

**For the attention of the European Council**

Regards: European Council, 10 December 2020

7. December 2020

Dear Leaders,

In the context of the upcoming European Council discussions on climate ambition, I want to assure you that the European power sector is fully committed to leading the quest for a climate-neutral economy. This means achieving a fully carbon-neutral power sector well before 2050 while providing renewable and carbon-neutral electricity for other sectors to decarbonise as well.

Eurelectric explicitly welcomes and supports the ambition of at least 55% emission reductions by 2030. To achieve this goal proportionate compensatory measures will be important for countries with different starting points.

The fastest and cheapest way to deliver emission reductions across the economy is by integrating renewable and carbon-neutral electricity in transport, buildings and industry. The European electricity industry therefore calls on leaders to develop a dedicated electrification strategy which sets out the key principles of maximising the benefits.

Proper regulatory framework conditions are key to deliver on this accelerated ambition. Our sector believes that carbon pricing is a key tool to deliver investment signals in a technology-neutral way. An important obstacle to the timely deployment of necessary additional power generation capacity are permitting delays and red tape. Accelerated and simplified procedures are needed and require urgent political attention. Moreover, the much-needed growth in renewable capacity across Europe will most likely have impacts on power markets and prices. These effects should be analysed thoroughly by the European Commission.

Eurelectric will continue to engage actively and constructively on the European level to deliver on our commitments and play our part in enabling a thriving, competitive climate-neutral European economy.



Yours sincerely,  
Pat O'Doherty  
Eurelectric President