

Council of the European Union
Rue de la Loi 175
Brussels

Brussels, 18 April 2018

Dear Ministers,

We, globally leading companies active in the European wind energy supply chain, are writing ahead of the 19 April informal Energy Council to stress the importance of setting the right ambition for renewables in 2030.

The original proposal of a 27% renewable energy target for 2030 is based on woefully outdated cost assumptions and would lead to a significant slowdown in the deployment of renewables.

The European Commission itself has shown that considering recent technology developments in renewables, meeting a higher renewable energy target would be as cost-effective for the energy system. Analysis by the International Renewable Energy Agency confirms the EU could double the share of renewables in its energy mix cost-effectively by 2030.

We thus urge you to endorse an EU-wide binding renewable energy target of 35% by 2030 in the context of a redesigned electricity market.

A higher renewable energy target is not only affordable but economically desirable. Consumers benefit: onshore wind is the cheapest new form of power generation in most countries and offshore wind is not far behind – its costs have fallen 60% in 3 years.

Wind is now a key part of European manufacturing and exports. The wind industry contributes €36bn to EU GDP every year, exports €8bn in wind related products and services and employs 263,000 jobs in a high-tech digital industry. Regions across Europe benefit from wind. The supply chain brings economic activity. And wind farms create revenue for local communities.

A 27% target puts all that at risk. Europe would miss out on €92bn in wind investments and over 130,000 jobs that would otherwise have been created. Other sectors would miss out too with a lower target: every €1,000 invested in wind creates €250 value for the wider supply chain including chemicals, steel and construction.

In the absence of a robust domestic market for renewables, Europe would fail to capitalise on one of its most remarkable economic success stories of recent years. It will not have the necessary scale to sustain the current cost reduction and withstand growing international competition. We will lose our first-mover advantage. And European companies will lose business.

Europe has the know-how and ingenuity to reclaim its position as the global hub for investments in renewables. But this requires enabling policies to sustain our global leadership on the energy transition.

We trust you share our commitment to the transition towards a clean competitive and reliable energy system and very much hope you will take this into consideration as you provide guidance on the Clean Energy for all Europeans Package.

Yours sincerely,





The signatories:

ACCIONA
Asociación de Empresas de Energías Renovables (APPA)
Associação Portuguesa de Energias Renováveis (APREN)
Danish Wind Industry Association (DWIA)
Fédération des énergies renouvelables (EDORA)
EDP Renewables
Eneco Group
Enercon GmnH
ENEL Green Power
Energie Baden-Württemberg (EnBW)
Envision
ERG
Falck Renewables
France Energie Eolienne (FEE)
GE Renewable Energy
Iberdrola
IG Windkraft (Austrian Wind Energy Association)
Lietuvos vėjo energetikų asociacija (LVEA)
MHI Vestas Offshore Wind
Nordex-Acciona Windpower
Norwegian Wind Energy Association (NORWEA)
Ørsted A/S
Polish Wind Energy Association (PWEA)
RES Ltd.
Sentient Science
Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy
Svensk Vindenergi
Valorem
Vestas
Verband Deutscher Maschinen- und Anlagenbau (VDMA)