



Dear Mr Borchardt,

Following the first year of the Platform's operation, the organisations working on just energy transition are addressing a letter to you detailing our requests, recommendations, and questions to take the Platform forward. Many of these points build on those already made in our letter of the 20th July 2018, and those which were raised in the honest discussion held jointly with the Commission in October 2018. Some of these points, however, remain to be addressed.

First, we welcome the Commission's openness to improve the meetings of the Platform, and are keen to see this take place. We request that the Commission provides an analysis of the inputs from stakeholders collected prior to the stocktake meeting in Katowice. A common suggestion of many stakeholders was to introduce smaller, more focused and inclusive meetings. They should offer greater interaction opportunities with the Platform for all relevant stakeholders, including civil society and local communities. We believe that civil society must be able to propose concrete ideas and plans, and be clearly recognised in the country team meetings on an equal footing with other stakeholders. Is this view shared by the Commission? We would be happy to work with your team to develop this further.

Secondly, we have emphasised the importance of transparency in our previous interactions, in particular in the operation of the Pilot Regions. Transparency is essential for the credibility of the Platform, and to ensure that all relevant stakeholders can be fully involved in the process of transition within the Pilot Regions.

The current system of nomination by national authorities to the country team meetings is not working. Many important stakeholders in the transition (including renewable industry, civil society and universities) are excluded in favour of an imbalance towards incumbent industry. Given that the funds which the Platform assists regions to access are governed by the Partnership Principle, the activities of the Platform must also apply it. We therefore urge the Commission to reflect on its role in enforcing the Partnership Principle and to put in place conditions to ensure that all stakeholders are involved, from project proposal to selection and implementation. It is essential that the Commission insists on the equal participation of at least two representatives from local and international civil society in all the country team meetings facilitated by the Platform.

Furthermore, the process of setting the agenda for the meetings and project development between meetings must be opened to civil society and other relevant stakeholders. The current processes for project selection and stakeholder invitation are opaque. We therefore expect clear lines of communication between meetings, for instance through regular meetings between the Coal Platform representatives and the civil society organisations engaged in the Platform. The signatories to this letter would be happy to discuss this with you further at a joint meeting with the Secretariat and are open to collaboration with you to support this outreach work.

Thirdly, the online hub should be created as a matter of priority, to increase visibility of the Platform and to promote its transparency. The hub should disclose all projects put forward in the current and new pilot regions (so far unpublished in most cases), also indicating to which funds projects are connected and how they assist the transition to a low carbon economy. Moreover, it is unclear whether pilot countries are under any obligation to report on the activities developed in the context of the Platform. We would welcome an opportunity to discuss with you how the Commission keeps participant countries accountable and monitors progress, and how the online hub could be used here. Is more information on what the Secretariat intends to include in the online hub, and how it will be organised, available?

Equally, the online hub should also be a knowledge hub. A wealth of knowledge is generated across Europe and we believe that information and lessons learned from and beyond the pilot regions should be shared. Many of the organisations can provide material on the transition and are open to exploring with the Secretariat how this can be shared.

The Platform has a key role to play in the clean energy transition, if implemented correctly. The October 2018 IPCC special report underlines the urgency of taking climate action, as limiting warming to 1.5°C rather than 2°C will avoid significant negative global impacts. Moreover, in order to align with the Paris Agreement and with a net zero emissions goal by mid-century, an immediate and major transformation of the energy system is crucial. Coal must be phased out quickly and in a socially-acceptable way. It remains questionable how meaningful transition plans can be developed without a defined, target phase out date for coal. Does the Commission intend to take the October 2018 IPCC special report into account in the future work of the Platform? If yes, to what extent? If not, why is this the case?

Furthermore, contrary to the stated goals of the Platform, the current focus on 'advanced coal technologies' represents a continuous risk that the Platform will lock communities into fossil fuels and block a socially fair structural transformation. The long-term viability of carbon capture and storage is uncertain, and other 'clean coal' technologies do not align with the ambition for a net-zero emission power sector. Recalling that Vice President Maroš

Šefčovič and Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete stated that carbon capture technologies are intended only as a last resort for gas and industry in their reply to our previous letter, we urge the Commission to commit that no 'clean coal' projects will be recommended or implemented by the initiative.

Finally, we would welcome an opportunity to reflect on new, relevant foci, beyond the existing working groups. In our experience, involving trade unions and other stakeholders, as well as ensuring quality employment play a central role in successful clean energy transitions. Developing and sharing best practice in dialogue between unions, renewable industries and civil society would therefore bring significant added value to ongoing processes on the ground.

We welcome your response to this letter and the questions posed within it. We urge the Commission and the new Secretariat to seriously consider our proposals, bearing in mind the extreme urgency of rapid and resolute climate action. We look forward to further discussions on the points raised and suggest a joint meeting between representatives of the undersigned, the new Secretariat and the Commission before the next Platform meeting, expected in April.

On behalf of the signing organisations.

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