

Mr. Johannes Hahn  
Budget and Administration Commissioner  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
1049 Bruxelles

6 December 2019

Dear Mr Hahn,

I would like to congratulate you, on behalf of the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP), for your appointment as Commissioner and for the ***"EPP vision for a sustainable planet - Cutting the emissions while creating jobs"*** adopted by the European People's Party's Congress on 20 November 2019. IOGP particularly welcomes the ambitious and pragmatic approach to tackling climate change and joins your call for "ambition and action instead of fatalism".

Firstly, **IOGP strongly supports the EPP's call for a coherent and inclusive approach to climate policy**, which prioritises establishing the right incentives for citizens and business to reduce their carbon footprint without banning any specific energy source. We fully agree that there is no silver bullet solution and all technologies should compete in a level-playing field. The energy transition will continue to require the involvement of all sectors of the economy if it is to succeed.

Secondly, **IOGP praises the EPP's recognition of the importance of Carbon Capture Use and Storage (CCUS)**. Deploying CCUS as a large-scale solution is considered integral to reaching ambitious climate targets by the IEA, in the IPCC's 1.5°C Special Report and the European Commission's "A Clean Planet for All" strategy. CCUS can lower emissions in industrial production, deliver flexible low-carbon gas-fired power, enable the large-scale production of low-carbon hydrogen, and remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere by combining CCS with bioenergy (BECCS). It is therefore an industrial tool to retain industry in the EU, but also to attract and relocate industry to the EU.

Thirdly, **IOGP warmly welcomes the EPP's support for "blue hydrogen", produced from natural gas with CCS**. The volumes guaranteed by hydrogen from natural gas with CCS can help kickstart a commercial market which will facilitate the integration of hydrogen sources from renewables. There is worldwide consensus on the great potential for hydrogen in reducing emissions in hard-to-abate sectors, such as heavy industry and long-haul transport, and in providing long-term energy storage. CCS and hydrogen can secure the future of heavy industry in a carbon neutral Europe – this is why we believe they should be integral to the EU's Industrial Policy.

The European Green Deal will offer a number of legislative opportunities to turn the EPP's vision into concrete legislation. IOGP looks forward to engaging with you on this critical public policy issue in the coming months.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted signature]

IOGP [redacted]