

20 November 2018

Commissioner Cañete  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
1049 Brussels

Dear Commissioner Cañete,

**RE: Step up ambition in EU 2030 and 2050 emission targets**

We, the undersigned, a collective of business and civil society leaders working to make a just transition to Net-Zero by 2050, urge you to ensure the EU's climate ambitions will deliver the promise of the Paris Agreement.

From recent international summits to protests to breaking news, the message is loud and clear: the time to act on climate is now. Businesses, communities and an increasing number of governments are ready to step up, and they need you to join them. 498 global businesses have committed to Science Based Targets, and B Team companies have gone even further by committing to Net-Zero by 2050 goals.

Still, we anticipate the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on 1.5 degrees will reveal the significant gap between our current action and action required. Current projections chart a 3°C rise above pre-industrial temperatures, where we would see a significant drop in food production, an increase in urban heat waves, longer droughts, fiercer hurricanes, more devastating wildfires and communities inundated by rising sea-waters.

We cannot do business under these conditions. It is clear the cost of inaction is greater than the cost of action.<sup>1</sup> To stay within 1.5 degrees, developed economies like the EU, whose leadership is essential, must achieve a just transition to net-zero emissions by 2050 at the latest.

By setting this long-term target, the EU will set the direction of travel for all European businesses, giving clarity to business planning, helping drive innovation and decrease exposure to climate risks, whilst allowing us to grasp the tremendous economic opportunities that this transition presents.

We don't have much time—2020 is the critical point for curbing carbon emissions if we are to achieve this goal.

We call on you to ensure the EU *steps up* its ambition and continues its role as a global climate leader:

1. Increase ambition in medium (2030) and long-term (2050) targets
  - Include a net-zero by 2050 target in the EU's long-term strategy.
  - In line with this net-zero goal and current progress, increase ambition in the EU's 2030 target.
2. Ensure these targets are aligned with a just transition to net-zero by 2050 emissions. This long-term vision must involve all stakeholders—from business, to workers and unions. Without this inclusive dialogue and planning, we will heighten inequality and instability.

We must keep the promise of Paris. We must deliver a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions economy by 2050.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Polman  
Co-Chair The B Team  
CEO, Unilever



Sharan Burrow  
Co-Chair The B Team  
General Secretary,  
International Trade Union  
Confederation

<sup>1</sup> <https://newclimateconomy.report/2018/>

# THE B TEAM



Sir Richard Branson  
Co-Founder, The B Team  
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CEO, Allianz SE



Marc Benioff  
Chairman, Co-CEO and  
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Kathy Calvin  
President and CEO, UN  
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Bob Collymore  
CEO, Safaricom PLC



David Crane  
Former CEO, NRG Energy



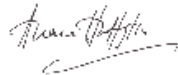
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Chairman and CEO,  
Danone



Christiana Figueres  
Convener, Mission 2020  
Former Executive Secretary,  
United Nations Framework  
Convention on Climate  
Change



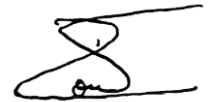
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