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Europe

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BRUSSELS

Joint NGO Statement on climate and energy policy ahead of the Spring Council

Dear Prime Minister,

In this Spring Council, you will discuss climate and energy policy as a package. Climate change poses an immense challenge. Sound and ambitious energy policies will provide a substantial part of the solution if you, as your country's leader, have the will to put them in place and to implement them. **In this Council, you have the opportunity to commit to achieving the necessary transformation in the way we use energy to help to guarantee a sustainable future for Europe.**

The latest report on the science of climate change from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) shows clearly what is at stake: **the Earth faces a greater threat than at any other time in human history.** We are already seeing an unequivocal warming of the climate system and devastating effects, particularly in developing countries least able to cope. The impacts in Europe and world-wide will be on an unprecedented scale unless action is taken, and taken now. Europe cannot tackle climate change alone, but decisive leadership domestically throws down the gauntlet to others to rise to the challenge. Agreement to the following points in the Spring Council conclusions will demonstrate to the world your continued commitment to winning the battle against climate change.

Climate

- -30% unilateral emissions reduction compared to 1990 levels, to be achieved domestically by 2020, sending a clear signal of the EU's climate commitment.
- the EU must signal that it is prepared to take on a more ambitious target, if others also do more and if it has future access to additional flexible mechanism credits, whose environmental integrity is strengthened.
- commitment to achieving a mandate for negotiations for the post 2012 agreement this year at the Conference of Parties in Bali.
- a commitment to use all relevant international and bilateral fora to promote action against climate change, with the view of securing the Bali Mandate, and subsequent agreement.
- assurance that the EU's Kyoto target will be met.

Energy

- increasing the share of renewable energy by agreeing a binding 2020 target of 25%.
- sectoral targets for electricity, heating and cooling and transport.
- a mandate to the Commission to develop wide-ranging and far-reaching legislative proposals arising from the energy efficiency action plan, including minimum efficiency standards.

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It is up to you personally to ensure that the EU, with all its resources and influence, will deliver the required EU leadership, internally, bilaterally and internationally. Each of these actions will not only send a signal to the rest of the world that Europe is serious about tackling climate change, but will also allow the EU to engage in a new way with third countries on energy issues.

The NGO community is ready to work with you to achieve these goals; goals which we believe will directly address many of your citizens' concerns for the future.

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