



Danish Ministry of Climate,
Energy and Utilities

The Minister

Date
30 November 2019

Dear Commissioner Kadri Simson,

Please accept my sincerest congratulations upon your appointment as European Commissioner for Energy. As I am sure you are aware, this is a very important portfolio. Transition of the energy systems will be decisive in order to deliver on our climate ambitions and on the European Green Deal.

I would like to express the strongest **support to the European Green Deal**, and to the Commission's intention to make Europe a front-runner in the green transition. The Danish government believes that combating climate change should be a top priority for the Commission in the next 5 years.

To make that happen, we need to speed up the pace of our transition efforts. First and foremost, this requires that we **accelerate the deployment of renewable 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. But 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 a facilitative EU-framework in place, and to significantly strengthen regional cooperation in the North Sea, the Baltic Sea and other coastal regions.

The **North Seas Energy Cooperation** is a great example of how European countries can accelerate the expansion of offshore wind, when we work together. With the support of the Commission, the North Sea has the potential to be a provider of energy for all of Europe and provide consumers with sustainable, secure, and affordable energy. To do this, more work is needed to increase the focus on maritime spatial planning, coordination of infrastructure projects, and developing standards for safety, design etc.

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In order to incorporate even larger amounts of renewable energy into our energy systems, we will need **EU-strategies for the development of our energy systems**. Such strategies should address electrification, new flexibility and storage solutions, and integration between different sectors. These are necessary next steps if we are to develop European energy systems fully based on renewable energy and deliver on climate neutrality.

The Commission's modelling framework is the backbone for assessing consequences of new policy and for making optimal energy policy choices. Therefore, **reliable and regularly updated data and assumptions** are vital. I would encourage the Commission to continue the open and transparent approach and look forward to further cooperation between the Commission services and the Danish Energy Agency on improving the modelling framework.

There is no doubt that **energy efficiency will also continue to play a role**, but we have to focus our efforts on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Going forward we therefore need to focus on reducing the consumption of fossil energy use. Furthermore, we need to further develop the product regulation. I hope you will put forward a new action plan for eco-design and energy labelling to strengthen existing requirements, include new products including for example in relation to data centres, and also address the possibilities for adding requirements for the ability of the products to deliver flexibility to the energy system.

In order to reach climate neutrality by 2050 the use of **fossil energy has to be phased out**. This needs to be reflected in a **new European framework for gas** by including a roadmap for phasing out natural gas of the European energy systems. In addition to a strategy for sector integration, this should also address how to develop a well-functioning European market for green gasses.

When it comes to definitions of gasses we need to keep it simple. The revised renewable energy directive already defines renewable gasses, so all we need is a definition of what can be labelled as "decarbonised" gasses, which ensure that these gasses contribute to substantial, documented CO₂ reductions. We also need uniform requirements for the quality of gas that embrace the varying green gas qualities.

I very much look forward to cooperate with you and the rest of the new Commission in making the European Green Deal a reality. If we manage to succeed, the EU will lead by example in global climate action.

Sincerely yours,

Dan Jørgensen