

6 July 2021

President of the European Commission: Ursula von der Leyen

Executive Vice-President for A Europe Fit for the Digital Age: Margrethe Vestager

Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal: Frans Timmermans

European Commissioner for Energy: Kadri Simson

European Commissioner for Economy: Paolo Gentiloni

European Commissioner for Transport: Adina Vălean

European Commissioner for the Internal Market: Thierry Breton

Dear President,

Dear Executive Vice-Presidents,

Dear Commissioners,

As the continent begins to reopen thanks to an overall reduction in the number of Covid-19 cases and accelerated vaccination programmes, we hope to see a resumption in sustainable travel and tourism, which will provide a much-needed boost to the EU economy. The 'Fit for 55 package' is expected in July and we are writing to you in our capacities as ministers responsible for the transport to request that you promote fair taxation in the field of transport.

Specifically, we are referring to the Energy Taxation Directive's exemption on jet fuel for aviation. This exemption must come to an end if we are to fully and fairly implement the European Green Deal and in particular, respect for the 'polluter pays principle'. All parts of our economy must contribute their fair share in the transition to climate neutrality, and certain tax exemptions for fossil fuels seriously undermine the EU's goals on climate change and send skewed price signals into the wider economy. Minimum EU-wide intra-EU taxation on jet fuel would promote innovation and fair intra-EU competition, would not be unduly burdensome, and would be in keeping with the tax treatment of other transport modes that must pay tax on the fuel they use. Such taxation should come into force without delay and be effective enough to accelerate decarbonisation. If we fail to tax these fuels in the revision of legislation that has not been changed since 2003, the alternative may well be individual

Member States pursuing their own measures, which would only serve to undermine the internal market.

In order to include international aviation, the EU should launch an initiative to remove exemptions for jet fuel taxation in international aviation relations at UN level. Future mandates to negotiate EU level aviation agreements with third countries should not provide for exemptions for jet fuel taxation.

We look forward to the package of proposals that will set out in further detail how we can meet the objectives of the European Green Deal.

## **AUSTRIA**

Leonore Gewessler  
Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

Magnus Brunner  
State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

## **BELGIUM**

Georges Gilkinet  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Mobility

## **LUXEMBOURG**

François Bausch  
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Minister for Mobility and Public Works