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President Ursula von der Leyen  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi Wetstraat 200  
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Dear President von der Leyen,

We are writing to thank you for what we found a truly inspiring and auspicious address on the State of our Union – and for what this calls upon. It is heartening to have witnessed you outline a European future devised around its foundational values, with concrete actions making these values true for people. This resonates strongly with our mandate and mission as European Group on Ethics and we stand with you in furthering this shared vision.

We are with you in your efforts to make our societies resurge in solidarity from the current health crisis, rediscovering what is important, building veritable societal resilience and enabling a new vitality. We have underscored this in the [EGE Statement on European Solidarity and the Protection of Fundamental Rights in the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), issued very early on, on 2 April 2020, and are further developing it in our [ongoing collaborative work](#).

We join you in your efforts to protect the value of the precious life-enabling ecology of our planet, transitioning to sustainable and regenerative ways of living, and showing empathy to all, as developed in the forthcoming EGE Opinion on Genome Editing.

We support you in your efforts to enable the development of technologies in the service of humanity, of the planet and of democratic values, to make sure they aid us

sustainably in all areas of application, from how we work to how we inform ourselves and communicate with one another, as highlighted in the [EGE Statement on \*The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and 'Autonomous' Systems\*](#) and recommended in the [EGE Opinion \*Future of Work, Future of Society\*](#).

We side with you in your efforts to redefine migration, halting those who attempt to forfeit fundamental principles, and welcoming the opportunity to shelter people in need.

We stand by you in your efforts to create a Union that is actively anti-racist and ready to insist on the rule of law and fundamental rights where law-less and rights-free zones would otherwise emerge.

Our Group, your Group, founded nearly thirty years ago by President Jacques Delors, has repeatedly been given the mandate and mission to advise on all aspects of policies and legislation where ethical, societal and fundamental rights dimensions intersect with the development of science and new technologies. The strong resonance between the vision you articulated and our common position regarding the pivotal role of ethics and values at the heart of the challenges of these times has compelled us to write this letter.

We thank you and congratulate you for your exemplary leadership and remain at your side and service, throughout what has already announced itself as a testing and momentous mandate.

Yours sincerely,



Christiane Wooten  
on behalf of  
The European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies