

Dear Executive VP Timmermans,

Dear Commissioner Simson,

Dear Commissioner Sinkevičius,

Dear Commissioner Wojciechowski,

### **The Role of Sustainable Bioenergy in the EU's Energy and Climate Targets**

As the leaders of the largest producers and consumers of sustainable woody biomass in the world, we are writing to invite you to discuss the important role that sustainable woody bioenergy must play in meeting the EU's climate and energy goals.

We share the EU's ambition to be the first net zero carbon continent in the world. We stand ready to support you in achieving this objective through further investment in sustainable biomass and the renewable energy and negative emissions technologies it delivers.

Sustainable biomass is already the largest renewable energy source in Europe and has proven to be a fast and reliable way to decarbonise the economy. Unlike any other renewable technology, sustainable biomass can directly displace coal while providing stable, on-demand, renewable power that supports the deployment of other renewables, such as wind and solar. Sustainable biomass, due to its dispatchability and availability, also has a key role to play in security of supply and is one of the only alternatives to fossil fuels in Combined Heat and Power plants.

Biomass is increasingly sought in the industrial sector to displace fossil-fuel to produce green steel, green cement, green chemicals, and green hydrogen. Furthermore, bioenergy with CCS (BECCS) is now a proven technology that is in the process of being scaled up, and potentially rolled out across Europe, enabling the delivery of the negative emissions and low carbon industry that will be critical to meeting EU climate targets.

We recognise that the sustainability of the biomass we produce, and use is paramount, which is why we fully support robust, binding sustainability criteria set out in the EU legislation. The recent JRC report shows there are clear pathways for the use of wood bioenergy in the EU that can mitigate climate change while maintaining or improving forest biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Through engagement with landowners and foresters, robust monitoring and our commitment to following the science, our companies are actively engaged in making that a reality and we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss our experience with you. We would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss all the above with you in more detail, as well as share with you our plans for helping Europe to reach its ambitious climate neutrality goal.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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Drax Group

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