



To:

Mr. Martin Schulz
President of the European Parliament

Office of the President
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**OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON THE NEXT
EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Dear President Schulz,

We, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, send you warm regards from the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 12) in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea. We are writing to you today on behalf of our 51 member organizations, representing a total of more than 340.000 members worldwide from 86 countries from all inhabited continents. In the past, we have considered the EU as a global leader on environmental issues who had the trust of youth worldwide. Therefore, we are very concerned about the plans so far communicated by the European Commission's President-elect Jean-Claude Juncker.

We fully support the concerns raised and suggestions made by the Green 10 NGO alliance on this matter (see <http://ow.ly/Cmo8Y>), and we are happy that you wrote to Mr. Juncker yourself asking him to address similar concerns of the Environment Committee of the European Parliament. However, we are deeply disappointed about the apparent lack of willingness of the future Commission President to make any substantial changes.

Therefore we would like to urge you to insist further that the following improvements are being made to the structure and mandates of the next European Commission:

- Establish a Vice-President for Sustainability, coordinating the environment, fisheries, agriculture and regional policy portfolios,
- Upgrade the Vice-President for Energy Union to a Vice-President for 'Climate Action and Energy Union' and have this reflected in her mandate,

- Ensure the Environment portfolio is reinstated, restoring its competences and providing the Commissioner with a new mandate to respect the European Parliament's work and implement the 7th EAP, and
- Resolve potential conflicts of interest for the nominees, and notably for the Climate and Energy portfolio.

We are afraid that if the European Parliament does not insist on these changes the European Union will no longer be able to step up as a global environmental leader in a way we need it to secure the rights of future generations. We as representatives of young people around the world do not want the EU to sacrifice its reputation as an advocate for peace and sustainability to an, in our view, outdated economic model based on short-term GDP growth and deregulation.

President Schulz, we would like to let you know that you have our full support for any step you and the European Parliament will take to make the new European Commission a strong institution that will prioritise sustainability and the rights of future generations. We trust that the European Parliament will act like a true representative of the people of Europe, including future generations.

We would be very happy to receive an answer from you to learn what you intend to do on this important issue, and we hope we can pass on encouraging news from Europe still during CBD-COP 12 to our networks and the global negotiations here in the Republic of Korea.

Sincerely yours,



Melina Sakiyama
*Steering Committee Member representing
Latin-America and Global South Focal Point*



Christian Schwarzer
*Steering Committee Member representing
Europe and Global North Focal Point*