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A.1 – Interinstitutional, Policy Coordination and Planning  
The Head of Unit

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Mr Marc Deffrennes  
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weCARE

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Dear Mr Deffrennes, Mr Ivens, and Mr Crutzen,

Thank you for your letter of 20 April 2022 to President Ursula von der Leyen, Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis, Commissioner Kadri Simson and Commissioner Thierry Breton. In your letter, you endorsed efforts towards phasing out Russian fossil fuels. I was asked to respond on their behalf.

The REPowerEU Communication on 8 March, in which the European Commission has outlined a plan to make Europe independent from Russian fossil fuels well before 2030, was endorsed by the European leaders at the European Council of 24-25 March 2022. Leaders then requested to present a more detailed plan. In response to this, the Commission has adopted the REPowerEU Plan on 18 May 2022.

The European Commission remains strongly committed of achieving at least 55 % net greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050. The measures set out in the REPowerEU Plan build on the full and fast implementation of the Fit for 55 proposals presented by the Commission last year.

The European Commission remains adamant in its decarbonisation efforts. Therefore, the Commission proposed, with the REPowerEU plan of 18 May 2022, an increase of EU renewable energy target for 2030 to 45% by 2030, up from 40% in last year's proposal. This should be accompanied by a massive speed-up and scale-up in renewable energy in power generation, industry, buildings and transport. The need for an accelerated deployment of renewable energy has been endorsed by the European leaders at the 30-31 May special meeting of the European Council.

Large-scale investments in the electricity grid and an EU-wide hydrogen backbone will have important roles in achieving the REPowerEU objectives. However, some targeted investments in gas infrastructure and, to a lesser extent, oil infrastructure, will still be required to address the EU's short-term security of supply. This might entail using some of the existing coal capacities longer than initially expected.

Let me conclude by pointing to the fact that the choice of the energy mix is in the hand of EU Member States. This includes the choice of whether to rely on nuclear energy in the transition to the decarbonised economy. The Commission will continue to ensure that those Member States, which choose nuclear energy, apply the most demanding legal framework for nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation.

Yours sincerely,

*Electronically signed*

Paula Abreu Marques