



Danish Ministry of Climate,
Energy and Utilities

The Minister

Date
30 November 2019

Dear Mr. Timmermans,

Congratulations on your new position as Executive Vice-President for the Green Deal in the European Commission. We wish the best for a successful mandate.

Ambitious action is urgently needed to curb climate change and stop the global environmental degradation. The EU can and must play a leadership role in global climate action. The EU can support the green transition of member states through cost effective policies. EU policies are key to greening the European continent. And only through effective and coordinated EU action can we spur the global action that is required.

The Danish Government therefore strongly supports the Commission's endeavour to make Europe a front-runner in the global green transition and warmly welcomes the proposal for a **European Green Deal** by the new Commission.

Of immediate urgency, the European Council in December should agree on reaching **climate neutrality in the EU by 2050** at the latest to be included in an ambitious binding EU Climate Law. Furthermore the EU should commit itself to setting targets and implementing policies and measures to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5 C in line with the Paris Agreement.

In order to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement, the EU's **2030 target** must be increased to at least 55 percent. Member States should agree upon this in the first half of 2020 and submit it to the UNFCCC as the EU's updated **Nationally Determined Contribution as early as possible in 2020** in order to push for higher global ambition in the run-up to COP26 in Glasgow.

An increased 2030 target should be implemented in the most **cost effective way**. The ETS is the most cost effective market based instrument driving the green transition in the covered sectors. It should be further strengthened, as there is scope for making it even more effective.

Our **long-term ambition** to be **climate neutral by 2050** at the latest must be the guiding principle in revising existing regulation towards 2030 as well as for introducing new additional measures.

To make climate neutrality a reality, we need to speed up the pace of our transition efforts. This requires that we **accelerate the deployment of renewable**

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energy in the EU. In recent years, we have seen a rapid development in both wind power and solar panels, as the costs have reduced significantly. Yet, going forward we need to ensure an effective price on carbon emissions to spur investments in renewable energy and a **phase-out of fossil fuels**.

In particular, **offshore wind** is showing a great potential, but in order to utilize this fully, we will need to make sure that there is an enabling EU-framework in place and to significantly strengthen regional cooperation in the North Sea, the Baltic Sea and other coastal regions.

Transport is the only major sector in the EU where greenhouse gas emissions are still increasing. It is important that CO₂-emissions are limited across the European economy and that the **transition towards zero-emission mobility** is accelerated. The uptake of zero-emission passenger cars needs to accelerate dramatically in the EU over the coming years and decades. Denmark urges the Commission to present a plan with proposals for policy initiatives and incentives for the **transition to a fleet of zero-emission passenger cars**.

The **Common Agricultural Policy** should to a greater extent support European agriculture to produce in accordance with EU's objective on water environment, biodiversity and climate. Denmark wants an even **greener common agricultural policy**. Climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest should as well be the guiding principle for the **8th environmental action plan**.

The EU should continue to **lead the way internationally** when it comes to climate action. As a prerequisite to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, we must engage other global partners to increase ambition and ensure delivery of SDG7 on access to sustainable energy. Climate and environmental priorities should also to a greater extent be integrated into EU trade policy, through the strengthening of **sustainability chapters** on climate and environment in new trade agreements, **liberalisation of tariffs** and reduction of non-tariff barriers on **green products and services**. Denmark looks forward to the Commission analysis on the possibilities to introduce a **Carbon Border Tax** with due respect to WTO rules.

Attached you will find a paper with more detailed proposals for how we can pursue climate and environment objectives in the EU across a broad spectrum of policy areas. The Danish government very much looks forward to cooperating with you and the rest of the new Commission in making the European Green Deal a reality.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Jørgensen