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Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission
European Commission

António Costa
President of the European Council
European Council

By electronic mail

9 February 2026

Re: Don't allow the EU to become President Trump's El Dorado

Dear Presidents,

On 12 February you will meet in Belgium for an informal summit on EU competitiveness and will discuss a non-paper written by the German and Italian governments. The measures included in this paper would dismantle many of the existing checks and balances in the EU democratic process, allowing US interests and corporations to get rich at the expense of our long-term security and the resilience of our communities. They would have major implications for European energy security and threaten our health, jobs and environment.

The non-paper is the latest expression of the EU's deregulation crusade. Here are some examples of what it contains:

- An “emergency break” that allows governments to veto any policy plan that does not fit current political priorities or that creates a so-called burden, irrespective of the protections or long-term resilience it could provide. The concept of burden is undefined in the paper.
- A “systematic monitoring and assessment of [policy] amendments”, with a view to eliminating any amendments by elected MEPs and governments, even before they are voted on.
- A “strict principle of discontinuity”, under which the Commission, not the legislative process, decides which draft laws are taken forward.
- A new so-called omnibus policy package allowing governments to accelerate administrative procedures for any economic activity, even if it has negative impacts on jobs, health or the environment.

Deregulation and the dismantling of the EU's democratic process is exactly what US President Donald Trump wants. He has made his views clear on many occasions, including on the EU

regulation on [deforestation-free products](#), the [Digital Services Act](#), and on [environmental legislation](#) more generally. It is clear to see why: by eroding the democratic process, imposing a dangerously skewed trade deal, and rapidly lowering EU environmental, social and economic safeguards in the EU, his powerful corporate supporters stand to gain hugely. US multinationals like Cargill, Chevron, Dow, ExxonMobil, JPMorganChase, Koch, Meta, Alphabet, X, and others like JBS and Trafigura, will benefit most. After [decades](#) of [lobbying](#) by both US- and EU-based multinationals, Europe risks becoming their El Dorado to colonise and plunder.

Rather than giving President Trump and his corporate supporters what they want, the EU must reverse its deregulation agenda and build on the standards that keep us safe, ensure our food is healthy and free of toxic chemicals, that our tap water will not make us ill, and that having a job means living with dignity and being able to sustain those we love. To start, we urge you to:

- Reject the German-Italian non-paper and denounce how its measures would dismantle the democratic process established in the EU Treaties.
- Scrap the EU-US trade deal as a threat to European security and block any new long-term contracts for the import or financing of US gas.

In the current climate of geopolitical and economic uncertainty, it is more important than ever that we have strong EU democratic institutions, market stability and a global trade influence based on reliable and stable rules, and a framework of safeguards that build resilience into our communities and nature, upholding living standards, good jobs and protecting our health. It is the only way to equip us for an unstable world and help restore the hope that our children can have a better future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Y' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Magda Stoczkiewicz
Programme Director
Greenpeace European Unit