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Open letter

EU climate law needs energy efficiency and renewables to reach climate neutrality by 2050

To: Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans

Cc: Commissioner Kadri Simson

Director-General Mauro Petriccione

Director-General Ditte Juul Jørgensen

Secretary General Ilze Juhanšone

Brussels, 27 February 2020

Dear Vice-President Timmermans,

The **European Green Deal** (EGD) is a particularly positive beginning for the new European Commission. We welcome the Commission pledge to address the **climate crisis** and, by doing so, shape the future of Europe's economy and society and lead by example worldwide.

As a part of the EGD, a **climate law** is currently being drafted and is expected to enshrine the pathway to **climate neutrality by 2050** in the EU legislation. We are concerned that this proposal could be lacking ambition, which would in turn jeopardise its significance and effectiveness.

We believe that the climate law should orient the action of the EU towards what is the fastest and most cost-effective way to reduce emissions: the swift implementation of the **Energy Efficiency First** principle, which is a prerequisite for the much needed deployment of a **100% renewable-based energy supply**. This will boost the European economy by creating new opportunities and jobs and reduce our dependence on energy imports.

As such, we recommend to:

- Recognize **Energy Efficiency First** as an overarching principle of the EU Climate Law governance.
- Include an intermediate GHG emissions reduction target of **at least 55% by 2030**.
- Mainstream policy coherence with **increased and mandatory energy efficiency, renewable energy and carbon emissions targets**.

We ask you to consider these recommendations and bring forward a climate law proposal which will recognise the role of **energy efficiency as a potent and critical catalyst to the massive scale-up of renewables in a resource-constrained planet**.

We look forward to cooperating with you to make Europe the first climate neutral continent.



