

To: The Irish Presidency of the European Union  
Dermot Ahern T.D., Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources,  
Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources  
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, Ireland  
Email: [minister@dcmnr.ie](mailto:minister@dcmnr.ie)  
Fax: + 353 1 678 24 49

From On behalf of the signatories  
Stephan Singer, Head of the Climate and Energy Unit  
WWF European Policy Office  
36 Avenue de Tervuren, 1040 Brussels, Belgium  
Email: [Ssinger@wwfepo.org](mailto:Ssinger@wwfepo.org)  
Fax: + 32 743 88 19

Brussels, 11 February 2004

Dear Minister Ahern,

**Renewable energy: the European Union must lead the way**

We are writing to you following the European renewable energy conference recently held in Berlin. We would like to discuss with you how the Presidency plans to translate the Conference's recommendations into binding commitments for the European Union.

In September 2002 at World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the international community did not agree on clear targets for renewable energy development. To overcome this deadlock, the European Union and others launched the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition (JREC), with the aim of facilitating time bound targets and effective measures for renewable energy uptake. As part of the JREC process, Germany is now preparing the "Renewables 2004" conference. This event offers a unique opportunity for the EU to reaffirm its global leadership on renewable energy development. The EU cannot afford to waste this opportunity.

We welcomed an initial step towards European leadership during the Berlin conference. As you know, the Berlin declaration recognised the potential for the enlarged Union to source at least a quarter of its energy from renewable energy by 2020 and urged: "the EU Institutions to start a political process of setting ambitious, time bound targets for increasing the share of renewables". Specifically, we call on you to take the lead in ensuring that the European Council agrees to the following, before the Bonn Conference:

- *Expand the share of renewable energy to at least 25% by 2020.* Research clearly shows that this ambitious target is feasible within an overall strategy to reduce energy demand by 1% per year. The fact that several Member States are not on progress to achieve their renewable electricity targets indicates that investors and developers need new and strong political signs that renewables markets do not stop in 2010. Along with new measures to reduce growing

energy demand, the EU must urgently update its 2010 target, as already done nationally by some Member States, such as the UK and Germany.

- *Prioritise renewables in development policies.* The European development co-operation, the European Investment Bank and national Export Credit Agencies must no longer fund the expansion of fossil and nuclear fuels. Instead, they should focus their lending strategies on sustainable energy projects, by adopting ambitious portfolio standards for energy efficiency and new renewables. This should be coupled by additional human and administrative capacity to meet the needs of the sustainable energy industry.
- *Support the World Bank's "Extractive Industries Review".* This timely and very opportune process has concluded with the recommendation that the World Bank (WB) should continue its moratorium in funding coal and phase out funding for oil by 2008. This would be coupled with a rapid phase in of renewable energies and energy efficiency. This process is now under discussion within the WB. We believe that if the EU is serious about climate change and sustainable development, it must require an urgent shift of the Bank's financing to sustainable energy, and use its voting rights within the Institution to make it an official WB policy.

The Irish Presidency holds a key responsibility to ensure that we do not lose the momentum on sustainable energy that followed the Johannesburg Summit. We would like to request a meeting with you to discuss your plans to ensure the success of the Bonn Conference and its follow up process.

Look forward to hearing from you,

On behalf of the following signatories



Stephan Singer, WWF European Policy Office

### **Signatories**

*Adena, María del Mar Asunción, Spain*

*Albanian Ecological Club, Spahiu Edrin, Albania*

*Amici della Terra, Laura Radiconcini, Italy*

*Atgaja, Saulius Piksrys, Lithuania*

*Bond Beter Leefmilieu Vlaanderen, Bram Claeys, Belgium*

*Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz, Daniel Mittel, Germany*

*CAN Europe, Rob Bradley, Belgium*

*CEE Bankwatch Network, Petr Hlobil, Czech Republic*

*CEIE, Petko Kovatchev, Bulgaria*

*CAN Central and Eastern Europe, Lidija Zivcic, Slovenia*  
*Center for Environmental Public Advocacy, Peter Mihok, Slovakia*  
*Centre for Transport and Energy, Klara Sutlovicova, Czech Republic*  
*Ecologistas en Accion, Cristina Rois, Spain*  
*Entesa Catalana per una Energia Neta i Renovable, Josep Puig, Spain*  
*Energia Klub Környezetvédelmi Egyesület, Kasza György, Hungary*  
*Roberto Ferrino, European Environment Bureau, Belgium*  
*Fokus Association for Sustainable, Anna Zivcic, Slovenia*  
*Foundation for Alternative Energy, Emil Bedi, Slovakia*  
*Friends of the Earth Europe, Jan Kowalzig, Belgium*  
*German Forum for Environment and Development, Jürgen Maier, Germany*  
*Germanwatch e.V., Doerte Bernhardt, Germany*  
*Green Alternative, Manana Kochladze, Georgia*  
*Green Federation, Magdalena Zowsik, Poland*  
*Green Network, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa*  
*Greenhouse Ireland Action Network , GRIAN, Pat Finnegan, Ireland*  
*Greenpeace International, Steve Sawyer, Netherlands*  
*HELIO, Helene Connor, France*  
*Hnutí DUHA, Petr Holub, Czech Republic*  
*Inforse Network, Gunnar Boye Olesen, Denmark*  
*InterEnvironnement Wallonie, Stephan Vis, Belgium*  
*Krakow Foundation for the Support of Ecological Initiatives, Tomasz Walkowicz, Poland*  
*Krakow Institute for Sustainable Energy, Adam Gula, Poland*  
*NGO ECOTEAM, Artashes Sargsyan, Armenia*  
*Legambiente, Daniele Calza Bini, Italy*  
*Lithuanian Green Movement, Linas Vainius, Lithuania*  
*Prietenii Pamantului, Ion Constantin Zamfir, Romania*  
*Reseau Action Climat, Philippe Quirion, France*  
*Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, John Lanchbery, UK*  
*Society for Nature and Environment, Jasper Vis, Netherlands*  
*Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Partnership, Earthlife Africa*  
*TERRA Mileniul III, Lavinia Andrei, Romania*  
*Transport and Environment, Stephanos Anastasiadis, Belgium*  
*Urgewald e.V, Regine Richter, Germany*  
*VAK, Alda Ozola, Latvia*  
*World Information Service on Energy (WISE), Peer de Rijk, Netherlands*  
*World Economy, Ecology and Development Association (WEED), Jens Martens, Germany*  
*WWF European Policy Office, Stephan Singer, Belgium*  
*Za Matku Zem, MOTHER EARTH, Siroky Pavol, Slovakia*

CC: Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, T.D., Department of the Taoiseach,  
Government Buildings, Merrion St., Dublin 2, Ireland  
Fax: +353 1 678 97 91

Martin Cullen T.D, Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local  
Government Buildings, Custom House, Dublin 1, Ireland  
Fax: +353 1 888 28 88

Mr. Jürgen Trittin, German Ministry of Environment  
Robert-Schuman-Platz 3, 53175 Bonn, Germany  
Fax: +49 188 830 52 046

Ms. Heidemarie Wiecek-Zeul, German Minister of Development  
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 40, 53113 Bonn, Germany  
Fax: +49 302 503 25 55

President Prodi, President of the European Commission  
European Commission, 1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Fax: +32 2 295 85 32

Loyola DePalacio, European Commissioner for Energy and Transport  
European Commission, 1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Fax: +32 2 298 03 99

Margot Wallström, European Commissioner for Environment  
European Commission, 1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Fax: +32 2 298 18 99

Poul Nielson, Commissioner for Development  
European Commission, 1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Fax: +32 2 298 10 99