



**EEB**  
European  
Environmental  
Bureau

**E3G**

**sandbag**  
smarter climate policy

Dear Ministers,

On 18 February 2019, you will meet in Brussels to discuss the European Commission's strategic long-term vision for a climate neutral economy – A Clean Planet for all.

This Strategy was presented by the European Commission in November last year and outlines a detailed plan for Europe to tackle dangerous climate change and fulfil its commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement. We, the undersigning NGOs, welcome the proposal by the Commission to improve the EU's long-term climate target to net-zero carbon emission by 2050 at the latest and believe this is an important step in the right direction. We are encouraging all EU policymakers to ensure that more is done to achieve the Paris Agreement's goal to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C and support an EU long-term climate target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2040.

As civil society organisations, we reach out to you as Ministers responsible for economy, industry, research and innovation because the necessary move to a net-zero carbon economy brings an opportunity to strengthen and safeguard Europe's industrial competitiveness; provided the right framework conditions are in place.

In particular, we would like to draw your attention to a crucial challenge, namely the opportunities that lie ahead to fully decarbonise Europe's resource and energy-intensive industries. The outputs produced by manufacturing industries such as steel, cement and chemicals are fundamental components of our everyday life and our economy. At the same time, resource and energy-intensive industries are responsible for more than one fifth of the EU's overall carbon pollution, emissions which, while stagnating since 2012, have been rising again in the past 2 years. Unfortunately, according to current projections, this pollution will not decrease unless further action is taken.

We, therefore, request you to:

1. Endorse the European Commission's strategic long-term vision for a climate neutral economy and support an EU long-term climate target to net-zero carbon emissions by 2040;
2. Call upon the European Commission to present a new and integrated EU industrial climate strategy for energy-intensive industries in support of a competitive, circular and net-zero emission heavy industry transition;
3. Recognise the immediate need to provide a policy framework which supports and incentivises the full decarbonisation and transformation of resource and energy-intensive industry sectors before 2050.

Encouragingly, the understanding of how to get to carbon neutrality for energy intensive industry is becoming increasingly clear, and confidence in the feasibility of a carbon neutral, energy intensive industry is steadily increasing, thanks to a growing number of studies as well as the analysis supporting the European Commission's long-term climate strategy.

The analysis suggests that solely by scaling up known technologies full decarbonisation pathways for cement, chemicals and steel are possible and will likely consist of a combination of electrification of processes, process breakthroughs, circularity principles and substitution ('doing more with less') and deployment of clean technologies.

Acting now is crucial, since for most energy intensive companies 2050 is just one investment cycle away from today. A climate-proof, competitive and prosperous European industry is possible, but to create this success, the EU's industrial and climate strategies need to be placed in the context of the transition towards a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions economy.

Thank you for supporting Europe's future with a climate proof and competitive industry. We look forward to your exchange of views on the further work required to reach the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Sincerely,

Wendel Trio, Director, **Climate Action Network Europe**

Sabine Frank, Executive Director, **Carbon Market Watch**

Manon Dufour, Head of Brussels Office, **E3G - Third Generation Environmentalism**

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