



To the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen

Brussels, the 6th September 2024

Dear President von der Leyen,

Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe is looking with interest at the preparatory works for the future European Commission and the structure of key portfolios.

As Europe's leading NGO network working towards achieving climate neutrality by 2040, building a 100% renewable energy system, phasing out fossil fuels and ensuring a fair and just transition, we welcome the fact that the future Executive Vice President Teresa Ribera currently is in discussion for a “**transition**” portfolio including “**social, ecological and digital**”. However, some of the biggest and most pressing just transition challenges are related to the transformation of the energy sector which is underway but needs to be further developed over the next five years.

We would suggest therefore to make sure that the Executive Vice-President in charge of a socially just, ecological and digital transition has the Energy commissioner within her team. It will be crucial for the next EU cycle to ensure a just transition in the energy sector tackling high energy prices, infrastructure costs, access to alternative and fossil free heating and cooling solutions for all citizens.

In addition, to ensure continuity from the European Green Deal and REPowerEU while putting more emphasis on a social and just energy transition, we believe that it would be helpful to bundle these elements and put the responsibility into the hands of a dedicated and experienced leader.

We hope you can take these considerations into account during the final stages of the complex and politically sensitive work of distributing roles and responsibilities between 27 Commissioner candidates.

Yours sincerely,

Chiara Martinelli, Director Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe