

Mr Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President
European Green Deal
Ms Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice-President
A Europe Fit for the Digital Age
Mr Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal
Market
Ms Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy

Brussels, December 2, 2021

Subject: Role of electricity-based low-carbon hydrogen in reaching the targets of the European hydrogen strategy

Dear Executive Vice-President Timmermans,
Dear Executive Vice-President Vestager,
Dear Commissioner Breton,
Dear Commissioner Simson,

Achieving the European objective of -55% emissions reduction by 2030 requires an acceleration of direct electrification throughout the economy as well as **the swift deployment of clean hydrogen to replace 10 million tons of grey hydrogen and decarbonise hard-to-abate sectors**. The current situation of high energy prices also highlights the necessity to harness the potential of EU-based industries and to reinforce the EU's energy independence.

As outlined in the EU Hydrogen Strategy, electrolytic hydrogen has a key role to play in achieving this ambition. In order to decrease the costs of hydrogen production, investments should be encouraged to reduce the cost of electrolysers and kick start the market. **Using low-carbon electricity as a complement to renewable electricity for hydrogen production allows to deploy more projects in a cost-effective way**, thus contributing to matching the European demand for clean hydrogen.

In addition to renewable hydrogen, a definition of low-carbon hydrogen should be then integrated in the legal framework, meeting a GHG emission reduction level compatible with the - 70% GHG emissions reduction requirement from the Renewable Energy Directive and the EU Taxonomy on Sustainable Investments. Common methodology and standards to assess GHG reductions from different production pathways should be adopted as soon as possible and be able **to assess the carbon intensity of grid powered electricity-based hydrogen based on the hourly average carbon content**.

The signatories therefore call on the European Commission **to acknowledge the substantial role of this low-carbon hydrogen to achieve the Fit for 55 objectives**. The upcoming Gas and Hydrogen Package is the opportunity to ensure that it can contribute to the targets set out in the recast Renewable Energy Directive for the decarbonisation of industry and heavy transport.

We remain at your disposal for any further assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Fabien Laleuf, president of ABB France



Daniel Benes, CEO of CEZ Group



Jean-Bernard Lévy, CEO of EDF



Philippe Boucly, President of France Hydrogène



Markus Rauramo, President and CEO of Fortum



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Guy Sidos, CEO of Vicat Group