, net zero emissions industries of the future, driving innovation and protecting European competitiveness on a global scale.

The climate science is unequivocal, and thankfully so now is the economic case for action. Markets are moving, consumers and citizens are moving, future generations are making their voices heard.

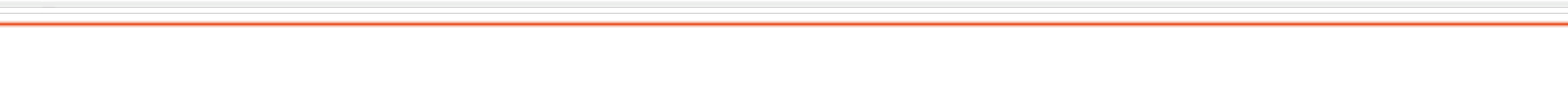
The EU can take confidence from its achievements to date and the growing body of analysis demonstrating how bold and rapid climate action can drive innovation and investment.

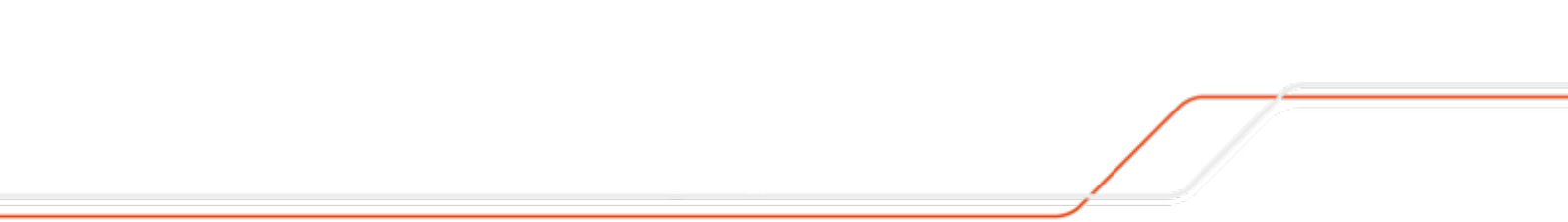
The European Commission’s vision document, ‘*A Clean Planet for All*’, details the likely positive impacts of achieving climate neutrality by 2050. A net 2% increase in GDP is predicted. Employment will increase overall. Costs linked to fossil fuel imports or health damages will be reduced. Alternative products with a vast market potential will be facilitated through cost-competitive clean energy and low-carbon technologies. This market can create millions of decent jobs for European workers in dynamic new industries.

Like all future-focused businesses and investors, we have already invested in the energy transition. It makes business sense. The costs of solar and wind energy are dropping 10% every year and investors and consumers are increasing their scrutiny of our business operations. Every year, more companies are setting science-based targets for our emissions. We are purchasing clean energy and signing up to renewable energy commitments. We are using low emission and electric vehicles, converting land to carbon sinks and improving energy efficiency throughout our operations and portfolios.

We are doing this because we see the threat that climate change poses to our businesses and to our investments.

The impacts of climate change are already affecting our bottom lines: degrading worker health and productivity, disrupting our operations and supply chains, and damaging assets. Just last year the European heatwave [threatened farmers’ crops](#), causing losses of [nearly 7.98 billion euros](#) and had [demonstrable effects on public health](#) and water availability. As the physical impacts of climate change worsen, they threaten to create impossible conditions for businesses and investors.





We need to move faster, and this transition must be economy-wide.

Businesses and investors cannot do this alone. A clear, coherent vision from European governments and institutions for climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest will give us the long-term guidance we need to invest. It should also address the mid-term targets we will need to achieve climate neutrality.

To succeed, this strategy will need to go beyond the traditional climate focus, encompassing trade, transport, agriculture, innovation, industrial and infrastructure policies.

It will need to be delivered with our workers and local communities. We are sensitive to the impacts that come with economic transition of any kind. These must be planned for and embraced with a strong sense of social justice and equity, ensuring that those who stand to lose in the transition to low carbon are treated with dignity, fairness and provided with opportunities and jobs in the new economy.

As the IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C shows, the world is rapidly using up the available carbon budget and the coming ten years will be crucial. To achieve the commitments made under the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, businesses and investors must ramp up investments without delay. The next phase of European action must begin this year.

Europe has been a global leader on climate change for decades, and if we strengthen, clarify and formalize our long-term targets and give ourselves the means to implement them we can secure that leadership role and all of the economic and diplomatic benefits that come with it.

As business and investor leaders who aspire to build the climate neutral economy of the future, we urge you agree the necessary policy foundations and set the direction of travel that will provide us with the clarity and confidence to act.

We thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Signatories

1. José Manuel Entrecañales, Chairman and CEO, ACCIONA
2. Alex Wynaendts, CEO, Aegon Asset Management
3. Magnus Billing, CEO, Alecta
4. Peter Simpson, CEO, Anglian Water
5. Klas Balkow, President and CEO, Axfood
6. Marco Gobetti, CEO, Burberry
7. Feike Sijbesma, CEO, DSM
8. Asoka Woehrmann, CEO, DWS Group GmbH & Co. KGaA
9. Edward Collins, CEO, Earth Capital
10. Antonio Mexia, CEO, Energias de Portugal S.A.
11. Gilbert Ghostine, CEO, Firmenich

12. Alejandro Agag, CEO, Formula E
13. Pekka Lundmark, President and CEO, Fortum
14. Jens Henriksson, President and CEO, Folksam
15. Hein Schumacher, CEO, Royal FrieslandCampina
16. Joost Bergsma, Managing Partner and CEO, Glennmont Partners
17. John Holland-Kaye, CEO Heathrow Airport Holdings
18. José Ignacio Sánchez Galán, Chairman and CEO, Iberdrola
19. Jesper Brodin, President and CEO, of Ingka Group, strategic partner to the IKEA franchise system
20. Torbjörn Lööf, CEO, Inter IKEA Group
21. Jouko Pölonen, President and CEO, Ilmarinen Mutual Pension Insurance Corporation
22. Ian Simm, CEO, Impax Asset Management
23. Nigel Stansfield, President EMEA, Interface
24. Anita Falkenek, CEO, Krav
25. Antti Herlin, Chairman of the Board, KONE Corporation
26. Eero Hautaniemi, President and CEO, Lassila & Tikanoja
27. Tex Gunning, CEO, LeasePlan Corporation
28. Lars Appelqvist, CEO, Löfbergs
29. Olaf Koch, CEO, METRO AG
30. Peter Vanacker, President and CEO, Neste
31. Pablo Bernengo, CEO, Öhman Fonder
32. Michael Otto, Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Otto Group
33. Henrik Poulsen, CEO Ørsted
34. Anders E Johansson, CEO, Polarbröd AB
35. Frans van Houten, CEO, Royal Philips
36. Martin Lindqvist, CEO, SSAB
37. Frank van der Vloed, President, Signify Europe
38. Anders Egelrud, CEO, Stockholm Exergi
39. Karl Henrik Sundström, CEO, of Stora Enso
40. Alan Jope, CEO, Unilever
41. Magnus Hall, President and CEO, Vattenfall AB
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Supporters

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3. Eliot Whittington, Director, The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group (CLG)
4. Ana Struna Bregar, CEO, Center of Energy Efficient Solutions (CER)

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5. Helen Clarkson, CEO, The Climate Group
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 7. Jouni Keronen, Executive Director, Climate Leadership Coalition
 8. Sabine Nallinger, Managing Director, Foundation 2°
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 10. Paul Simpson, CEO, CDP
 11. Nigel Topping, CEO, We Mean Business
 12. Markus Ekelund, CEO, 2050 Consulting