To: The Irish Presidency of the European Union  
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From: On behalf of the signatories  
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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**

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