

**Mr José Manuel Barroso**President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B – 1049 Brussels

21 May 2010

Dear President,

In view of the current discussions within the Commission about the impacts of a move beyond the current EU unilateral target of a 20% greenhouse gas emission reduction, I would like to share with you the messages I conveyed to Commissioner Hedegaard on the occasion of a business round table she convened on 17 May.

BUSINESSEUROPE is committed to achieving the EU's 2020 climate and energy targets. An important element of this strategy is working towards a comprehensive international climate change agreement. Climate change can only be tackled globally. However, the international climate conference in Copenhagen was a disappointment. We are therefore convinced that any further increase of the EU's unilateral 20% emission reduction target at this point in time would be unlikely to convince other nations to adopt comparable targets. Furthermore, it would send the wrong signal to European industry in times of economic crisis. This view is unanimously shared by all 40 national member federations of BUSINESSEUROPE.

We call on you to work towards a comprehensive low-carbon vision for Europe which will provide a stable long-term investment environment for European companies, by integrating fully EU policies for climate, energy and industry. Such a vision must also take much more into account the challenges and opportunities of climate and energy policies for different sectors and Member States. This is one of the most important tasks for the EU over the coming years in order to safeguard Europe's competitiveness and create growth and jobs.

Please find attached my speaking notes from 17 May which outline the position of BUSINESSEUROPE on how to move to a low-carbon economy. I kindly ask you to take these views into account when discussing the issue at next week's College of Commissioners.

Yours sincerely,

Jürgen R. Thumann