



Katowice, 29 April 2020

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Madam

Ursula von der Leyen

The President

of the European Commission

Dear Madam President,

The current Covid-19 crisis comes at a time when the European Commission is presenting important new policy initiatives on climate, energy and the environment. Overcoming the crisis will require the mobilisation of all our resources, including those in the energy sector, which in these difficult circumstances must first and foremost ensure the security of supply of cheap energy. At a time of rapid and dramatic deterioration of economic prospects in the EU and in the World since the outbreak of the Covid-19 epidemics, the European Commission is announcing the content of a draft regulation which is called the "European Climate Pact".

This is the first of around 40 pieces of legislation to be launched as part of the so-called New European Green Deal, the new version of the EU's anti-carbon campaign. Meanwhile, in our opinion, it should focus all its forces and resources on effectively combating the pandemic, which threatens the health and lives of millions of people, as well as the expected huge negative future effects on the economy.

Instead of such actions, the , just in this period, is stepping up the intensity of consultations covering the impact of climate-related controversial directives, including the two most dangerous for industry, namely the Industrial Emissions Directive or the plan to achieve the 2030 climate targets. It is a pure fiction to consult on such important issues at a time when most professionals have remote contact with their home companies.

The Commission does not pay attention to Member States' reactions to the current crisis in the energy sector intensified by high carbon prices, which are calling for a temporary suspension of the EU ETS.

Ignoring the seriousness of the situation, the European Commission is reviewing its work programme for 2020 in light of the coronavirus crisis. However, it considers climate policy and, above all, the plan to achieve the climate targets by 2030 to be the most important and urgent issues with a view to raising the emission reduction targets from 40% to 50-55%.

At this point we want to state that the climate and energy targets agreed in 2019 (in the Clean Energy package for all Europeans and the revision of the EU ETS Directive) were supposed to ensure legal and economic stability. They should not be the subject to change at such a short term, especially at such an uncertain period for the economies of EU Member States as this one, at a time of ongoing epidemics and stagnation of a very large part of economic activity.

The European Commission is still persistent and even uses the current situation to tighten the 'green' course. It so happens that the supporters of the 'green' course are, above all, the Member States that were the founders of the European Coal and Steel Community at some time. Thanks to coal, they have managed to achieve a huge growth of their economies. Now they want to establish the Wind and Sun Community and once again use their advantage over other, less prosperous Member States. It is enough to note the number of "pseudo-green" organisations and lobby groups that are fighting against fossil fuels, most of which are supported by the Commission, to make sure that similar corporations will not give up their "religion" and will continue to strive at all costs, regardless of the victims along the way, to eliminate conventional energy and to make their own fortune.

We believe that the dramatic deterioration of the global economic situation makes it necessary, first and foremost, to thoroughly revise the European Green Deal strategy, as pushed by the European Commission. This strategy has been developed in completely different economic realities and is not adequate for the current conditions. The disastrous situation is confirmed by some reports, for example: Verdict has carried out a survey in recent days which shows that already 79% of companies have experienced disruptions in employment or other activities as a result of the pandemic. The International Monetary Fund has warned that growth in Asia will stop at zero percent in 2020. In other parts of the world we can expect a worse situation. McKinsey says the pandemic could threaten up to 59 million jobs in Europe - a staggering 26% of total employment in the 27 EU Member States (EU-27) and the UK.

The Polish Mining Chamber of Industry and Commerce, representing some 100,000 employees in its member companies, calls on the Commission to decelerate its works on a strategy to achieve climate neutrality in 2050 and suspend all legislative activity in this area. In the current situation, the European Union should stop at the reduction targets to which individual Member States of the Community have committed themselves in the Paris Agreement and reconsider their political priorities for this period. The Commission should assess and analyse the dramatic economic situation, both at European and global level. The new initiatives should only be implemented once the full picture of the likely impact of the crisis is available. For the time being, priority should be given to avoiding any additional burden on the fuel and energy sector, including in particular those related to the EU ETS, so as to ensure the survival of the companies operating there and the swift recovery of the economy after the crisis.

With regards,

**President
Polish Mining Chamber
of Industry and Commerce**

[Signature]
Janusz Olszowski

Copies to:

1. Mr. Mateusz Morawiecki, Prime Minister.
2. Mr. Jacek Sasin, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State Assets.
3. Mr Michał Kurtyka, Minister of Climate.
4. Mr Michał Woś, Minister of Environment.
5. National Chamber of Commerce.
6. The European Association for Coal and Lignite – EURACOAL
7. Members of the Polish Mining Chamber of Industry and Commerce.