

7<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear President von der Leyen,

I am writing to you as [Corporate Leaders Group Europe](#) (CLG Europe) [submits our input](#) on the Climate Law and the 2030 target consultation to underline that we, a group of leading pan-European companies, continue to strongly support the EU's climate ambition and the Green Deal as the EU's growth strategy.

CLG Europe is convened by the [University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership \(CISL\)](#), and over recent weeks we have worked extensively to build business support for a green recovery through initiatives led by [MEP Pascal Canfin](#), [Stiftung 2°](#). Previously we brought [together over 50 CEOs, investors and business networks](#) to support a climate neutral Europe.

Clearly it is essential that you and other decision makers are currently prioritising the challenges of immediate and longer-term response to the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. As the impact of this global pandemic becomes more and more apparent, the world is changing and the countries across the world face not only a public health crisis, but also an economic and a political crisis. The businesses of the Corporate Leaders Group are working hard to support their employees and communities. We must all do everything possible to look after people and retain a functioning economy, while also building back with unprecedented levels of resilience that can support people, society and systems in the face of future challenges.

At the same time, as you know, the transition to climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest remains critical. If the response to the COVID-19 pandemic undermines efforts to address the challenge of climate action, we accelerate one major systemic threat to the economy as we deal with another and this clearly makes no business sense. Our members stress the need to ensure that efforts to rescue and repair the economy in response to the current crisis can and must be aligned with actions to build a more sustainable and resilient economy.

Our recent [report](#) demonstrates how decarbonisation policies are an essential part of a resilient and sustainable labour market. Our experience shows that climate action is largely well aligned with building new industries, delivering better health outcomes, and more pleasant places to live. Of course, climate action does require up front investment and it would represent a massive missed opportunity if stimulus funds and actions provided by governments to support economic recovery were not effectively aligned with wider long term goals including climate action.

The European Green Deal remains the paramount tool to align efforts behind a strong economic recovery that best positions Europe to face wider trends including climate change. CLG Europe supports maintaining and strengthening the ambition of the Green Deal, including through setting intermediate targets for 2030 of at least 55% ensuring that we achieve our climate objectives and support global efforts to achieve the Paris Agreement. The full elements of the Green Deal, including the new Climate Law, the industrial strategy, the renovation wave, the circular economy action plan, the biodiversity strategy and the farm to fork strategy will

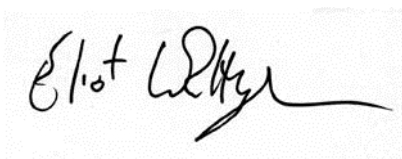
be key to its success. The need for economic recovery and a swift and effective transition to a climate neutral economy are both urgent and measures to address them should be introduced in a timely manner.

Fortunately, we believe action on climate change and action to restart the economy are well linked – and the following measures can support both outcomes:

1. **Investment in infrastructure for the climate neutral economy.** Including in power, transport, homes and buildings, as well as ‘soft’ infrastructure such as nature conservation and land management.
2. **Support for innovation for the climate neutral economy,** covering R&D and deployment, including measures to accelerate the roll out and development of electric vehicles, including vehicle scrappage schemes; support for innovation around industrial decarbonisation; support to help develop zero carbon aviation, shipping and freight; and innovative measures to support the development of a smarter and more circular economy, such as regulation to support the reuse of construction materials within the renovation wave.
3. **Investment in skills,** to pave the way for new low-carbon industries.
4. **Encouraging business best practice,** by mandating companies receiving public support to adopt good management systems including risk disclosures as recommended by the TCFD and setting targets and strategies informed by science.
5. **Maintaining policy certainty,** by continuing to develop policies and measures that deliver on the goals you have set out.

For the EU’s recovery packages to succeed they must support decarbonisation and resilience, while delivering outcomes that can support the most vulnerable and helping build prosperity. As we rebuild, we must apply these approaches and look to rebuild a stronger economy that works for its people and does not lead us sleepwalking into the next crisis. It is certainly in no one’s interest to delay a green, climate neutral EU.

Our senior business leaders, alongside those from our partners in [We Mean Business](#), would be delighted to meet with you over a conference call and discuss these issues in more depth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eliot Whittington', is shown on a light grey background.

Eliot Whittington

**Centre for Policy and Industrial Transformation / The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group / CLG Europe**  
University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership

## CLG Europe Full Members



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