To the members of the Council of the European Union

Shortly you will decide on the ban of the combustion engine. **Please reject it.**

The ban is useless for climate protection. Electromobility shifts emissions from the tailpipe to the chimneys of power plants. And since the additional electricity in the European grid is mainly generated with coal, fossil CO2 emissions are actually increasing.

For national economies, the ban is harmful because it jeopardizes future energy supply. If a large part of the sales market for e-fuels is eliminated, investors will be deterred from setting up production facilities. However, low-cost e-fuels produced in large quantities are absolutely necessary

- as fuel for vehicles that cannot run on any other form of energy, such as aircraft, ships, heavy trucks, construction vehicles, etc.
- as the only way to defossilize over one billion existing vehicles worldwide
- as a fuel for power plants to bridge dark slack periods

(Because the construction of wind and solar power plants releases large amounts of fossil CO2, e-fuels have to be produced in distant locations with much more wind or sun than in Europe. There, far fewer power plants suffice for the same amount of energy. This results in fewer emissions and lower investment costs.)

Economically, there are further negative consequences:

- Electric cars are significantly more expensive. **Many people will no longer be able to afford their own cars.**
- **Several hundred thousand well-paid jobs in the automotive industry will be lost.**
- Large parts of the industry will have to be rebuilt to replace fossil energy with electricity. **Many companies will close their European production sites; this will destroy more jobs.**

Because of their short range, long charging times and foreseeable charging cut-off times in the event of grid overload, electric cars are not suitable for many purposes. Electromobility is an example of hasty electrification without considering alternatives. This will burden EU countries with enormous costs:

- Millions of charging stations including infrastructure have to be erected
- Power generation, transmission and distribution must be almost completely rebuilt, otherwise blackouts are unavoidable
- Almost all heating systems are to be replaced with heat pumps. In order for these to be used efficiently, around three quarters of all buildings must first be fundamentally renovated for better thermal insulation.
- Europe is to be plastered with solar panels and wind turbines at immense expense in terms of materials and costs

The de facto consequence of the EU Commission's plans is to deprive the population of the benefits of e-fuels:

- If synthetic gas were injected into the supply grid instead of natural gas, there would be no need to rip out gas heaters from homes
- Existing infrastructure for transporting, storing, processing and using fuels would not have to be scrapped; most of it could be reused with e-fuels. This also reduces costs.

Please use your influence to call for a realistic energy policy. Minimizing greenhouse gas emissions quickly and at the same time as cost-effectively as possible is a complex optimization task. Its solution must be based exclusively on scientifically sound facts. Ideological guidelines and wrong political decisions lead to deviations from the optimum - with the consequence of higher greenhouse gas emissions and rising costs.

Please urge the EU Commission to reassess the future role of e-fuels with the help of independent experts and to subject the one-sided commitment to electromobility to a critical review.

Please turn to the signatories:

Univ. Prof. Georg Brasseur (Chairman of the Board of Rethink Energy Europe - Association for the Further Development of Europe's Energy Transition)

Markus Saurer (Industrial Economist and Board Member of the Carnot-Cournot Network)

Dipl.-Ing. Christian Soos

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