

EREF Press Release

Congratulations to Ursula von der Leyen on her election as Commission President

Brussels, 18 July 2019

Following the European Parliament's vote in Strasbourg yesterday (16 July), EREF would like to congratulate Mrs. Ursula von der Leyen on her election as President of the European Commission.

EREF heartily welcomes President von der Leyen's proposals in tackling climate change and applaud her commitment to raise the EU's 2030 greenhouse gas emissions target and then enshrine it in Europe's first European Climate Law. Her proposal to adopt a 'Sustainable Europe Investment Plan' as well as to double the European Investment Bank's spending on climate are also welcome additions. Furthermore, EREF finds her ambition to introduce a European Carbon Border tax as well as her affirmation that "Emissions need a price that changes our behaviour", absolutely critical and encouraging statements which it hopes will receive much deserved attention during her presidency.

EREF hopes that the newly elected President of the Commission understands the urgency of delivering on her promise to tackle the climate emergency and promises to work diligently with her Commission to achieve such. EREF calls on President von der Leyen to consider only those candidates for the Commission who are both willing and able to help her tackle this emergency.

"Her election is a positive sign for Europe! She showed that she's able to listen to what is needed technically in order to bring fight climate change, let's hope that she can put it in to practice. It will very much depend on who she appoints as Commissioner Energy and Climate " commented EREF President, António Sá da Costa.

EREF Director, Dr. Dörte Fouquet commended President von der Leyen's improvements on her proposals since last week and offered these words: "Considering how close the vote for the election was, it is now more important than for the President to take both her proposals and make it clear to all incoming new Commissioners that a social and swift complete overhaul of EU energy and climate policy is the number one task for a democratic and solidarity-driven Union".

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