

Connie Hedegaard  
European Commissioner for Climate Action  
1049 Brussels

European Biogas Association  
Rue d'Arlon 63-65  
1040 Brussels  
Phone: +32 2 400 1088  
info@european-biogas.eu

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## Importance of a binding renewable energies target

Dear Commissioner Hedegaard,

European Biogas Association (EBA) would like to express its firm support to DG Climate Action's willingness to set 2030 climate targets. We especially want to underline the crucial contribution of renewable energies to the European economy and environment. The latest high-level discussions on a possibility of introducing a sole CO<sub>2</sub> target within the 2030 framework have raised strong concerns among the renewable energy industries. Pursuing only a certain CO<sub>2</sub> reduction level would send an environmentally dangerous signal to the European audience and industries by promoting technologies with strong geological limits such as nuclear and CCS.

In addition to CO<sub>2</sub> savings and other environmental benefits, renewable energies improve security of supply and prop economy: In fact, the renewable energy sector is one of the most recession-resistant areas of the European economy. In 2012, it contributed to 1% of the EU's GDP and directly and indirectly employs more than 1.2 million people constituting an increase of 30% on the 2009 figure (EREC – European Renewable Energy Council, 2013). As you pointed out yourself when the Green Paper was launched, it is not very wise for the climate or for our economy and competitiveness to increase the dependence on expensive, foreign fossil fuels.

Even though the costs of renewable technologies are constantly decreasing, the industry is still not competitive and requires a long-term commitment from the EU. Only legally binding targets that are ambitious enough provide investors with enough security for investments and encourage Member States to further develop green technologies and their support schemes in a best possible way. A sign of permanence and commitment in the form of a long-term target would also help preventing the damaging disturbances related to retrospective changes made to national support schemes which currently can be observed in several EU states.

Thus, a balanced mix of different renewable energy sources provides Europe with crucial economic and environmental advantages as well as security of constant energy supply. Biogas for example as a storable energy source balances the intermittent supply of other renewable energy sources. Therefore, Europe's future energy supply should increasingly rely on domestic, green energies, supported EU-widely.

Yours sincerely,



Arthur Wellinger  
President  
European Biogas Association