



José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission
B-1049 Brussels

17th December 2012

Subject: Post-2020 climate and energy framework

Dear Mr President,

We are writing to express our view that the EU's post-2020 climate and energy framework should include a coherent set of three binding targets: for greenhouse gas emission reductions of the scale needed to address climate change, for energy savings and for renewable energies.

We know that some in the Commission, and some member states, would prefer to have only a single binding target: namely, for greenhouse gas emission reductions. Friends of the Earth Europe and Climate Action Network Europe believe that the danger of an emissions-only target for 2030 is twofold.

First, it would ignore the clear lesson from the 2020 climate and energy package: **specific legislation, driven by binding targets, is needed to overcome the obstacles to widespread deployment of energy savings and renewable energy.**

Renewable energy objectives for 2020 that were framed in binding national targets, and underpinned by a set of support schemes, look set to be delivered. This recipe for success must be continued beyond 2020. In contrast, the non-binding energy savings target for 2020 has clearly proved ineffective.

Barriers such as a lack of awareness and information, limited availability of upfront finance, insufficient standard setting and unclear distribution of responsibilities mean that energy savings will not happen automatically – even if they are cost-effective, and even with a high carbon price. Rather, carefully designed policies and programmes are needed to address these barriers; and **it is clear that binding objectives provide the impetus to develop these policies.** A dedicated mandatory target for energy savings as well as for renewables will furthermore help to show businesses and investors that the direction of travel is not going to change. **This will not only improve deployment, but also the research and development of new technologies.**

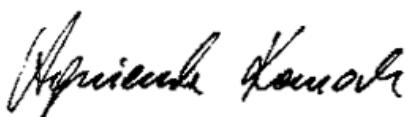
Second, setting only a greenhouse gas target is an open door for other technologies – nuclear, natural gas, carbon capture and storage – which are billed as viable decarbonisation solutions, but have unacceptably high ‘delivery’ risks:

- A lone greenhouse gas target for 2030 risks encouraging the replacement of coal power plants with natural gas. Natural gas is less dirty than coal (2.106 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per tonne of oil equivalent compared to 3.858), but is still no solution to climate change. Unconventional gas sources – such as shale gas – are worse, and have detrimental effects on health and the environment. The lifecycle emissions – counting the emissions from the extraction of a fossil fuel as well as from its use for power generation – make shale gas just as damaging as coal.
- Public concerns over nuclear safety after Fukushima are widespread. Nuclear is also proving hugely expensive. Europe's two current nuclear projects – Olkiluoto in Finland and Flamanville in France – are five years behind schedule and billions of Euros over budget.
- Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is still unproven, with no commercial-scale CCS plant in the world today. European NER300 funding for further research has not been taken up. Sleipner – Europe's biggest CCS project – stores just 1/5000th of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. And because energy is needed to capture, transport and store CO₂, CCS would increase the EU's reliance on imported fossil fuels. The result: increased competition with Asia for Middle Eastern and Russian energy reserves.

By contrast, the Commission expects roughly 400,000 net new jobs in the next 10 years as a result of tougher energy savings legislation. The net financial savings across the EU could exceed €200 billion per year, according to research group Ecofys. Renewables, meanwhile, are synonymous with safe, cost-effective EU energy production: they already provide 20% of the EU's electricity production.

This is why the College of Commissioners' forthcoming orientation debate on the 2030 framework is so important. **By supporting binding 2030 targets for energy savings and renewable energies, alongside a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target, the Commission will be picking technological winners – not false solutions. Clear, binding targets deliver the investment certainty needed for more research and development of renewables and energy saving technology.** It will be backing policies of proven economic and environmental effectiveness. This is the best way to successfully address climate change in the way that will be of maximum benefit to the EU and its citizens.

Yours sincerely,



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