



European Round Table for Industry

Mr Frans Timmermans
Executive Vice-President for the Green Deal
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels

14 December 2021

RE: Follow-up to ERT Plenary: strengthening the Single Market for the green transition

Dear Executive Vice President,

On behalf of all Members of the European Round Table for Industry (ERT), I would like to also thank you formally so much for the constructive and insightful exchange at the ERT Plenary in Bilbao, 21-22 November 2022 and for the effort you took in coming to Bilbao.

We were particularly pleased to discuss with you amongst others the need to speed up permits for renewable energy projects across the EU-27, the importance of stimulating the demand for low-carbon products ('green premium'), the international dimension of carbon pricing and the need to keep the coherence between the various elements of the Fit-for-55 package.

ERT Member companies remain fully committed to climate neutrality, and we welcome your support for strengthening European industries' global competitiveness while decarbonising. We also fully agree with your statement that we, as Europeans, need to invest at a rate never seen before and that our current institutional structures are not fit for investing so quickly.

As ERT, we believe that public investment is only part of the solution and that the public sector should enable a significant increase in investment by the private sector into the development and roll-out of new technologies. This investment can be truly released when the European Commission and the EU Member States develop a new "encompassing programme" to deepen the Single Market.

We launched the ERT Flagship paper on the Single Market shortly after the ERT Plenary, on 7 December. The publication is entitled "*Renewing the Dynamic of European integration – Single Market Stories by Business Leaders*" (see: www.ert.e/harmony).

More than 30 stories, all told by ERT Members, address barriers to the Single Market that should be removed to strengthen the Single Market. They focus on expediting permitting procedures for renewable energy, enabling faster deployment of hydrogen, interconnecting energy markets, rolling out standardised charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, harmonising the regulatory framework for sustainable aviation fuels, etc.

Besides the legislative work that the European Commission is initiating for the Fit-for-55 package, the removal of barriers in the Single Market deserves urgent attention if the EU wishes to advance on the green transition and reach the 2030 targets. We trust you will find the publication of interest and are at your disposal should you wish to discuss it in more detail.

With kind regards,

