

EU 2030 Climate & Energy Declaration



Confronted with an economic downturn, the challenges posed by climate change, fuel import dependency and rising fossil fuel bills, Europe needs to move rapidly towards a sustainable economy based on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

By promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, we will be able to improve our energy security and reduce carbon emissions, while boosting the economy and creating high quality green jobs. However, these fundamental changes in our society and economy will not happen without dedicated policies.

Europe has made good progress towards its 2020 climate and energy goals. Europe must now set three ambitious, binding targets for 2030 to ensure we continue reaping the benefits.

We therefore call on EU leaders to agree an ambitious EU 2030 climate and energy package no later than October 2014. This package should be based on:

- **A binding domestic greenhouse gas reduction target well beyond the proposed 40% reduction compared to 1990;**
- **A binding renewable energy target of at least 40%;**
- **A binding energy efficiency target of at least 40%.**

Europe must use this opportunity to move towards a more sustainable future.

ACTIAM, ASN Bank, Eneco Group, Heijmans, IKEA Group, Interface, Philips, SPAR Austria Group, Swarovski, Unilever, Zwitserleven.

Company Supporting Statements:

It is crucial to make our energy supply both cleaner and more efficient as soon as possible, while keeping it affordable. Investors like ACTIAM can gain from such a transition in multiple ways. Saving energy and making our energy system sustainable generates a profit for people, the environment, but also for businesses. It is thereby needed that the European leaders call for stricter energy legislation.

- Jacob de Wit, CEO ACTIAM

“It is time Europe takes a clear lead in combating climate change. Binding targets for greenhouse gas reduction, energy efficiency and sustainable energy at a minimal level of 40% is the way to take this leadership. More and more companies take these steps as well. ASN Bank has committed itself to carbon neutrality in 2030 for all its activities, especially including all its investments. These companies, but especially all European citizens need support from EU politicians to secure this massive transformation of our economies towards a safe and stable climate for a prosperous EU.”

- Ewoud Goudswaard, CEO ASN Bank

“Renewable energy plays a key role in a competitive, secure and clean energy system. An ambitious and binding target for renewable energy provides the necessary long term certainty and clarity for investors and consumers.”

– Jeroen de Haas, CEO of Eneco Group

“Sustainability has been top of Heijmans’ agenda for years. The market is moving in this direction as well. Both clients and customers increasingly demand sustainable solutions in terms of energy efficient products, a sustainable production process and the application of sustainable energy sources. For that reason we have re-evaluated our own sustainability goals, based in our belief that setting ambitious goals is an important first step, and the fact that opting for safe, easy-to-achieve goals wouldn’t take us further as a business. We count on others to do the same. The world changes and together we should aim to raise the bar, on our way to a construction sector and a society that is 100% sustainable.”

- Roland de Waal, member of the Heijmans Executive Committee

"It's the right time for Europe to send a clear signal on climate action to business and the international community. Bold, transformational targets are good for jobs, good for innovation, good for investment and good for the planet. It's time to go all in."

- Steve Howard, Chief Sustainability Officer, IKEA Group.

“With massive shifts in the energy supply occurring around us, it is critical for Europe to take control of its future and unlock its low-carbon economic potential. What we need is for Europe to step up – to take radical action and drive the market changes we need to transform our economy towards a more sustainable path. To make this shift, binding targets on energy-efficiency and renewable energy aren’t nice to have, they are vital.

The only way to push the boundaries is to set seemingly impossible targets. It takes you away from the ordinary and challenges you to widen the scope and look for alternatives that you didn't know were possible. Just like we did, when we committed ourselves in 1994 to have zero impact on the environment by 2020. Therefore, we ask the European politicians to take the lead and make clear to the rest of the world: this is the moment to act.”

- Rob Boogaard, CEO Interface EMEA

We know that the economic cost of inaction is now greater than action. For the UN Climate Change Conference to be a success next year in Paris, Europe needs to set itself bold targets on greenhouse gas emissions and energy efficiency, that are an example to the rest of the world. The recent New Climate Economy Report clearly states that investing in energy efficiency and renewables makes sound business sense. Our politicians must show leadership. We need clarity, confidence and courage from them - without the right policy frameworks and political signals, even the most determined business action will not reach the scale we need to make a real difference.”

– Paul Polman, Unilever CEO

"As a responsible company, SPAR calls for strong energy efficiency targets for 2030 and has in place appropriate measures in its own company. We demand a binding commitment and a clear legal framework of the EU as well."

- Hans K. Reisch, SPAR Austria Group Managing Director

"Delayed action on climate change poses significant risk to industry and society at large. We at Swarovski think companies, especially in the industrial sector, should commit themselves to ambitious standards to reduce the environmental impact of their operations. Swarovski fully supports the call on the European Council to agree on a 2030 climate policy framework for better management of humanity's impact on the climate system."

– Markus Langes-Swarovski, Member of the Swarovski Executive Board

We believe that everyone should be able to enjoy their retirement and experience the so-called "Zwitserven Feeling". This requires a healthy world in which attention is given to the environment, people and wildlife. We are happy to contribute to that goal. Not only for our customers; we want everyone to benefit from a healthy planet. Let's pursue the "Zwitserven Feeling" together.

– Seada van den Herik, Zwitserven Chairman of the Board

To add your company support to this statement please contact:

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