

Object: Net-zero carbon economy by 2050 – a feasible option with renewables

Dear Commissioner Cañete,

After the publication of the 1.5°C Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change calling for “rapid and far-reaching transitions” in all sectors, the pathway of **net-zero carbon emissions** by 2050 is the only viable option in the upcoming Commission long-term strategy.

With renewables at the centre, the long-term emission reduction strategy can meet the net-zero carbon economy by 2050. Unprecedented technology improvements and cost reductions makes it clear that we should aim for a 100% renewable energy system by 2050. Many renewable energy technologies are already mature and available at reasonable costs and with research and development some additional technologies will be ready for the market in the near future.

An ambitious vision is needed to incentivise a fuel switch in all sectors of the EU economy:

- An electricity system powered by reliable combination of variable renewables and flexible renewable capacity to balance the new system
- Heating and cooling of buildings and industry relying on a smart and efficient use of renewable electricity and direct renewable heating and cooling technology
- A transport system based on renewable e-mobility and alternative fuels

Putting renewables at the centre of the long-term emission reduction strategy creates important synergies for the wider European economy. The renewable energy industry is a major driver of Europe’s reindustrialisation. It creates thousands of local jobs, provides new opportunities for workers and brings economic development to European regions.

The European Commission long-term strategy should not miss the opportunity to send out clear signal to investors, enterprises and citizens. The EU has to show its global leadership in renewables and commit to further deployment of renewables across all parts of the European economy. Only this way the EU will become number one in renewables!

Yours faithfully,

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