

Press Release
Berlin, 27/04/2020

Making the economy more resilient with a climate stimulus programme - Companies send strong signal to Petersberg Climate Dialogue.

68 large German and international companies from all sectors of the economy call upon politicians on the occasion of the Petersberg Climate Dialogue to combine economic measures to deal with the Corona crisis with ambitious climate policy.

At today's launch of the 11th edition of the Petersberg Climate Dialogue, a broad alliance of 68 large companies from all sectors of the economy address political representatives in a business statement: The private sector is prepared to assume societal responsibility in the crisis and, at the same time, stick to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. To achieve this, governments must act decisively now and restore urgently needed investment security with climate friendly long-term economic stimulus programmes.

The participating companies are renowned representatives from all sectors of the economy, including heavy industry, chemical industry, mechanical engineering and vehicle manufacturing, the financial sector and large companies from the building and mobility sectors. Together, they employ almost one million people in Germany and more than 3 million people globally, representing a global turnover of about one trillion Euro.

Sabine Nallinger, Managing Director of Foundation 2°: „Many companies from all sectors of the economy have already begun to make their business models climate-friendly, based on scientific evidence. These investments must not be jeopardized. The German government should work with all Member States of the European Union to assure that there is no turning back from European climate policy.”

Almost two months before the start of the German EU presidency, there is growing hope that Germany will make a significant contribution to respond to both, the Corona and the climate crisis.

Prof. Dr. Michael Otto, President of Foundation 2° and chairman of the supervisory board of the Otto Group, says: „Understanding climate protection as a modernisation project for the economy can now play an important role in overcoming the consequences of the Corona crisis - and at the same time help to avoid profound negative impacts of the climate crisis.”

Through an ambitious design of the EU Green Deal, the German government can help to lead the European economy out of the crisis with a significant boost to innovation and modernization, position European companies as leading players in sustainable technologies on the world market and secure jobs in Europe.

For this to succeed, the German government should work to ensure compliance with the Paris Climate Agreement also in times of the Corona crisis. By the next UN Climate Change Conference COP 26 at the latest, all governments should present ambitious climate targets (NDCs) in line with the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement. Together with an international alliance of progressive companies, Foundation 2° will support the German government in this endeavour.

The business statement in German and English is available [here](#).

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About Foundation 2°

Foundation 2° is an initiative of CEOs, managing directors and family enterprises. Its aim is to call on politicians to establish effective market-based conditions for climate protection and to support the problem-solving skills of German companies. The foundation is named after its most important goal: to limit average global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius. The supporters of the foundation are: AIDA Cruises, ALDI SÜD Dienstleistungs-GmbH & Co. oHG, DAIKIN Airconditioning Germany GmbH, Deutsche Bahn AG, DEUTSCHE ROCKWOOL, Deutsche Telekom AG, Deutsche Wohnen SE, EnBW Energie Baden-Württemberg AG, Gegenbauer Holding SE & Co. KG, GLS Gemeinschaftsbank eG, GOLDBECK GmbH, Interseroh/ALBA, Otto Group, OTTO FUCHS KG, PUMA SE, Salzgitter AG, Schüco International KG, Schwäbisch Hall-Stiftung bauen-wohnen-leben, thyssenkrupp AG and Union Investment.

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Selection of statements from participating companies:

„Politics, society and industry are showing great commitment and community spirit in coping with the Corona crisis. This is something we have to maintain. In the long term, it is important to make our economy more crisis-proof and competitive with a view to a truly sustainable, climate-neutral future.”

Dr. Markus Steilemann, Chief Executive Officer, Covestro

„An effective CO₂ pricing is like a climate compass for organising sustainable business models. There must be no way back from sustained CO₂-prices. We rather need a meaningful integration in an economic stimulus plan for climate protection and sustainability.”

Dr. Frank Mastiaux, Chairman of the Board, EnBW Energie Baden-Württemberg AG

„We cannot achieve our climate protection goals without climate-friendly mobility. We now need a clear political commitment that the previous direction of travel will be maintained. With a European Green Deal and a climate stimulus package, the next milestones can be planned much better.”

Olaf Schabirosky, CEO, Hermes Germany GmbH

„The substitution of carbon by hydrogen in steel making is the most promising approach to achieve the CO₂-neutrality until 2050, which is demanded by politics. For a realisation of respective industrial concepts in terms of investment the required political framework has to be put in place as soon as possible: This comprises direct project support and lead markets for low CO₂ steel products.”

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jörg Fuhrmann, Chairman of the Executive Board of Salzgitter AG

„Two thirds of the residential buildings in Germany must be renovated in order to meet our climate protection goals. With an ambitious climate stimulus package, that includes innovative products and ideas, the building sector can make a very important contribution to the recovery of the German economy. and at the same time create secure jobs for small and medium-sized companies.”

Andreas Engelhardt, personally liable partner, Schüco International KG

„What we need now is stronger investment and clear perspectives. Lead markets for carbon-neutral products and the establishment of a sustainable hydrogen economy are central to this. A climate stimulus package is an important step in this direction.”

Bernhard Osburg, Chairman of the Executive Board, thyssenkrupp Steel Europe AG