



Brussels, 14. November 2012

### **Declaration of solidarity with the occupation of Hambach Forest, Germany**

Dear Dr. Johannes F. Lambertz,

We, the undersigned, declare our solidarity with the occupation of Hambach Forest which is currently being cleared.

The occupation of the Hambach Forest aims to prevent the extension of the Hambach lignite mine. The Hambach forest is a biodiversity rich beech forest, which should have been reported as a Natura 2000 site.

#### **In solidarity with the people occupying the forest we demand that RWE stops clearing the Hambach Forest and the protest camp.**

The five power plants fuelled by lignite from the Hambach, Inden and Garzweiler mines emit almost 100 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, and together are the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Europe. The extension of the Hambach mine, which would be required to supply a new lignite power plant, is threatening the achievement of German climate targets and jeopardises the European Union's 2050 decarbonisation goals.

Leaving this lignite underground is essential to preventing dangerous climate change. Latest science tells us that we have to reverse the trajectory of emissions within the next few years. Otherwise the world faces irreversible impacts including economic, social and environmental loss and damage.

#### **Phasing out fossil fuels and a transformation to 100% renewable energy and increased energy savings are required to achieve domestic emission cuts.**

Furthermore, the protection of public health requires abandoning harmful lignite in power generation. The lignite-fired power plant Niederaußem, which burns up most of the lignite extracted in the Hambach opencast mine, causes costs of up to €1.5 billion per year due to environmental and health impacts, according to the European Environment Agency.

#### **We support the people occupying the forest in their demand that RWE stops exploration for a new lignite field in Hambach, and stops clearing the Hambach Forest.**

Yours Sincerely,