To the President of the European Council

Brussels, 11 March 2014

Dear Mr. Van Rompuy,

The European Council will discuss the Energy and Climate Change and the 2030 Framework proposals of the European Commission, published on 22 January, at its forthcoming meeting. The European social partners for the electricity industry represented in the European social dialogue committee by EURELECTRIC for the employers and EPSU/IndustriAll-Europe for the trade union side, have read the proposals with interest.

We have noticed, however, that the European Commission does not address the importance of a Just Transition Agenda despite this being part of its earlier Communication on the Energy Roadmap 2050 and despite demands raised in the European Parliament. As social partners, we have raised the importance of integrating the social dimension, in particular just transition principles, on several occasions in our contributions to the public consultations of the European Commission.

We, therefore, ask you to address this important dimension of Europe's future energy and climate change policies and to ensure that the social dimension is an integral part of the ‘future energy and climate policies. If failing to address the social dimension the EU will risk lacking public support and acceptance for enhanced energy and climate change mitigation policies.

As social partners, we remain at your disposition to discuss and contribute to the development of the social dimension and just transition principles in the upcoming and future energy and climate policy strategies.

Yours sincerely,

Christian Nickel (EURELECTRIC)  
President of the European Social Dialogue Committee for the Electricity Sector

Bernd Frieg (industriAll European Trade Union)  
Vice-President of the European Social Dialogue Committee for the Electricity Sector

Jan Ruden (EPSU)  
Vice-President of the European Social Dialogue Committee for the Electricity Sector
For information:

- Joint position of the social partners on the 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy Policies (December 2013)

Also circulated for information to:

- Mr. Barroso, President of the European Commission
- Mr. Maniatis, Greek Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change
- COREPER I