



LE GOUVERNEMENT  
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG  
Ministère du Développement durable  
et des Infrastructures

Département de l'environnement



MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE  
E DELLA TUTELA DEL TERRITORIO E DEL MARE

Luxembourg and Rome, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Dear EU Commissioners,


As you know His Holiness Francis has recently raised his voice in the fight against consumerism and irresponsible development, environmental degradation and climate change through his second encyclical letter "Laudato si' - On care for our common home". The strong stance of His Holiness Francis in linking sustainable development and the fight against poverty has nurtured discussion all over the world and we think that his words can create a positive momentum on the way to COP21. This is why the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union has welcomed the initiative of Italy to organize an audience with His Holiness Francis.

Me and Gian Luca are glad to inform you that His Holiness has accepted to meet the Ministers of Environment and Climate of the European Union, Commissioner Vella and Commissioner Arias Cañete, together with their respective consorts, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September at 9.00 a.m. in the Auletta of the Aula Paolo VI in the Vatican City.

We think that this meeting will constitute a precious opportunity of a high level exchange as well as a chance to show the European Union's commitment to reach a global agreement in Paris next December.

Therefore we hope to see you in Rome on the 16<sup>th</sup>. For any organizational information you can contact the office of the Diplomatic Advisor of the Ministry of Environment of Italy via e-mail ([ucd@minambiente.it](mailto:ucd@minambiente.it)). Please note that the participation will be limited to Commissioners accompanied by their respective consorts.

Wishing you a fruitful holiday season we send our best regards.

 Carole Dieschbourg  
Minister of the Environment

Gian Luca Galletti  
Minister of the Environment

GRAND-DUCHÉ DE  
Présidence  
du Conseil de  
l'Union européenne  **luxembourg**