

José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission
Brussels

21 October 2009

Re: Commission proposal to reduce CO2 emissions from light commercial vehicles

Dear President Barroso,

We are writing to urge you to support ambitious legislation on CO2 emission reductions from light commercial vehicles by 28 October 2009.

You have made 'decarbonising the transport sector' a priority in your political guidelines for the next Commission. Publishing an ambitious proposal on CO2 standards for vans, the second-largest vehicle category after cars, is the perfect opportunity to show you are willing to act on that pledge.

The CO2 standard for vans was announced in early 2007. At that point, your Commission put forward targets of 175 g/km by 2012 and 160 g/km by 2015. We urge you to stick to these targets and to reinforce them with a 125 g/km target by 2020.

Adopting strong legislation on vans would close a dangerous loophole allowing carmakers to classify cars as vans in order to evade emission standards. It would also give investment security to the industry, including to the suppliers of the automotive industry.

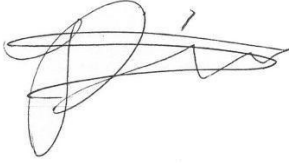
The progress the industry has been making on reducing CO2 emissions from cars since the introduction of Regulation 2009/443 shows that ambitious CO₂ targets for vans are feasible and attainable at much lower costs than first foreseen. In addition, with oil prices on the rise again, we believe that the EU should prioritise investment in low carbon technology over wasteful spending on oil imports.

The EU's credibility is on the line at the December climate conference in Copenhagen. There has been no meaningful action to reduce domestic emissions from the Commission since the climate package was agreed at the end of 2008. This is the right time to send a strong signal to Copenhagen that the EU will not only set ambitious climate targets within its borders, but also act to achieve them.

The attached paper offers a more detailed explanation of our position on this vital topic.

Thank you for giving this matter due attention. We look forward to an ambitious proposal from the Commission by the end of October.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Jos Dings
Director



Mr Jorgo Riss
Director