

Executive Vice-President Timmermans
Commissioner Simson
Director-General Juul-Jorgensen

31 March 2021

Dear Executive Vice-President,
Dear Commissioner,
Dear Director-General,

Keep the Renewable Energy Directive for renewables – “low-carbon” fuels and non-renewable energies should not be included in any provision of the Renewable Energy Directive

Climate change is the defining challenge of this century. And renewable energy is one of the main pillars of European climate action, resulting in more than one-third of emission reductions to date. All scenarios for the EU achieving its targets under the Paris climate agreement rely on the rapid scaling up of renewable energy.

Beyond emission reductions, investment in renewables brings many benefits: better European energy security, lower fossil fuel import bills, local job creation, better public health, economic development, and the possibility of millions of Europeans to actively participate in and benefit directly from the energy transition.

The main policy tool for promoting renewable energy is the Renewable Energy Directive. It has proven successful in driving down the price of renewable energy technologies and boosting investments in renewables across Europe. However, the current intention to broaden the scope of the Directive beyond renewables is counter-productive and risks promoting the very fossil fuels that renewables should be displacing in Europe’s energy system, as defined in the European Commission’s long-term strategy.

Non-renewable and low-carbon fuels, including so-called ‘low carbon’ fossil fuels, should not be included in any provision under the Renewable Energy Directive nor should they count towards the EU’s binding 2030 renewable energy target.

This will generate significant public confusion and undermine trust in the EU’s renewable energy policy which is key to leveraging one of the fastest growing sectors in the economy.

We thank you for taking the views expressed in this letter into consideration. We would welcome a meeting to discuss these issues with you in more detail.

Yours sincerely

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Associations, companies and civil society:

Association of European Energy Research Centres (EUREC)

Bellona Europa

Bioenergy Europe

Climate Action Network Europe

Climate Bonds

Coopernico

Eco-union

Enel

Energy Cities

Environmental Coalition on Standards (ECOS)

European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

European Geothermal Energy Council (EGEC)

European Heat Pump Association (EHPA)

European Renewable Energy Federation (EREF)

European Solar Thermal Electricity Association (ESTELA)

Global Witness

Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe

Iberdrola

International Network on Sustainable Energy (INFORSE)

Negative Emissions Platform

Ocean Energy Europe

Renewable Heating & Cooling Alliance

Sandbag

Solar Heat Europe

Transport & Environment (T&E)

Turboden

Wind Europe