

Dear Commissioner for Internal Market Thierry Breton and Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson,

First, we would like to thank you personally for your support to Member States in their handling of the COVID-19 crisis and for actions to coordinate a common European response to the coronavirus outbreak.

The COVID-19 crisis has deeply affected the way the European economy works. Beyond the need for a strong coordination to overcome the sanitary crisis, the EU is currently developing an ambitious recovery plan to stimulate growth and employment. In this context, it will be crucial to design concrete actions to reach the sustainable growth targets set out in the “European Green Deal” and the “Industrial Strategy”, in particular by putting strong emphasis on the most promising enabling technologies.

According to Commission’s “Clean Planet for all” vision, renewable energy, and in particular wind and solar energy, plays a vital role in achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

Fundamental progress has already been made in transforming Europe’s electricity production, but the expected large-scale deployment of renewable energy will lead to a much higher level of electrification of our economy and to a high degree of decentralization.

This means **over 2 trillion Eur investment** in wind and solar capacities alone will be required in the next 30 years.

It is essential to have key segments of the respective **renewable energy value chains within Europe**, if we want to achieve not only the climate goals, but also to bring significant economic benefits to Europeans. This would also support Europe’s endeavor towards technological sovereignty in strategic sectors.

We acknowledge that the New Industrial Strategy for Europe includes a new approach based on industrial ecosystems, taking into account all players within a value chain. We also support the statement in the New Industrial Strategy that – to become more competitive as it becomes greener and more circular - industry will need a secure supply of clean and affordable energy.

Therefore, we suggest that two major renewable energy production technologies today – **wind and solar** – as well as energy storage technologies should be considered as strategic value chains and by the implementation of the “Green Deal” enabling a significant economic growth in Europe. It would be important to include these value chains in the work of the Strategic Forum on Important Projects of Common European

Interest in order to launch concrete actions that allow us to reach the ambitious objectives of the Green Deal and the Industrial strategy.

In the wind sector, the European Union in addition to onshore wind power, should work on offshore wind, including synergies with other forms of marine energy, and in particular on the emerging high added value chains related to floating offshore wind where the EU global leadership is at stake. Floating offshore wind is indispensable to reach the deployment of 450 GW by 2050 from the Baltic Sea through the North Sea, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea.

As regards the solar industry sector, the European Union should focus on circular solutions and high added value chains such as: innovative, upper quality PV panels; power electronics to improve grid integration; integration of solar PV and thermal power in industrial processes; and technologies that enable a more efficient use of land, such as solar tracking technologies or building integration of PV. Energy storage technologies allows achieving the full potential of variable wind and solar technologies.

In doing so, the European Union should take advantage of the synergies between these renewable industries and other technologies and sectors, including digitalization or traditional industrial activities. This would help the EU to make a more effective use of resources and technologies, while contributing to the transformation and growth of conventional and new industries in the framework of the Green Deal.

It will create new opportunities in terms of growth, job creation and innovation in Europe as well as investments in the R&D, including in the regions in transition.

The EU is already home to world-leading renewable energy manufacturers, with global production footprints. It holds 40% of all renewable energy patents, thanks to groundbreaking work by research institutes and commercial operators alike. Timely support and reflection in the European Industrial Strategy is indispensable to reap the full potential of wind and solar industries in Europe.

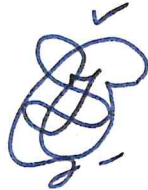
We, the signatories, invite the Commission to swiftly launch the following actions in order to boost a green economic growth:

- **Launch in priority the new Renewable Energy Industry Alliance and include all renewable industries representatives in the Industrial Forum;**
- **Recognise wind and solar as strategic European value chains and include them in the work of the High-Level Forum on IPCEI, support the role of local content in the RES supply chain and legislation, and study the feasibility to launch relevant IPCEIs in these sectors;**
- **Grant Renewable Energy Industry and storage technologies industry dedicated access to capital and EU instruments such as InvestEU, CEF,**

green bonds, Innovation and Modernization funds, Just Transition Fund – especially for SMEs, as well as to the upcoming COVID-19 economic recovery instruments;

- **Adapt the State aid regulatory framework to encourage public support in these strategic value chains.**

Yours Sincerely,



Žygimantas Vaičiūnas, Minister for Energy and acting Minister for Economy and Innovation, Lithuania

on behalf of

Leonore Gewessler, Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Austria

Taavi Aas, Minister of Economy and Infrastructure, Estonia

Gerassimos Thomas, Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy, in charge of Energy and Natural Resources, Greece

Jānis Vitenbergs, Minister of Economy, Latvia

Franz Fayot, Minister of the Economy, Luxembourg

Claude Turmes, Minister of Energy and Spatial Planning, Luxembourg

Jadwiga Emilewicz, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economic Development, Poland

Michał Kurtyka, Minister of Climate, Poland

Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Fourth Vice-President of Government and Minister for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Spain