

Kadri Simson
Commissioner for Energy
European Commission

Re: Following your appointment as Commissioner

Brussels, the 16th December 2019

Dear Commissioner,

We are writing on behalf of CEMBUREAU, the association of the European cement industry, to congratulate you on your nomination as Commissioner for energy.

The coming five years presents an opportunity for the EU to drive ambitious climate policies towards carbon neutrality whilst strengthening a competitive industrial base across the continent.

European cement companies are firmly determined to play a leading role in supporting this agenda:

- **The European cement industry is mindful of its environmental impact and serious about reducing its CO₂ emissions.** As shown in the low-carbon Roadmap we developed for the sector, we innovate at every step of the cement production process, and are leading the way in terms of deployment of key technological solutions, such as pilot projects on Carbon Capture, Use and Storage (CCUS). In this respect, we believe that it will be critical to work towards a greater connectivity of electricity and CO₂ transportation networks with industrial hubs over the coming years;
- **We are actively working on fossil fuel substitution in cement production processes.** Through co-processing, the cement sector in the EU28 substitutes an average 46% of its fuels with non-recyclable waste & biomass, a figure which could significantly increase with the right policy levers in place. Co-processing is already having a very real impact on the sustainability of the cement industry in Europe: 18 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions are avoided every year.
- Through its main end-product concrete, **cement is also a key construction material for renewable energy equipment** – in particular for windfarms and hydraulic dams. Cement and concrete are therefore pivotal for several key enabling technologies to foster a carbon-neutral energy system.

A key economic actor, the European cement industry directly employs over 35,000 persons in the EU, whilst the combined cement and concrete industry generates a total value added of €56bn in the EU28 and over 1.1 million jobs.

We believe that with the right policies in place, it is possible to both decarbonise the sector and enhance Europe's industrial leadership. The access to affordable, low-carbon energy has a key role to play in this respect, alongside efforts to deploy crucial technologies such as CCUS.

We would be delighted to meet you with some of our European CEOs in the coming months. This would be the occasion to introduce our sector and discuss key issues such as the importance of energy policies that support the decarbonisation of the EU's industry, and the connection between energy networks and industrial hubs as we evolve towards carbon neutrality.

We attach to this letter our brochure "*Building carbon neutrality in Europe*", for your information.

Once again, we wish you a very successful mandate and look forward to building a constructive relationship over the coming five years.

Sincerely,

