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May 13th 2019

Dear Coal Regions in Transition Secretariat,

At the Coal Regions in Transition Platform meeting on April 8th-9th, and at the expert working group on the April 10th, it was announced that the Secretariat will work on support materials for the coal regions in transition. This letter signals our intention, as a coalition of non-governmental organisations seeking to phase out coal in Europe by 2030, to continue our collaboration and to assist you through inputting into this work, on the basis of our expertise and experience.

First, however, we would like to express our appreciation for the work of the Secretariat so far. The use of breakout sessions adds dynamism to the meeting, allowing greater interaction between participants and we would like to see this further developed. We were also pleased to see efforts were made to involve a wide range of partners, including civil society, in all sessions and would be very happy to support you to expand this.

We see a number of areas where the Platform meeting could still be improved further. Notably, with regards to the agenda setting, we would like to see greater transparency and would be keen to work with you in the agenda setting process, which we understand takes place very early on. Although some NGOs were able to offer presentations in previous meetings, it is still not clear how stakeholders can obtain speaking slots, nor what is prioritised. We also very much welcome the Commission's announcement during the April meeting that a larger venue will be sought for the next meetings, given that the Albert Borschette Centre was too small to accommodate all those who had registered.

We also hope to see improvements extended to the country team processes and in the implementation of the transition in the regions themselves. In this context, we intend to contribute to the development of the support materials as announced at the meeting.

On the grounds that two support materials, 'good practices' and 'transition strategies' are targeted for July, we will aim to provide our input to these by early-June. We have already informally requested guidance or a template from the Secretariat in order to most appropriately provide this input to you and intend to shape our input once this is received.

Regarding the collection of good practice, we can draw on the work of members of the coalition to provide helpful examples. These include, but are not limited to, examples of early economic analysis and assessment to inform transition strategies and the development of regional strategic transition plans themselves. Transition strategies should be compatible with EU objectives on health, climate and the environment and it is here in particular where we can offer expertise. As well as this, some of the members of our organisations have experience engaging in the country team processes themselves, and can offer insight into good examples of project selection and development, as well as country team organisation. We can also draw on the experience of capacity building within regions and of sharing experience, for instance, in the case of the Forum of Mayors for the Just Transition and can offer both good and weak examples of the engagement of citizens.

We understand that the transition strategies support materials will be in the form of slide shows to be used in the regions. We would therefore like to offer some thoughts into various elements we believe should be included in these slides and will follow this letter with further information and insight to that end. Notably we anticipate that the components will include guidance on why transition strategies are necessary from the start, and what should be in a transition strategy - including guidance on the elements which should be respected to develop these, such as the participation of stakeholders and the necessity for transparency.

Once we have sent this input to you, we would like to have a meeting to further develop on any points made, and also to provide an opportunity for mutual exchange and to ask any questions you may have about the input. Would you be open to this, perhaps in mid-June?

Finally, we will also send you a model of guidance on setting up country teams and engaging civil society in country team processes. This follows discussions with the Commission, who have expressed strong support for providing 'golden standards' for authorities hoping to set up country teams, in order to assist both authorities and stakeholders navigating the process. These 'golden standards' would be based on pre-existing publications and guidance and we would be grateful if you would consider this in your own development of such a product.

Please let us know, preferably via phone call or by email to ktreadwell@wwf.eu, any further guidance on how we can best input to the development of support materials, or how we may best collaborate with you.

We anticipate that you will find this guidance both useful and informative. We look forward very much to your response and to our future collaboration.

On behalf of the signing organisations,



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