



Her Excellency Angela Merkel
Chancellor of Federal Republic of Germany

His Excellency President Emmanuel Macron
President of the French Republic

His Excellency Mateusz Morawiecki
Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland

Hon. Svenja Schulze
Minister of Environment

Hon. Barbara Pompili
Minister of Ecological Transition

Hon. Michal Kurtyka
Minister of Climate and Environment

30 years of the Weimar Triangle: Time for green transition cooperation

Dear Madam Chancellor,

Dear Mr President,

Dear Prime Minister,

Dear Ministers,

This year France, Germany and Poland celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Weimar Triangle – an initiative aimed to promote European integration and strengthen political ties between our countries. Together they can play a decisive role in shaping the EU. However, the potential of the Weimar Triangle has not yet been

exploited and we **are deeply concerned about how much our governments run in opposite directions** when it comes to EU climate policy instruments. It is now high time to revive the Triangle and firmly connect it to the green transition toward climate neutrality in the EU at the latest in 2050. **It is time for a Green Transition Triangle.**

The successful implementation of the European Green Deal and the position of the EU as a global climate leader depends inter alia on the success of the green transition in Poland, Germany and France and the coordination of strong climate agendas between Warsaw, Berlin and Paris.

The Green Transition Triangle is a major opportunity we must not miss. Trilateral climate policy coordination and cooperation structures can provide the EU with urgently needed consensus building support and strategic guidance. The revival and evolution of the Weimar Triangle can lead the way into a better economic and sustainable future for our three countries and the EU as a whole.

We – major environmental NGOs from Poland, France and Germany – urge you to use the potential of the Weimar Triangle as a historic chance for effective implementing of climate targets in the EU. For doing so, it is of utmost importance to achieve progress on the following issues:

- **Establish a Green Transition Triangle for strategic trilateral cooperation on the climate agenda. As soon as possible, especially ahead of and during the upcoming French EU-Presidency, build up new and strengthen existing coordination and cooperation structures to enhance climate action.** This should include the three national parliaments. In order to accelerate the revival of the collaboration, invite representatives of the Polish government to a joint day after the next meetings of the French-German Meseberg Climate Working Group as a first step.
- **Increase trilateral coordination for an ambitious and effective Fit for 55 package that enables the EU to safely reach the “at least -55% climate target” for 2030 while striving to go beyond.** Germany, France and Poland should stand up for a swift EU-wide reduction of fossil fuels and nuclear energy in the national energy mix to the greatest possible extent before 2030 and engage in the deep transformations of the EU economy in all sectors. This should include, among others, reforms to curb emissions of the transport sector and tackle the problem of air pollution by phasing-out the sale of new internal combustion engines vehicles by 2030, to boost renewable energies development and prioritise sufficiency and efficiency across all sectors, especially by starting a buildings energy efficiency renovation wave to tackle the energy poverty, but also additional ambitious regulative actions for transport and a strong reform of the EU emissions trading scheme. It is urgently needed: According to the UN Emissions Gap Report, even with the current increased EU and US climate commitments and full implementation, global temperatures would still rise by about 2.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- **Ensure a socially fair transition towards climate neutrality.** As “no one should be left behind” on the path to net-zero emissions, the European Green Deal needs to ensure socially fair transformations in our countries. Therefore, adjust investment decisions and labour market to the current realities of the green economy, use this opportunity to create 2 million jobs in the EU by 2024. Make sure that all sectors contribute their fair share to the transition, that the polluter pays principle applies, in particular to large polluters, while the most vulnerable are effectively protected against social disruptions and supported in the transition. Furthermore, give sufficient attention to the social and financial consequences of climate change as it is already causing tremendous costs, particularly in already vulnerable parts of our society.
- **Connect Europe through a rail renaissance.** Trains are the most climate friendly mode of long-distance transport, yet train connections between Poland, Germany and France have continuously worsened over time. Large numbers of citizens in our three countries want long-distance European train services to be

strengthened.¹ We therefore urge you to make train connections between our three countries more attractive than flying by accelerating actions for an Europakt with at least 30 new attractive and affordable Trans-European Express and night trains between 2021 and 2025. The European rail renaissance needs to be accompanied by a joint French-Polish-German initiative on “taxing” aviation kerosene in the EU that should quick-start in a frontrunner group of EU countries.

The 30th anniversary of the Weimar Triangle is a perfect occasion for you to elevate cooperation to a new level and initiate a constructive climate policy dialogue. Bringing together our different starting points and specific national circumstances can play a vital role to guarantee intra-EU solidarity for leaving no one behind and making the EU “Fit for 55” – its new 55 percent greenhouse gas reduction target for 2030. In Franco-German-Polish cooperation lies a yet unexploited potential, which, when unleashed, can significantly contribute to improving the European Green Deal.

Yours sincerely,



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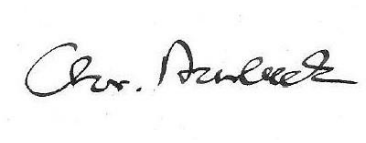
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¹ See: https://germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/2021-03-26_EU%20Rail_polling%20report_final-1.pdf.



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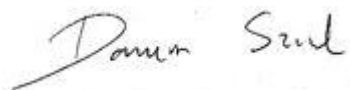
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