

Mr Jean-Claude Juncker
President-elect of the European Commission
European Commission
CHARL 9/234 Rue de la loi, 200
1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

Brussels, 16 October 2014

Ref 14/102

Subject: Incoming European Commission must heed EU citizens' call for a sustainable economy and environmental protection

Dear President-elect Juncker,

We refer to our earlier correspondence concerning the structure, mandate and composition of the new European Commission.

In the past couple of weeks, there have been reports of official and unofficial promises to add 'sustainability' to the portfolio of First Vice-President designate Frans Timmermans, together with oversight of climate and energy policy. Despite this, no concrete changes have been made in that direction. Nor have any of the other proposals put forward by MEPs, the Environment Committee and by President Schulz and supported by the Green 10 been translated into concrete revision of the political guidelines, the mission letters and overall set up of your Commission line-up.

This is deeply regrettable. Ignoring these requests represents in our view a betrayal of European citizens interests, including those of future generations, and of your own election manifesto, where you commit to a more open, more responsive and more democratic Europe, to invest in low carbon technology and to invest in innovation.

All these commitments are empty if not based on principles and practices of sustainable development, resource efficiency, green jobs, circular economy and on strong environmental protection.

We call upon you to give clear and concrete signs that you take EU citizens concerns seriously ahead of the Parliament vote next week.

In particular, we ask of you to:

- 1. Revise the mandate of the Commissioner-designate for Environment, Fisheries & Maritime Affairs to make it an explicit task to fully implement the 7th EAP, as asked by the ENVI Committee in its [recommendation letter](#),** and remove the references which imply weakening the Birds and Habitats Directives and key legislation on air quality and chemicals. Without changes to the mandate of the Commissioner-designate for Environment and Fisheries & Maritime Affairs, little progress can be made in the field of environmental protection since his current proposed mandate is entirely focussed on re-assessing existing and even future policies, without any reference to the implementation of the 7th EAP, a legally binding commitment that was negotiated and agreed by the Commission, Member States and European Parliament.
- 2. Ensure meaningful changes are brought in writing to the mandate and title of Frans Timmermans to reflect his responsibility for sustainability and climate and energy policy.** His mandate must require him to:
 - Reflect sustainability and resource efficiency in the mid-term review of the Europe 2020 Strategy led by Commissioner-designate Jyrki Katainen;
 - Ensure environmental protection in the context of sustainability, as outlined in Article 11 of the Treaty, and coordinate with all Commissioners responsible for sectoral policies to ensure they contribute to the 7th Environmental Action Programme and Biodiversity Strategy towards 2020;

The Green 10 is chaired by BirdLife Europe

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- Ensure that the Commission's internal impact assessment is primarily guided by the principle of sustainability so that it fulfils its original purpose of anticipating the economic, social and environmental impacts of new legislative proposals in a balanced way;
 - Enforce the polluter pays principle as well as the precautionary principle as outlined in the Treaty (Article 191(2) TFEU).
- 3. Provide clarity on the role of the Vice-President designate for Energy Union and the project team with respect to climate change, as well as how this cluster will interact with the newly given powers on climate and energy to Mr Timmermans.**
 - 4. Allow for a hearing of First Vice-President designate Timmermans in front of the ENVI and ITRE Committees** to give the wider public the opportunity to understand how Mr Timmermans will make use of his newly acquired powers to ensure environmental protection requirements are integrated into all relevant Union policies and activities (as stipulated in Article 11 of the TFEU and Article 6 of the TEU), as well as tackling climate change at the highest political level.

Yours sincerely,



Angelo Caserta, Regional Director, BirdLife Europe

On behalf of the Green 10 EU Directors

Wendel Trio, Director – Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe

Petr Hlobil, Director – CEE Bankwatch Network

Jeremy Wates, Secretary-General – European Environmental Bureau

Magda Stoczkiewicz, Director – Friends of the Earth Europe

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