

Frans Timmermans
Executive Vice-President
European Commission

Re: Following your appointment as Executive Vice-President

Brussels, the 5th December 2019

Dear Executive Vice-President,

We are writing on behalf of CEMBUREAU, the association of the European cement industry, to congratulate you on your nomination as Executive Vice-President for the Green Deal.

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 and the upcoming European Green Deal:

- **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 the use of alternatives to fossil fuels or pilot projects on Carbon Capture, Use and Storage (CCUS).
- **We are already a key contributor in the EU circular economy.** The cement sector in Europe substitutes an average 46% of its fuels with non-recyclable waste and biomass, a figure which could significantly with the right policy levers in place.
- **Through concrete, which is our (main) end-product and is fully-recyclable, our industry also plays a decisive role in reducing carbon emissions in the building sector.** Concrete is a highly durable material, and its thermal mass properties allow to save energy in buildings and facilitate the integration of renewable energy. Concrete also absorbs CO2 during its lifetime and at end-of-life through a process called recarbonation.
- Finally, cement and concrete are key construction materials for renewable energy equipment such as windfarms, and for sustainable housing and transport. They are therefore pivotal for several key enabling technologies to reach carbon neutrality.

We believe that with the right policies in place, it is possible to both decarbonise the sector and enhance Europe's industrial leadership.

The European cement industry is also a key economic actor directly employing 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 generates over 1.1 million jobs.

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 decarbonisation

of the cement industry and of the construction sector, circular economy policies, and carbon border mechanisms.

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,

