

For the attention of:

Ms Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

CC:

Mr Maros Sefcovic, Executive Vice-President

Ms Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy

Ms Elisa Ferreira, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms

Mr Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market

Mr Janusz Wojciechowski, Commissioner for Agriculture

Mr Wopke Hoekstra, Commissioner for Climate Action

Ms Iliana Ivanova, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education & Youth

Ms Ilze Johnson, Secretary-General

Wednesday 5th June 2024

Dear President von der Leyen

Prioritising a European geothermal strategy and action plan

Geothermal is a vital renewable energy solution for Europe. It provides baseload renewable electricity, heating, and cooling. It is the least-cost energy storage solution and, the most sustainable means of extracting lithium and other resources as a by-product. Geothermal is a major consumer of components manufactured in Europe and an employer of skilled professionals. We are proud to be 'Made in Europe' whilst supporting a global industry.

Whilst the sector continues to grow yearly, this growth rate falls significantly below its potential, and the requirements of the EU's binding climate neutrality target. This puts our competitiveness, security and prosperity at risk. We call on you to urgently correct this situation.

We call upon you to prioritise a **European geothermal strategy** and an **action plan** for implementation by the industry and Member States. This should be based on six pillars:

- i) A target of 250 GWs of geothermal energy by 2040 in electricity; heating and cooling (district heating and cooling systems, networked geothermal and standalone geothermal heat pumps); for use in public, residential and commercial buildings; agriculture; electricity generation, transport and manufacturing sectors;
- ii) Harmonisation and development of new support schemes including cross-border financial risk guarantees;
- iii) Endorsement of the Geothermal Industrial Alliance;
- iv) Accessibility of energy demand and geological data;
- v) Skilling workers, municipal network planners and permitting agencies;
- vi) Strengthening innovation and leadership of our domestic manufacturing industry.

There is considerable political will for a European approach to geothermal. The European Parliament and Committee of Regions voted with almost unanimity in favour of a European strategy on geothermal to remove the bottlenecks that prevent every sector in all countries from benefitting from this local, reliable and vital energy resource. Simultaneously, Member States such as Austria, Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland and Poland introduced national strategies to accelerate geothermal investments and nurture local supply chains whilst tackling the food, energy and climate crises.

Furthermore, we recommend the **Mission Letters** for the Commissioners responsible for energy, climate, agriculture, sustainable industrial growth and regions are granted a mandate to develop geothermal in their portfolios. This ensures a holistic approach to geothermal and ensures that our industry, farmers, cities, and rural areas benefit from low-cost and abundant geothermal energy supplies.

We look forward to working with you to deliver this geothermal strategy and action plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philippe Dumas', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Philippe Dumas, Secretary General, European Geothermal Energy Council

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