

To
European Commission
Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans
Commissioner Kadri Simson
Commissioner Thierry Breton

Brussels, 11/05/2022

Subject: Recognition of batteries as key enablers of the energy transition within REPowerEU

Dear Vice-President Timmermans,
Dear Commissioner Simson,
Dear Commissioner Breton,

In the current geopolitical context related to Russia's war on Ukraine as well as continuously high energy prices, RECHARGE – the leading voice of the European advanced rechargeable and lithium batteries value chain in Europe – welcomes the upcoming REPowerEU package, aimed at reducing EU dependence in the energy sector. **RECHARGE is calling on the European Commission to recognise within the package the key role of batteries as enablers of a resilient and green energy system and by extension, of energy security.**

RECHARGE especially appreciates **REPowerEU's dedication to accelerate electrification and expanding the share of renewables**, including by assessing a potential increase of the 2030 renewable energy target from 40% to 45%, introducing a strategy to simplify and streamline permitting procedures for new projects and presenting a Solar Strategy. This action pillar will be crucial to further speed up the pace of our energy transition and reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels.

Equally as speeding up renewables permitting for solar and wind projects as well as for the grid infrastructure development, **RECHARGE asks for fast-track permitting for battery manufacturers, recyclers and material suppliers.** Batteries need to be considered in the measures for a speedy roll-out of solar and wind as they are not only part of the renewables ecosystem but also well-suited and vital for stabilising the electrical power grid.

As solar and wind installations can produce more power than the momentary demand requires, the electricity grid must be balanced by stockpiling the surplus generation and ensuring that it can be injected back into the grid when needed. Next to other storage systems for renewables, batteries are a key technology for the grid's resilience and reliability, as they offer solutions to store renewable energy and balance supply and demand – also on a very short time scale. Thus, they enable the share of renewables in the grid to be increased, **while batteries also support core EU objectives of empowering communities and decentralising the energy system.** In addition to large-scale stationary batteries, batteries in electric vehicles (EVs) can provide smaller scale storage solutions to homes and buildings with charging infrastructure, while behind-the-meter (BTM) batteries deployed with utility meters in residential and commercial buildings, as well as industrial installations, can cut electricity bills and, hence, contribute to affordability of energy – an issue especially relevant in the current context of high energy prices which the REPowerEU plan is also seeking to address and mitigate.



Hand in hand with the expansion of renewable energy sources, the EU should promote the development of European battery energy storage capacities. RECHARGE welcomes calls for energy storage targets for 2030, just as the REPowerEU communication sets targets for renewables and hydrogen.

In line with the bloc's ambition to reduce dependencies and be more autonomous in strategic sectors, the European batteries value chain stands ready to provide a decisive contribution to this development and to facilitate a carbon-neutral economy and society. Already today, a total battery value chain investment of €127 billion is planned across the EU. In addition, about 800,000 new jobs are expected to be created by 2025 alone. By 2030, a well-developed European value chain could provide annual added value of around €625 billion.

Both the geopolitical context and the climate emergency accentuate the short timeframe for the development of our strategic industry. The Battery Regulation will ensure that only high performing and efficient, sustainable and circular batteries will be placed on the EU market and thus contribute to the EU Green Deal objectives. In order to further promote the industry and ensure investment certainty, **political recognition of batteries as an enabler, together with renewables and hydrogen, of a resilient, affordable and secure energy system should be enshrined in the 18 May REPowerEU package. Only this will guarantee implementation actions aligning the pace of expansion of renewable sources and battery storage.**

Respectfully,



Dr. Claude Chanson
RECHARGE General Manager



About RECHARGE

RECHARGE is the European industry association for advanced rechargeable and lithium batteries. Founded in 1998, it is our mission to promote advanced rechargeable batteries as a key technology that will contribute to a more empowered, sustainable and circular economy by enabling decarbonised electricity and mobility, and cutting-edge consumer products. RECHARGE’s unique membership covers all aspects of the advanced rechargeable battery value chain: From suppliers of primary and secondary raw materials, to battery and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), to logistic partners and battery recyclers: www.rechargebatteries.org

RECHARGE Membership

