

Executive First Vice-President Frans Timmermans  
Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson  
Industry Commissioner Thierry Breton  
Transport Commissioner Adina-Ioana Vălean  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
B-1049 Brussels

Brussels, 9 June 2020

**Subject: Hydrogen at the heart of EU recovery strategy – letter of support by the Hydrogen Council**

Dear Executive First Vice-President Timmermans,  
Dear Commissioner Simson,  
Dear Commissioner Breton,  
Dear Commissioner Vălean,

We are writing on behalf of the Hydrogen Council, a worldwide 80+-strong CEO coalition working to enable the global energy transition through hydrogen. We would like to congratulate you on your willingness to place hydrogen at the heart of the EU's COVID-19 crisis recovery effort.

In the midst of this unique situation, most of the sectors represented by our coalition have been affected, some very severely. But our commitment in terms of resources, capex and prioritisation of hydrogen solutions has not changed. This is a sign that we are ready to move to the next level.

As we work to rebuild after COVID-19 and see rapid developments across key global markets, there is no doubt that this is the right time for Europe to take a decisive step forward on hydrogen. In this context, we praise and support Hydrogen Europe's effort to help develop a coordinated European hydrogen strategy. We also value the Clean Hydrogen Alliance as an essential instrument to deliver on Europe's ambitious plan. These developments build on more than a decade of close cooperation with your services around the European Joint Technology Initiative (FCH JU) for hydrogen and show the role the EU, and the European Commission in particular, can play in fostering tangible action.

As Hydrogen Council, we have developed a unique collaboration platform for CEOs and jointly defined what is required to make scale deployment of hydrogen a success:

- In our latest study<sup>1</sup>, we have identified **18 key applications** in transport, heavy industry and stationary segments that have the greatest potential to become rapidly cost competitive. These applications should be prioritised for investment.
- To achieve agreed decarbonisation targets, we recommend supporting **all renewable and low carbon routes** to decarbonise hydrogen production. This will ensure that we both value existing productive systems with carbon capture schemes and maximise the development of green energy sources with large power-to-gas projects.

---

<sup>1</sup> "Path to Hydrogen Competitiveness: A Cost Perspective" (Hydrogen Council, January 2020)

- We believe it is fundamental to reach scale in this decade with **tangible projects and fast execution times** to showcase the dynamic development of the sector.
- We believe that **specific new support schemes** are needed to overcome remaining challenges. These tools may include public-private partnerships to overcome market failure situations on the infrastructure side, dedicated multi-annual mechanisms to offset the premium of renewable and/or low carbon hydrogen to end consumers, etc.
- Finally, **harmonised regulations** in Europe are essential to facilitate the acceleration of safe and reliable supply chains for the future - using **pipes, liquid, gaseous and on-site** means.

We stand ready to share our collective expertise to help you further develop these elements, and to mobilise the Council's established coalition of 80+ CEOs for the success of the Clean Hydrogen Alliance – working closely with all relevant European bodies including Hydrogen Europe.

We remain at your disposal for further exchanges to ensure this new dynamic is a success for a competitive and sustainable Europe.

Yours sincerely,



[Redacted]

[Redacted] Air Liquide

[Redacted] Hydrogen Council



[Redacted]

[Redacted] Hyundai Motor Group

[Redacted]

CC: Hydrogen Europe – [Redacted], [Redacted] and [Redacted],  
President

European Commission – Mauro Raffaele Petriccione, Director-General for DG CLIMA; Ditte Juul-Joergensen, Director-General for DG ENER; Kerstin Jorna, Director-General for DG GROW, Henrik Hololei, Director-General for DG MOVE

## Hydrogen Council

The Hydrogen Council is a worldwide CEO-led organisation that uses its reach to promote collaboration between governments, industry and investors, and to provide guidance on accelerating the deployment of hydrogen solutions. The Council acts as a business marketplace, building a comprehensive hydrogen economy and shifting the perception of hydrogen globally. In addition, the Council serves as a resource for safety standards and an interlocutor for the investment community, while identifying opportunities for regulatory advocacy in key geographies. The coalition of 80+ members including large multinationals, innovative SMEs and investors collectively represents total revenues of over €18.7 trillion and almost 6 million jobs. [www.hydrogencouncil.com](http://www.hydrogencouncil.com)

