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Berlin, 11 February 2018

Dear Commissioner,

We would like to get back to you following our meeting in Brussels on 30 January 2018.

First of all, we would like to thank you for taking the time to share your concerns and for engaging in a frank and open exchange of views with us – both orally and in writing – about the European Commission's view on the issue of air quality in Germany. We also value very much your personal commitment which has helped us achieve clarity about the remaining problems in Germany and what is expected from us.

Secondly, and more importantly, let us assure you that effectively fighting air pollution without any further unnecessary delays is of the highest priority for Germany. We are fully committed to properly implementing the relevant acquis as soon as possible.

Following up on the above-mentioned exchange and in close cooperation with all responsible ministries and authorities at the national, Länder and local level, we have reconsidered and further developed our position on the required measures and steps that need to be taken. We recognize the existing time pressure and the need for efficient action. Let us briefly explain the main new elements:

- **New legal framework:** The incoming government will immediately propose a new legal framework with the purpose of enabling states and cities to establish binding requirements and emission limit values for buses and cabs. This will include an initiative for rental cars, car-sharing-cars as well as the full range of delivery vehicles and vans. The new package will enter into force as soon as possible, in the end of this year at the latest.
- **Traffic regulations:** If required we will support our cities to introduce effective traffic regulations in dedicated streets in order to reduce pollution induced from cars with combustion engines.
- **Low emission zones:** We will establish low emission zones for heavy goods vehicles covering important and large parts of the city-areas.
- **Free public transport:** Together with the Länder and the local level we are considering public transport free of charge in order to reduce the number of private cars.
- **Fiscal measures to promote fleet renewal:** We will provide substantial additional incentives for electric vehicles, in particular by company taxation benefits and increased subsidies for low-emission taxis, commercial and public car fleets.

- **Technical retrofitting:** We want to further reduce emissions from existing vehicles by additional technical measures which are effective and economically feasible.
- **Lead cities:** We will test and exemplify the effectiveness of measures in a group of 5 “Lead-cities”. The cities are: Bonn, Essen, Herrenberg, Reutlingen and Mannheim. We plan to roll-out the most successful measures to all other cities concerned.

We hope the above-mentioned plan and our “Sofortprogramm saubere Luft”, which we explained on 30 January 2018, proves to you our ambition and sincerity in bringing down air pollution efficiently and quickly.

We will update your services regularly on the progress achieved. Already, with the measures adopted recently, we have made some progress. Emissions have fallen below limit values in at least 10, possibly in up to 25 cities concerned. This number is likely to increase further with the already approved measures.

We stand ready to provide further information should you or your services need more detail or if you expect us to commit to additional action.

Yours sincerely



Barbara Hendricks

Peter Altmaier

Christian Schmidt

