

CALL FOR PLAN TO INCREASE 2030 TARGET

Letter to Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans

Dear Mr. Timmermans,

Congratulations on your great achievements within the first 100 days as Executive Vice-President for the Green Deal in the European Commission. Putting forward the European Green Deal – a comprehensive cross-sectoral roadmap for the EU to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 – is a very promising start for an ambitious climate agenda in the EU.

With the European Council endorsing the objective of climate neutrality by 2050, in line with the 1.5-degree objective of the Paris Agreement, the EU has set itself on an ambitious path for the coming decades. Realising the climate neutrality objective by 2050 will bring great opportunities as well as challenges and the next ten years will determine our ability to deliver.

This year is the year of climate ambition, full of opportunities for setting the EU, and the world, on an ambitious and transformative path to combat climate change. COP25 showed once more that no other major economy is prepared to take the lead to ensure an ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement. Therefore, it is crucial that the EU shows leadership, and the EU has the responsibility to deliver a strong and credible response to the climate crisis.

In this context, the European Council invited the Commission to put forward its proposal for an update of the EU's nationally determined contribution (NDC) for 2030 in good time before COP26 in Glasgow in November 2020.

To set the EU on the path of a new green and inclusive growth for the EU, the Commission has announced its intention to present, **by Summer 2020**, an impact assessed plan to increase the EU's greenhouse gas emission reductions target for 2030 to at least 50% and towards 55% compared with 1990 levels in a responsible way. A 2030 target could be included in the European Climate Law. We fully agree that we need a comprehensive and well-assessed foundation for taking such important policy decisions.

With a timely enhanced NDC, the EU can lead by example and contribute to creating the international momentum needed for all parties to scale up their ambition. For this to happen, we need sufficient time to agree upon an increased 2030 target well ahead of COP26 in Glasgow. Furthermore, it will contribute to the important work by the EU to urge other Parties to intensify their efforts during all relevant international events in 2020, including the EU-China Leaders' summit in September.

We therefore encourage the European Commission to present the 2030 Climate Target Plan as soon as possible and by June 2020 at the latest in order to advance discussions in a timely manner.

We look forward to continue the good cooperation with the European Commission, other institutions and Member States to ensure that the EU lives up to its responsibility and delivers on its climate ambitions.

Yours sincerely,

Leonore Gewessler

Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology of Austria

Dan Jørgensen

Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities of Denmark

Krista Mikkonen

Minister of the Environment and Climate Change of Finland

Élisabeth Borne

Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition of France

Sergio Costa

Minister of Environment, Land and Sea of Italy

Juris Pūce

Minister for Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia

Carole Dieschbourg

Minister for the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development of Luxembourg

Eric Wiebes

Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy of the Netherlands

João Pedro Soeiro de Matos Fernandes

Minister for Environment and Climate Action of Portugal

Simon Zajc

Minister for the Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia

Teresa Ribera Rodríguez

Fourth Vice-President of the Government and Minister for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge of Spain

Isabella Lövin

Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden