



wbcspd

President's Office

Mr. Karmenu Vella  
Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries  
European Commission  
B- 1049 Brussels

cc: First Vice-President Frans Timmermans

Geneva, November 21, 2014

Dear Commissioner Vella,

Please accept my warm congratulations on your confirmation as European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. I worked closely with your predecessor and I look forward to continuing this cooperation with you and your office.

The World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD) is a CEO-led organization of forward-thinking companies that galvanizes the global business community to create a sustainable future for business, society and the environment. A list of members is attached.

WBCSD works with its members to develop business solutions that address our social and environmental challenges, focusing these around a science-based agenda for business impact; Action2020. In order to bring these solutions to scale, we recognize that, often, policy is needed to set the framework and support transformative business initiatives.

I was proud to represent WBCSD at the European Resource Efficiency Platform, established by your predecessor. As such I am following the discussions on the EU Circular Economy Package very closely: the move to a circular economy is a key area where business and policy makers can work together to bring about smarter, more resilient growth.

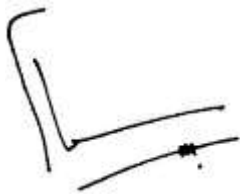
Resource prices are volatile: between 2003 and 2013, world fuel prices rose fourfold, metal prices trebled and food prices roughly doubled. Food prices were globally around 40 basis points higher than in 2007, as a result of growing demands for food and biofuels, extreme weather conditions and trade behaviour. These trends will continue: steel prices are expected to rise by 80% in the coming decades; commodity prices by 147%. With 90% of economic growth expected to come from outside Europe, raw material prices will increasingly be decided externally. Basic needs will also be affected: by 2030 the world will demand 50% more energy, 40% more water and 35% more energy.

In 2011 an estimated 7,8 million Europeans were employed in the EU's low carbon and environmental business sector. The Commission has estimated that up to 6,5 million jobs could be created or retained by 2020 in renewables, energy efficiency and from reinvested ETS revenues. Similarly, waste prevention, improved eco-design, increased re-use and similar measures could yield net annual savings of €600 billion. The business case is not in doubt.

Driving Resource efficiency in the EU requires clear policy decisions; the Circular Economy Package offers the necessary platform to improve resource reuse in Europe. As such, I have co-signed a letter to President Juncker (29 September) underlining the vital role this Package plays as an integral part of the growth and jobs strategy of the new European Commission.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss further the mission of WBCSD as well as our support for the EU Circular Economy Package in particular.

Yours faithfully,



**Peter Bakker**

**President & CEO  
WBCSD**