

To H.E. António Costa
Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic
Palácio de Belém
Calçada da Ajuda, nº 11
1349-022 Lisboa, Portugal

Brussels, 15 December 2020

Subject: Priorities for the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union

Your Excellency,

On behalf of Ecopreneur.eu, the European Sustainable Business Federation, we hereby ask you to **implement and prepare effective legislation fostering a low-carbon circular economy** during the upcoming Portuguese Presidency of the EU. **ecopreneur.eu represents about 3.000 green enterprises across Europe**, mostly small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Your EU Presidency comes at a time when Europe is in the midst of multiple crises. Fortunately, the adoption of the EU budget, the NextGenerationEU recovery package and the Just Transition Fund provide the European Union with the financial means to strengthen our economy. In its leading role of the EU Presidency, Portugal has the opportunity to **take concrete steps to advance on the European Green Deal and Circular Economy Action Plan, which include an SME Strategy and Industrial Strategy**.

We specifically appeal to the Portuguese Government and the 2020-2021 EU-Presidency Trio of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia to give priority to the following key measures:

- **Apply green conditions to 100% of the EU support** via NextGenerationEU;
- Strengthen the role of SMEs by **supporting the implementation of regional “Circular Acceleration Houses”** throughout the EU; and
- Implement **strong economic incentives**, including a **carbon border adjustment mechanism, green and circular procurement, extended producer responsibility**, and a **tax shift** from labour to resources.

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

We wish you well and look forward to answering any further questions you might have.

Yours sincerely,



Manfred Mühlberger
Chairman of the Board



Arthur ten Wolde
Executive Director

Copies to:

- Dr. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Janez Janša, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia
- Dr. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission
- David Maria Sassoli, President of the European Parliament
- Ines dos Santos Costa, Secretary of State for the Environment, Portuguese Republic