



## Open letter to the European Council (ahead of their 23-24 October 2014 meeting)

17 October 2014

Dear Heads of States & governments,

The up-coming European Council is expected to take a decision on the 2030 Climate and Energy Package.

We as key representatives of the hydropower sector urge you to decide on an ambitious framework, supporting the necessary evolution of our energy system.

In this context we want to highlight the positive role of hydropower: it is a steady, secure and indigenous source of renewable electricity supply. It is also one of the most efficient, reliable and cost-effective forms of electricity production. Pumped- and reservoir hydropower plants, with their immense large-scale and most efficient energy storage potential, support the penetration of variable renewable energy technologies such as wind and solar. And it has an important role in stabilizing the electricity grid. As an indigenous resource, hydro power in Europe provided close to 200 GW and 588 TWh installed capacity and production in 2013, i.e. 18% of energy consumption and thus plays an important role in contributing to the security of supply and more competitiveness in the European Union.

To make full use of the considerable potential for small and large hydropower development within the EU strong, reliable and effective policies and a climate and energy policy framework for 2030 are needed, which provide the right conditions for investments in renewable and local energies.

We thus call on you to:

- Increase awareness of the role of hydropower for the European energy system, and
- Agree on a climate and energy framework favourable for the continuous development and further deployment of indigenous renewable resources.

Yours sincerely,

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