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Dear Mr. Perry,

We would like to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Secretary of Energy of the United States. We are therefore very much looking forward to working closely with you to address the evolving global energy challenges we face.

Energy is fundamental to our way of life and to our economic growth; it needs to be competitively priced, be reliable and be produced in a way that preserves our environment and the climate. It is an issue where all the member countries of the European Union recognize the importance of a combined European approach, of working very closely together to develop a fully integrated and competitive European wide energy market.

Energy is also at the center of the trans-Atlantic partnership as we share a common approach to global energy markets: that they should be open, transparent and competitive. This is an approach that is not necessarily shared by other major energy players and hence we continue to have a clear mutual interest in working closely together to promote this trans-Atlantic approach, particularly as the US becomes an increasingly important player on global energy markets. And for the EU, the lifting of the US crude oil ban at the end of 2015 and the increasing volume of US LNG exports are very welcome as we continue our efforts to diversify our sources of energy.

We have an extremely good and close co-operation in the framework of the EU-US Energy Council which addresses our mutual interests in energy security, energy technologies and clean energy. These vary from questions of energy markets and trade through to the security, resilience and stability of our fast transforming electricity systems and grids, with the evolving challenges related to cyber security and nuclear safety, as well as research and innovation co-operation such as our laboratory to laboratory work on the interoperability of electric vehicles and smart grids, all of which are fundamental for underpinning our economic growth and creating jobs. We also believe, in this context, that it could be mutually beneficial to further engage our energy companies in our bilateral co-operation.

His Excellency
Mr Rick Perry
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