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Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Mid-term review of the Lisbon Strategy and opportunities for synergising sustainable consumption and competitiveness

We congratulate you on the principled and visionary leadership that has been demonstrated by the Government of Luxembourg in the exercise of its EU Presidency responsibilities. We appreciate as well, your own personal commitment to ensure that this week's mid-term review of the Lisbon Strategy will place the EU's competitiveness on a firmer sustainability footing.

The Worldwatch Institute and Germanwatch have convened a number of European and transatlantic policy dialogues on the challenges of synergising sustainable consumption and competitiveness. Indeed, the Worldwatch Institute's 2004 State of the World was focused entirely on the challenge of sustainable consumption.

The aforementioned initiatives have generated a number of important political messages, which we would like to convey to you in advance of the Spring Summit.

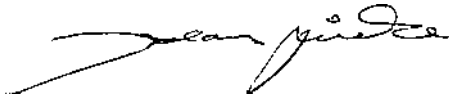
First, we believe that the EU's competitiveness policy should aim to make Europe the most energy and resource-efficient economy in the world by the year 2010. While we see an emerging consensus within the political leadership that EU competitiveness must be grounded in the imperative of resource efficiency and eco-effectiveness, we remain concerned that the critical path towards that goal has yet to be clearly defined.

Second, the European Commission's Environmental Policy Review of 2004 concluded that eco-industries are an engine for growth, expanding at around 5% per year, with the expanded world market for environmental goods and services estimated at over 500 billion Euros. It is therefore time for the EU political leadership to take the action necessary to ensure that the unequivocal business case is matched with the necessary level of political momentum and will to elevate the sustainable consumption imperative on the EU political and economic agendas.

Third, despite the considerable work that has been undertaken by DG Environment in the design and implementation of a wide range of sustainable consumption and production policies, EU Member States are simply not demonstrating the leadership role that the World Summit for Sustainable Development called upon them to take in order to reduce their own unsustainable consumption and production patterns. We feel therefore that the next step needed is to establish an EU Policy on Sustainable Consumption and Production, which would provide an overarching framework for all of DG Environment's sustainable consumption and production work undertaken to date.

Such a framework would not only provide greater policy coherence, but it would serve to elevate the EU's political commitment to sustainable consumption and to demonstrate to the world at large, that it is prepared and committed to playing a leadership role at home and on the global stage.

With best wishes,



Klaus Milke



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