

Mrs Cecilia Malmström
EU Trade Commissioner
DG Trade
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

To: Madam Cecilia Malmström, EU Trade Commissioner

Cc: DG Climate Action, Permanent Representation of France to the OECD, French DG Treasury

27th of August 2015

Ending public export support for coal: the EU must show leadership

Dear Madam Commissioner,

Prior to the 17 September meeting of the export credit group of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), we, organizations of the French-speaking civil society, are convinced that the development of renewable energies and of energy efficiency will make it possible to meet energy needs for all, and we are calling upon the EU to adopt a clear stance regarding the ending of public support to the coal industry.

In its March 2014 report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) asserts that investments in traditional fossil fuels must decrease by 30 billion dollars per year from 2010 to 2029 if we want to have a chance to limit the rise in temperature below 2°C.

We lay great stress on how urgent it is to put an end to all public support to fossil fuels worldwide, starting with the support provided by the richest countries. By backing investments in favor of fossil fuels - coal in particular – developed countries are trapping the least developed countries, notably Africa, in a situation of costly dependence; this dependence is harmful to health and the environment, it cannot meet the needs of the local populations and it puts those countries on a high-carbon development pathway.

Despite the 21 billion dollars that have been injected into the exploitation of fossil fuels in Africa, 620 million Africans still live without electricity and at the current rate, not until 2080 shall all Africans have access to electricity. African countries don't have to go through the fossil fuels stage, on the contrary: for all Africans - including those living in rural areas - to have access to energy will only be possible through a massive development of renewable energies and energy efficiency.

It is quite alarming to note that for the time being, contrary to IPCC's recommendations and contrary to all the political speeches which so far, have not led to concrete action, Export Credit Agencies keep backing investments in the coal industry worldwide, notably in developing

countries, and that they are doing so by using public funds. OECD in particular is to blame for this situation since the Export Credit Agencies of OECD countries alone are behind half the public support to international trade in the coal industry.

As an example, the coal-fired power stations of Medupi and Kusile in South Africa – which have received France's financial backing amounting to 1.2 billion Euros – will emit 68.8 M tons of CO2 each year, namely the equivalent of about 20% of France's yearly national emissions resulting from the burning of fossil fuels. How then can one possibly believe the speeches of an exemplary nature delivered by European countries on how to combat climate change?

The EU stance within OECD on the issue of export credits for the coal industry will be debated in September, prior to the 17 September meeting. With only three months to go before COP21, the European Union must act as a leader and call for ending *now* all public support to the coal industry. We consider that the whole support must finance a low carbon and resilient development based on renewable energies and energy efficiency. This is one of the basic conditions for the agreement - due to be signed in Paris next December – to have a true meaning, particularly for the countries and populations who have contributed the least to climate change but who are those who suffer the most from its consequences.

Madam Commissioner, we are urging you to use all your power and influence to make sure that the European Union will take a coherent stance in order to combat climate change and to fight for development.

The signatories:

French-speaking Africa and France

Climate & Development Network

Benin

Eco-Bénin

OFEDI

Burkina Faso

Women Environmental Programme - WEP Burkina Faso

Association Faso Enviprotek - AFEP Burkina

Cameroon

Green Horizon

Centre de Naturopathie et d'Action Humanitaire du Cameroun

Alternatives Durables pour le Développement – ADD

Association Carré Géo & Environnement

Chad

Association des Femmes Peules Autochtones du Tchad - AFPAT Tchad

Congo

Association Congolaise pour le Développement Agricole – ACDA
Fédération des Coopératives des Pays de Mayoko – FECOPAM

Ivory Coast

Actions en Faveur de l'Homme et de la Nature - AFHON Côte d'Ivoire

France

ENERGIES 2050
HELIO International
Réseau Action Climat-France

Mali

Association de Soutien aux Initiatives Communautaires - ASIC
Association Malienne pour le Développement, la Protection de l'Environnement et la lutte contre la Désertification - AMADE PELCODE
Réseau de développement et de communication des femmes maliennes – MUSONET
Groupe de Recherches et d'Applications Techniques – GRAT
Association de Formation et d'Appui au Développement - AFAD Mali

Niger

Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement - JVE Niger
Réseau de la Jeunesse Nigérienne sur les Changements Climatiques – RJNCC
ONG Aménagement des Terroirs et Productions Forestières - ATPF
Développement pour un Mieux-Etre - ONG DEMI-E

Democratic Republic of Congo

Organisation Congolaise des Ecologistes et Amis de la Nature - OCEAN
Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement- JVE RDC
Actions Communautaires pour le Développement Integral – ACDI

Republic of Mauritius

Council for Development, Environmental Studies & Conservation (MAUDESCO)

Senegal

ENDA Tiers Monde
ENDA Energie
Réseau sur les Politiques de Pêche en Afrique de l'Ouest - REPAO

Togo

ASEDI
Monde Volontaire au Développement