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POWER GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION THRESHOLDS IN THE EU TAXONOMY DELEGATED ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

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The signatories of this statement are representatives from the power sector in Europe committed to clean and safe energy.

Following the publication of the European Commission's draft Delegated Act on the EU Sustainable Taxonomy, we are writing to express our strong support for the taxonomy thresholds based on climate and environmental science. We recognise the effort of the Technical Expert Group and the Commission in assessing fossil fuel emissions and preparing the scientific criteria, enabling future-proofed investments and clean energy technologies.

Heat and electricity generation are responsible for over a quarter of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. In order to decarbonise the sector it is essential to help investors avoid funding high-carbon assets. At the same time, electrification will be key in reaching the EU 2030 and 2050 climate goals, especially for electrification end-uses in other sectors such as transport and manufacturing. A robust and smart transmission and distribution grid will be essential to integrate distributed renewable energy resources and to allow consumers to actively participate in the energy system.



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To this end, we welcome the 100g CO₂e/kWh life-cycle intensity limit for substantial contribution to climate mitigation, which is derived through a robust and scientific process, and was recommended by TEG. Emissions from fossil fuels are beyond this threshold and we applaud the Commission for upholding it in the draft Delegated Act. The inclusion of power generation with a carbon intensity above this limit would not only deviate from science, but would also harm the EU's decarbonisation trajectory and its 2050 net zero objectives.

Moreover, to further align with Europe's objectives these thresholds must also reduce over time. We thus join the scientific community in the call for declining emissions threshold.¹ The technical screening criteria for energy generation that can be defined as green should follow the TEG recommendations and be set at lower than 100g CO₂e/kWh, reducing over time to 0g CO₂e/kWh by 2050.

¹ A letter by 123 scientists to the European Commission.

<https://www.smurfitschool.ie/media/businessschool/pdfsanddocuments/Open%20Interdisciplinary%20Scientists%20Letter.pdf>

