

Hon. Annalena Baerbock
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Hon. Stéphane Séjourné
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

Hon. Radosław Sikorski
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Hon. Robert Habeck
Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action

Hon. Christophe Béchu
Minister for Ecological Transition and Cohesion of the Territories

Hon. Paulina Hennig-Kloska
Minister of Climate and Environment

22 April 2024

Open Letter

Safeguarding Europe's Future: Climate cooperation within the Weimar Triangle necessary for European sovereignty and resilience

Dear Ministers,

We, representatives from leading environmental NGOs, think tanks, businesses, and scientific institutions in France, Germany, and Poland, highly welcome your governments' commitment to intensify coordination within the Weimar Triangle. On this occasion, we would like to turn your attention to the underutilised potential of cooperation on climate action and energy transition. Cross border energy cooperation has long played a pivotal role in maintaining EU energy security – as recently evidenced in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Yet, more than a decade has passed since climate and environment ministers met within a dedicated trilateral context to concert and advance climate action. We firmly believe that the Weimar Triangle's focus on security will be significantly more impactful if complemented by strengthened collaboration on climate and energy issues.

The EU's ability to enact ambitious climate policies relies on effective leadership and demonstrated commitment from influential Member States such as France, Germany, and Poland. Together, they account for nearly half of greenhouse gas emissions in the EU. They are therefore decisive in accelerating the EU's decarbonisation efforts. As such, the countries of the Weimar Triangle should closely coordinate to enable the implementation of the Fit for 55 package and the upcoming negotiations of an ambitious 2040 EU climate target, including associated legislative packages. The three countries must ensure that the EU's energy transition, galvanised by Russia's war, will continue to progress and ultimately eliminate all fossil fuel dependencies. As industrial powerhouses, France, Germany, and Poland can and should furthermore develop joint strategies to advance decarbonisation across all sectors. Bolstering our economies, decarbonisation should be implemented through increased energy efficiency and by fostering net zero innovations. Accelerating climate action also requires stakeholders to ensure long-term social acceptance of climate measures by further developing social protection and cohesion in policy frameworks at EU and Member State level. An ambitious climate and energy collaboration will not only contribute to achieving the EU's climate goals, but also send a powerful message of European unity.

The next Weimar Triangle meeting in early summer provides an excellent opportunity to demonstrate your countries' resolve to build a safer, more sustainable and competitive Europe. We call on you to seize this opportunity to establish a 'Green Weimar Triangle' by formulating a concrete roadmap for effective and long-term trilateral climate collaboration with broad democratic support from parliaments, civil society, and sub-national representatives. Environmental organisations and think tanks across our three countries have long been engaged in cooperation on these issues and stand ready to propose concrete cooperation measures to facilitate your effort.

Yours sincerely,

Christoph Arend, Former Chairman of the Bureau of the Franco-German Parliamentary Assembly

Prof. Dr. Frank Baasner, Co-Director, German-French Forum for the Future

Dr. Benjamin Beuerle, Researcher, Centre Marc Bloch

Morgane Créach, Executive Director, Réseau Action Climat France

Henri Cuin, Managing Director, eolos GmbH

Camille Defard, Head of the Jacques Delors Energy Center

Joanna Furmaga, Director, Polish Green Network (PZS)

Prof. Dr. Ludger Gailing, Chair of Regional planning, Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg

Dieter Hackmann, Chairman, Weimarer Dreieck e.V.

Dr. Martin Kooppman, Director, Genshagen Foundation

Marcin Korolec, Director, Green Economy Institute

Benoît Leguet, Managing Director, Institute for Climate Economics (I4CE)

Sascha Müller-Kraenner, Executive Director, Deutsche Umwelthilfe

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