

President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels

23rd July 2024

Dear President von der Leyen,

We write to you today to congratulate you on your re-election as President of the European Commission. As Europe's main environmental and climate citizens' organisations and NGOs networks, the Green10, we stand ready to work together to prioritise a green and just transition towards climate neutrality, zero pollution and thriving nature and health.

We welcome your pledge to protect and further engage with civil society organisations. On this basis, **we would like to ask for a meeting with you at your earliest convenience to discuss the priorities for your new mandate in more detail.** The Green 10 organisations, representing over 54 million supporters, are keen to exchange and collaborate with you and the upcoming Commission to ensure a sustainable and equitable future for the benefit of all European citizens, global ecosystems and future generations.

Your second mandate comes at a pivotal moment for Europe and the world. As the climate and nature crisis intensifies, the window for bold policy action is rapidly closing. Under your leadership, Europe has lived up to its position as a global leader in the transition, committing with the European Green Deal to become the world's first climate-neutral continent. The next five years will determine whether the EU can meet that challenge in a timeframe compatible with the principles of equity and climate justice enshrined in the Paris Agreement.

We commend the commitment to stay the course on the European Green Deal articulated in your Political Guidelines, recognizing that the gravity of the emergency does not allow for any pause or regression. Focus on ambitious implementation of all Green Deal legislation will be key, without backsliding on agreed targets and legislations. At the same time, merely maintaining the current trajectory is insufficient: if Europe is to avert the most severe consequences of the climate crisis, the Commission must drastically scale up its efforts, leaving no one behind.

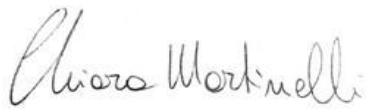
The Political Guidelines outline steps in the right direction but fall short of the transformative ambition that initially defined the European Green Deal. We welcome the emphasis on industrial decarbonization, renewable energy deployment and increased public investment for a just transition. We recognise the importance of a clean industrial deal and the need for a race to the top on sustainability; this 'clean' industrial deal needs a focus also on de-polluting industry and a non-toxic circular economy. We regret the absence of a concrete action plan to reduce overall energy demand and phase out fossil fuels, and we worry that the narratives of competitiveness and simplification might mask climate and environmental deregulation and lead to a weakening of health protection. We are strongly convinced that

nature conservation and pollution reductions could offer economic prosperity, climate adaptation and resilience in Europe and beyond. The shift towards a circular economy that respects planetary boundaries must be at the core of the European transition.

Therefore, we would like to explore with you how to strengthen European efforts to tackle the climate and biodiversity emergency, building on the European Green Deal to accelerate the EU's transition towards a fossil-free, socially just, healthy and climate neutral Union.

We look forward to a constructive dialogue and we hope to meet you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Chiara Martinelli, Director Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe and current chair of the Green 10.

Also, on behalf of the Green 10 Directors:

Mark Martin, Executive Director Bankwatch Network

Ariel Brunner, Regional Director BirdLife Europe and Central Asia

Chiara Martinelli, Director Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe

Patrick ten Brink, Secretary General European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

William Todts, Executive Director European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E)

Jagoda Munić, Director Friends of the Earth Europe

Jorgo Riss, Executive Director Greenpeace European Unit

Génon K. Jensen, Executive Director Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)

Andrea Lichtenecker, Executive Director Naturefriends International

Ester Asin, Director of WWF European Policy Office