

José Manuel Barroso
President
The European Commission
1 Rue de Genève
1049 Brussels

9th January 2007

Dear President Barroso

URGENT – EU ENERGY POLICY DEBATE, 10 JANUARY 2007

I am writing to you on behalf of WWF, the global conservation organisation, to underline the importance of your decisions tomorrow on future energy policy, not only for Europe's 500 million people but for all those around the world who are looking to the European Union for global leadership on climate change.

The energy package you will present for decision tomorrow will have a truly historic dimension. Your actions will demonstrate whether the EU will maintain a leading role in promoting clean and renewable energies well into the future. Your decisions will also show whether the EU is willing and able to legislate for resource and energy savings in key economic and consumption sectors that will address simultaneously climate change abatement and security of energy supply.

WWF is therefore looking to the College of Commissioners to bring forward an energy package that helps to pave the way for the planet to stay below 2 degree C global warming above pre-industrial levels, a commitment already made by the European Council of Heads of State and Government. Nothing less than a "new industrial revolution" in the words of the draft energy policy document will be required.

WWF urges you therefore to agree the following priorities.

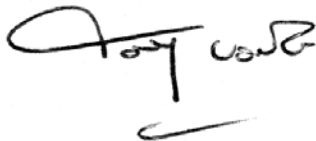
1. The EU climate target must be sufficiently stringent. It must be a domestic unilateral target of at least minus 30% GHG emissions reductions by 2020 based on 1990 emissions and independent of what others do. According to recent science, this is the order of magnitude of domestic action required in developed nations by 2020 to help and contribute to reduce globally the global GHG emissions by around 50% by mid century. This is deemed necessary to have a chance to stay below 2 degree global warming.

A global 50% cut of climate pollution by mid century requires an even deeper cut by rich nations such as the EU to allow space for poorer developing nations to decarbonise their economies without compromising on their economic development needs. For a proclaimed leader in climate change abatement, for the EU to start the post-2012 era with a commitment of below 30% emissions reductions is not acceptable.

2. The EU must give strong signals for expansion of the global carbon market, and in particular EU support for sustainable development in developing countries. This must be led by sustainable and clean energy investments through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and with additional support to speedily reduce and eventually stop deforestation in developing countries. The EU should therefore signal its willingness to adopt an even higher target as part of a Kyoto Plus regime of 10% or more, leading to a minus 40% or higher 2020 greenhouse gas reduction target as part of its responsibility as an industrialized country to take the lead and support low-carbon development globally.
3. To do the above, the EU has to put in place a set of domestic policies and measures addressing the climate concerns as much as those of energy security and development:
 - This requires legally binding targets for increasing renewable energy to 25% of all primary energy supply by 2020. In addition, this target should be broken down to sectoral targets of renewable electricity (at least 35% by 2020), heating/cooling and sustainable biofuels. This break down is urgently needed to address very different drivers, sectors and investors.
 - Certification of biofuels is needed to guarantee sustainable biofuel production both in Europe and by importing nations.
 - Domestic action also requires a strong focus on energy conservation. We believe that the agreed target for cutting 20% primary energy supply by 2020 should be made binding and supported by legislation based on Community-wide energy efficiency and energy conservation actions in the transport, buildings and electric equipment sectors at least. Voluntary agreements and actions are not sufficient. Legally-binding minimum energy efficiency standards for all energy-consuming products are necessary to achieve the 20% target while maintaining economic growth in the EU.

There are many other issues in the Energy Package that we could mention. We highlight those above as being absolutely vital for the long-term sustainable energy future of Europe. We trust that your decisions tomorrow will take us in the right direction. Thank you for taking these points into account in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Long', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Tony Long
Director
WWF European Policy Office