

Södertälje, 8 September 2023

Dear President von der Leyen,

The CEO Alliance was formed in 2020 with the outspoken commitment to support the European Green Deal. As an Action Tank, our members work together on cross-sector pan-European projects at scale to showcase that a decarbonised economy is within reach.

Europe should lead the green and digital transitions. We recognise and value the ambitious goals set forth by the Commission; we embraced the Climate Law, and we urged policymakers to heighten their ambition within the Fit for 55 package.

The world has changed since the Green Deal was first presented. We have gone through a global pandemic and there is war in Europe. The competitiveness and resilience of the European economy are rightly the focus of political attention.

Our key message to the Commission on the Green Deal is nonetheless: Hold the line. Do not backtrack on the ambition and on what has been achieved. Focus on implementation and execution. We do not need a new plan, it is time to deliver on this one.

The green transition is not only about decarbonisation and sustainability, it is also about European competitiveness. A competitive European industry depends on the EU leading both the green and the digital transition – just like the twin transition only can be truly realised with the help of a competitive European industry. We rightfully call it a twin transition: more digitalisation is necessary to meet the decarbonisation targets.

New technologies and innovative companies need a supportive regulatory environment to thrive.

Europe excels at innovation, but we often lack the ability to take the next steps. We invent, but other regions scale, commercialise and ultimately dominate the global market. Most of the necessary technologies for the twin transition already exist. We need to move beyond pilot phases and scale properly. If we do not scale, other regions will.

We should make sure that we do not divert capital away from the large-scale investments that are needed to succeed in the twin transition. Companies must be allowed to make profits as a healthy balance sheet is a prerequisite for investments. And healthy companies are a prerequisite for a successful twin transition.

Europe needs a functioning single market with fair competition and a level, stable playing field, an ambitious trade policy, and a predictable regulatory environment.

We look forward to a fruitful dialogue with the Commission and other policy makers. We are convinced that we together can reach and surpass our common objectives.

On behalf of the CEO Alliance,

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About the CEO Alliance: We are a cross-sector action tank consisting of leading European companies representing key industry sectors, with ~1.6 million employees and ~EUR 560 billion annual revenue. We use our broad platform to make decarbonization of European industry happen. In spite of the challenging times we firmly believe that the only way forward for a competitive, prosperous, resilient and sustainable Europe is an acceleration of the transition to green energy and technology. Further information about our work is available on our website, www.ceo-alliance.eu.