



FRANS TIMMERMANS
Executive Vice-President

Brussels, 27/07/2021

Honourable members,

I would like to thank you for supporting the development of coherent carbon removal policies in adequacy with the objectives of the European Green Deal and the EU Climate Law.

Closing the gap on climate neutrality requires solutions for capturing CO₂ and storing it sustainably in ecosystems, geological reservoirs or purpose made products. The European Union already provides some funding opportunities to help the early development of carbon removal technologies or practices. The Innovation Fund supports promising clean technologies to capture, use or store CO₂, the Connecting Europe Facility energy can fund cross-border CO₂ networks, the LIFE programme is an EU funding instrument well adapted to test carbon farming solutions on the ground, and Horizon Europe is essential to the development of new innovative solutions for removing carbon. They are all important instruments but deploying carbon removals at a scale that matches the EU objective of climate neutrality requires additional policies.

Towards the end of this year, the Commission will provide a perspective on a future policy framework for carbon removals and present an action plan to support their swift uptake. A central piece of this action plan will be the European Commission proposal for a regulatory framework for certifying high quality carbon removals that reinforce climate action and preserve other environmental assets. We believe this certification mechanism based on robust and transparent accounting will bring more trust in net zero claims and create new business opportunities for industries that deploy innovative technologies aiming at capturing, recycling and storing carbon. Solutions capturing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it permanently are required to neutralize the greenhouse gases emissions that cannot be avoided as well as solutions to recycle carbon from waste streams, biomass or directly from the atmosphere to replace virgin fossil carbon in the part of the economy that will inevitably remain carbon dependant.

*Ms Henna Virkkunen, Mr Franc Bogovic, Mr Milan Brglez, Mr Jerzy Buzek,
Ms Maria da Graça Carvalho, Mr Pietro Fiocchi, Mr Eero Heinäluoma, Mr Adam Jarubas, Mr
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Members of the European Parliament

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Regarding the better recognition of CCS/CCU in the EU's Emissions Trading System, please note that work is ongoing to review the ETS Directive. The Commission proposal for amending the ETS Directive was presented on 14 July 2021 as part of the set of proposals to make the EU's climate, energy, transport and taxation policies fit for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030.

The European Commission is looking forward to collaborating further with the European Parliament for the uptake of carbon removal solutions at levels that match the climate ambition of the European Union.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Frans Timmermans