European Commission
Executive Vice President Timmermans
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels

29 September 2020

Dear Executive Vice President Timmermans,

In your last meeting on June 11th with the CEOs of the chemical industry, a dedicated group of CEOs addressed the issue of illegal imports of HFC gases into Europe. For this sector, the enforcement of the F-gas regulation is urgent as the illegal imports are hurting the value chain and legitimate business and reducing the uptake of alternative low global warming potential products that will help the EU meet the climate change targets.

Your political weight on this issue is needed to add conviction to the member states' enforcement actions against this illegal activity. Infringement procedures of the future are an important tool, but enforcement now needs attention.

In the meeting you kindly proposed to speak on this key topic in public and invited us to make suggestions. With the summer period the occasion to ask you to speak in public were not many. We did send your team a number of references to direct actions by the NL government and OLAF catching illegal shipments as a suggestion for social media statements. We have also sent you information on the key countries that are in the center of the problem for you to engage with Member State Ministers of Environment as you also committed during our June meeting.

As the number of illegal imports seem to pick up again, after the low demand economy of the Covid pandemic and a return of Chinese production to normal levels, the issue is becoming as urgent as before.

Knowing your busy agenda around the Green Deal and Climate Law, we would like to come back with a proposal to host an event at a Brussels Thinktank such as CEPS, as convenient for your schedule during which you could address this very important topic. We would also ask for an update on your commitment to engage the Member States on the need for stronger enforcement.

Would it be possible to name one of your team to work with us on this?

Yours sincerely,