Dear Mr Barnier and Mr Raab,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Energy industry at this critical time for the Brexit negotiations, particularly as negotiations on the Future Relationship and Political Declaration are well underway.

The energy sector has a long history of collaboration between the countries of Europe. This cooperation has enabled available resources and capacity to be shared across borders to reduce costs, improve security of supply, better integrate renewable energy and achieve climate change targets.

This is something very specific to our sector and will need to be a significant feature in the UK’s future relationship with the EU. For that reason, we, both European and British trade associations, are advocating for a comprehensive energy and climate chapter to be part of the future Free Trade Agreement.

To achieve this, and to ensure that we minimise impact on UK and EU citizens and give the industry certainty to carry out long term investments, we believe it is vital that any Political Declaration includes energy and climate change as key areas that are addressed directly. An indication that energy and climate change will be considered will help to give confidence to the industry in the EU and the UK and ensure that we are heading in the right direction in the new relationship.

We therefore suggest that the following text could be included for the mutual benefit of the UK and EU:

The UK and EU will negotiate a comprehensive relationship on energy trading and climate policy based on high alignment to ensure the continuation of co-operation in this key area of strategic interest for the mutual benefits of the UK and the EU,
ensuring both can continue to provide affordable, secure and sustainable energy to their citizens and businesses in a coordinated manner.

Our organisations would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and engage with your departments further on the Political Declaration to ensure that energy and climate change matters are considered.

Lawrence Slade  
CEO  
Energy UK

Jan van Aken  
Secretary General  
EFET

Laurent Schmitt  
Secretary General  
ENTSO-E

Jan Ingwersen  
Secretary General  
ENTSOG

Kristian Ruby  
Secretary General  
Eurelectric

Beate Raabe  
Secretary General  
Eurogas

Claire Mack  
CEO  
Scottish Renewables

James Watson  
CEO  
Solar Power Europe

Giles Dickson  
CEO  
Wind Europe

CC:

UK  
Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
Rt Hon Claire Perry MP, Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth  
Oliver Robbins, Prime Minister’s Europe Adviser  
Alex Chisholm, Permanent Secretary, BEIS  
Philip Rycroft, Permanent Secretary, DExEU

EU  
Miguel Arias Cañete, EU Commissioner for Climate Action & Energy  
Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission  
Guy Verhofstadt, European Parliament's representative in the Brexit negotiations Coreper I and II Ambassadors  
Tadhg O’Briain (Internal Market, Sectors and Cross-Cutting Regulation, Taskforce 50)  
Didier Seeuws, the Council Brexit Task Force lead.

Please send responses to:  
Lawrence Slade  
Energy UK  
26 Finsbury Square  
London EC2A 1DS - UK