

Brussels, 7 April 2005



Dear President Barroso,



Thank you for the constructive and useful meeting you held with a delegation from the Brussels-based environmental organisations, the Green 9, on 15 March to discuss the future of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy and the Lisbon Strategy. We were very pleased to learn about your full support and commitment to a leadership role for the EU for a clean environment and sustainable development.



We are writing now to highlight some of the key issues that we have discussed with you and indicate areas for follow-up. Our starting point is that the worsening state of the global environment, highlighted last week with the publication of the Millenium Ecosystem Assessment report, is becoming a grave cause for concern. The way world economies are expanding exponentially will only worsen this situation. Even in the short-term, it seems more and more likely that economic growth will prove impossible in the absence of natural resource conservation, for instance oil, gas and water, and environmental protection generally.



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This is why we proposed to you to enrich the Lisbon process with the objective of 'making Europe the most energy and resource efficient economy in the world'. In this way, the Lisbon Strategy could be converted into a modern and forward-looking approach, contributing to innovation, environmental and nature protection, competitiveness and job-creation in line with the sustainable development goal. During the meeting, you expressed your support for this approach. We are looking forward to concrete steps to turn this support into Commission proposals and actions.



At the meeting, we already discussed some essential elements of such a policy. We would like to see the Commission take the initiative particularly in the following areas:



1. Reducing and removing environmentally perverse subsidies in the EU and increase resources for and remove barriers towards the promotion of eco-innovation and efficiency.
2. Promotion of a cost-effective European-wide energy policy framework that accelerates energy conservation measures in key sectors such as transport, housing and manufacturing.
3. Launching a new initiative for an environmental tax reform, reducing labour costs while shifting the tax burden to the use of energy and resources.
4. Ensuring that public money, including that of the EU, is used to promote sustainable development and to purchase the most eco-efficient products and services (public procurement legislation).
5. A strengthening of the Environmental Technology Plan with challenging performance targets for products and services.
6. Assuring that the Integrated Impact Assessment methodology has a strong environmental dimension, including an assessment of the monetary and non-monetary costs of non-action, as well as the objective of contributing to sustainable development.



Europe's voice for sustainable transport



7. Further improvement of REACH, helping innovation and substitution of hazardous substances with safer alternative substances and production methods.
8. Using Structural and Cohesion Funds to promote increased resource and energy efficiency by setting the right priorities in the Community Strategic Guidelines and the regulation for the next period 2007-2013.



On all issues mentioned above, the Green-9 would be happy to provide more detailed information and concrete proposals.



You will recall that we asked you to consider setting up a high-level Commission group for Sustainable Development similar to the ones that exist under your Chairmanship for Lisbon and Commissioner Verheugen for competitiveness. You answered that you would consider it but on first reflection this should be the work of the whole College. Bearing in mind that you also said that the Lisbon high-level group is already too large in your view to be completely effective, we are not sure how the whole College will give the necessary leadership, drive, coordination and direction that the sustainable development task requires. We would be pleased to know your further thinking on our proposal for a smaller and possibly more effective high-level working group. One of its first tasks in our view could be to explore opportunities for the Commission to promote energy and resource efficiency in almost all policy areas, such as agriculture, transport, climate change, trade and foreign policy.



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We look forward to receiving your views on the points raised here. We would be pleased to discuss these issues either with you or with your services. We would also like to refer to the document '*Green 9 to do list for the Barroso Commission*', which we published in January 2005, a copy of which we have attached. In view of the high interest in our meeting in March, we are making copies of this letter publicly available.



Yours sincerely

Tony Long

On behalf of the Green-9:

GREENPEACE



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Encl.

Green 9 'To Do' list for the Barroso Commission

1. **Sustainable Development** should be the main objective of the Barroso Commission. The concept is increasingly distorted to sideline environmental and social issues. EU policies should in all cases improve, not reduce, environmental protection. The European Council has already brought together the Göteborg and Lisbon strategies. This means that the Lisbon strategy should have appropriate targets, such as to improve energy and resource efficiency significantly by 2010.
2. **Environmental Policy Integration** is laid down in Article 6 of the EC Treaty, and is a requirement for all EU institutions. However, until now, it is only paid lip service. The Commission should make an explicit commitment to this requirement and adopt action programmes for its implementation in all relevant policy sectors. Individual proposals should undergo impact assessments to ensure they integrate environmental considerations. The Commission should develop strategies to make the market work for the environment.
3. Under the **6th Environment Action Programme** the Commission is to deliver, by 2005, seven thematic strategies, in the form of proposals for **framework directives**. These concern soil protection, marine environment, air pollution, pesticides, urban environment, resource management and recycling of waste.
4. Europe should continue to take the global lead on **climate change**. The Barroso Commission should secure legally binding greenhouse gas reduction targets (at least 30% by 2020 compared to 1990 levels) which are consistent with the EU objective of limiting global temperature rise to below 2°C over preindustrial levels. The Commission must ensure that all related sectors (incl. energy, transport, agriculture, chemical, development) deliver on long-term climate policy goals. Among others, it must support a target of 25% renewable energy sources for the EU by 2020, increased standards for energy efficiency in all sectors, an improved emissions trading scheme and an end to all subsidies to fossil fuels and nuclear power.
5. The European Council in Göteborg committed the EU to halt **biodiversity loss** by 2010, but the Commission has done little until now to make this commitment reality. It should implement existing legislation to protect nature, including proper financing, and propose new legislation on sustainable forestry, marine reserves and liability for damage caused by GMOs.
6. Hazardous **chemicals** contaminate our everyday living environment. They cause thousands of deaths annually through pollution of air, water and the food chain, work-related illness and accidents. They are a permanent threat to the environment and to wildlife. The Commission should ensure the systematic substitution of carcinogens, toxic, persistent and bioaccumulative substances, wherever possible. The EU Action Plan on **Environment and Health** must deliver concrete improvements in health, particularly for Europe's children. The Commission should set up a monitoring system to inform and educate the public, and make better knowledge-based policy decisions, especially on emerging environmental threats.
7. **Energy** policy is now an EU responsibility. The Barroso Commission should adopt a long-term strategy on energy, to stimulate research and efficiency and lead Europe towards a renewable energy future. The outdated Euratom Treaty should be abolished.
8. The EU **development policy** in Africa, but elsewhere, too, does little for the environment. Water and soil, fauna, flora and natural resources are valuable assets in developing countries which need to be preserved by a consistent sustainable development policy of the EU.
9. **Transparency, openness and accountability** were key words of EU governance policy in the past. The Commission must ensure that its administration lives up to these principles. In particular, impact assessments should be fully transparent and open to public participation.
10. The EU has a set of environmental legislation which served, for most of its Member States, as the basis for environmental policy. However, **implementation and enforcement** are crucial: nothing ruins credibility more than provisions that are not applied. The Barroso Commission should strengthen the implementation of environmental laws, which are currently the least respected area of EU legislation.

21 February 2005

The Green 9 group of environmental NGOs includes: Birdlife International, Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-Europe), European Environmental Bureau, European Public Health Alliance - Environment Network, European Federation for Transport and the Environment, Friends of the Earth Europe, Greenpeace, International Friends of Nature, WWF European Policy Office