

To:

Mr Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal
Mr Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President for An Economy that Works for People
Mr Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market
Ms Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy
Ms Mairead McGuinness, Commissioner for Financial Services

Brussels, April 13, 2021

(Updated from March 31, 2021)

Open Letter to the European Commission supporting the highest sustainability standards in the EU Taxonomy for the production of clean hydrogen

Dear Vice-President Timmermans; dear Vice-President Dombrovskis; dear Commissioner Breton; dear Commissioner Ms Simson; dear Commissioner Ms McGuinness,

The European Commission will decide soon on the delegated acts for implementing the EU Taxonomy, in a decisive step to ensure that future public and private investments are directed towards projects and economic activities with a substantial positive impact on the climate and the environment. This is key to successfully meeting the European Union's climate and energy targets for 2030 and 2050, delivering on the objectives of the European Green Deal.

Renewable hydrogen produced from 100% renewable electricity sources can play a strategic role in decarbonizing those sectors of our economy that are hard-to-electrify. Together with the deployment of renewable energy installations, renewable hydrogen will achieve the last mile to fully decarbonize our economy, stimulate a green recovery, and place the renewable hydrogen value chain at the core of Europe's growth strategy for generations to come.

The undersigned signatories are extremely concerned about the latest proposals to weaken emission thresholds related to the production of clean hydrogen. We would like to re-iterate our strongest support for the European Commission's initial proposals in the EU Taxonomy, and in particular:

- The establishment of the carbon emissions threshold for hydrogen production at 2.256 tCO₂eq/tH₂ instead of increasing it to 3 tCO₂eq/tH₂.
- The proposal to set the emissions threshold for electricity production of 100 gCO₂eq/kWh from gaseous and liquid fuels.

The initial proposals tabled by the European Commission are in line with the leadership and ambition needed to tackle climate change and ensure that renewable hydrogen produced with 100% renewable electricity can i) benefit from an appropriate prioritization regarding future public and private European investments, ii) become cost-competitive with conventional hydrogen production even before 2025, and iii) ensure that the future EU hydrogen economy will achieve the highest sustainability standards, making Europe a true industrial leader in clean energy technologies.

We remain at your disposal for any further assistance.

Yours sincerely

