

To H. E. Emmanuel Macron
President of the French Republic
Palais de l'Élysée
55 rue du Faubourg-Saint-Honoré
75008 Paris, France

Brussels, 12 November 2021

Subject: Key priorities for the French Presidency of the European Council

Dear Mister President,

On behalf of Ecopreneur.eu, the European Sustainable Business Federation, we hereby ask you to make best use of the upcoming French Presidency of the European Council by **pushing on with the European Green Deal and NextGenerationEU Green Recovery strategies**. Ecopreneur.eu represents about 3.000 green enterprises across Europe, mostly small and medium enterprises (SMEs), including the 80 companies from our member association *Entreprendre Vert* in France, at the heart of a green economy that brings together thousands of businesses in the country.

In times of ongoing crises, the French Presidency has a key role to play in bringing the European agenda forward. Ecopreneur.eu hopes for Europe to emerge from the Corona crisis stronger, more solidary and sovereign than before. We would also welcome strong efforts in regard to **climate protection and social justice**.

In regard to the NextGenerationEU recovery plan, it is crucial to **keep our ambitious climate goals and at the top of the political agenda**. This implies that all related EU policies and measures necessary to meet these goals ought to be ratified and implemented without further delay, thereby supporting **SMEs in their efforts to remain competitive while becoming more sustainable**.

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

Finally, we ask you to push for a **timely implementation of the EU Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP)** along with **key measures that are currently still missing**:

- Introduction of **harmonised Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes with eco-modulation of fees in all waste-intensive sectors**;
- Establishment of regional **Circular Acceleration Houses** for SMEs to receive hands-on support in developing capacities on sustainability and circularity related matters;
- An effective Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) well before 2030 and an **ambitious floor to the carbon price for ALL products and services**

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

Ecopreneur.eu's full response to the new Circular Economy Action Plan is available [behind this link](#).

With the right actions, the French Presidency could help implement the "Green Deal" as the European strategy and hence contribute to a carbon neutral, inclusive and hence truly sustainable European economy.

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

Yours sincerely,



Manfred Mühlberger
Chairman of the Board
Ecopreneur.eu



Frédéric Benhaim
President
Entreprendre Vert



Arthur ten Wolde
Executive Director
Ecopreneur.eu

Copy to:

- Barbara Pompili, Minister of the Ecological Transition
- Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Philippe L glise-Costa, Ambassador of the Permanent Representation of the French Republic to the EU