



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
Cabinet of Executive Vice President Mr Frans Timmermans

Head of Cabinet

Brussels, 24/11/2020

Ares (2020) 3197666

Dear [REDACTED],

I would like to thank you and your co-signatories for your letter of 18 June 2020 addressed to Executive Vice-President Timmermans, Internal Market Commissioner Breton and Energy Commissioner Simson regarding the need to promote a renewable and decarbonised gas supply for decarbonising the building sector. I was asked to reply on their behalf.

I agree with you that renewable and decarbonised gases will have an important role to play in the future energy system, which must be carbon neutral and fully integrated by 2050. The Energy System Integration and the Hydrogen Strategies adopted last July outline a comprehensive policy framework aiming, among other things, to ensure investment in renewable and low-carbon gases and integrate them in the EU energy system and markets.

The Energy System Integration Strategy highlights the essential role of renewable and low-carbon fuels in hard-to-decarbonise sectors, such as industrial processes, aviation and maritime. The Strategy identifies key areas to explore, addressing many of your suggestions concerning the need for a comprehensive terminology covering all renewable and low-carbon fuels, a European system of certification and possible additional support measures in the form of minimum shares or quotas in specific end-use sectors. The Strategy also outlines actions for developing more integrated and flexible energy infrastructures and energy storage, and it also promotes financing through EU Funds. Furthermore, it specifically addresses the need to make gas markets fit for decarbonisation and outlines the necessary actions in that regard.

J..

[REDACTED]

European Heating Industry (EHI)

E-mail: [REDACTED]@ehi.eu

The Hydrogen Strategy presents a specific set of measures to create the conditions for hydrogen to contribute to decarbonising the economy in a cost-effective way and outlines phases to gradually scale up its production to ensure that from 2030 onwards and towards 2050 renewable hydrogen technologies are capable of reaching maturity and can be deployed at large scale in hard-to-decarbonise sectors, where other alternatives might not be feasible or have higher costs.

The Commission will implement these strategies through many actions. Let me mention the reviews of the Renewable Energy Directive, the Energy Efficiency Directive, the Energy Taxation Directive and the State aid framework, as some of the most relevant. The Commission will also consider the possibility to extend the European emission trading system to new sectors and review the internal gas market legislation. EU funding instruments will complement these actions also in the context of the COVID-19 recovery.

There is little doubt that the full decarbonisation of the building sector will require the mobilisation of all types of renewable and low-carbon energy sources, carriers and infrastructures. These may, in the long term, include hydrogen and other gases produced from renewable electricity where these are efficient, taking into account also other technologies, such as highly efficient heat pumps, that are already available and efficient for the decarbonisation of buildings.

The Commission will address these issues in the relevant upcoming initiatives under the European Green Deal, and as announced in the Energy System Integration and Hydrogen Strategies.

Your contribution to these initiatives will be valuable and I am looking forward to our continued and constructive dialogue.

Yours sincerely,

