



**Group of the Progressive Alliance of  
Socialists & Democrats  
in the European Parliament**

**European Parliament**

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Dear Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans,

Allow us to congratulate you on the confirmation of the new European Commission. The S&D Group supports your commitment in concretely showing that we can be stronger together and that united we can deliver to our citizens.

As already expressed back in July, we believe that the new Commission must be the driver of a much-needed economic, social and ecological transformation for Europe that can set the path for climate neutrality and sustainable equality by mid-century. We are looking forward to the fact that the European Green Deal is the priority of the next European Commission.

We need a new sustainable economic model for Europe. One that is based on a true alliance between economic, social and ecological progress with the ultimate aim of improving the sustainable well-being of people, leaving no one behind. This requires a coherent and effective strategy cutting through a broad range of policies based on a new approach that reflects the objectives of the Paris Agreement and of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

A European Green Deal, that is set up and executed in the best possible way, will define the mandate of this European Commission and will put Europe on the path of long-term, sustainable growth and prosperity.

Such a strategy needs to ensure that environmental policies are used to promote social and economic progress, by ensuring inclusivity and citizens' participation and by decreasing social inequalities, imbalances between the bigger and the smaller Member States, disparities between regions, differences between urban and rural areas, between peripheral and central areas, as well as between women and men and between generations.

The S&D Group wants a European Green Deal that includes a comprehensive agenda that rethinks education programmes, training, re-skilling and upskilling programmes. A European Green Deal that promotes public awareness and citizens' involvement in climate action. A European Green Deal based on progressive social and employment policies that can provide new tools and indicators that help measure the impact of all EU policies on the social and territorial fabric of our society and aiming towards a climate neutral society.

For a successful strategy, adequate financial resources and budgetary commitments are required at both EU and national level with significant additional public and private investment. For the current 40% reduction target for 2030 the European Commission estimated that €175 to €290 billion annual investments are needed. With an ambition level of 55% the budgetary needs will certainly be higher. According to the Court of Auditors, the European Union needs investments in the range of €1.115 billion per year, starting in 2021.

This is not the time for business-as-usual policies. We have no time to waste. We need a coherent and an ambitious roadmap that sets the agenda for the next years. We require stronger policy measures, better implementation, and investments at a much higher scale. Policies that place at their core people's needs, wherever they are, whoever they are.

The S&D Group calls on the European Commission to commit to the following measures:

- Present a European Climate Law with a legally binding goal for reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emission by 2050 at the latest, having an intermediate target of at least 55% for 2030; introduce all the required legislative and non-legislative proposals in the next two years, including all sectors to contribute to achieve the reduction targets; increase support for research, innovation and new technologies; commit to a major transformation of the industrial and transport sectors towards climate neutrality while improving workers' rights and their social conditions; strengthen CO<sub>2</sub> standards for vehicles; include shipping and aviation emissions in the EU-ETS; reduce free allowances for airlines and propose an end to the tax exemption for kerosene fuel; reform the whole ETS to align the annual reduction factor with the revised EU 2030 target of at least 55% and with the objective of reaching climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest;
- Ensure that the current reform turns the CAP and the Common Fisheries Policy into important climate and sustainability tools, making them fully compatible with the renewed climate and environment ambitions; strengthen common standards and mandatory requirements, especially for the eco-schemes; strengthen the position of farmers and fishermen and women in the value chain and address the difficult position of rural or maritime areas and their communities;
- Commit to the introduction and implementation of a zero-pollution strategy in order to trigger the strengthening of all legislations in the field of air and water quality, pollutant emissions and of pesticides and chemicals, including the long overdue EU non-toxic environment strategy; emphasising the sustainability aspect of the production and use of chemicals; tackle pollutant emissions from ships in ports and planes in airports; commit to introduce and implement a strategy for sustainable and smart mobility and provide sufficient investments for sustainable infrastructure, in line with the climate neutrality objective;
- Ensure that the European Climate Pact brings together citizens, regions, local communities, civil society, trade unions and industry as actors of the movement towards climate neutrality, based on genuine dialogue and participatory processes, where all concerned will have a say be it at local, regional or national level;
- Commit to an effective Just Transition as an overarching political principle ensuring ecological and social progress go hand in hand, with the involvement of all communities and workers; guarantee the creation of quality jobs for women and men and young people entering the job market; ensure a smooth transition to a climate neutral and sustainable European industry; present a new Just Transition Fund endowed with genuine additional and fresh budgetary means;
- Commit to the adequate financing of the European Green Deal providing robust budgetary commitments for all of its actions and priorities with significant levels of additional public and private investment, as indicated by the European Court of Auditors, and with the help of new resources such as proceeds from a carbon border adjustment mechanism, revenues from the

ETS and fees on non-recycled plastic packaging; provide substantial clarity and certainty on the sources of this funding;

- Propose partnerships with third countries and neighbouring continents with whom the EU can associate on major projects that can help ensure carbon neutrality by mid-century; such projects should focus on clean energy technologies particularly with the northern African countries;
- All of the above have to be carried out in conjunction with the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights in creating a Europe with social cohesion, where we compete with knowledge, innovation, like green technology and not with low wages and precarious working conditions; ensuring also that energy poverty is properly addressed and an ambitious EU housing policy is put into place.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,



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