

To the President of the European Commission  
Mr José Manuel Barroso  
1049 Brussels  
Belgium

Brussels, 08 September 2006

Dear President Barroso,

Ten years ago, we set the goal of 120g CO<sub>2</sub>/km average emissions for new cars sold in Europe by 2005 or 2010 at the latest. We did that for good reasons.

With greenhouse gas emissions from transport up by 32 per cent between 1990 and 2004 and oil prices now at \$70 a barrel, the attainment of that goal is now more urgent than it was ten years ago.

There is increased evidence of climate change, to which cars contribute 15 per cent. Yet, despite modest improvements in fuel efficiency, total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from cars in the EU are still rising.

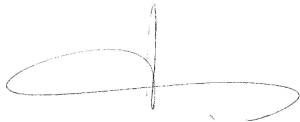
Strong measures are necessary to achieve the 15 to 30 per cent CO<sub>2</sub> reductions target by 2020 that EU leaders called for in their March 2005 summit.

The oil used to power cars is a huge cost to the European economy. The annual bill is now almost as much as the entire EU budget.

Serious and legally-binding fuel-efficiency standards for cars are one of the most important and effective steps that can and should be taken at EU level. The Lisbon Strategy calls for a dynamic and knowledge-based economy. We consider that it is wiser to invest Europe's limited resources in advanced fuel-efficient technology than to invest in oil burnt unnecessarily in car engines.

We therefore urge you to do what is necessary to ensure that the carmakers and importers of Europe reach the 120g CO<sub>2</sub>/km target by 2010 as well as other targets beyond that date.

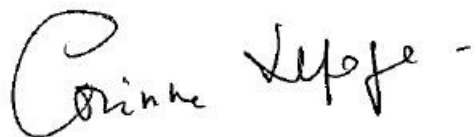
Yours sincerely,



Jan Peeters, Former State Secretariat for the Environment, Belgium




Svend Auken, Former Minister for the Environment, Denmark



Corinne Lepage, Former Minister for the Environment, France



Brendan Howlin, Former Minister for the Environment, Ireland



Edo Ronchi, Former Minister for the Environment, Italy



Margreeth de Boer, Former Minister for the Environment, The Netherlands



Elisa Ferreira, Former Minister for the Environment, Portugal



Pekka Haavisto, Former Minister of Environment and Development, Finland



John Gummer, Former Minister for the Environment, United Kingdom