



José Manuel Barroso
President
European Commission

Brussels, 18 December 2007

Dear President Barroso,

The extensive burning of fossil fuels threatens the living conditions of future generations. Climate change is a fact which we politicians must face. Effective, long-term political efforts are urgently needed. We support the European Union's ambitious effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions substantially. Europe has the chance to lead the move towards a global future with less emissions and a sustainable way of life.

It is not an easy task, and it is urgent. Europe has reached an agreement at the last Spring Council that it should rely on renewable energy sources and on a far more efficient use of energy. This can certainly be done in such a way that it supports new jobs and sustainable economic progress.

The first step on this path is to break our dependence on oil, as it, together with other fossil fuels, contributes to up to 90 % of GHG emissions. The consequences of our ongoing dependence on oil will not only be disastrous for our environment, but, as the Stern report has demonstrated, also for our economies. Already now, the volatility of prices for fossil fuels threatens the stability of our economies and our long-term employment strategy. The fierce competition for oil plays a major role for peace and security throughout the world. We believe that the EU must act now to promote and realise our common goals.

Therefore the Party of European Socialist proposes the forming of a European Oil Forum. This Forum should draw up a comprehensive programme to reduce Europe's dependence on oil. Representatives from the Member States, the European Commission, the scientific community, the trade unions, business and industry, agricultural and environmental organisations should come together and discuss what is needed to be done at the European level.

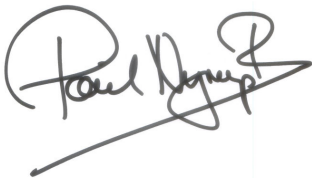
Such a forum could take advantage of the Swedish experience with the Commission on Oil Independence, which was initiated by Prime Minister Göran Persson in December 2005.



The European Oil Forum should identify where existing EU-regulations come into conflict with our efforts to break the dependence on oil. It could also propose new policies at the EU-level. By involving every major interest in the work of the European Oil Forum we can find a broad consensus as to what needs to be done next. The threat of climate change demands that we all make an effort.

We believe that, by forming a special forum for one of the most pressing environmental and economical challenges of the EU, we can demonstrate that climate change stands at the highest point of the European agenda, where it belongs.

Yours sincerely,



Poul Nyrup Rasmussen
President
Party of European Socialists



Mona Sahlin
Party Chair
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