

Dutch Sustainable Growth Coalition  
To the attention of Mr. J.P. Balkenende

Date	Place
22 June 2020	Zeist

Subject: DSGC statement underplays vital role businesses in sustainable recovery

Dear Mr. Balkenende,

Last week, a broad coalition of Dutch companies, including Triodos Bank, have expressed their support to take sustainability as the cornerstone in the COVID-19 recovery plans. I thank you for your leadership in this initiative. It is of paramount importance that governments now develop and deploy sustainable recovery programmes and support the Green and Just Recovery plans of the European Commission. And it is valuable that so many business organisations have endorsed this call to action.

Triodos Bank supports the core message of this coalition, considering it as an important step in the right direction. As a values-based financial institution, we have supported sustainable and inclusive business organisations for forty years, in circumstances largely designed for yesterday's economy. It's now time to build the economy of tomorrow. In our recent vision document ['Reset the Economy'](#) we explain the agenda for profound change.

We are convinced that the transition to a green and resilient economy cannot be the sole responsibility of governments. In our view, the statement you initiated underplays the vital leadership role business and finance ought to play. Businesses and investments need to change fundamentally. Pursuing positive impact as well as creating true value. The immediate priority in our view should lie with transforming the fossil industry and the unsustainable food and agriculture business.

We believe the more business leadership shows true ambition to change, the better governments will be in a position to enable our economies and societies developing in the right direction. To paraphrase a popular saying: the future waits for no one. How that future takes shape is up to all of us.

Yours sincerely,  
Peter Blom  
CEO Triodos Bank