

To: Ms Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission
ec-president-vdl@ec.europa.eu

Brussels, 20 November 2020

Dear Mrs Von der Leyen, dear President of the European Commission,

On behalf of 7 million workers in the manufacturing, mining and energy sectors in Europe we are writing to you in support of our French affiliated trade unions in the energy sector CGT Mines-Énergies, CFE-CGC Énergies, FCE-CFDT and FO Énergie et Mines who are deeply concerned about the dismantling plan of the French energy company EDF.

The HERCULE project which the French government is currently discussing with your services and which envisages to split the EDF group in two entities, separating the nuclear and hydro generation activities from renewable energy generation, sales, energy services and distribution, is purely of financial interest and does not follow any logic of a long-term strategical vision that is vitally needed to pursue our energy and climate targets. Moreover, the project is a threat to the current workforce of EDF and working conditions. That is the reason why our affiliated trade union organizations in France have been expressing their opposition to the project.

Indeed, the trade unions mobilized twice last autumn against the HERCULE project to demonstrate their conviction of the crucial role that EDF must be able to play to enable Europe to meet its energy and climate targets by taking in consideration the wider industrial and general interest. They have announced a new day of mobilisation to express their opposition on 26 November.

Whilst Europe and the rest of the world are still fighting against the Covid-19 pandemic and our societies are embarking on the journey towards climate neutrality and transforming our society the dismantling plans of EDF, a leading European company in the energy sector, is incomprehensible to the French and European workers.

The plan jeopardizes both the future of the employees and the future of the French energy sector; all for financial and opportunistic reasons without consideration for the disastrous social consequences. With the publication of the Green Deal communication a year ago you have set the European Union on the road to carbon neutrality by 2050 in order to address the climate challenge. IndustriAll Europe and its affiliates share this vision with you, but we highlight the need of a Just Transition that respects the principles of social dialogue and that strives to preventing anyone being left behind.

That being said, industriAll Europe supports their affiliates', CGT Mines-Énergies, CFE-CGC Énergies, FCE-CFDT and FO Énergie et Mine, request for a meeting with you to share their concerns and visions of a genuine Just Transition.

Yours sincerely,



Luc Triangle
General Secretary