

## Open Letter calling for Climate Leadership from the European Union

Dear European Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete, Dear Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič,

We are writing to you to share our deep concern about the recent developments on the global stage, such as the intended withdrawal of the Federal Government of the USA from the Paris Agreement and the upcoming IPCC report, which will once again stress that the window of opportunity to limit global warming to well below 2°C, let alone 1.5 degrees, is shrinking.

These developments, although extremely worrying, are also an opportunity for the European Union to take leadership on the global stage to effectively deal with climate change, by pushing for ambitious proposals that would keep global warming as close to 1.5 degrees as possible.

In order to meet the Paris goals, and given the rampant pace of environmental destruction that is affecting people all over the world, a group of around 70 Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change - who represent the vast majority of the world's population - have been calling for the adoption of a conflicts of interest policy.

These calls were supported by the European Parliament in its resolution of 4 October 2017 on the 2017 UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany (COP23) (2017/2620(RSP)), which stated the following (emphasis added):

*“Welcomes the inclusiveness of the UNFCCC’s process; considers that **ensuring effective participation requires that the issue of vested or conflicting interests be addressed**; in this context, calls for all participants in the process to **put in place guidelines or procedures that enhance openness, transparency and inclusiveness without compromising the aims and objectives of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement**;*”

As a follow up to this resolution, we would like to call on you to show that the EU is capable of rising up to the challenge. The European Commission should actively defend the EU's core values such as respect for human dignity and human rights, freedom, democracy, equality, cooperation, and the rule of law. These values are threatened by climate change, and hence also by those who are trying to undermine the world effort to tackle this challenge.

Specifically, the European Commission should engage constructively so that the UNFCCC adopts a clear definition of what a conflict of interest is, and so it introduces a policy to make sure that its decision-making process is not dominated by organisations that have vested interests that directly contradict the goals of the Paris agreement.

The time has therefore come for the European Commission to act. We believe that the European Commission should listen to the calls of those both in Europe and abroad who are already suffering the consequences of climate change, and take leadership on the global stage to actively fight for the protection of people and planet.

You can count on our support to work together with you to ensure that our institutions continue to defend, and implement, the exact values that are at the core of the European project and to do our utmost to limit global warming to safe levels.

Yours sincerely,

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Sirpa Pietikainen (EPP)  
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## Co-signatures:

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