

To H.E. Dr. Angela Merkel
Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany
Bundeskanzleramt
Willy-Brandt-Straße 1
10557 Berlin
Germany

Brussels, 28 May 2020

Subject: Ecopreneur.eu's priorities for the German Presidency of the European Union

Dear Madam Chancellor,

On behalf of Ecopreneur.eu, the European Sustainable Business Federation, we hereby ask you to fight for a Green Recovery Plan during the upcoming Germany Presidency of the EU. **Ecopreneur.eu represents about 3.000 green enterprises across Europe**, mostly small and medium enterprises (SMEs), including the 360 company members of our member UnternehmensGrün in Germany.

Germany has a key role to play in bringing the European agenda forward. Ecopreneur.eu welcomes the announced aim for Europe to emerge from the current Corona crisis stronger, more solidary and sovereign than it has entered it. Moreover, we welcome that you will maintain the priority with regard to climate protection.

For the planned EU recovery plan, it is crucial to **keep the climate goals and the European Green Deal high on the political agenda**. This includes that the EU's emergency response actions as well as the Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) address the economic and social consequences with **support** for the private sector, especially **for SMEs**.

We stress the importance of a **strong green emphasis to any support program** at the EU and member states level. Emergency funds must avoid any lock-in to the old, fossil economy. Social measures as proposed in the Just Transition Mechanism need to be taken in order to avoid that the crisis or the transition to a low-carbon circular economy would harm the weakest.

Finally, we ask you to push the **implementation of the EU Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP)** and integrate **key measures that Ecopreneur.eu is currently missing**, including:

- implementing **harmonised Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes** with eco-modulation of fees in all waste-intensive sectors;
- promoting the opening of national and regional **Circular Acceleration Houses** helping SMEs to become greener;
- rapid agreement on a goal of **at least 55% CO₂ emission reduction** by 2030 and an **ambitious floor to the carbon price**.

Finally, we also advocate to **substantially increase EU funding for innovative ways** to reach the climate goals much faster than scheduled.

Ecopreneur.eu's full response to the new Circular Economy Action Plan can be downloaded [here](#).

With the right actions, your Presidency could be a unique opportunity to overcome the current crisis and steer away from business-as-usual towards a future which is more resilient to shocks, safe, just, healthy, clean and prosperous.

We wish you a fruitful half year and look forward to answering any further questions you might have.

Yours sincerely,



Manfred Mühlberger,
Chairman of the Board



Arthur ten Wolde,
Executive Director

Copy to:

- Heiko Maas, German Minister for Foreign Affairs
- Svenja Schulze, German Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
- Michael Clauss, German Ambassador and Permanent Representation to the EU