

**Bill Gates**

December 4, 2020

Dr. Ursula von der Leyen  
President, European Commission  
Rue de la Loi  
BERL  
1049 Brussels  
Belgium

Dear President von der Leyen:

It was a pleasure to speak with you recently. Thank you for taking the time.

I am inspired by Europe's leadership in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and the threat of climate change.

To reach climate neutrality, the public and private sectors will need to invest in research and breakthroughs in how we make things, grow food, and move people and goods — in addition to how we power our homes and cars. I am pleased to collaborate with your Commission on the 'supply-side' of the clean technologies we need.

We've worked on the supply side together through Breakthrough Energy Ventures – Europe, which successfully works to identify the most promising innovations and helps find great ideas to invest in and build businesses.

Yet, the supply of these technologies is only half of the solution. Breakthrough Energy Catalyst is designed to address the 'demand-side' and is a concrete opportunity to coordinate public and private climate action in Europe. We have primarily set Catalyst up as a vehicle to reduce the green premium and establish the conditions for critical climate technologies to compete with the technologies that emit Greenhouse Gases. Together, I think we can build a program that fast-tracks European innovation and provides the foundations for European leadership in the industries that will help solve climate change.

**Bill Gates**

I would be delighted to have you as one of the first public partners in this new initiative. Our partnership would show leadership internationally in the run-up to COP-26 through concrete and actionable initiatives that deliver sizable emission reductions, while ensuring a sustainable, job-rich recovery.

My private office (via Jonah Goldman) will work with your team on the next steps.

It was a pleasure to see you again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Gates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bill Gates