



Dr. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany

Emmanuel Macron, President of France

In copy: Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission

Berlin/Paris 10th November 2017

Putting the zero-carbon transition in Europe at the heart of the French-German partnership

Dear Chancellor Merkel, dear President Macron,

The beginning of new legislative periods in both France and Germany opens a unique window of opportunity to further strengthen the German-French tandem and to push for a more ambitious climate agenda at the heart of a renewed European project.

The impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly visible: 2016 was the hottest year on record and 2017 is rapidly becoming a record year of weather extremes. This very much highlights the urgency to act. Your reiterated support to the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and your will to closely cooperate on climate policies and the energy transition are vital to deliver on your commitments to keep global warming well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C. Given the current U.S. Administration, your leadership in the international climate negotiations has never been more important.

More ambition is urgently needed at the European level in order to translate the Paris climate targets into concrete actions. As a driving force of the European reform process, the German-French tandem

should become the engine of an ambitious European climate policy, thereby creating quality jobs across Europe and protecting the health of European citizens. This can embolden other EU Member States to speed up decarbonisation efforts and modernise their economies and infrastructure.

Therefore, important steps need to be taken in the coming year:

- A close and strong German-French cooperation will be crucial to ensure that the EU delivers its fair share of the Paris agreement. The current EU climate and energy policies and targets for 2030 are at best designed on a trajectory towards 80% emission reductions by 2050, which is not in line with the goals of the Agreement. We look to you to **raise the ambition of the 2030 targets well ahead of 2020, also in order to effectively implement the energy efficiency first principle and to deploy 100% of renewable energies by 2050**. It is crucial that you push and support the European Commission to come up with its first draft an EU long-term climate strategy within the next 13 months, in time for the 2018 Talanoa dialogue at COP24 and taking into account the conclusions of the IPCC report on the 1.5°C objective and increased global momentum for climate action.
- The latest reform of the European Emissions Trading Scheme, once completed, will be insufficient to incentivise the transition toward a zero carbon economy. We believe that the **introduction of regional carbon price floors, set at a sufficient level**, can contribute to creating a meaningful carbon price. However, at the same time more effective and more ambitious EU and national plans and measures are required for **phasing out fossil energies, such as coal, and avoiding false solutions such as nuclear energy**.
- The current negotiations of the **EU Energy for All Package** and the **Effort Sharing Regulation**, as well as the upcoming **reform of the Common Agricultural Policy** and initiatives in **transport policy** are key opportunities to set a robust and dynamic framework to bring the EU on a **zero-carbon pathway by 2050** latest. We urge you to drive the negotiations with an ambitious joint French-German position and ensure effective implementation and enforcement.
- **Ensuring that the EU budget for 2021-2028 reflects the Paris goals** is vital to achieve an effective and just transition to a zero-carbon economy by 2050. A revised EU budget must not contain any support for the fossil fuel industry. It needs to better align EU investment with climate objectives and support local communities in the transition. Public money needs to better support rural areas in developing renewable energies, promoting modal shift to low carbon mobility and sustainable agriculture. Further, Germany and France must commit sufficient public finance to support adaptation to climate change impacts in developing countries. Pushing for quick adoption of a European Financial Transaction Tax will be one of the ways forward.
- **Aligning financial markets with the Paris Agreement's pathways** and developments in the real economy is critically important if we are to accomplish the Agreement's objectives. France and Germany are key countries for ensuring Europe's financial markets become enablers of the decarbonisation agenda.

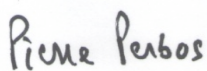
The credibility of your voice will depend on your ability to translate commitments into strong national and European policies in order to accelerate the energy transition. We strongly believe that such a political agenda can strengthen the EU, reconcile climate policy positions, and advance the important EU reform process.

Dear Chancellor Merkel, dear President Macron, the Paris Agreement is a powerful call to action – now it is time to act upon it. We call on you: **Put reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the transition to a clean economy at the heart of your cooperation** in the coming years and build a strong and ambitious European leadership on climate change.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Kai Niebert,
President Deutscher
Naturschutzring



Pierre Perbos,
President, Réseau Action
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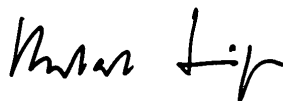
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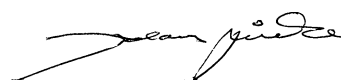
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